

Pacific Ocean Tsunami Ready Equivalency Initiative

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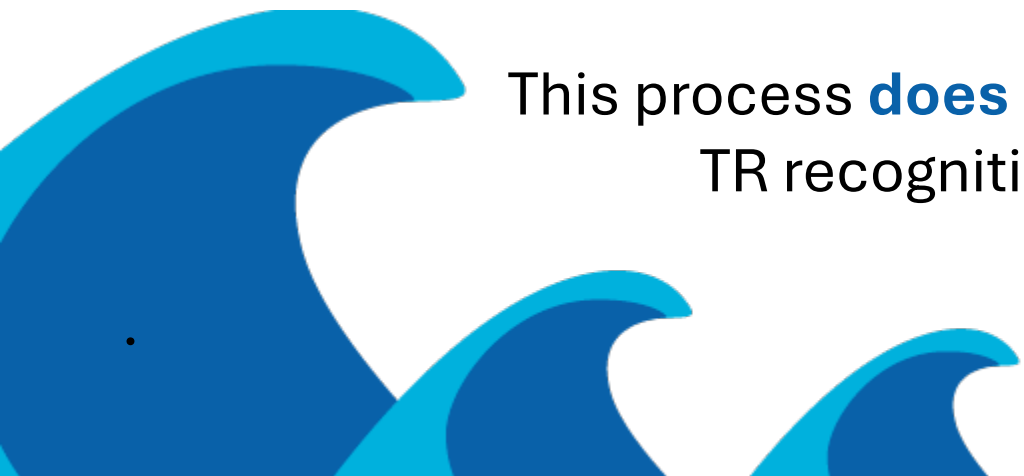
Why TRRP “Equivalency”

The UN Ocean Decade Goal is to make **”100% of communities at risk of tsunami prepared for and resilient to tsunamis by 2030 through the implementation of the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme and other initiatives.”**

For the proposed ‘equivalency’ concept, the 12 indicators of the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme are taken as the definition of **‘prepared and resilient’**

The purpose of this ‘equivalency approach’ is to ensure that **every country can contribute** to progress reporting for the UN Ocean Decade Goal.

This process **does not require application** to IOC/UNESCO for formal TR recognition but will support ICG reporting.



Why TRRP “Equivalency”

- The Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme may not always be practical in countries which
- have existing tsunami preparedness programmes.
- The implementation of formal recognition may result in additional costs, duplication of strategies, and the risk of confusion between the global, national and local frameworks.
- It is therefore recognized that an approach is needed to enable such countries to contribute to the UN Ocean Decade goal.



The pathway to equivalency

In 2021, ICG/PTWS recommended WG3 to explore ways to recognize communities that choose not to implement the UNESCO IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme as compliant with the Tsunami Ready Indicators,

In 2023, the draft Tsunami Ready Equivalency Approach was shared at the Thirty-first session of the ICG/PTWS by Working Group Three, and it was recommended that formal guidance was developed for its application.

In 2024, TOWS WG-XVII (2024) appreciated *the “progress made by ICG/PTWS concerning exploring mechanisms of how to include national tsunami preparedness and readiness programmes and initiatives in the UN Ocean Decade Programme, and that Tsunami Ready Equivalency Approach framed under other similar initiatives seeks to enable reporting on tsunami preparedness in a manner compatible with the TRRP, using existing national frameworks and requirements.”*

In 2025,



TRRP “Equivalency” Principles

The approach has the following principles:

Countries have a strong motivation to ensure tsunami resilience

Builds upon existing programmes, capacities and strengths

We use the 12 indicators of the Tsunami Ready Framework

Contributes to ICG progress reporting for UNOD Tsunami Programme

Where possible, the TRRP should be implemented as a first option



TRRP “Equivalency” is a country action

The approach has three steps, designed to have the reporting effort centralised at a national level:

- 1. Identify / establish national governance**
- 2. Assess tsunami preparedness & resiliency against TRRP indicators**
- 3. Report progress toward UNOD Goal to ICG.**

This process would be applied to the most pragmatic definition of community, so that the assessment can be conducted in a meaningful but sustainable manner.

It is important that this is appropriate for each countries existing disaster management context

The Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme gives similar flexibility.


1. Identify or Establish Governance

National governance should be in place in order to provide oversight of this process. In many cases an existing governance body may be able to be identified for this purpose to avoid duplication, or a bespoke National Tsunami Ready Board could be established.

The functions of this governance group will be to:

- **Provide expert interpretation of the tsunami ready indicators in the country's own context**
- **Provide expert commentary on the definition of community in the country's own context**
- **Coordinate and oversee implementation of this equivalency process**

Should formal Tsunami Ready Recognition appropriately wish to be pursued by any individual community, this governance structure may be able to be utilized for the recognition process as per IOC MG 74.



2. Cross-Referencing Process

A cross-referencing guide is provided in the documentation, which is intended to be broad enough for multiple contexts, while remaining a high standard of tsunami preparedness. If the community's existing reporting to the state does not allow for explicit determination of preparedness activities, if it is believed that known or implied preparedness activities contribute to an indicator this can be recorded as justification to meet the overall indicator. An example of this would be when laws related to disaster prevention mandate certain activities to occur in the community.

This process is a self-assessment, and countries are encouraged to apply it according to the principles of the equivalency process.

This review, along with supporting documentation such as plans, should then be reviewed by the established governance mechanism.

The cross-referencing process should be completed at least once every four years, in alignment with the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme renewal timeframe.



2. Cross-Referencing Process cont.

Tsunami Ready Indicator Fulfillment Guide for Equivalency		
I. ASSESSMENT Indicators (ASSESS)		
ASSESS-1	Tsunami hazard zones are mapped and designated.	<input type="checkbox"/> Verified
How does the community (quantitatively or qualitatively) understand the area of potential tsunami hazard, with respect to national and / or international standards?		
ASSESS-2	The number of people at risk in the tsunami hazard zone is estimated	<input type="checkbox"/> Verified
How does the community (quantitatively or qualitatively) understand the number of people exposed to tsunami hazards, in order to guide response planning such as evacuation?		
ASSESS-3	Available economic, infrastructural, political, and social resources are identified	<input type="checkbox"/> Verified
How does the community (quantitatively or qualitatively) identify resources that could be used to reduce tsunami risk?		

2. Cross-Referencing Process cont.

II. Preparation Indicators (PREP)		
PREP-1	Easily understood tsunami evacuation maps are approved.	<input type="checkbox"/> Verified
How does the community (quantitatively or qualitatively) prepare for evacuation?		
PREP-2	Tsunami information is publicly available or displayed	<input type="checkbox"/> Verified
How does the community (quantitatively or qualitatively) access evacuation information?		
PREP-3	Outreach and public awareness and education resources are available and distributed.	<input type="checkbox"/> Verified
How does the community (quantitatively or qualitatively) share evacuation information?		
PREP-4	Outreach or educational activities are held regularly	<input type="checkbox"/> Verified
How does the community (quantitatively or qualitatively) promote evacuation information?		
PREP-5	A community tsunami exercise is conducted regularly according to a plan or programme (or equivalent).	<input type="checkbox"/> Verified
How does the community (quantitatively or qualitatively) practice tsunami evacuation?		

2. Cross-Referencing Process cont.

IV. Response Indicators (RESP)

RESP-1	A community tsunami emergency response plan is approved.	<input type="checkbox"/> Verified
How does the community (quantitatively or qualitatively) plan to address responding to a tsunami?		
RESP-2	The capacity to manage emergency response operations during a tsunami is in place.	<input type="checkbox"/> Verified
How does the community (quantitatively or qualitatively) ensure that the right resources and processes are in place to respond to a tsunami?		
RESP-3	Redundant and reliable means to timely receive 24-hour official tsunami alerts are in place	<input type="checkbox"/> Verified
How does the community (quantitatively or qualitatively) receive official tsunami alerts?		
RESP-4	Redundant and reliable means to timely disseminate 24-hour official tsunami alerts to the public are in place	<input type="checkbox"/> Verified
How does the community (quantitatively or qualitatively) further disseminate or communicate tsunami alerts to individuals?		

3. Reporting

PTWS Member States should report the progress of the preparedness and resilience of at-risk communities either through the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme Implementation or through the equivalency approach through national reporting to the ICG.

Ideally, these should be integrated with future PTWS KPI and National Reporting frameworks, but reporting could be along the lines of the following:

What % of your at-risk communities are ‘prepared for and resilient to tsunami’?

This will need to continue to be closely aligned to global reporting methods for UNOD goals and the Tsunami Ready recognition programme.




Next Steps

In April 2025, the ICG/PTWS gave **provisional approval of the draft guidance**, and recommended this progress to a **pilot stage**.

A pilot is required to test the usability and feasibility of the equivalency approach in multiple contexts, noting the diversity of the Member States the guidance is intended to support.

The results of the pilot will be used to prepare the guidance for **final approval at the ICG/PTWS-XXXII in 2027**.



This will be done in concert with strengthened Tsunami Ready implementation action, driven by the results from the recent Pacific Tsunami Capacity assessment.