# PACIFIC RISK PROFILE – PALAU

## COUNTRY OVERVIEW

* [**242 m**](https://www.spc.int/our-members/) maximum height above sea level
* [**444 km²**](https://www.spc.int/our-members/) land area and [**150**](https://sdd.spc.int/digital_library/pocket-statistical-summary-resume-statistique-de-poche-2020) people per km²
* [**78%**](https://sdd.spc.int/mapping-coastal) of population is urban
* [**93%**](https://sdd.spc.int/mapping-coastal) of population live with 1 km of coast and 100% live within 5-10 km of coast
* [**17,934**](https://sdd.spc.int/topic/population) total population
* [**9472**](https://sdd.spc.int/topic/population) (52.82%) men and [**8462**](https://sdd.spc.int/topic/population) women (47.18%) in 2020
* [**20%**](https://sdd.spc.int/digital_library/pocket-statistical-summary-resume-statistique-de-poche-2020) of population is 14 or younger, [**13%**](https://sdd.spc.int/digital_library/pocket-statistical-summary-resume-statistique-de-poche-2020) is 15-24 years and [**15%**](https://sdd.spc.int/digital_library/pocket-statistical-summary-resume-statistique-de-poche-2020) is 60 years and older
* [**2.3%**](https://www.unescap.org/publications/disability-glance-2019) disability prevalence
* [**$15,673**](https://sdd.spc.int/digital_library/pocket-statistical-summary-resume-statistique-de-poche-2020) USD gross domestic product per capita
* [**60%**](https://www.adb.org/publications/gender-statistics-pacific-and-timor-leste) women’s labour force participation rate
* [**29.2%**](https://www.adb.org/publications/gender-statistics-pacific-and-timor-leste) women’s share of managerial positions
* [**39.6%**](https://www.adb.org/publications/gender-statistics-pacific-and-timor-leste) women’s share of wage employment in the non-agriculture sector
* [**25%**](https://www.adb.org/publications/gender-statistics-pacific-and-timor-leste) ever-partnered women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner.

## HAZARD LIKELIHOOD

(link: [**https://thinkhazard.org/en/report/189-palau**](https://thinkhazard.org/en/report/189-palau))

| **Earthquake** | **Wildfire** | **Landslide** | **Tsunami** | **Coastal flood** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Very low likelihood | Very low likelihood | Medium likelihood | Medium likelihood | Medium likelihood |

## MAJOR DISASTERS 2011-2020

(link: [**https://www.emdat.be/**](https://www.emdat.be/))

* **67%** of disasters were storms and **33%** were epidemic
* **Two** major cyclones
* **1371** people were affected

## ECONOMIC LOSS DUE TO DISASTERS

* [**$25.99m**](https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/IDD-APDR-Subreport-Pacific-SIDS.pdf) USD total average annual loss due to disasters, which is [**11.98%**](https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/IDD-APDR-Subreport-Pacific-SIDS.pdf) of GDP

## ADAPTATION COST FOR COASTAL PROTECTION

* [**$3-$11m**](https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/28137) USD adaptation costs for coastal protection per year, which is [**1-2%**](https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/28137) of projected GDP in 2040.

## RISK INDEX

* Palau’s risk level is [**medium**](https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Covid-19/INFORM-Covid-19-Warning-beta-version) when assessing the potential humanitarian impacts of COVID-19 in combination with other pre-existing crisis risks.

## CLIMATE PROJECTION

(link: [**https://www.pacificclimatechangescience.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/2\_PACCSAP-Palau-11pp\_WEB.pdf**](https://www.pacificclimatechangescience.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/2_PACCSAP-Palau-11pp_WEB.pdf))

**Typhoon:** expected to be less frequent but more intense

* **Rainfall**: average rainfall is expected to increase, especially in the wet season, with more extreme rain events
* **Temperature**: annual mean temperatures and extremely high daily temperatures will continue to rise
* **Sea level**: expected to continue to rise
* **Ocean acidification**: expected to continue
* **Risk of coral bleaching**: expected to increase
* **El Niño/La Niña**: will continue, in Koror **El Niño** tends to bring dry seasons that are drier and cooler than normal, while **La Niña** tends to bring wetter than normal conditions.