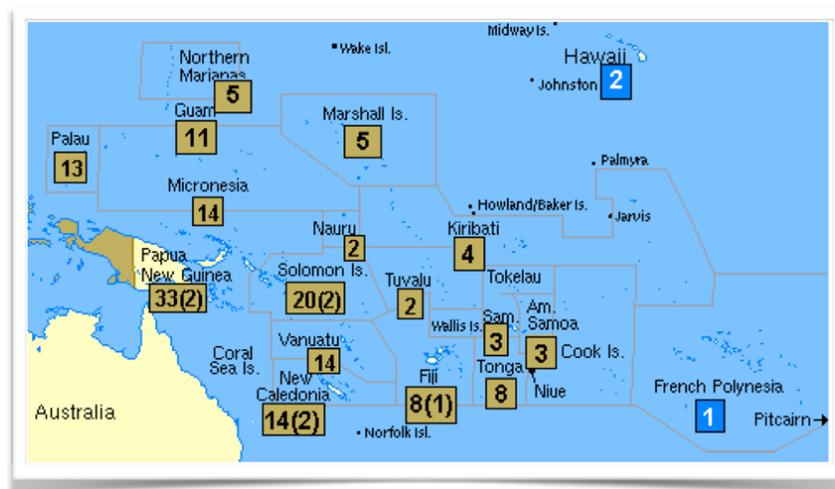


HANDOUT 3: DIFFERENT TYPES OF MANGROVES TREES

Mangroves grow in tropical and sub-tropical coastal areas. There are many different types of mangrove trees found all over the world. The map below shows the number of mangrove tree **species** and their distribution across the Pacific Islands region. Yellow squares represent number of mangrove species that are native to the locations. Blue squares represent number of mangrove species that are introduced to the locations:



According to a study from 1995, there are a total of 34 pure mangrove species and 3 **hybrid** mangrove species in the Pacific Islands region. The number of mangrove species decreases when we move from west to east across the Pacific. Some islands may have lower number as a result of lack of suitable habitat for mangrove trees.

Mangrove trees in the Pacific can be categorized into four general groups: red (*Rhizophora*, *Bruguiera*), white or mangrove apple (*Sonneratia*), black (*Lumnitzera*), cannonball (*Xylocarpus*), and palm (*Nypa*).



Rhizophora

Rhizophora live in highly inundated, or flooded, areas. They are found along the seaward channels. They are usually 15 to 30 feet tall, with green, bushy canopies and tall prop roots. *Rhizophora* use their tall prop roots to stand above the water level, and breathe through their bark.



Sonneratia

Sonneratia can live in places with wide ranges of salt level. Like *Rhizophora*, they are found along the seaward channels. However, they are not as bushy as *Rhizophora*. They grow thick and cone-shaped root-like structures called pneumatophores. *Sonneratia* breathe through the pneumatophores, which stick up out of the soil. The bark of *Sonneratia* is covered with a layer of wax. *Sonneratia* produce berry-shaped fruits. Their leaves and fruits can be eaten. Their wood is good for house posts and canoes.

Lumnitzera live on higher ground. They are found close to land, and can grow up to 80 feet tall. Like *Sonneratia*, they grow and breathe through pneumatophores. However, their pneumatophores look like tubes or straws. *Lumnitzera* are good building materials.

Xylocarpus live on higher ground as well. They are also found close to land. They grow either tall buttress roots, or buttress roots with small cone-shaped pneumatophores. They also produce large round fruits.



Lumnitzera

Nypa and *Bruguiera* live close to fresh water. They are found further inland. The leaves of *Nypa* are shaped like palm leaves. *Nypa* grow further inland near more fresh water. Their leaves used for making thatched roofs.

How do you call these different mangroves in your local language? What other names are used in your local language to name mangrove trees?

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