

# Intra-Region IDD Charges & Roaming Charges within Pacific Island Countries

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## Objectives of exercise

To compare IDD & Roaming rates for Intra-calling within the 14 Pacific countries

Motivate operators to review the prices

Urge regulators to look into the reasons behind high IDD & IMR charges

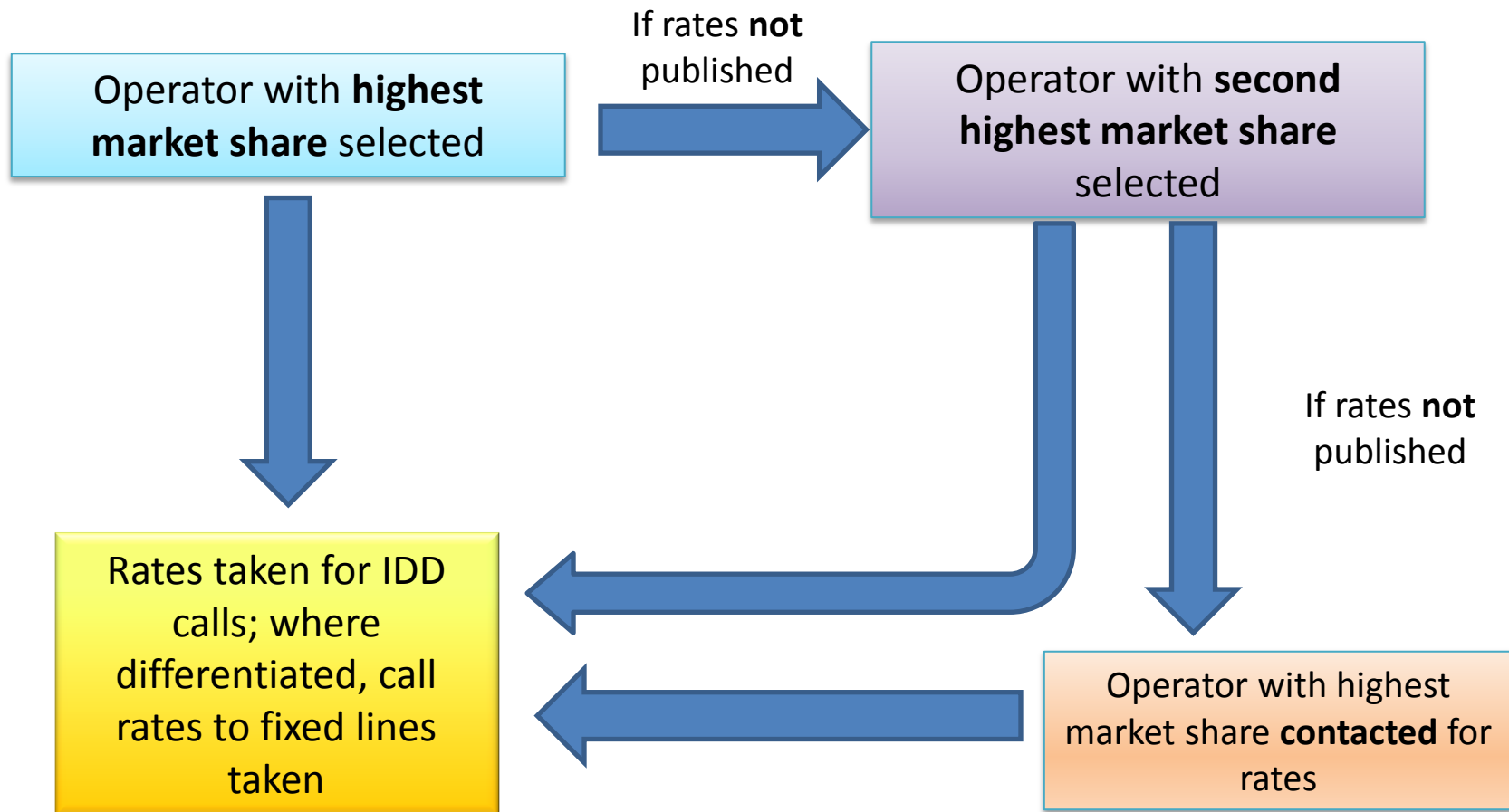
Make people aware what they are paying for

Draft report is in the consultation process and will be published on [www.pirrc.org](http://www.pirrc.org)



# Intra-Pacific IDD Rate Comparison

# Methodology for IDD



- All prices converted to USD using [www.oanda.com](http://www.oanda.com)
- Tariffs per minute reported are standard (VIP) rate at peak times

# International DD – Fixed Line (Rates in USD)

Shaded in green is the **lowest** for each country

Highlighted in red are the **highest** for each country

Country		Calling from													
		Cook Islands	Fiji	FSM	Kiribati	Marshall Islands	Nauru	Niue	Palau	PNG	Samoa	Solomon Islands	Tonga	Tuvalu	Vanuatu
Calling to	Cook Islands		0.41	1.95	2.76	1.50	-	1.97	0.99	1.39	0.38	1.01	0.84	2.46	1.64
	Fiji	1.26		1.75	2.76	1.50	-	1.97	0.35	1.39	0.37	1.01	0.39	1.53	0.44
	FSM	1.54	0.41		2.76	1.50	-	2.28	0.99	1.39	0.37	1.01	0.56	2.46	0.66
	Kiribati	1.54	0.41	1.75		1.50	-	1.97	0.35	1.39	0.37	1.01	0.84	2.46	1.64
	Marshall Islands	1.54	0.41	1.75	2.76		-	2.28	0.35	1.39	0.37	1.01	0.56	2.46	0.66
	Nauru	1.54	0.41	2.50	2.76	1.50		1.97	1.50	1.39	0.37	1.01	2.23	2.46	1.64
	Niue	1.54	0.41	2.70	2.76	1.50	-		0.99	1.39	0.38	1.01	1.11	2.46	1.64
	Palau	1.54	0.41	1.75	2.76	1.50	-	2.28		1.39	0.37	1.01	0.84	2.46	0.66
	PNG	1.54	0.41	2.00	2.76	1.50	-	1.97	0.99		0.38	1.01	1.11	2.46	1.64
	Samoa	1.53	0.41	1.75	2.76	1.50	-	1.97	0.99	1.39		1.01	0.39	2.46	0.44
	Solomon Islands	1.54	0.41	3.20	2.76	1.50	-	1.97	1.50	1.39	0.77		1.11	2.46	1.64
	Tonga	1.54	0.41	1.75	2.76	1.50	-	1.97	0.35	1.39	0.37	1.01		2.46	0.66
	Tuvalu	1.54	0.41	2.50	2.76	1.50	-	1.97	0.99	1.39	0.38	1.01	0.84		1.64
	Vanuatu	1.54	0.41	2.40	2.76	1.50	-	1.97	1.50	1.39	0.37	1.01	0.84	2.46	

# International DD – Mobile (Rates in USD)

Shaded in green is the **lowest** for each country

Highlighted in red are the **highest** for each country

Country		Calling from													
		Cook Islands	Fiji	FSM	Kiribati	Marshall Islands	Nauru	Niue	Palau	PNG	Samoa	Solomon Islands	Tonga	Tuvalu	Vanuatu
Calling to	Cook Islands		0.81	1.80	2.96	1.50	1.48	1.97	2.00	0.85	0.75	1.01	0.49	2.46	0.68
	Fiji	1.26		1.50	2.96	1.50	0.69	1.97	0.99	0.85	0.25	1.01	0.35	1.53	0.48
	FSM	1.54	0.49		2.96	1.50	1.48	2.28	0.99	0.85	0.75	1.01	0.49	2.46	0.68
	Kiribati	1.54	0.81	1.50		1.50	1.48	1.97	2.00	0.85	0.75	1.01	0.49	2.46	0.68
	Marshall Islands	1.54	0.49	1.50	2.96		0.69	2.28	2.00	0.85	0.25	1.01	0.35	2.46	0.68
	Nauru	1.54	1.61	1.75	2.96	1.50		1.97	5.00	0.85	0.25	1.01	0.35	2.46	2.17
	Niue	1.54	0.81	2.30	2.96	1.50	1.48		5.00	0.85	0.75	1.01	0.49	2.46	2.17
	Palau	1.54	0.81	1.40	2.96	1.50	1.48	2.28		0.85	0.75	1.01	0.49	2.46	0.68
	PNG	1.54	0.81	1.80	2.96	1.50	1.48	1.97	2.00		0.25	1.01	0.49	2.46	2.17
	Samoa	1.53	0.49	1.50	2.96	1.50	0.69	1.97	2.00	0.85		1.01	0.35	2.46	0.48
	Solomon Islands	1.54	1.61	2.55	2.96	1.50	1.48	1.97	2.00	1.64	0.75		0.49	2.46	2.17
	Tonga	1.54	0.81	1.50	2.96	1.50	1.48	1.97	2.00	0.85	0.25	1.01		2.46	0.48
	Tuvalu	1.54	0.81	2.00	2.96	1.50	1.48	1.97	2.00	0.85	0.75	1.01	0.49		0.68
	Vanuatu	1.54	0.81	2.30	2.96	1.50	1.48	1.97	2.00	0.85	0.75	1.01	0.49	2.46	

# Skype & Google; Are they cheaper? (Rates in USD)

Country		Calling from (FIXED LINES)											Shaded in green is the lowest for each country				
		CK	FJ	FSM	KI	RMI	NR	NU	PW	PNG	WS	SB	TO	TV	VU	Skype	Google
Calling to	CK		0.41	1.95	2.76	1.50	-	1.97	0.99	1.39	0.38	1.01	0.84	2.46	1.64	1.01	0.78
	FJ	1.26		1.75	2.76	1.50	-	1.97	0.35	1.39	0.37	1.01	0.39	1.53	0.44	0.35	0.21
	FSM	1.54	0.41		2.76	1.50	-	2.28	0.99	1.39	0.37	1.01	0.56	2.46	0.66	0.41	0.24
	KI	1.54	0.41	1.75		1.50	-	1.97	0.35	1.39	0.37	1.01	0.84	2.46	1.64	0.89	0.59
	RMI	1.54	0.41	1.75	2.76		-	2.28	0.35	1.39	0.37	1.01	0.56	2.46	0.66	0.47	0.29
	NR	1.54	0.41	2.50	2.76	1.50		1.97	1.50	1.39	0.37	1.01	2.23	2.46	1.64	1.15	0.99
	NU	1.54	0.41	2.70	2.76	1.50	-		0.99	1.39	0.38	1.01	1.11	2.46	1.64	1.11	1.09
	PW	1.54	0.41	1.75	2.76	1.50	-	2.28		1.39	0.37	1.01	0.84	2.46	0.66	0.50	0.29
	PNG	1.54	0.41	2.00	2.76	1.50	-	1.97	0.99		0.38	1.01	1.11	2.46	1.64	0.94	0.62
	WS	1.53	0.41	1.75	2.76	1.50	-	1.97	0.99	1.39		1.01	0.39	2.46	0.44	0.47	0.39
	SB	1.54	0.41	3.20	2.76	1.50	-	1.97	1.50	1.39	0.77		1.11	2.46	1.64	1.35	0.99
	TO	1.54	0.41	1.75	2.76	1.50	-	1.97	0.35	1.39	0.37	1.01		2.46	0.66	0.48	0.40
	TV	1.54	0.41	2.50	2.76	1.50	-	1.97	0.99	1.39	0.38	1.01	0.84		1.64	0.98	0.62
	VU	1.54	0.41	2.40	2.76	1.50	-	1.97	1.50	1.39	0.37	1.01	0.84	2.46		0.96	0.56
	Aus.	0.93	0.16	1.50	1.23	1.50	-	1.97	0.35	1.39	0.38	1.01	0.39	1.53	0.44	0.03	0.02
NZ	0.79	0.16	1.50	1.72	1.50	-	1.97	0.35	1.39	0.38	1.01	0.39	1.53	0.44	0.03	0.02	

# Skype & Google; Are they cheaper? (Rates in USD)

## Calling from **(Mobile)**

Shaded in green is the lowest for each country

Country		Calling from <b>(Mobile)</b>											Shaded in green is the lowest for each country				
		CK	FJ	FSM	KI	RMI	NR	NU	PW	PNG	WS	SB	TO	TV	VU	Skype	Google
Calling to	CK		0.81	1.80	2.96	1.50	1.48	1.97	2.00	0.85	0.75	1.01	0.49	2.46	0.68	1.01	0.78
	FJ	1.26		1.50	2.96	1.50	0.69	1.97	0.99	0.85	0.25	1.01	0.35	1.53	0.48	0.35	0.21
	FSM	1.54	0.49		2.96	1.50	1.48	2.28	0.99	0.85	0.75	1.01	0.49	2.46	0.68	0.41	0.24
	KI	1.54	0.81	1.50		1.50	1.48	1.97	2.00	0.85	0.75	1.01	0.49	2.46	0.68	0.89	0.59
	RMI	1.54	0.49	1.50	2.96		0.69	2.28	2.00	0.85	0.25	1.01	0.35	2.46	0.68	0.47	0.29
	NR	1.54	1.61	1.75	2.96	1.50		1.97	5.00	0.85	0.25	1.01	0.35	2.46	2.17	1.15	0.99
	NU	1.54	0.81	2.30	2.96	1.50	1.48		5.00	0.85	0.75	1.01	0.49	2.46	2.17	1.11	1.09
	PW	1.54	0.81	1.40	2.96	1.50	1.48	2.28		0.85	0.75	1.01	0.49	2.46	0.68	0.50	0.29
	PNG	1.54	0.81	1.80	2.96	1.50	1.48	1.97	2.00		0.25	1.01	0.49	2.46	2.17	0.94	0.62
	WS	1.53	0.49	1.50	2.96	1.50	0.69	1.97	2.00	0.85		1.01	0.35	2.46	0.48	0.47	0.39
	SB	1.54	1.61	2.55	2.96	1.50	1.48	1.97	2.00	1.64	0.75		0.49	2.46	2.17	1.35	0.99
	TO	1.54	0.81	1.50	2.96	1.50	1.48	1.97	2.00	0.85	0.25	1.01		2.46	0.48	0.48	0.40
	TV	1.54	0.81	2.00	2.96	1.50	1.48	1.97	2.00	0.85	0.75	1.01	0.49		0.68	0.98	0.62
	VU	1.54	0.81	2.30	2.96	1.50	1.48	1.97	2.00	0.85	0.75	1.01	0.49	2.46		0.96	0.56
	Aus.	0.93	0.38	1.50	4.14	1.50	0.69	1.97	0.35	0.76	0.32	1.01	0.35	1.53	0.48	0.03	0.02
	NZ	0.79	0.38	1.50	4.14	1.50	0.69	1.97	0.35	0.76	0.32	1.01	0.35	1.53	0.48	0.03	0.02



# Summary of Findings: IDD – Fixed Line

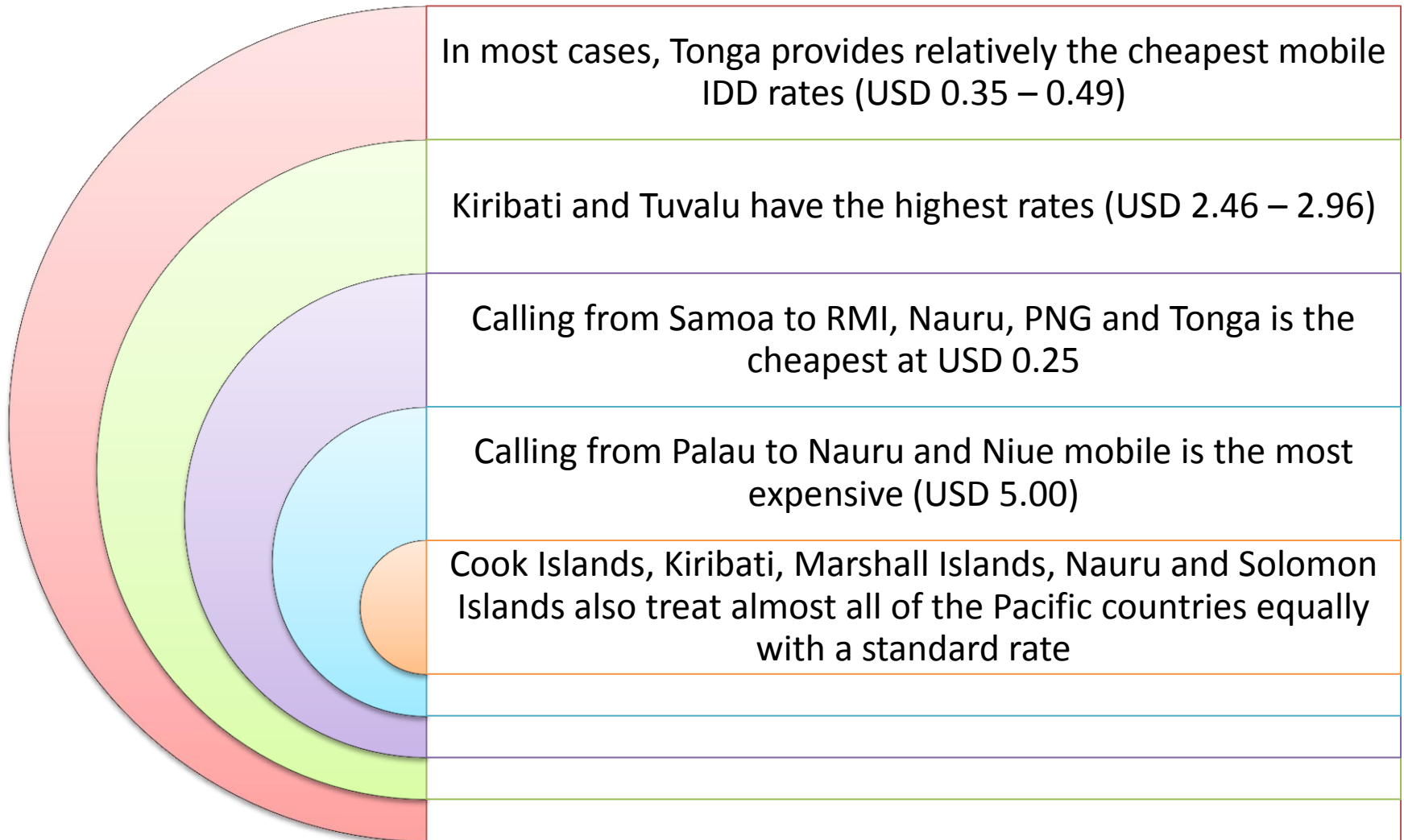
Kiribati, Tuvalu & Niue have one of the highest IDD rates (USD 1.97 – 2.76)

Calling from FSM to Solomon is the most expensive (USD 3.20)

In most cases, Samoa pays relatively less to call other Pacific Island countries (USD 0.37 – 0.77)

Fiji, RMI, PNG, Solomon Islands and Kiribati (highest in the region) treats all Pacific countries equally with a standard rate

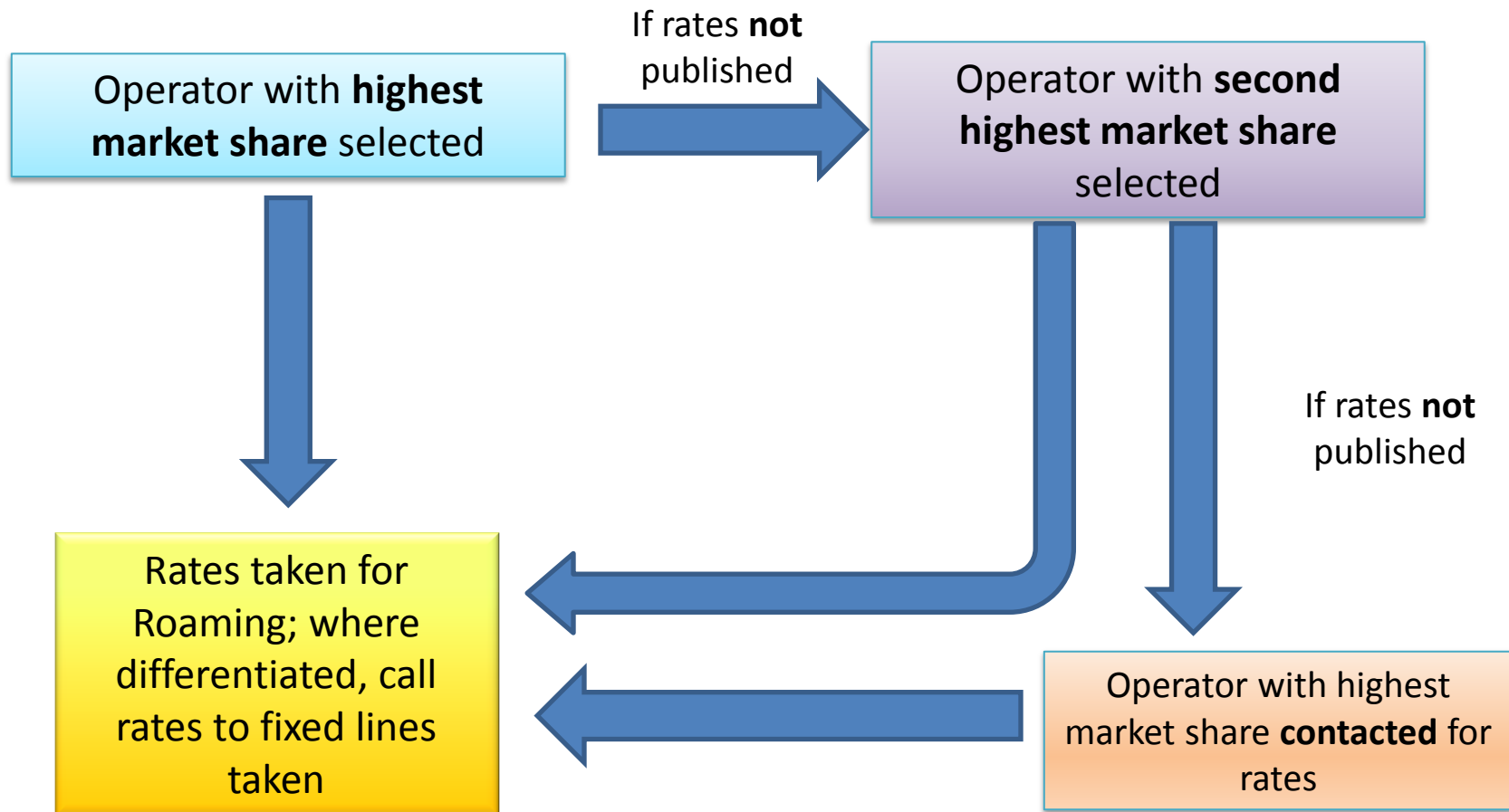
# Summary of Findings: IDD – Mobile





# Intra-Pacific IMR Comparison

# Methodology for IMR



- All prices converted to USD using [www.oanda.com](http://www.oanda.com)
- The tariffs per minute reported is that of standard (VIP) rate at peak times

# Methodology for IMR

For the 14 Pacific countries, International roaming rates for the following services were taken:

- Local – rate per minute from roaming SIM to phone in roaming country
- Home – rate per minute from roaming SIM to a phone in the home country
- Incoming – rate per minute for receiving a call while on roaming
- SMS – rate for sending a standard SMS while on roaming

# International Roaming – Incoming Call (Rates in USD)

Shaded in green is the **lowest** for each country

Highlighted in red are the **highest** for each country

Country	Home Country														
	Cook Islands	Fiji	FSM	Kiribati	Marshall Islands	Nauru	Niue	Palau	PNG	Samoa	Solomon Islands	Tonga	Tuvalu	Vanuatu	
Visiting Country	Cook Islands		0.74	-	-	-	1.58	-	-	1.52	1.29	-	1.03	-	1.02
	Fiji	2.42		-	-	-	1.58	-	-	1.52	1.29	1.27	1.03	-	1.02
	FSM	-	-		-	-	1.58	-	-	1.52	1.29	-	1.03	-	1.02
	Kiribati	-	-	-		-	1.58	-	-	1.52	1.29	-	1.03	-	1.02
	Marshall Islands	-	-	-	-		1.58	-	-	1.52	1.29	-	1.03	-	1.02
	Nauru	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	1.52	1.29	-	1.03	-	1.02
	Niue	-	-	-	-	-	1.58		-	1.52	1.29	-	1.03	-	1.02
	Palau	-	-	-	-	-	1.58	-		1.52	1.29	-	1.03	-	1.02
	PNG	3.60	1.04	-	-	-	0.94	-	-		1.29	-	1.03	-	1.02
	Samoa	2.41	1.56	-	-	-	0.94	-	-	1.52		-	1.03	-	1.02
	Solomon Islands	-	0.72	-	-	-	1.58	-	-	1.52	1.29		1.03	-	1.02
	Tonga	3.60	0.54	-	-	-	0.94	-	-	1.52	1.29	-		-	1.02
	Tuvalu	-	-	-	-	-	1.58	-	-	1.52	1.29	-	1.03		1.02
	Vanuatu	3.60	0.72	-	-	-	0.94	-	-	1.52	1.29	-	1.03	-	

# International Roaming – Local Outgoing (Rates in USD)

Shaded in green is the **lowest** for each country

Highlighted in red are the **highest** for each country

Country	Home Country														
	Cook Islands	Fiji	FSM	Kiribati	Marshall Islands	Nauru	Niue	Palau	PNG	Samoa	Solomon Islands	Tonga	Tuvalu	Vanuatu	
Visiting Country	Cook Islands		1.74	-	-	-	2.91	-	-	2.14	1.29	-	1.95	-	1.94
	Fiji	1.72		-	-	-	2.91	-	-	2.14	1.29	2.68	1.95	-	1.94
	FSM	-	-		-	-	2.91	-	-	2.14	1.29	-	1.95	-	1.94
	Kiribati	-	-	-		-	2.91	-	-	2.14	1.29	-	1.95	-	1.94
	Marshall Islands	-	-	-	-		2.91	-	-	2.14	1.29	-	1.95	-	1.94
	Nauru	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	2.14	1.29	-	1.95	-	1.94
	Niue	-	-	-	-	-	2.91		-	2.14	1.29	-	1.95	-	1.94
	Palau	-	-	-	-	-	2.91	-		2.14	1.29	-	1.95	-	1.94
	PNG	0.68	1.95	-	-	-	0.94	-	-		1.29	-	1.95	-	1.94
	Samoa	0.57	0.83	-	-	-	0.94	-	-	2.14		-	1.95	-	1.94
	Solomon Islands	-	1.34	-	-	-	2.91	-	-	2.14	1.29		1.95	-	1.94
	Tonga	0.71	0.84	-	-	-	0.94	-	-	2.14	1.29	-		-	1.94
	Tuvalu	-	-	-	-	-	2.91	-	-	2.14	1.29	-	1.95		1.94
	Vanuatu	0.69	1.34	-	-	-	0.94	-	-	2.14	1.29	-	1.95	-	

# International Roaming – Calling Home (Rates in USD)

Shaded in green is the **lowest** for each country

Highlighted in red are the **highest** for each country

Country	Home Country														
	Cook Islands	Fiji	FSM	Kiribati	Marshall Islands	Nauru	Niue	Palau	PNG	Samoa	Solomon Islands	Tonga	Tuvalu	Vanuatu	
Visiting Country	Cook Islands		2.18	-	-	-	5.86	-	-	3.99	2.58	-	3.07	-	3.05
	Fiji	1.71		-	-	-	5.86	-	-	3.99	2.58	1.34	3.07	-	3.05
	FSM	-	-		-	-	5.86	-	-	3.99	2.58	-	3.07	-	3.05
	Kiribati	-	-	-		-	5.86	-	-	3.99	2.58	-	3.07	-	3.05
	Marshall Islands	-	-	-	-		5.86	-	-	3.99	2.58	-	3.07	-	3.05
	Nauru	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	3.99	2.58	-	3.07	-	3.05
	Niue	-	-	-	-	-	5.86		-	3.99	2.58	-	3.07	-	3.05
	Palau	-	-	-	-	-	5.86	-		3.99	2.58	-	3.07	-	3.05
	PNG	3.95	2.78	-	-	-	3.89	-	-		2.58	-	3.07	-	3.05
	Samoa	2.29	2.96	-	-	-	3.89	-	-	3.99		-	3.07	-	3.05
	Solomon Islands	-	2.68	-	-	-	5.86	-	-	3.99	2.58		3.07	-	3.05
	Tonga	3.66	1.38	-	-	-	3.89	-	-	3.99	2.58	-		-	3.05
	Tuvalu	-	-	-	-	-	5.86	-	-	3.99	2.58	-	3.07		3.05
	Vanuatu	3.58	2.90	-	-	-	3.89	-	-	3.99	2.58	-	3.07	-	



# International Roaming – SMS (Rates in USD)

Shaded in green is the **lowest** for each country

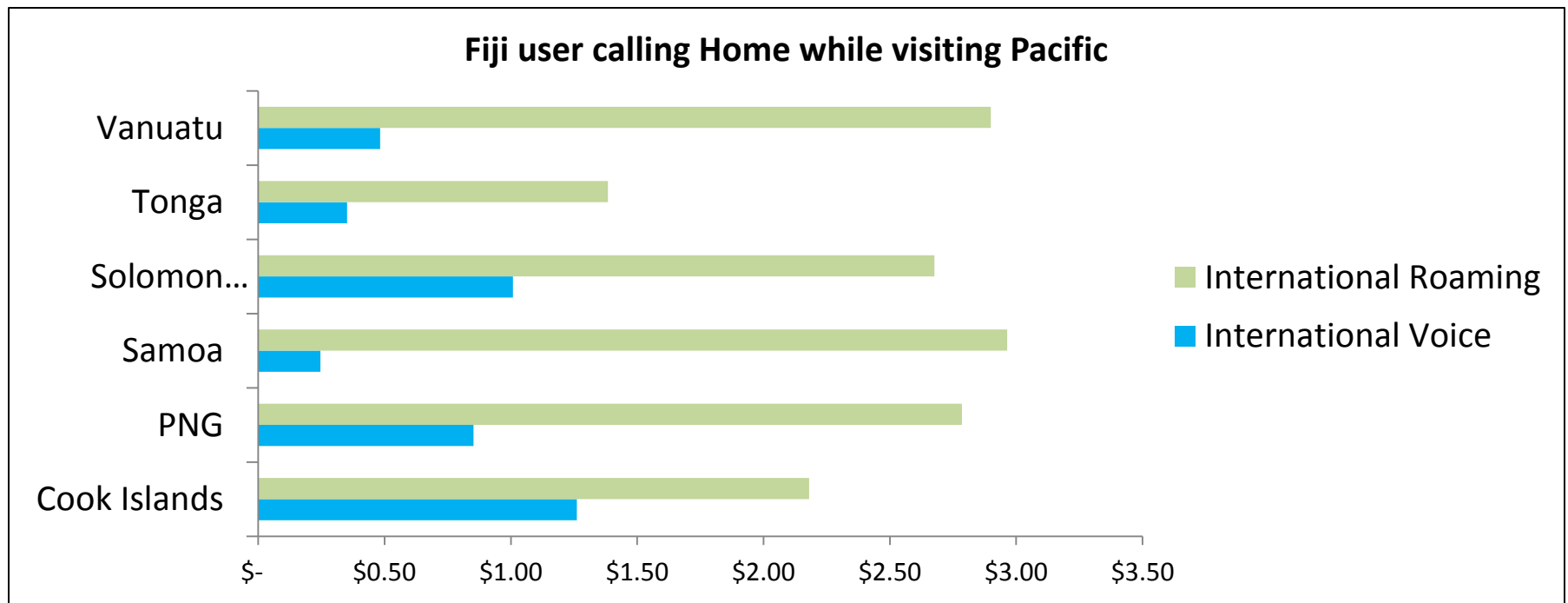
Highlighted in red are the **highest** for each country

Country	Home Country														
	Cook Islands	Fiji	FSM	Kiribati	Marshall Islands	Nauru	Niue	Palau	PNG	Samoa	Solomon Islands	Tonga	Tuvalu	Vanuatu	
Visiting Country	Cook Islands		0.74	-	-	-	0.89	-	-	0.62	0.65	-	0.47	-	0.46
	Fiji	0.81		-	-	-	0.89	-	-	0.62	0.65	0.11	0.47	-	0.46
	FSM	-	-		-	-	0.89	-	-	0.62	0.65	-	0.47	-	0.46
	Kiribati	-	-	-		-	0.89	-	-	0.62	0.65	-	0.47	-	0.46
	Marshall Islands	-	-	-	-		0.89	-	-	0.62	0.65	-	0.47	-	0.46
	Nauru	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	0.62	0.65	-	0.47	-	0.46
	Niue	-	-	-	-	-	0.89		-	0.62	0.65	-	0.47	-	0.46
	Palau	-	-	-	-	-	0.89	-		0.62	0.65	-	0.47	-	0.46
	PNG	0.47	0.83	-	-	-	0.59	-	-		0.65	-	0.47	-	0.46
	Samoa	0.40	0.47	-	-	-	0.59	-	-	0.62		-	0.47	-	0.46
	Solomon Islands	-	0.39	-	-	-	0.89	-	-	0.62	0.65		0.47	-	0.46
	Tonga	0.49	0.34	-	-	-	0.59	-	-	0.62	0.65	-		-	0.46
	Tuvalu	-	-	-	-	-	0.89	-	-	0.62	0.65	-	0.47		0.46
	Vanuatu	0.48	0.45	-	-	-	0.59	-	-	0.62	0.65	-	0.47	-	

# IMR vs Local SIM in Visiting Country (Rates in USD)

- The local IDD tariffs and price of purchasing a local SIM is much more cost effective for a user than choosing International mobile roaming (IMR)

**Example:** As illustrated in figure below, a user from Fiji would rather make an IDD call from any of the Pacific countries than choosing mobile roaming to call home (Fiji)



# International Roaming – Summary of Findings

## Incoming Call

- Cook Island mobile roaming in PNG, Tonga and Vanuatu is most expensive (USD 3.60 per/min)
- Receiving calls on roaming is the cheapest when visiting Tonga while on roaming with Vodafone Fiji (USD 0.54)

## Local Outgoing

- Making a local call with Nauru SIM while visiting nine of the listed Pacific countries is most expensive (USD 2.91)
- Making a local call while roaming in Samoa with Cook Island SIM is the cheapest (USD 0.57)

## Calling Home Country

- Calling home (Nauru) when roaming with a Nauru SIM is most expensive at (USD 5.86 per min)
- Calling home to Solomons while roaming in Fiji is cheapest at (USD 1.38 per min)

## Sending SMS

- Most expensive while roaming with Nauru SIM (USD 0.89 per sms)
- Sending SMS from Tonga while roaming with Fiji SIM is cheapest (USD 0.34 per sms)

# Reason for high IMR charges

## LIRNEasia - high IMR charges (Intra-SAARC Roaming)

- Limited competition, thus wholesale charges for the IMR are high, leading to high retail prices
- Tariff inconsistencies - some operators are favored over others thus offered better rates.
- Roaming is not easily substitutable (bargaining power). Using a local SIM is cost-effective but may not be hassle free
- Potential double taxation – inconsistency in applicable taxes within the region. Consumer pay tax on taxes levied in the roaming country

**Source:** International Roaming Policy Brief

[http://lirneasia.net/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Roaming\\_Policy-Brief\\_SATRC.pdf](http://lirneasia.net/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Roaming_Policy-Brief_SATRC.pdf)

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# What is ours?



Thank You