



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission
**Department of Foreign Affairs
and Trade**
AusAID

Pacific Sporting Needs Assessment



Chapter 3

Country/territory reports

This chapter contains sections on each country and territory that participates in the ASP Sports Program. The information is a result of an extensive process that included the development and completion of questionnaires and in-country consultations with key stakeholders. The stakeholders consulted in the preparation of the report included national governments, National Olympic Committees, National Paralympic Committees, national sport federations and community groups.

The reports provide insight into the current status of sport in each participating country and territory, as well as identifying priority areas for development. The priority areas vary across the countries and territories and are a useful tool in developing a strategy for an effective development assistance program.

While not recipients of ASP funding, American Samoa and Guam have participated in specific ASP initiatives and have therefore been included.

The reports provide insight into the current status of sport in each participating country and territory.



Country ■ Nauru

- **Capital** Aiwo-Yaren
- **Population** 12 100 (2003)

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Introduction

The island of Nauru comprises an area of just over 21 square kilometres, with an exclusive economic zone of 320 000 square kilometres and a total population of 12 100. Nauru has one of the highest rates of diabetes and one of the lowest rates of life expectancy in the Pacific.

Nauru faces one of the most, if not the most, challenging sporting landscapes in the region, primarily because of its size (both geographic and demographic) and its depressed local economy. Despite this, Nauru has become a leading weightlifting country, winning two gold, five silver and eight bronze medals at the Manchester 2002 Commonwealth Games.

The Nauru National Olympic Committee (NNOC) was formed in 1991 and was recognised by the International Olympic Committee in 1994. It competed at its first Olympic Games in Atlanta in 1996 and its first Commonwealth Games in 1990 in Auckland. Nauru has not yet competed in the Paralympic Games.

Structure of sport

Nauru's Department of Sport is within the Ministry of Health. The department has a modest budget, which has been reduced in recent years.

NNOC is responsible for developing elite sport and preparing teams for participation in elite international competitions such as the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, South Pacific Games and South Pacific Mini Games.

NNOC has 17 affiliated sports including Olympic and non-Olympic sports.

Sport and physical education

Nauru has no uniform school sport or physical education curriculum or program. There are no professionally qualified teachers to deliver sport and physical education. This is a contributing factor to the lack of youth and teenage participation in sport. Nauru's Department of Sport, Department

Nauru's female athletes have had success on the international stage.

of Education and NNOC agree that resolving this shortcoming is a priority.

Problems are exacerbated by the lack of sport equipment. This is also a significant factor among national federations and local sport organisations.

Nauru's Department of Education has identified teachers who are suitable candidates for formal training in physical education.

Sport for people with a disability

There is no sport program for people with a disability in Nauru. While the Nauru Paralympic Committee is recognised by the International Paralympic Committee, the country has not competed at any Games and does not run programs for people with a disability due to a lack of funds, equipment and resources.

Women in sport

The women-in-sport movement is new to Nauru. No formal women-in-sport unit has been established, although plans are underway to establish a women in sport commission that will be affiliated with NNOC.

Nauru's female athletes have had success on the international stage with Reanna Solomon, a weightlifter, winning gold at the Manchester 2002 Commonwealth Games.

The main factor affecting the development of women in sport in Nauru is the same one that threatens other areas of sport development in Nauru — a lack of adequate

office space and resources with which to communicate with external organisations.

Two of NNOC's 11 board members are women.

Junior sport program

Junior sport initiatives in Nauru are the responsibility of the national sport federations. Weightlifting and Australian football are the only federations in Nauru that run active junior development programs.

Other programs, activities and issues

Two significant factors, unique to Nauru, threaten the delivery of sport.

The first factor is land ownership. Most land in Nauru is privately owned. Phosphate mining has reduced the country's habitable area to just 20 per cent of total land mass. Landowners are increasingly reluctant to sell or lease land to government organisations. This has ramifications for developing sport in Nauru. The construction of any facilities is subject to the availability of suitable land, which is increasingly hard to find. Indeed, an offer by the Australian Government to construct a temporary athletics facility is yet to be realised because of an inability to find the land required, even on a temporary basis.

The second factor is the lack of financial resources needed to build and maintain sport facilities. In recent years, the construction of new facilities in Nauru has increasingly relied on financial and intellectual assistance from other countries. This situation is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future, given

the country's current economic climate. In 2001, construction began on an indoor multi-purpose gymnasium, only for progress to stall in 2002 after the donor country withdrew the funds. The Nauru Government does not have funds to complete the construction and the building now lies incomplete and is rapidly decaying.

Nauru's national sport federations have identified three main priority areas:

- training qualified coaches and access to coach education programs
- training local sport administrators and access to sport administration courses
- access to information technology resources including the Oceania Sport Information Centre and the Australian Sports Commission's National Sport Information Centre.

Priority areas for the future

- Sport and physical education curriculum — Nauru needs to create, implement and deliver a school sport and physical education curriculum. Formal training of physical education teachers and supply of equipment would facilitate the delivery of such a curriculum.
- Sport medicine education — Nauru needs to develop its sport medicine knowledge. Formal training for an existing medical practitioner and education of existing coaches and administrators in modern sport medicine practices are required.

- Sport information and resource facility — a sport information and resource facility would provide sporting organisations with information on coaching and management, internet access, communication services, basic office and filing services, audiovisual services, meeting and conference venues, and qualified staff to manage the facility.
- Administrative skills education — national federations need to develop their administrative skills by hosting sport education workshops. They also need administrative and management resources.
- Sport facilities — international-standard facilities need to be developed. A swimming pool, an upgraded athletics track and field, and a multi-purpose field for Australian football, soccer and other field sports have been identified as local requirements.
- Coach education programs — coaching expertise needs to be developed, allowing targeted coaches to complete courses in coaching principles and sport-specific accreditation.
- Overseas scholarship opportunities — providing elite athletes with an increase in overseas scholarship opportunities. International experts could also be provided to deliver in-country coaching courses.

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