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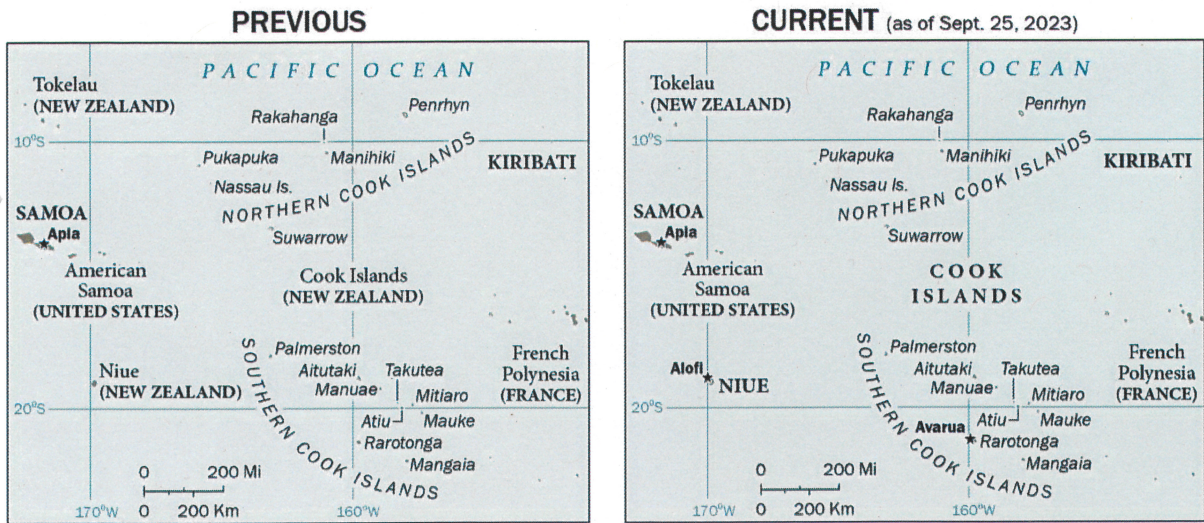
September 25, 2023

### Cartographic Guidance: Cook Islands and Niue

On September 25, 2023, President Biden announced United States recognition of the Cook Islands and Niue as sovereign and independent states. Henceforth, the Cook Islands and Niue are to be depicted as independent states on all U.S. Government cartographic products (see map).

The Cook Islands and Niue have the same territorial extent as before the recognition. The Cook Islands includes the islands and atolls of Manihiki, Nassau Island, Penrhyn, Pukapuka, Rakahanga, and Suvarrow in the Northern Cook Islands, and Aitutaki, Atiu, Mangaia, Manuae, Mauke, Mitiaro, Palmerston, Rarotonga, and Takutea in the Southern Cook Islands.

Avarua is the national capital of the Cook Islands. Alofi is the national capital of Niue. On U.S. Government maps that show national capitals, Avarua and Alofi are to be symbolized as capitals of sovereign and independent states. The Cook Islands and Niue must be labeled with the same typeface used for sovereign states. The parenthetical sovereignty designator “(NEW ZEALAND)” for the Cook Islands and Niue is removed.



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Please contact [Maps@state.gov](mailto:Maps@state.gov) with questions.

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The Geographer

U.S. Department of State