Given the unusual and beautiful environment of the South Pacific, tourism is an important part of the nations in this region—and sustainable tourism has taken on critical importance as leaders recognize the need to preserve for future generations what we enjoy today.

With this in mind, the U.N. General Assembly had designated 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, and under the leadership of Philatelic Collector, Inc., Tonga and the Cook Islands—two leading South Pacific nations that are particularly popular with collectors—released stamps to raise awareness of the contribution of sustainable tourism.

Both Sustainable Tourism 2017 issues focus on five key areas that are represented in the stamps, which feature people, environments, scenery and more.

These issues and many others that celebrate the importance of tourism in this region can be viewed, with additional information, at the South Pacific Islands website of Philatelic Collector Inc., https://pcistamps.com.