

COOK ISLANDS NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN MITIARO NBSAP REPORT

MITIARO NBSAP CONSULTATIONS

21ST – 25th October 2024



Facilitators: Rima Moeka'a,
Gretta Murare, and Karen Silk
Participants: Island Council, Non-
government organisations and
Community members



Report written by Karen Silk, NES
November 2024

Summary

From the 21st – 25th October 2024, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) team engaged nearly all of Mitiaro's 87 residents. The workshops provided a collaborative platform for Mitiaro's community to discuss the challenges and solutions for environmental conservation, integrating traditional practices with contemporary needs. The discussions encompassed five strategic goals, covering topics from waste management to species protection, sustainable practices, policy development, and funding requirements. These collaborative sessions reinforced the community's dedication to protecting Mitiaro's environment for future generations.

Participants

Signed registers are attached as Annex A

Workshop Agenda

Attached as Annex B

Opening Remarks

The workshop began with a warm welcome from our NES

Officer, Greta Murare, thanking all participants for attending and expressing anticipation for meaningful discussions throughout the sessions. Greta introduced the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) team, including Rima Moeka'a, the NBSAP consultant and Karen Silk, NBSAP coordinator, setting the stage for collaborative and productive conversations focused on Mitiaro's environmental future.



NBSAP 2002 Presentation

NBSAP Background

Rima Moeka'a provided an overview of the NBSAP's history and development, emphasizing the 2002 NBSAP's alignment with national, regional, and international frameworks. She highlighted its relevance to the broader goals of biodiversity conservation and protection.

Importance of Biodiversity

The presentation underscored biodiversity's vital role in ecosystem stability, human well-being, and climate regulation, stressing the need for a robust biodiversity plan to ensure food security, clean water, medicinal resources, and environmental resilience.

Rapid Review of the 2002 NBSAP

Consultant Rima Moeka'a presented a rapid review of the 2002 NBSAP, evaluating its effectiveness and identifying gaps, challenges, and opportunities for improvement. While strengths included broad community involvement and comprehensive coverage of biodiversity issues, the review also

highlighted the need for updates after 22 years and the establishment of financial mechanisms for implementation.

Success Stories

Several success stories were shared, such as the development of the National Invasive Species Strategy, rat eradication efforts on selected islands, and the coordination with various stakeholders on biodiversity issues.

National Targets

The new guiding national biodiversity targets were introduced, focusing on five key strategic goals:

- Area management and restoration
- Species management
- Threats management (including climate change impacts and pollution)
- Integrating knowledge and learning for sustainability
- Mainstreaming policies and legislation

Mitiaro Environmental Workshop Highlights

The Mitiaro workshops saw active engagement across all sessions, with each workshop group contributing valuable insights and ideas for environmental conservation. During the main community workshop, participants were divided into five groups, each group tasked with discussing the five strategic goals in depth. Following the discussions, each group presented their discussions and priorities, sharing their shared vision for Mitiaro's environmental future. Below are the highlights of each strategic goal, capturing the key points raised by all groups. NES Officer Gretta Murare's dedication was evident in the impressive community turnout, a testament to her efforts in preparing the facilities, facilitating stakeholder meetings, and creating a welcoming, well-structured environment. Throughout the week, she skillfully guided each session, fostering engaging and insightful discussions that enriched the workshop's outcomes.



Strategic Goal 1: Area Management

- **Conservation Areas:** Protection and reinforcement of key areas like Tai Roto, reefs, and freshwater sources is critical. Strengthening and enforcing the Raui (traditional conservation practices) will aid in safeguarding sensitive areas, benefiting both current and future generations.

- **Waste Management:** Reinforce the management of the dump site and implement stricter penalties for illegal dumping. Separation and proper disposal of waste are essential, as current practices impact both land and water quality, with implications for tourism and health.
- **Ocean & Marine Life:** Changes in marine species and increased shark presence around FADs are impacting fishing. Conservation measures, including regulated traditional practices, are needed to balance marine health and livelihoods.
- **Tourism:** Environmental concerns, especially waste management, limit tourism's potential. Strengthening clean-up efforts and infrastructure will improve conditions and possibly make tourism more viable in the future.

Strategic Goal 2: Species Management

- **Invasive Species:** Control of invasive species like sandflies, rats, taramea (crown of thorns), and mile-a-minute, is critical to protect native flora and fauna. Support for rat eradication and other control programs is needed.
- **Native Plants and Medicinal Species:** Protecting native species, especially for traditional medicinal use, is essential. Community-driven conservation efforts, possibly through designated cultivation areas, will aid in preserving species like tamanu, tou, and traditional medicinal plants (vairakau maori).
- **Wild Pigs:** Wild pigs are damaging native plants and crops, requiring management through personal responsibility, fencing, and community-led strategies.

Strategic Goal 3: Threats Management

- **Environmental Degradation:** Unregulated sand mining and poor waste disposal practices have led to coastal erosion and pollution. Strengthening legislation and enforcing penalties are necessary to mitigate these threats.
- **Pollution:** Address plastic pollution, emissions, and contamination from boats, which affect marine ecosystems. Community education and stricter regulations on harmful practices are recommended.
- **Climate Change:** Impacts from climate change, like shifts in species patterns and weather unpredictability, are altering traditional fishing and agricultural practices, which requires adaptive community planning and conservation efforts.

Strategic Goal 4: Integrating Knowledge and Learning for Sustainability

- **Community Education and Youth Engagement:** Programs to educate the community on sustainable practices, biodiversity, and environmental stewardship are necessary. Incorporating traditional knowledge and conservation into school curricula will encourage sustainable practices and interest among younger generations.
- **Traditional Knowledge:** Documenting and passing down traditional knowledge, such as the raii system and medicinal practices, will help sustain environmental management and cultural continuity.
- **Workshop and Documentation:** Continuous workshops and documentation of sustainability practices, including community-driven solutions, will facilitate learning and adaptation over time.



Strategic Goal 5: Mainstreaming and Integrating

- **Legislative Support:** Strengthen environmental laws around waste management, sand mining, and invasive species control to support community-based conservation efforts and the raii system.
- **Funding for Conservation:** Secure funding for invasive species control, native plant conservation, and community workshops on sustainable practices.
- **Community and Government Collaboration:** Enhanced collaboration between the Island Council, NES, and traditional authorities (e.g., Aronga Mana) will support effective policy implementation, including monitoring and enforcement.





Conclusion

The Mitiaro workshops concluded with a strengthened commitment from the community to preserve their island's unique environment. Through a blend of traditional conservation practices and modern approaches, Mitiaro's residents are prepared to address challenges such as invasive species control, waste management, climate change impacts, and seabed mining. The collaborative discussions underscored the importance of traditional knowledge, sustainable practices, policy development, and secure funding as key pillars for Mitiaro's environmental future.

Moving forward, the community intends to work closely with NES and other agencies to secure resources, develop targeted policies, and continue fostering a culture of environmental responsibility and education. Mitiaro's united approach to conservation, grounded in cultural heritage and sustainable practices, demonstrates a strong commitment to protecting the island's biodiversity for generations to come.



Attachments:

- **Annex A:** Participants Attendance Sheets
- **Annex B:** Workshop Agenda




Annex A. Participants Attendance Sheets

Mayor - Tati Tutika
 Executive Officer - Anna Poi
 Kavaro Tau - Ngaraui Tau
 Pastor - Tugata Tuma
 Kavaro Tebua - Teata Tebua
 Konika Ahi - Tokai Ngaraui
 Konika Ahi - Brandon Kaitika
 Mata oke Aranga Mara - Tuaine Ngametu
 Konika Mapikei - Maaka Kimara
 Rima Mookas
 Kas Srik
 Gretta Murare

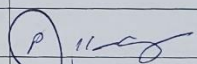

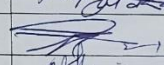
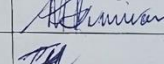
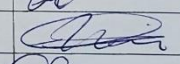

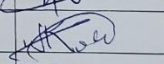


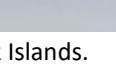


Fishermen
Mitiaro




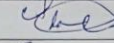
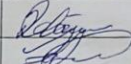
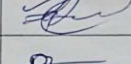




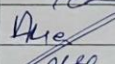
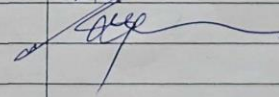
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For Life on Earth

Cook Islands National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) Workshop
 Mitiaro Community Group
 Attendance Sheet

Thu 24/10/24
 8:30 - 9:40am

#	Name	Gender	Contact details: Phone or Email *optional	Signature
1	PORIMA HENRY	M		
2	Nooroo Puaao	M	mb 55-2501	
3	Tati Tutika	M	77 500	
4	Ngaraui Tau	M	76969. Makine	
5	MAARA Kimara	M	76934	
6	Terava Murare	M	58863	
7	Maara. Tuia	M	7090	
8	TUAINIE. NSP METUA.	M	50717	
9	Tuma Murare	M	76746	
10	Ngametu Kimara	M	36.147	
11	Peter Terava	M	51184	
12	TUAVAI. TEREAPII	M	36.444.	

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	Name	Gender	Contact details: Phone or Email *optional	Signature
13	Teana Polima	M	—	
14	TEREAU NODIAI	M	—	
15	TEATA TETAVA	"	39913	
16	TAKATA TURAKATIRI	"	78592	
17	ROURU IREAVA		50850	
18	Junior Vaine Murare	✓	76465	
19	RUA	✓		
20	MATAU MATUARI	✓		
21	Tepamaranga	F	88017	
22	Julian Apui	✓	70131	

Island Environment Authority

25 Oct 2024

9am -10am

Nooroo Pouao,

Tati Tutaka – Mayor,

Brandon Kaukura – Public Health Officer,

Ngarouru Tou – Kauono Tou (Paerangi Mataiapo),

Teata Tetava – Kauono Tetava Ariki (Vera Mataiapo)

Mitiaro Community Workshop



THE BIODIVERSITY PLAN
For Life on Earth

Cook Islands National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) Workshop

23rd October 2024 | Mitiaro Community Hall

Attendance Sheet

#	Name	Gender	Contact details: Phone or Email *optional	Signature
1	Lalian Casey	female	student	
2	Segia Robati	Female	Student	
3	Agnes Pouao	F	Student	
4	Justin Ngahuakana	M	student	
5	TATI TUTAKA	M	MAYOR	
6	Maara. Tura	m	infrastructure	
7	Nakaua Tou/Song	M	MAKING	
8	TUAVAI. TEREAII	M	INFRA	
9	Makiroa Patia	f	Student	
10	Nakoa Puaa	M	Retired	
11	IBATA TETAVA	M	INFRA	
12	Turua Murare	F	IS. Admin	
13	Tereau Nootai	M	Infra	

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#	Name	Gender	Contact details: Phone or Email *optional	Signature
14	MAIAUKIANGAIA	M.	INFRA	
15	VAINEPISO TOA	F		
16	AKE TUNA	F	75 678	
17	PASTOR TA.	M	76 930	
18	TEREAI AUKUA	F		
19	INANGAO TUAKU	F		
20	AKGOU TUKUAI	F		
21	TUAIWE-NGAMETUA	M	86717	
22	Maata Tuaken	F	70481	
23	Maara Mupre	F	71585	
24	Anna Poi	F		
25	ETER TEREVA	M	51184	
26	Rua	M		
27	Wanetu Kuroa	M	36117	
28	ROYRU TUGAUA			

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#	Name	Gender	Contact details: Phone or Email *optional	Signature
29	Tomy Taguni	M		
30	Tapamanga Auenamae	M	0755250000	
31	Tereva Murare	M		
32	KIMORA PAUO	F		
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43				

Vainetini Mitivaro

Thu 24/10/24
12pm - 1pm

Name	Gender	Contact details: Phone or Email *optional	Signature
1 Reepeta Tupa	F	Vainetini	
2 Nopati Taro	F	Vainetini	
3 Kimi Tangitira	M	"	
4 KIMORA PAUO	F	"	
5 Tera Pauo	F	Vainetini	
6 Tugne Hudson	F	Vainetini	
7 Tamar Tangitira	F	Vainetini	
8 Ake Tupa	F	Vainetini	
9 Ingaro Tupa	F	Vainetini	
10 Eugary Ngamaka Patra	F	Vainetini	
11 Akera Tupa	F	Vainetini	
12 Cecelia Kanda	F	Vainetini	
13 Vainetini Tan	F	Vainetini	
14 Maara Mubare	F	Principal (School)	
15 Gerasma Naka	F	Vainetini Secretary	
16 Maara Ngamaka Patra	F	Vainetini	



Youth - Mitiaro
Thu 24/10/24
6pm - 7:30pm



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For Life on Earth

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Annex B. Workshop Agenda

DATE	TIME	ORGANIZATION/GROUP/DEPARTMENT	ACTIVITY	VENUE
Mon 21 st	4:50 pm	Arrive Mitiaro		Kovea Homestead
Tue 22 nd	9 am	Island Council Meeting	NBSAP Presentation	Community Hall
Wed 23 rd	8.30 am	Welcoming – Mitiaro NES Officer Opening Prayer – RAC Declare Workshop Open – NES Council Brandon Kaukura Introduction Speech – Karen Silk & Rima Moeka'a Presentation with the Community Discussions on the NBSAP Rapid Review on NBSAP 2002 Group work Closing – Mitiaro NES Officer LUNCH – Catering (CICC Youth)	NBSAP Presentation	Community Hall
Thu 24 th	8.30 am	Fisheries	NBSAP Consultation	Fishing Club
	12 pm	Vainetini	NBSAP Consultation	Community Hall
	6 pm	Youth – All Youth	NBSAP Consultation	Community Hall
Fri 25 th	8.30 am	Island Environment Authority (IEA)	NBSAP Consultation	Community Hall
	4:50 pm	Depart for Rarotonga		