

**COOK ISLANDS**  
**NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**  
**MANGAIA NBSAP REPORT**

**MANGAIA COMMUNITY GROUP WORKSHOPS**

**20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024**



*Tamarua Community*

**Facilitators:** Elizabeth Munro, Rima Moeka'a, Tangimama Harry, Gretta Murare and Kas Silk  
**Participants:** Community Members from Oneroa, Ivirua and Tamarua

Report written by Karen Silk, NES  
December 2024

## Summary

The Mangaia workshops, conducted as part of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) consultations, engaged 37 participants from three villages: Oneroa, Ivirua, and Tamarua. These sessions provided a platform for residents to share insights, address environmental challenges, and propose solutions tailored to their island's unique needs. Discussions centered around the five NBSAP strategic goals, highlighting the integration of traditional knowledge, community-led initiatives, and sustainable practices.

Key outcomes included strategies to strengthen raui systems, protect native species such as the tangaeo bird, and manage invasive species like myna birds and wild pigs. Waste management and water resource preservation emerged as critical priorities, with proposals for recycling centers and native tree replanting projects to mitigate soil erosion. The workshops also emphasized the importance of education and awareness campaigns, particularly through media and community involvement, to promote biodiversity conservation.

Site visits complemented the workshops, offering the NES team a comprehensive understanding of Mangaia's unique environmental conditions. These engagements revealed opportunities for aligning community efforts with broader biodiversity goals while honoring the island's cultural heritage. Given Mangaia's recent busy schedule—including multiple agency-led workshops, the 200-year celebration of Christianity, and preparations for the upcoming Climate Change Science Expo—the NES team deeply appreciated the warm welcome and the opportunity to facilitate these important discussions.



*Oneroa Community*



*Ivirua Community*

## Participants

Signed registers are 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.

### 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

## Mangaia NBSAP visit overview

The NES team facilitated community workshops in Mangaia to gather local perspectives on biodiversity conservation and sustainability. Despite a modest turnout, the active participation of residents and the Island Council demonstrated a strong commitment to addressing environmental

challenges. NES Officer Tangimama Harry actively participated in group activities and often took the lead in presenting her group's findings. By integrating traditional knowledge with modern approaches, these discussions laid the foundation for actionable strategies tailored to Mangaia's needs.

## Key Discussions and Outcomes

### Oneroa Community

#### Area Management and Restoration:

- Strengthening rai systems for marine and terrestrial areas, focusing on species such as paua, unga, and the endemic tangaeo bird.
- Proposals for waste management improvements, including a recycling center and proper disposal sites to reduce the impact of rats and other invasive species.
- Concerns over the impact of pine trees on water resources and the need for replanting native species to counter soil erosion.



#### Species Management:

- Protecting native species like tamanu, miro, and tutae torea, with a focus on medicinal plants and cultural uses.
- Addressing the scarcity of native plants through tree-planting projects and conservation initiatives.

#### Threats Management:

- Tackling invasive species such as myna birds, wild pigs, and whiteflies through coordinated eradication programs.
- Reducing overharvesting of paua and unga and mitigating the misuse of chemicals in farming practices.

#### Learning for Sustainability:

- Reviving the Tangaeo Rangers to support conservation and environmental awareness initiatives.
- Utilizing social media, TV, and radio to educate the community about biodiversity and sustainability.



## Ivirua Community

### Area Management and Restoration:

- Protecting marine and land spawning areas through community-driven raui systems overseen by the Aronga Mana.
- Restoring walkways to improve access to beaches and other critical areas.

### Species Management:

- Safeguarding native plants like tamanu, miro, and sandalwood, along with endemic species such as the tangaeo bird.
- Using native plants for both beautification and medicinal purposes.

### Threats Management:

- Addressing dust from roads and its impact on health, especially respiratory issues.
- Managing invasive species like mile-a-minute vines and addressing the effects of climate change, including prolonged droughts.

### Learning for Sustainability:

- Conducting workshops and meetings to increase community understanding of biodiversity and its benefits.
- Involving schools, churches, and the Aronga Mana in sustainability education.



## Tamarua Community

### Area Management and Restoration:

- Establishing raii for marine and terrestrial species, including wetlands critical for drinking water and household use.
- Prohibiting chemical use near wetlands and creating a management plan for their protection.



### Species Management:

- Protecting native and endemic species such as unga, moakirikiri, and the tangaeo bird.
- Highlighting the importance of vairakau maori (traditional medicine) and replanting medicinal plants like moemoe and kaeta.

### Threats Management:

- Managing wild pigs and rats, with calls for eradication programs similar to those in Atiu.
- Addressing bushfires and improving awareness around safe waste-burning practices, particularly during dry seasons.

### Learning for Sustainability:

- Encouraging biodiversity education through TV, radio, and community workshops.
- Collaborating with NGOs, women's associations, and fishing clubs to promote conservation initiatives.

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## Common Themes Across Communities

### 1. Strengthening Raii Systems:

- Standardizing raii timeframes and boundaries to ensure sustainable harvesting and conservation.
- Promoting community education about the purpose and benefits of raii systems.

### 2. Invasive Species Management:

- Coordinated efforts to eradicate invasive species like myna birds, wild pigs, and mile-a-minute vines.
- Biosecurity measures to prevent reintroduction of harmful species.

### 3. Waste and Resource Management:

- Improving waste disposal practices and establishing recycling centers to reduce pollution.
  - Encouraging tree planting projects to restore native species and reduce soil erosion.
  - 4. **Education and Community Engagement:**
    - Expanding awareness programs through media and community workshops.
    - Reviving traditional knowledge to support conservation and cultural continuity.
  - 5. **Mainstreaming Policies and Funding:**
    - Advocating for stronger environmental bylaws and integrating biodiversity goals into the Mangaia Island Plan.
    - Securing funding for projects like rat eradication, tree planting, and waste management.
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## Conclusion

The Mangaia workshops highlighted the community's commitment to preserving biodiversity and addressing environmental challenges through a blend of traditional knowledge and modern practices. The discussions provided a foundation for strengthening raii systems, protecting native species, and improving waste management practices.

The insights gathered will inform the development of the Mangaia Island Plan, aligned with NBSAP goals and tailored to the island's unique needs. Continued collaboration with government agencies, the Aronga Mana, and community stakeholders will be essential to turn these strategies into actionable outcomes, ensuring a sustainable future for Mangaia's ecosystems and its people.

## Acknowledgement

We extend our gratitude to Tangimama Harry, NES Officer for Mangaia, for her outstanding efforts in organizing the three community meetings during our visit. Tangimama managed logistics seamlessly, participated actively in group activities, and guided us through key sites, offering valuable insights into Mangaia's environmental landscape. Balancing these responsibilities with preparations for the Science Expo demonstrated her exceptional commitment and organizational skills. Her contributions were crucial to the success of our visit, and we deeply appreciate her dedication.

We also acknowledge the invaluable support of Gretta Marure, NES Officer for Mitiaro, whose enthusiasm and active participation added value to the community meetings.. We are grateful for her contributions and support.

## Attachments:

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



Mangaia sunrise



Coral bleaching



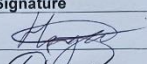
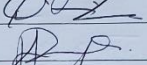

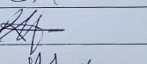
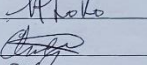
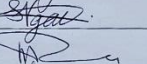
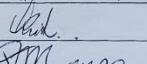
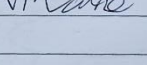

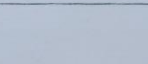


## Annex A. Signed Registers of Participants

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mangaia Ivirua Community

20 Nov 2024



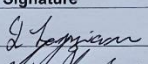
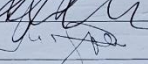
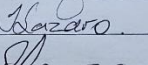
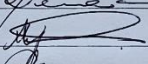
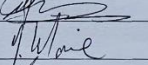
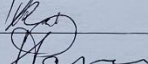
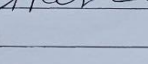
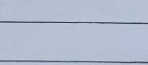


Name	Gender	Contact details: Phone or Email *optional	Signature
1 Harris Ngai	M	77698	
2 Dady Mauriati	M	34098	
3 Rev. Puxi	M	34 049	
4 Matapa Pavaa	M		
5 Alala Alala	M	89430	
6 Ra. Mauriati	F	34099	
7 Ngametua Tiko	M	34-002-	
9 Ari. Ngai	M	34011	
10 Siriahmina Ngai	F		
11 Mareuti Pavaa	F		
12 Vaine Ruatoo	F		
13 Vanetutai Maire	F		

Thursday 21st November 2024

TAMARUA COMMUNITY

6PM



Name	Gender	Contact details: Phone or Email *optional	Signature
1 Samuela Tangianau	Male	1satangianau@gmail.com	
Ngai Ngatorokina	M	57700	
Maire Ngai	M	50995	
Tukuna Lazaro	F	81237	
Vaiola Temeana	M	34402	
Ngamata Ruatoo	F	74492	
Ngai Teie	M	51768	
Ngatama Marie	M	0225240554	
Vaine Ruatoo	F		
Juane Pavino	F	72493	

## Annex B. Workshop Agenda

Day	Date	Time	Details	Notes
Wed	20 <sup>th</sup> Nov	9:40am	NES Team arrival	Elisabeth Munro, Rima Moeka'a, Karen Silk
			Babes Guest house	Vehicle hire – Anthony White
		11am	Meeting with Mangaia Aronga Mana	Maruatanui Palace
		1pm	Public Meeting - Oneroa	Oneroa Youth Hall
		6pm	NBSAP Community meeting - Tamarua	Tamarua Community Hall
Thu	21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	9am	Mangaia Growers and Fishing Club	TCD Meeting Room
		1pm	Site visits – Recycle centre and Dump site	
		6pm	NBSAP Community meeting - Ivirua	Puna Ivirua Hall
Fri	22 Nov 2024	9am	Check in	
		10am	NES Team depart	Arrive Rarotonga 10:40am