Action Plan for Implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity's Programme of Work on Protected Areas

(INSERT PHOTO OF COUNTRY)

NIUE

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Protected area information:

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Lead implementing agency: (Add name of primary government agency)

Department of Environment

Multi-stakeholder committee: (Add description)

None

Description of protected area system

National Targets and Vision for Protected Areas

According to World data base on Protected Areas, as on 2010, while 22.8% of Niue's terrestrial surface is protected. However although Niue has two marine protected areas, they are not recorded in the WDPA..

Based on ecological gap anályis and other assessments the realistic nacional targets for terrestrial and marine areas for target 11 are ……% marine and …. % terrestrial by 2020:

Coverage

(Amount and % protected for terrestrial and marine; maps of protected area system)

Description and background

Huvalu forest conservation area project.

This project was established in 1992 by the Environment Unit in consultation with the villages of Liku and Hakupu, and with financial and technical assistance from the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP).The Huvalu Forest Conservation Area is situated on the eastern part of the island covering an area of approximately 54 km_2 (5,400 ha) surrounding the largest area of primary forest in Niue. It is located between Liku to the north and Hakupu to the south and also includes an area of reef platform about 15 to 20 metres from the high tide mark. The project site is divided into three areas according to local traditional practices. The core of the reserve around 100 hectares in size is tapu, a most sacred site, and hunting, logging or even research is prohibited. A surrounding area of about 2500 ha of primary forest provides some protection to the core, but is used for hunting and other activities under the management of landowning families and the two village councils. Outside this is a buffer zone of approximately 2800 ha of agricultural land subject to controlled, shifting cultivation to ensure sustainability.

Hakupu Heritage and Cultural Park (HHCP)

The HHCP extends south from the Tuhia access track in the village of Hakupu. To the North is the Huvalu Forest Conservation Area. This project was largely initiated by Misa Kulatea of Hakupu with the support of family members. The area is managed by a committee comprising mainly family members who share ownership of its land. The primary objective of the project is to inventory and protect areas of historical and ecological significance. This includes caves used traditionally for burials and others where the women of the village undertook weaving, as well as fortress sites identified as ancestral dwellings and a flying fox sanctuary Tauga Peka. Natural reserves identified for management include three fresh water caves at the Tuhia Sea Track and blowholes at Mata along the reef.

Anono (formerly known as Namoui) Marine Reserve

This site, located south of Makapu Point, was registered as a fisheries reserve in 1998 as a precautionary measure to protect and preserve its overall marine biodiversity for the benefit of future generations. Its total water surface area to the 50 m isobaths is 27.67 ha (DJLS Government of Niue). A fish survey was carried out in 1998 by SPC and Fisheries Division staff to inventory fish of commercial or ecological importance, survey the habitat and fish community

structure and to formulate a monitoring programme (Labrosse *et al.* 1999).

Traditional village reserves (Fono and Tapu)

Villages or members of extended families have traditionally used two practices to manage land and prohibit activities which serve to conserve that land. The first — fono — is a temporary restriction imposed usually for a year, prohibiting access to an area, land or marine, and prohibiting harvesting in it, as a mark of respect to a deceased family member. Fono may also be enforced for a few months to facilitate the harvesting of certain species of fish, for example the

kaloama or yellow-striped goatfish *Mulloides flavolineatus*.

A tapu is a permanent restriction imposed by the whole village, protecting a certain area because it is sacred or vital to the breeding of certain species such as flying foxes. Many tapu cover primary forest and a key part of the Huvalu Conservation Area is protected by this means. There is some concern that

such traditional measures are weakening, due to lack of awareness amongst the young, the poorly defined boundaries of such areas, and the pressures to clear more land or harvest more resources.

Governance types

(Summary matrix of governance types)

Terrestrial	Institutional Arrangement	IUCN Category	Year of Establ-ishment	Area (ha)
Huvalu Conservation Area	Community area	VI	1992	5400 ha
Hakupu Heritage and Cultural Park (HHCP)	Family	VI		
Marine Sites	**Institutional Arrangement**	**IUCN Category**	**Year of Establish ment**	**Area (ha)**
Anono (formerly known as Namoui) Marine Reserve	Government	VI	1998	27.67ha
Alofi North(TCA) Temporary Closed Area	Community		2002	

Key threats

Threat 1: Lack of capacity and enforcement

The Government department currently responsible for PA management have no necessary technical and financial resources provided by the central government to exercise proper enforcement and management.

There is no full time staff to work and implement this programme.

Threat 2. Invasive species.

Feral pigs have destroyed farm areas and plantations.

Rats have greatly impacted on the bird population especially hega.(blue crowned lorry)

There are also invasive plants being introduced to the island.

There is a regional invasive species programme and countries including Niue, will put in place activities that can reduces or eradicate impacts of these invasive species on the national bird and plant life.

Threat 3: Land Clearing for Farming

The farmers depends on heavy machineries to clear land for planting. Taro is grown for family consumption and also for export.

Threat 4: Natural Disasters/ Man-made.

The effect of natural disasters and man-made on terrestrial and marine areas. These are cyclones, tsunamis, forest fires or run offs from roads/ drainages.

Barriers for effective implementation

(Description of key barrier s for effective implementation)

Barrier 1. Available capacity and resources

Staff and funding to do implementation.
Capacity to do conservation research and conservation management.

Barrier 2: Lack of PA priorities

Current PA priorities are contained in the Niue Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

Barrier 3: Customary Landownership

Landowners needed to have a collective and consensus decision for any land to be set aside for any Protected Area activity.

Barrier 4: No Management Plan.

There is no management plan in place for PA work.

Status, priority and timeline for key actions of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas

Status of key actions of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas

Status of key actions of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas	Status
• Progress on assessing **gaps in the protected area network** (1.1)	**0**
• Progress in assessing **protected area integration** (1.2)	**0**
• Progress in establishing **transboundary protected areas** and **regional networks** (1.3)	**0**
• Progress in developing **site-level management plans** (1.4)	**1**
• Progress in assessing **threats** and opportunities for **restoration** (1.5)	**0**
• Progress in assessing **equitable sharing** of benefits (2.1) • Progress in assessing protected area **governance** (2.1)	**0** **2**
• Progress in assessing the **participation** of indigenous and local communities in key protected area decisions (2.2)	**2**
• Progress in assessing the **policy environment** for establishing and managing protected areas (3.1) • Progress in assessing the **values** of protected areas (3.1)	**2** **0**
• Progress in assessing protected area **capacity** needs (3.2)	**1**
• Progress in assessing the **appropriate technology** needs (3.3)	**0**
• Progress in assessing protected area **sustainable finance** needs (3.4)	**1**
• Progress in conducting **public awareness** campaigns (3.5)	**0**
• Progress in developing **best practices and minimum standards** (4.1)	**1**
• Progress in assessing **management effectiveness** (4.2)	**1**
• Progress in establishing an **effective PA monitoring system** (4.3)	**0**

• Progress in developing a **research program** for protected areas (4.4)	**0**
• Progress in assessing opportunities for **marine** protection	**1**
• Progress in incorporating **climate change** aspects into protected areas	**1**

Status: 0 = no work, 1 = just started, 2 = partially complete, 3 = nearly complete, 4 = complete
(Insert notes as appropriate)

Priority actions for fully implementing the Programme of Work on Protected Areas:

(Insert priority actions)

Timeline for completion of key actions

(Insert timeline)

Action Plans for completing priority actions of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas

(Insert detailed action plans)

Action 1: *Integration of protected areas into wider land and seascapes to showcase mainstreaming of biodiversity with other sectors and ecosystem based approaches to adaptation to climate change adaptation and leading to mitigation through carbon sequestration*

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Organize committee and take stock			
Assess the ecological landscape context			
Assess the social and cultural context			
Assess policies, incentives for integration			
Develop integration strategies • **Integrated terrestrial and marine PA system** • **Forest conservation for ecosystem services.**			
Implement strategies for integration			

Action 2: Institutionalize management effectiveness assessment towards assessing 60% of the total areas by 2015 and ensure that the results of the assessments are implemented;

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Develop or adopt a management effectiveness methodology and indicators			
Collect background information on effectiveness			
Conduct management effectiveness assessments: • Assess management strengths and weaknesses • Assess protected area threats			
Identify key priorities and strategies for improving management effectiveness			

Action 3: Diversification of governance types and recognition of ICCAs including through acknowledgement in national legislation or other effective means, formal inclusion in the national systems,

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Assess existing governance within Niue (including ICCAs – indigenous and community conserved areas)			
Assess legislative framework for identifying, recognizing and promoting ICCAs			

Action 3: Development and implementation of sustainable finance plans for protected area systems.

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Identify financial needs for managing existing protected areas and creating new protected areas			
Identify potential mechanisms for sustainable finance, including trust funds, payments for ecosystem services, tourism and/or departure fees			
Develop comprehensive sustainable finance plan			
Implement financial mechanisms			

Action 5: Assessing the values and contribution of protected areas to the national and local economies and to achieving MDGs

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible parties	Indicative budget
Assess the ecosystem services from protected areas (e.g. fisheries, tourism)			
Assign economic and social values to these services			
Identify ways to incorporate these values into national and local economies and accounting systems and policies			
Implement mainstreaming mechanisms			

Key assessment results

Ecological gap assessment (insert summary findings if available)

Management effectiveness assessment (Insert summary findings if available)

Sustainable finance assessment (Insert summary findings if available)

Capacity needs assessment (Insert summary findings if available)

Policy environment assessment (Insert summary findings if available)

Protected area integration and mainstreaming assessment (Insert summary findings if available)

Protected area valuation assessment (Insert summary findings if available)

Climate change resilience and adaptation assessment (Insert summary findings if available)

(Insert other assessment results if available)