

Application to the Secretariat of the International Seabed Authority  
For Observer Status (NGO)  
February 28, 2023

To: [secretary-general@isa.org.jm](mailto:secretary-general@isa.org.jm)

Cc: [old@isa.org.jm](mailto:old@isa.org.jm)

1. Name of organization

Tetiaroa Society

2. Address of headquarters

C/o Peterson Russell Kelly Livengood PLLC  
10900 NE 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1850  
Bellevue, WA 98004

3. Addresses of all branches and/or regional headquarters

Tetiaroa Society FP  
P. O. Box 6014  
98702 Faa'a – Tahiti  
French Polynesia

4. Telephone Number

1 (925) 708-5611

5. Fax Number

6. Email address

[srowland@tetiaroasociety.org](mailto:srowland@tetiaroasociety.org)

7. Name, title and contact details of the focal point

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Chairman of the Board, Tetiaroa Society  
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8. Background information on the organization

TETIAROA SOCIETY: The mission of Tetiaroa Society 501(c)(3) non-profit organization is to ensure island and coastal communities have a future as rich as their past - strengthening their resilience to global

change, by restoring their ecosystems, and preserving their cultures. Grounded in experience and action on Tetiaroa, Tetiaroa Society's vision is to weave enlightened values, traditional knowledge, and scientific understanding into a new fabric for our common island home. Designated by the atoll's owners as the environmental steward of Tetiaroa with authority and responsibility to manage, conserve and protect the entire island, TS develops and carries out conservation and education, hosts scientific research, and curates the island's knowledge-base. We thrive to establish Tetiaroa as a model for island/earth sustainability where businesses and charities work together for the benefit of communities and nature.

**BLUE CLIMATE INITIATIVE:** In 2019, from Tetiaroa Society spun a program to take ocean and climate action internationally in the form of a program called the Blue Climate Initiative, that is focused on accelerating ocean-based solutions to climate change. BCI enables research and collaboration to combat climate change while protecting our oceans, unlocking solutions to urgent challenges like renewable energy, sustainable food supplies, improved human health, flourishing biodiversity, stewardship of the ocean's resources, and vibrant ocean economies.

**VOICE OF THE OCEAN:** During the Blue Climate Summit which Tetiaroa Society and the Blue Climate Initiative hosted in May of 2022 in French Polynesia, indigenous voices coalesced to share and amplify the perspectives of indigenous cultures from the Pacific region in regards to the ocean. This movement has since amplified into another TS Program which is creating a network of indigenous leaders and ocean advocates across the Pacific from Canada First Nations to Papua New Guinea.

The organization as a whole has about 15 direct staff, about 40 board members and steering committee members, and a partner network of 60-100 scientists.

9. Is the organization a member of, affiliated to or otherwise associated with another organization that has been granted observer status with the Authority?

No.

10. Is the organization affiliated to consultants of the Authority, contractors with the Authority, entities in connection with the law of the sea, the offshore and deep-sea mining industry, research institutes or the mineral marketing and processing industry?

No.

11. Relationships with intergovernmental organizations

The Blue Climate Initiative is an endorsed program of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

12. List of publications and or/other relevant documentation

- [TS 2021 Impact Report](#)
- BCI [Transformational Opportunities](#) publication.
- [May 2022 Blue Climate Summit Outcomes Report](#)

13. Briefly outline how your organization intends to demonstrate its interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly, including by answering questions 14 to 17 and by providing any other relevant information related to the application for observer status.

Tetiaroa Society has a wide range of activities and connections throughout both the global scientific community and throughout the cultural diaspora of Oceania. We are therefore both concerned about deep ocean matters and able to draw in experts and on a wide range of topics around the deep ocean

14. Briefly outline whether and how the purposes of activities of the organization relate to the work of the Authority.

Tetiaroa Society's activities relate directly to the Authority's work in the area of the granting of licenses for deep sea mining in the Area. Since the Blue Climate Summit in May 2022 that was held in French Polynesia, during which 250+ ocean experts, investors, government and NGO representatives and community leaders came together to accelerate ocean-based solutions to climate change, we have been actively engaged in understanding and elevating indigenous perspectives and the voices of coastal and ocean communities from Pacific Islands especially, whose livelihoods are closely tied to the ocean.

15. Briefly outline whether and how your organization intends to contribute to the work of the Authority, for example by providing specialized information, advice or expertise, or by identifying or helping to procure the services of experts or consultants.

- a. We are uniquely positioned to access marine research because Tetiaroa Society has been conducting environmental stewardship and oceanographic research since 2010. In doing so, it has hosted and collaborated with researchers from across the globe. Additionally, we have close working relationships with the University of Washington, and with UC Berkeley Gump South Pacific Research Station, whose Executive Director Neil Davies serves on our Board and Steering Committee, and brings with him an exhaustive and multi-disciplinary network of marine specialists.
- b. We have also collected research to better understand present and future green and energy technologies, and the future role critical minerals found in the deep sea will likely play. This effort is guided by the presence on our Steering Committee of Professor Dan Kammen, Director, Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory University of California Berkeley, & Senior adviser for Energy, Climate and Innovation for USAID Power Africa.
- c. As part of our Voice of the Ocean project Tetiaroa Society is able to gather indigenous elders and experts in order to bring their cultural viewpoints to the discussion of deep sea mining regulations. With the attention that United Nations organizations have given to indigenous rights and cultural heritage we feel that this is an important contribution to ISA deliberations.

16. Briefly outline whether and how your organization has the expertise and the capacity to contribute, within its field of competence, to the work of the Authority, in particular in connection with the law of the sea, the protection of the marine environment, the offshore and

deep-sea mining industry, technology, minerals processing and marketing, activities in the Area and marine scientific research in the Area.

In addition to the expertise cited in #15 above, and especially as it pertains to the protection of the marine environment and minerals processing, we enjoy a robust consultative and collaborative relationship with a group of experts who co-authored the Minerals and Genetic Resources section of our Transformation Opportunities publication (ref #12 above). These include Working Group Co-Leads Dr. Diva Amon from the Natural History Museum in London and Dr. Robert Blasiak, Researcher at the Stockholm Resilience Centre; group members Hannah Lily, an independent consultant and seabed minerals attorney from the UK; Torsten Thiele, Senior Research Associate from the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies at the University of Potsdam, and more.

17. Briefly outline whether and how your organization intends to contribute to the capacity-building programmes and initiatives of the Authority (e.g., Secretary-General's award, voluntary commitments of the Authority).

Tetiaroa Society would be happy to coordinate Side Events, workshops, and discussions on traditional knowledge, indigenous cultural relations to nature, and the connection of indigenous Pacific communities to the ocean.