



DEEP SEA MINERAL

KINGDOM OF TONGA

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POLICY AND LEGISLATION

1. International Convention

Under UNCLOS Art. 77 – Rights of the Coastal State:

- ▶ *“The Coastal State exercises over the continental shelf **sovereign rights** for the purpose of exploiting it and exploring its natural resources”*

UNCLOS Art. 76 – Definition of continental shelf:

- ▶ *“The continental shelf of a coastal state comprises the **seabed and subsoil** of the submarine area that extend beyond its territorial sea...”*

Kingdom of Tonga EEZ

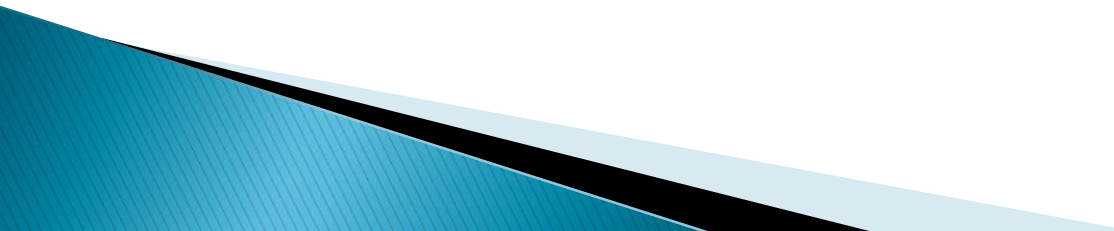


The Islands of Tonga are sparsely located in an EEZ area of approximately 700,000km²

2. **Tonga's Interest**

- ▶ Lies within potential of seabed mineral within its national seas (Tonga's sovereign rights)
- ▶ Tonga's seafloor contain massive sulphide deposits, as new source for metal in global demand.

3. **Tonga's Seabed Mineral Act 2014**

- ▶ Assent from the King of Tonga on 20 August 2014
 - ▶ Prepare with the assistance of Deep Sea Mineral Project a partnership between EU and SPC
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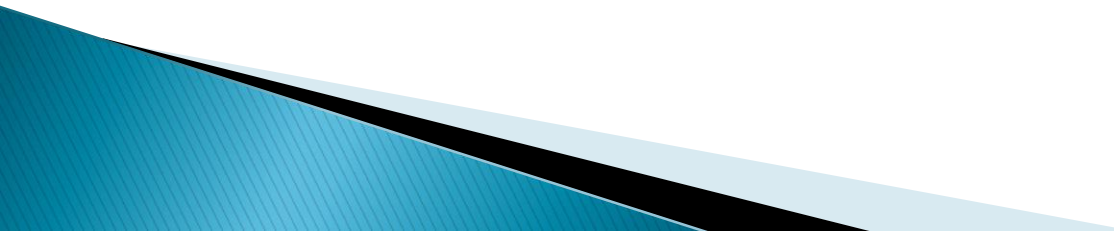
4. Provisions under Tonga's Seabed Mineral Act 2014

Before any Sea bed mining commence:

- ▶ Vetting process by Tonga's government of any new project proposal and public consultation
 - ▶ Environmental Impact Assessment and ongoing monitoring
 - ▶ Protection and preservation of marine environment
 - ▶ Need to balance economic development against conservation of biodiversity
 - ▶ Implementation of SPC-EU Deep Sea Mineral Project with awareness raising programmed
 - ▶ Further development of further regulations
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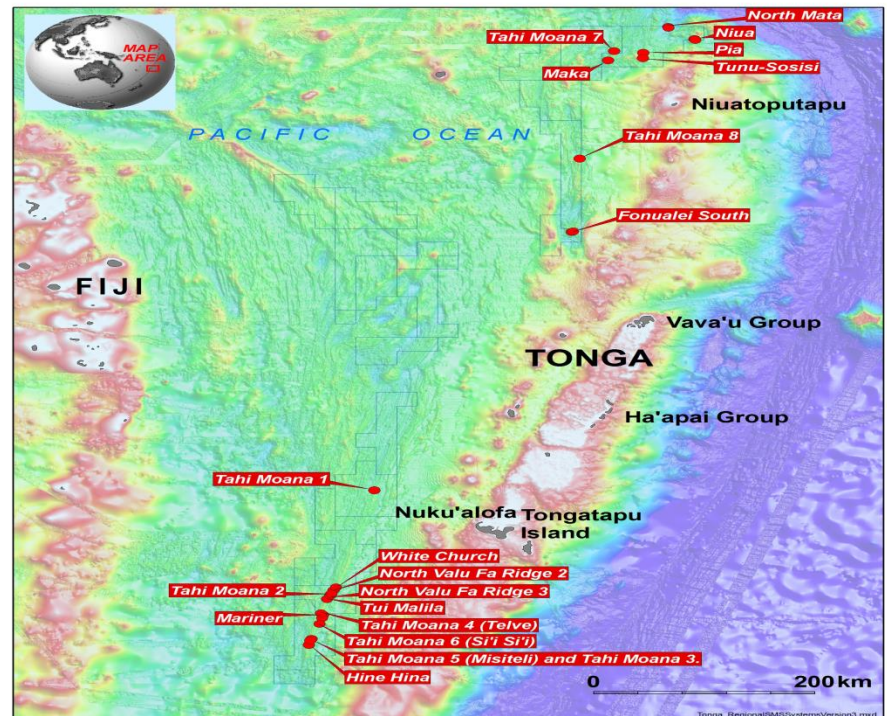
PROJECTS

1. **SPC-EU Deep Sea Mineral Project**

- ▶ Tonga as part of this project, manage to develop its national sea bed mineral legislations with the assistance of SPC-EU project.
 - ▶ The aim of the Project, is to support and informed careful governance of deep sea mining activities in accordance with international law
 - ▶ This project highlights the importance of protection of the marine environment and securing financial arrangement for all Pacific Island countries.
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2. Nautilus Minerals Tonga

- ▶ In 2008, they conducted first deepwater commercial seafloor mineral resources exploration programme in Tongan waters
- ▶ The exploration phase has been very successful and resulted in identification of 19 highly prospective sites for further evaluation



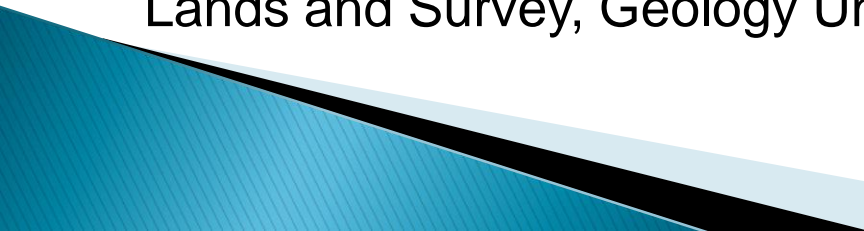
Source: Nautilus Mineral website

DEEP SEA MINERAL SUMMIT

Asia-Pacific Deep Sea Mining Summit 2015

- ▶ Key topic on the Agenda:
 - Economic landscape and growth of deep sea mining
 - Achieving sustainable seabed mining project in harmony with nature
 - Working with nationals through legal framework with opportunities and risks
 - Regional opportunities to harvest seafloor massive sulphides and manganese nodules
 - Technological developments associated with commercializing deep sea mining.

CONCLUSION

- ▶ Deep Sea Mineral riches with natural resources such as sulphide and manganese replacing metals in global demand
 - ▶ However, sustainable sea bed mining should be taking into consideration protection of marine environment balancing with economic benefits
 - ▶ Tonga's Act helps maintain and management Tonga's mineral resources within national jurisdiction, and the benefit of the whole country as well.
 - ▶ With further development, on going monitoring of the sea bed and its resources are done by various project Companies due to limited capability in Tonga
 - ▶ Requires more regulations in the upcoming future, as global demand for minerals increases
 - ▶ Tonga's Deep Sea Mineral activities maintained under the Ministry of Lands and Survey, Geology Unit
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***THANK YOU VERY
MUCH
FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!***

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