



Seabed Minerals Authority
Runanga Takere Moana
COOK ISLANDS

Sustainable Development of Seabed Minerals in the Cook Islands

Geopublishing Deep Sea Minerals Conference, Bergen Norway

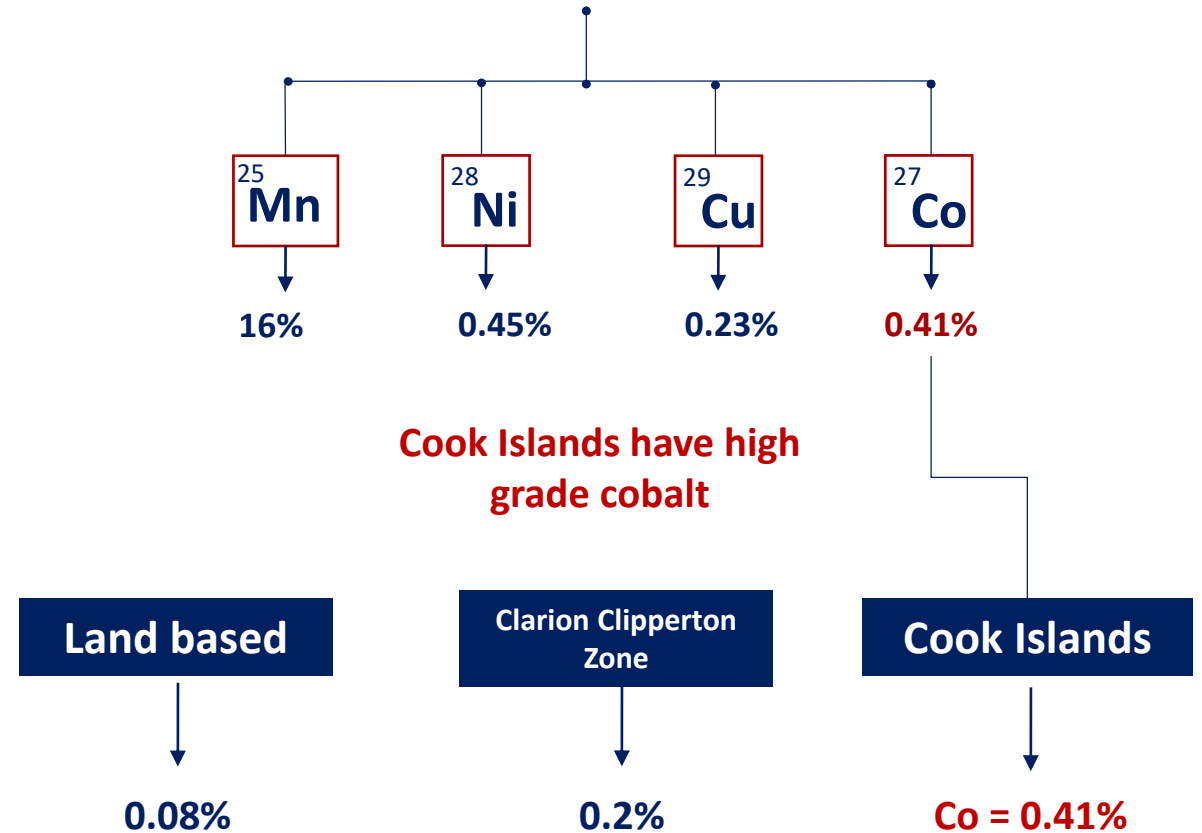
26 October 2022



Cook Islands Nodules

Estimated total nodules **12 billion tonnes**

Contains: **cobalt**, iron, nickel, copper, manganese, REEs





Cook Islands SBM sustainability goals



Environmental Protection



People Empowerment



Economic Diversity



Knowledge and research advancement

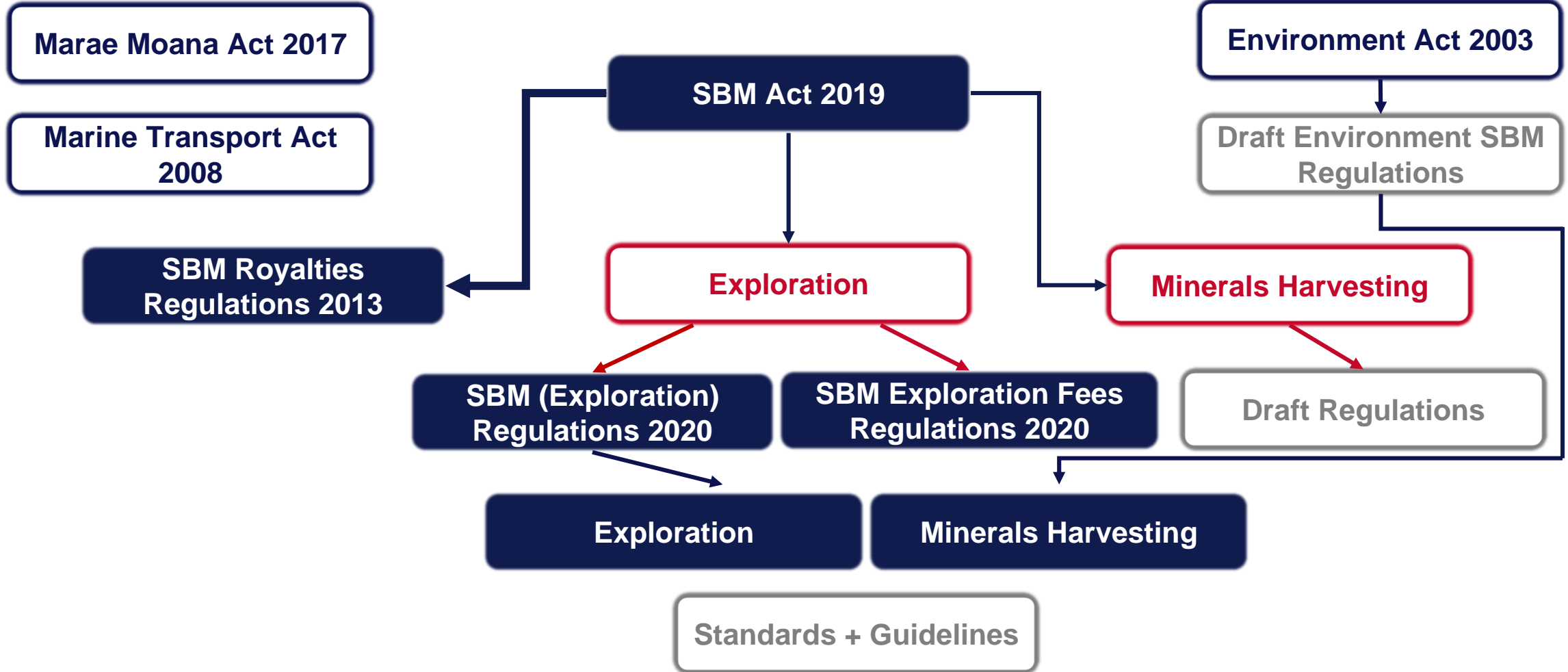


Transition to low Carbon economy



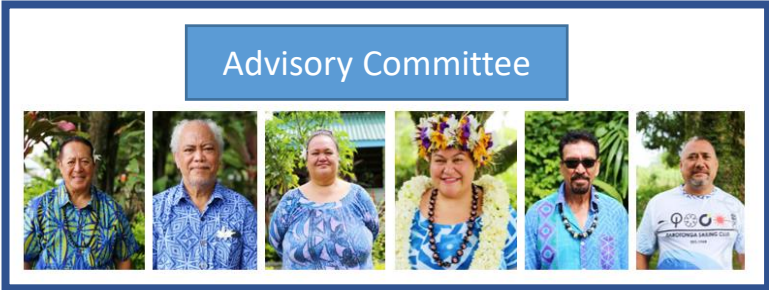


SBM Regulatory Framework





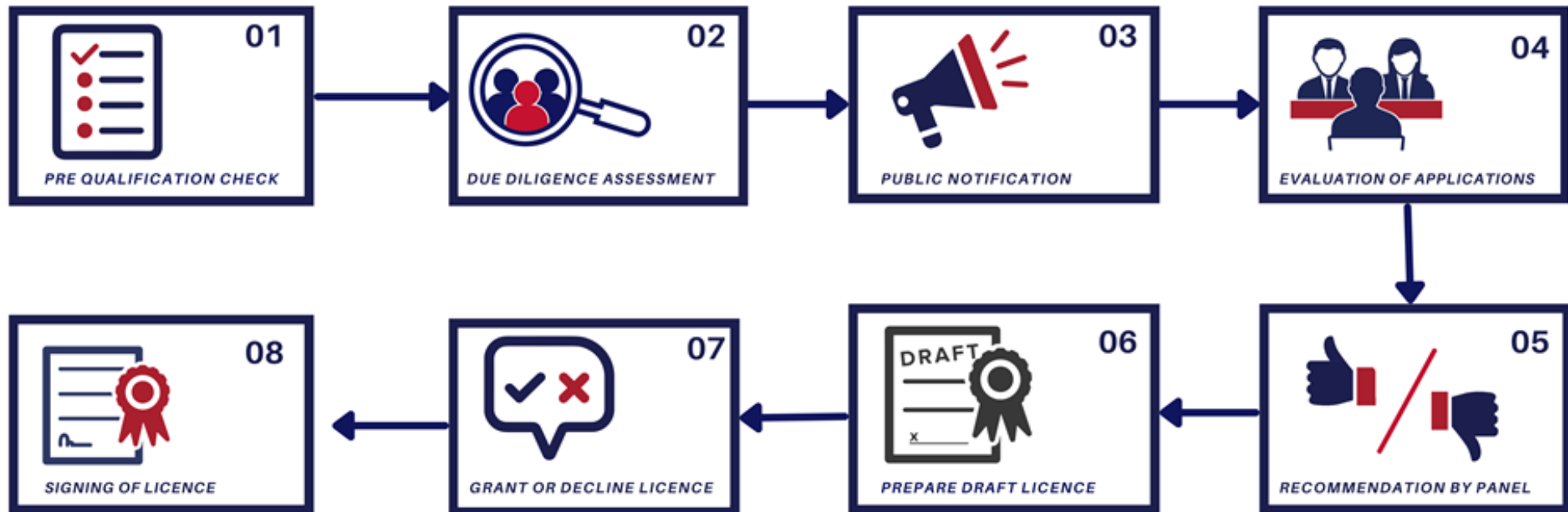
Cook Islands SBM sector – Who is involved?





Exploration Licensing Process (October 2020 to February 2022)

Stages of the Licensing Process





Due diligence assessments



**Compliance
History**



**Financial
Resourcing**



**Corporate
Governance**



**Technical
Expertise and
Capability**



**Risk
Management**



**Fit and
proper
persons**

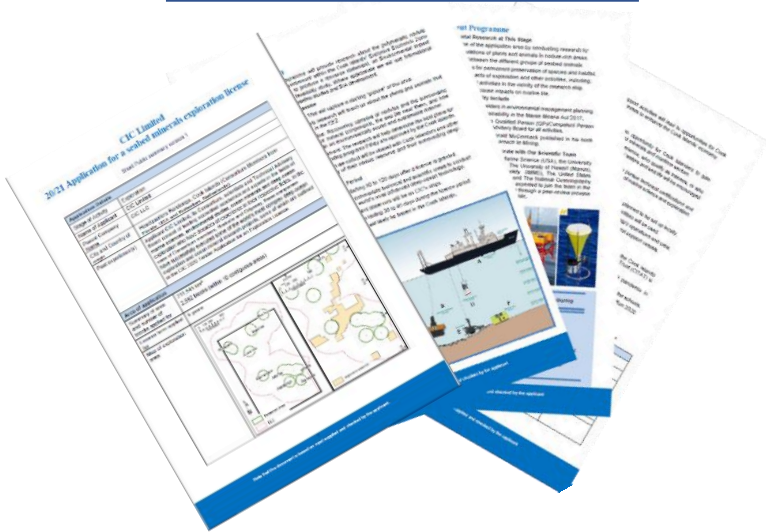


**Other
criteria**



Public notification

Application Summaries



- Short summaries in English and Maori
- + environmental management programme and local development plans

Video summaries



Q&As





Licensing Panel evaluation

Proposed Work Plan	Financial Resources	Technical Competence	Compliance	Risk Assessment and Management	National Interest	Marae Moana
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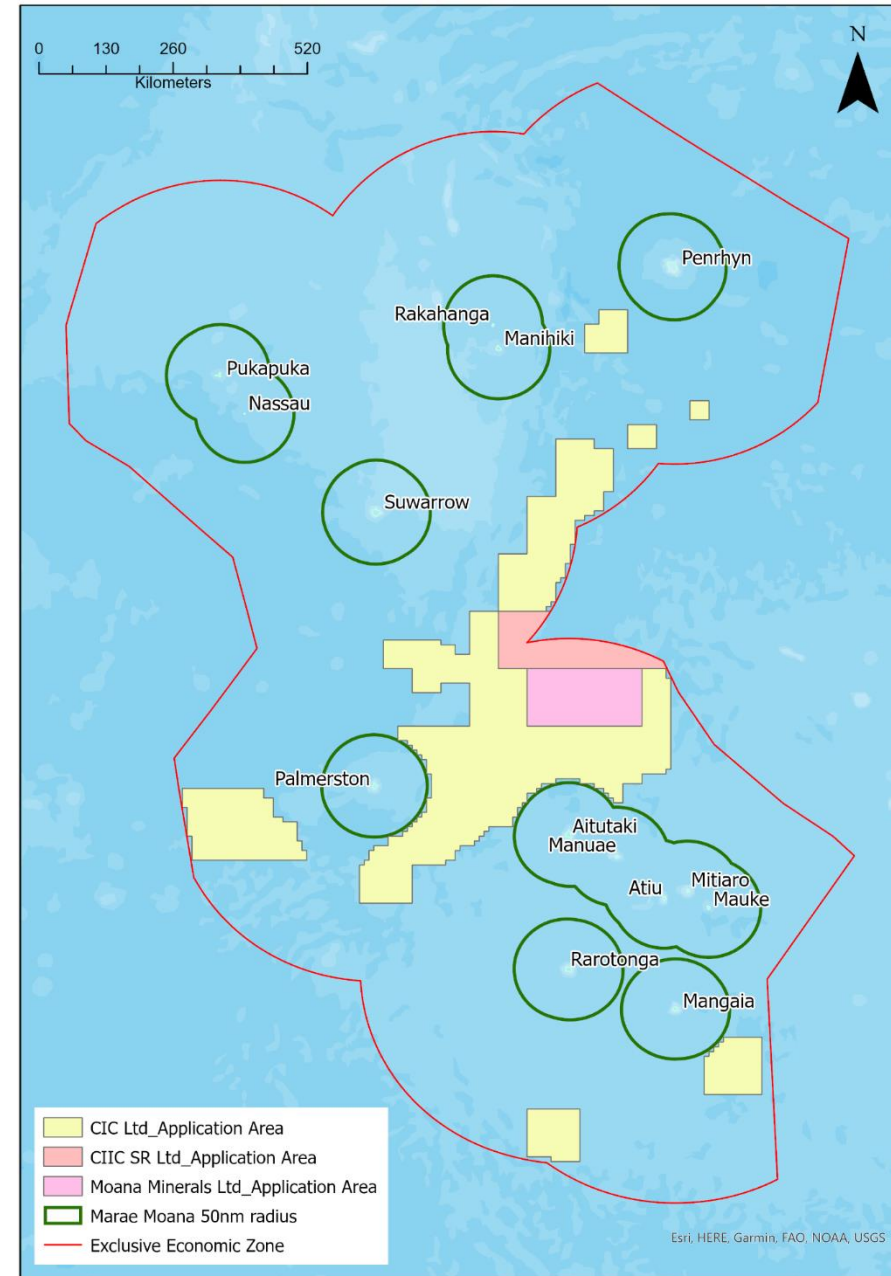
20 December 2021 – Licensing Panel recommendation to the responsible Minister to grant the licence applications.

Minister agreed with recommendations, and the Authority began the process of drafting exploration licences



23 February 2022, three exploration licences issued to:

- 1. CIC**
- 2. CIIC Seabed Resources**
- 3. Moana Minerals**





Cook Islands Exploration Programme

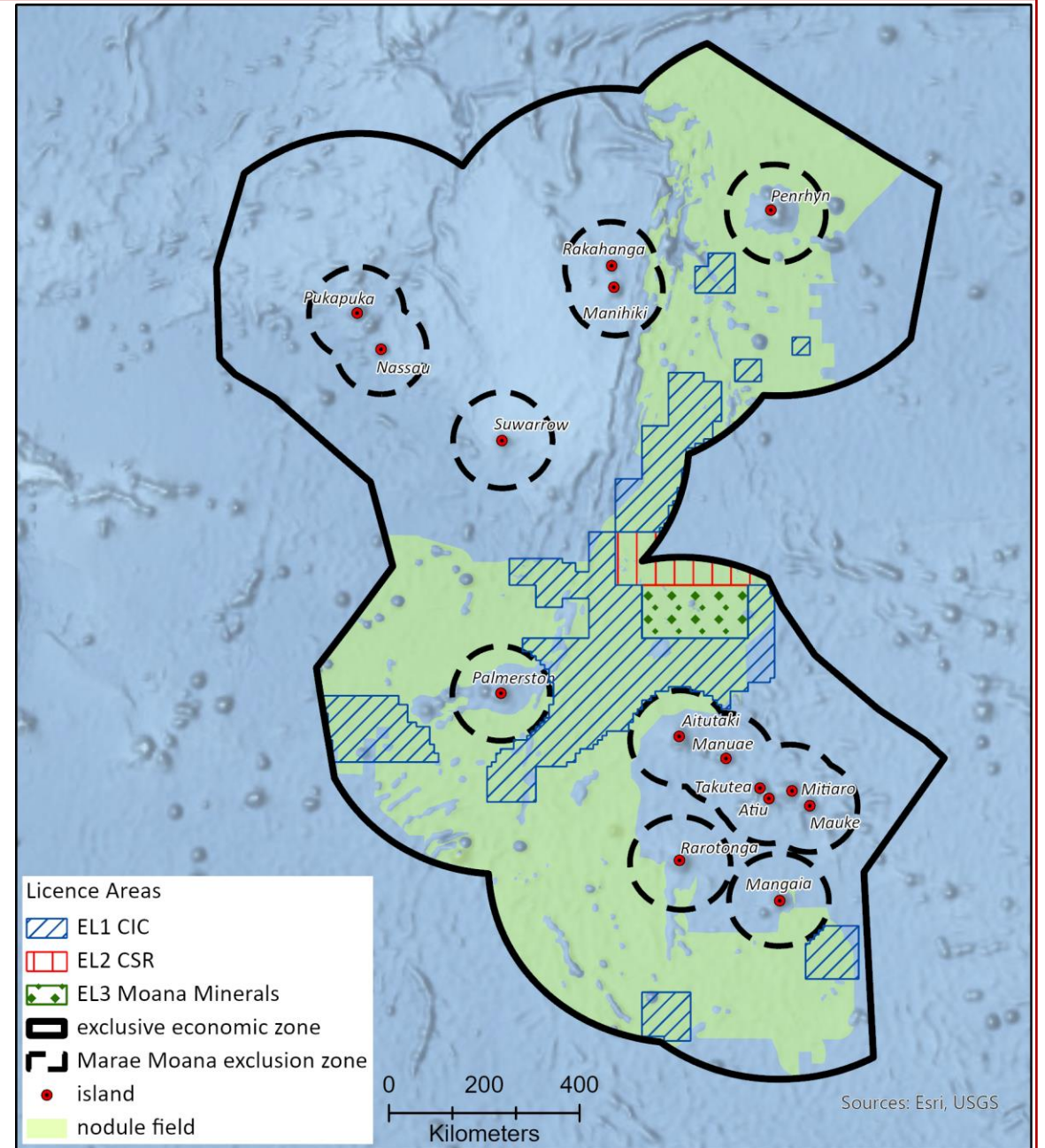
Licensing Process 16 month long process led by the Cook Islands

Granting of licences 4 applications received. Only 3 licences issued

Total area licenced 13% of EEZ to be explored. ~260,000 km²

Exploration in the Cook Islands \$193m NZD combined expenditure and over 60 expedition legs planned over the next 5 years

Benefits to the Cook Islands \$27m NZD into local economy during exploration phase. Includes jobs, goods & services, training, community programmes





Keys to a responsible and sustainable SBM sector



Improve
understanding
of marine
environment



Innovation
and
collaboration



Science-based
decision
making



Robust
regulatory
framework

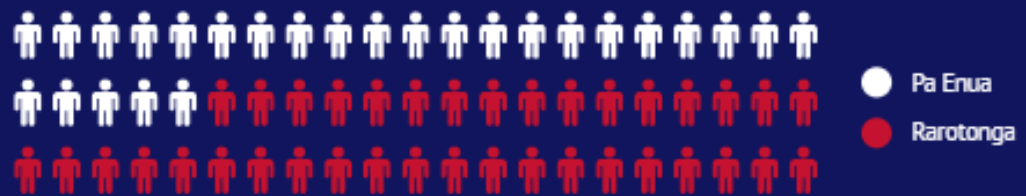


Bringing our
people along
the journey



CONSULTATION SNAPSHOT

CONSULTATION SURVEY DISTRIBUTION

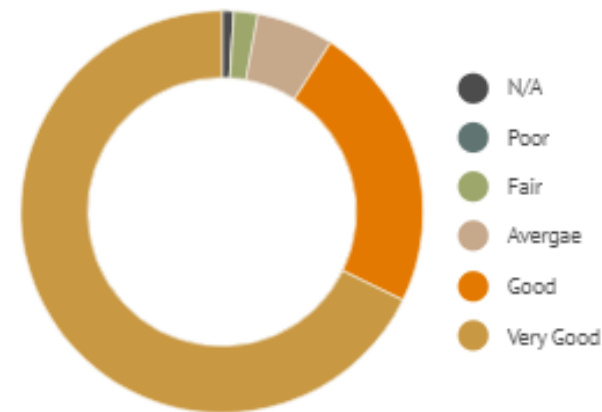
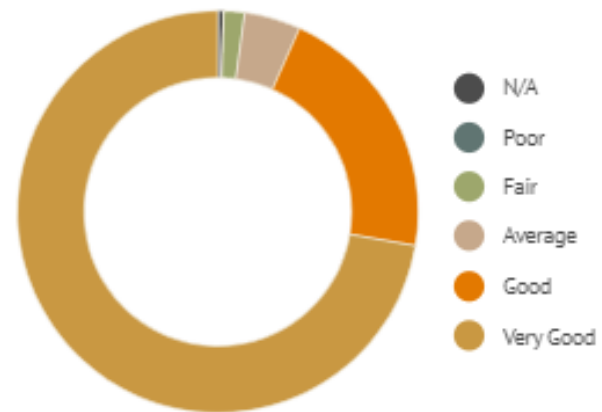
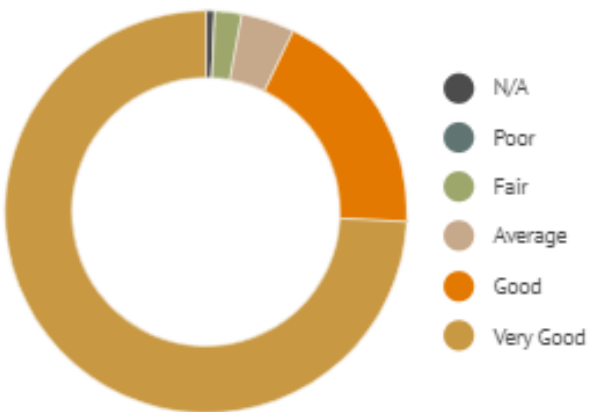


SUMMARY SURVEY RESPONSES

Overall, how satisfied were you with our presentation?

Did the presenter have a good understanding of the subject of presentation?

How would you rate the quality of the SBM information/topic presented?





Meitaki Maata

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