

COOK ISLANDS
NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN
PENRHYN NBSAP REPORT

PENRHYN COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS
Omoka and Te Tautua

31st October 2024



Penrhyn Island Council

Facilitators: Halatoa Fua, Rima Moeka'a, Kura Moeka'a, Sandee Cook and Kas Silk
Participants: Island Council and Community Members from Omoka and Te Tautua Villages



Report written by Karen Silk, NES
November 2024

Summary

The National Environment Service (NES) team facilitated dynamic and well-attended workshops in the villages of Omoka and Te Tautua, fostering meaningful engagement with enthusiastic community members. The workshops focused on critical topics such as biodiversity conservation, waste management, and climate resilience, emphasizing the integration of traditional knowledge, active community participation, and sustainable practices. Participants demonstrated a strong commitment to addressing local challenges and exploring innovative opportunities for environmental stewardship.

Site visits complemented the workshops, providing the NES team with valuable insights into the unique environmental conditions on Tongareva and allowing for practical discussions on how to implement solutions tailored to the island's needs. These collaborative efforts not only highlighted the communities' deep connection to their natural environment but also underscored their dedication to preserving it for future generations.

Below is a summary of the discussions and outcomes from the workshops, organized by village and aligned with the five NBSAP strategic goals.

Participants

Signed registers attached as Annex A

Workshop Agenda

Attached as Annex B

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.



Te Tautua Community

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.

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

Tongareva Community Workshops

Omoka Village – 31st October 2024

1. Area Management and Restoration



Milkfish pond

- **Raii Systems:** Community members discussed re-establishing raii zones to protect local species such as kaveu, pasua, and pipi. Proposals included conducting community meetings, integrating traditional prayer rituals, and establishing monitoring systems to ensure compliance.
- **Coastal Erosion:** Concerns about shoreline degradation led to discussions on replanting native trees and exploring sustainable infrastructure to protect against erosion for future generations.
- **Legislation:** Calls were made for regulations to formalize raii zones and enforce penalties for non-compliance.

2. Species Management

- **Key Species Protection:** Monitoring and surveys for birds such as tara, tavake, and kotaha were identified as priorities.
- **Rats and Cats:** Rat eradication programs were emphasized due to their impact on biodiversity and human health. Wild cat populations were also flagged as a threat to bird species, with suggestions for biocontrol and de-sexing programs.
- **Traditional Knowledge:** Preserving and revitalizing cultural practices such as planting rito and maintaining breeding sites for tara were highlighted as integral to species management.

3. Threats Management

- **Waste Management:** The community identified burning and burying waste as a major issue, leading to water contamination. They called for more skip bins and funding to address waste disposal challenges, including solar panel and battery waste.
- **Climate Change:** Cyclones, sand mining, and prolonged dry seasons were noted as critical threats, necessitating community-led regulations and support for mitigation efforts.

4. Learning for Sustainability

- **Community Education:** Workshops focused on the raii system and sustainability practices were proposed, with a strong emphasis on youth education in schools, churches, and homes.
- **Future Generations:** The community emphasized passing down traditional environmental stewardship practices to ensure resilience and sustainability.

5. Mainstreaming Policies and Financial Mechanisms

- **Funding Needs:** Securing funding to support raii systems, rat eradication, and waste management projects was identified as critical.
- **Partnerships:** Collaboration between NES and local stakeholders was proposed to strengthen enforcement and implement long-term conservation strategies.

Te Tautua Village – 1st November 2024

1. Area Management and Restoration

- **Waste Separation and Management:** Community members highlighted the need for waste separation bins and a program to remove bulky waste from the island. They expressed willingness to sort waste if logistical support and containers were provided.
- **Raii and Biodiversity:** Protecting local species such as kaveu and pipi through raii systems was discussed, emphasizing community consensus and monitoring.



Coconut crab

2. Species Management

- **Rats and Invasive Species:** The community raised concerns about rats damaging electrical wiring and increasing in population. They proposed a rat eradication plan, with attention to the safety of human and animal populations during baiting programs.
- **Marine Life:** Trochus species were flagged as invasive, potentially affecting paua populations, prompting a need for monitoring and management.

- **Birds and Cats:** Addressing wild cat populations to protect bird habitats was identified as a priority, alongside conservation of endangered bird species.

3. Threats Management

- **Water Scarcity:** Droughts and the need for improved desalination systems were discussed as pressing issues.
- **Plastic and Sanitary Waste:** The community emphasized the importance of reusable nappies, proper sanitary waste disposal, and reducing reliance on plastics to protect soil and water quality.

4. Learning for Sustainability

- **Education and Awareness:** Community workshops and school-based programs were seen as vital for raising awareness about biodiversity and conservation.
- **Youth Engagement:** Practical activities like tree planting and biodiversity monitoring were highlighted as effective ways to involve young people in sustainability efforts.

5. Mainstreaming Policies and Financial Mechanisms

- **Waste Removal Programs:** The community proposed creating a structured program to remove waste, including car batteries and bulky items, from the island.
- **Infrastructure Support:** Requests were made for additional NES officers to support environmental projects and regular updates on project progress.

Conclusion

The workshops in Omoka and Te Tautua showcased the strong commitment of Tongareva's communities to biodiversity conservation and sustainable practices. The discussions underscored the importance of integrating traditional knowledge with modern approaches, addressing waste management challenges, and enhancing climate resilience. These insights will guide the development of a comprehensive Island Plan, aligned with NBSAP goals and tailored to the unique needs of both villages. Continued collaboration, funding, and stakeholder support will be crucial to implementing the proposed strategies and ensuring the sustainability of Tongareva's environment for future generations.

Acknowledgement:

We deeply appreciate the Penrhyn Island Council for their meticulous preparation and warm hospitality during our visit. The well-organized site visits and seamless planning greatly contributed to the success of our work on the island.

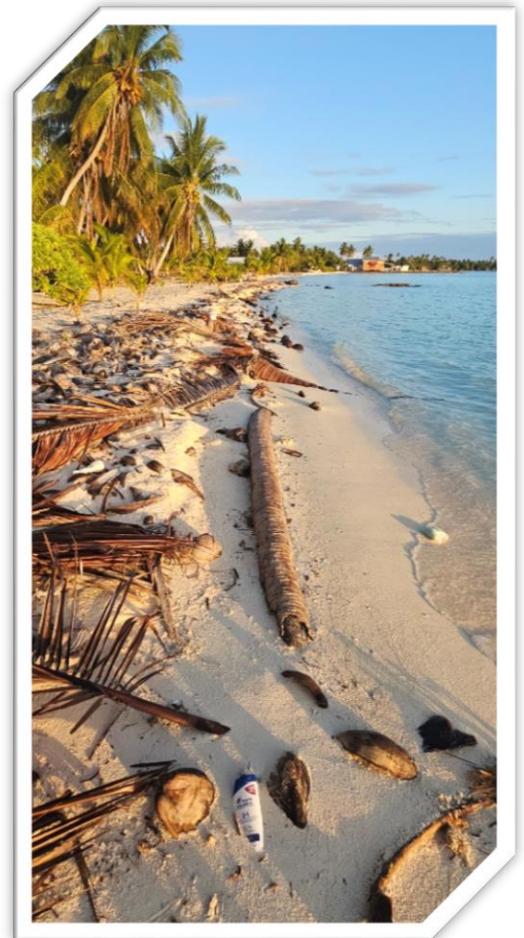
Attachments:

- **Annex A:** Signed Registers of Participants
- **Annex B:** Workshop Program



Rubbish pit at Te Tautua

Rubbish pit at Omoka



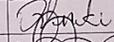
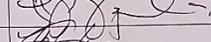
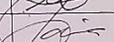
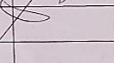
Erosion on Omoka

Annex A. Signed registers of participants

Penrhyn Island Council
31 Oct 2024
1:30 - 2pm





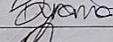
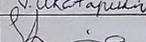
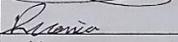
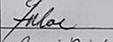
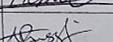
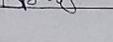
Name	Gender	Contact details: Phone or Email *optional	Signature
1 Teika Faira	M		
2 Tehesa Uiniki	M		
3 Tama TF TAMARA	M	42716 / 42085	
4 TEUVAANANGA NIUKORE	M		
5 Mataua Akatapurua	M	70383	
6 Rangitara. Taia	M	57829	

Penrhyn Community Workshop
Te Tautua
1 Nov 2024





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

Name	Gender	Contact details: Phone or Email *optional	Signature
Melanie Rasmussen-Takai	F	79011	
Roswyn Biggs-Joice	F	56273	
Aroha Faira	F	80179	
Teika Faira	M		
Tehitire Akatapurua	F		
Purotu Tame Williams	F	76710	
Mataua Akatapurua	M	70383	
William. Oraku. Williams	M	75779	
Rakora. Utania	F	423.30	
TEOPA WOE	M	56592	
Patrick	M		
Apara Williams	M	56572	
TOMU TOMU	F	42323	
ALBIN RASMUSSEN TAIA	M	50228	

Page | 1

Name	Gender	Contact details: Phone or Email *optional	Signature
16 Masitia Taima	F	58 51118	Masitia
17 Meluakore Masters	F	51590	Melakore
18 Paerosu Taima	F	57061	Paerosu
19 Manatutu Isaka	F	56778	Manatutu
20 Tuosa Tuima	W.	77103 & 42041	Tuosa
21 Ina Taraare	F	77637	Ina
22 Manata Akatapurua	M	58989	Manata
23 Hina Taima Williams	F	76999 hina.taima@cookislands.gov.ck	Hina Williams
24 Ru. Taima	M	72496 maystellataima@gmail.com	Ru
25 Abeni Williams	M	72446	Abeni

Annex B. Workshop Agenda

DATE	TIME	ORGANIZATION/GROUP/DEPARTMENT	ACTIVITY	VENUE
Thu 31 st Oct	12 pm	Arrive Penrhyn	Flight from Manihiki	
	1:30 pm	Island Council Meeting	NBSAP Intro	Council chambers
	3 pm	Welcoming at Omoka Presentation with the Community Discussions on the NBSAP Rapid Review on NBSAP 2002 Group work	NBSAP Presentation	Omoka Community Hall
Fri 1 st Nov	8:30 am	Boat transfer to Te Tautua	Assessment	Waste sites, Milkfish ponds
	11 am	Welcoming at Te Tautua Presentation with the Community Discussions on the NBSAP Rapid Review on NBSAP 2002 Group work	NBSAP Presentation	Te Tautua Community Hall
Sat 2 nd Nov	8 am	Site visits - Omoka	Assessment	
	12:30 pm	Depart Penrhyn		