

COOK ISLANDS
NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN
MANIHIKI NBSAP REPORT

MANIHIKI COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS
Tauhunu and Tukao

30th October 2024



TAUHUNU COMMUNITY



Facilitators: Halatoa Fua, Rima Moeka'a, Kura Moeka'a, Sandee Cook and Kas Silk
Participants: Island Council, and Community members

Report written by Karen Silk, NES
November 2024

Summary

On the 30th of October 2024, the National Environment Service (NES) Team arrived in Tauhunu, Manihiki, by barge from Rakahanga and were warmly welcomed by the Island Council. This marked the start of a vibrant series of workshops in the villages of Tauhunu and Tukao. The first workshop in Tauhunu saw 24 enthusiastic attendees actively engaging in group activities, followed by a boat trip to Tukao, where a further workshop was conducted with 33 attendees. At both locations, the NES team facilitated in-depth discussions on the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), the new Environment Bill, and Project ISLANDS. Site visits were also conducted on both islands, providing valuable insights into local environmental challenges and opportunities.

The workshops emphasized the integration of traditional knowledge, community engagement, and sustainable practices as key elements for addressing biodiversity conservation, waste management, and resilience to environmental challenges. These discussions laid the foundation for developing a future Island Plan tailored to the unique needs of Manihiki. This report captures the outcomes of the council meeting, workshops, and site visits, organized by village and aligned with the five NBSAP strategic goals. After an overnight stay, the NES team departed for Penrhyn, continuing their vital work in the Pa Enea.



TUKAO COMMUNITY

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.



Manihiki Island Council

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
- Integrating knowledge
- Mainstreaming policies and legislation

MANIHIKI Community Workshops

Tukao Village

1. Area Management and Restoration



Tukao Community

- **Raui Zones:** Strengthening Raui areas was prioritized, focusing on protecting resources such as paua, koura (crayfish), and coral reefs. Proposed actions included community monitoring, clearer boundaries, and seasonal closures.
- **Waste Management:** The GEF Waste Project was highlighted, with a focus on sorting, removing, and managing household rubbish, particularly plastics and tyres. The community identified a need for 32 sorting bins and education on composting and green waste chipping. Burning plastics and tyres was flagged as a health risk, with a recycling center deemed a priority.
- **Coastal Erosion:** Addressing coastal erosion near schools and other vulnerable areas was a significant concern. Proposed solutions included planting tamanu trees, constructing sea walls, and conducting coastal assessments with expert guidance.
- **Motu Management:** Maintaining motu ecosystems through tree planting and clearing excess vegetation was suggested to enhance biodiversity and prevent habitat degradation.

2. Species Management

- **Pearl Farming:** King tides affecting pearl farming infrastructure were noted as a challenge, with calls for enhanced protection and water quality monitoring.
- **Invasive Species:** Rats, wild pigs, and stray cats were flagged as threats to biodiversity. Coordinated pest control programs and biocontrol measures were recommended.
- **Paua Size Regulations:** Community members discussed defining size limits for paua (14–16 cm) to ensure sustainable harvesting.
- **Traditional Practices:** Preserving and revitalizing traditional fishing methods, including size restrictions for key species, was emphasized to sustain marine resources.

3. Threats Management

- **Plastic Pollution:** Accumulation of plastic waste and tyre burning were identified as pressing issues, with participants advocating for systematic rubbish sorting, recycling, and community-led cleanup efforts.

- **Climate Resilience:** Rising sea levels, coral bleaching, and high surges were significant challenges, prompting replanting native species and lagoon protection as proposed mitigation strategies.

4. Integrating Knowledge and Learning for Sustainability

- **Community Education:** Workshops, school programs, and practical activities, such as mangrove planting and reef monitoring, were proposed to teach conservation and sustainability.
- **Traditional Knowledge:** Preserving vairakau (medicinal plant) knowledge and traditional practices like weaving and fishing was emphasized to maintain cultural heritage.
- **Youth Engagement:** Activities aimed at involving youth in conservation efforts were highlighted as a key priority.

5. Mainstreaming Policies and Financial Mechanisms

- **Funding Needs:** Securing funding for rat eradication, waste management, and coastal protection initiatives was identified as critical for progress.
- **Policy Updates:** Participants suggested revising local bylaws to include stricter waste and resource management measures.

Tauhunu Village

1. Area Management and Restoration

- **Fish Ponds:** Seasonal cleaning and maintenance of fish traps were discussed as strategies to sustain fish stocks.
- **Replanting Initiatives:** Planting tamanu and other native species was highlighted as critical for preventing coastal erosion and supporting biodiversity.
- **Rubbish Management:** The community stressed the importance of consistent rubbish removal efforts to improve public health and environmental quality.

2. Species Management

- **Marine and Land Species:** Declines in fish species such as tomore and fapuku, and crops like rukau viti, ninita, and maniota, were highlighted. Restoration and protection strategies were discussed.
- **Bird Conservation:** Efforts to protect native bird species such as maui, kotaha, and tavake (tropicbirds) were identified. Reintroduction of medicinal plants was also proposed to enhance habitat diversity.
- **Tree Planting:** Coastal protection included planting tamanu, nganie, and other native species to stabilize the shoreline and promote biodiversity.
- **Invasive Pests:** Rats, ants, and other invasive species were flagged as threats requiring coordinated eradication programs.

3. Threats Management

- **Waste Pollution:** Managing waste, including the burning of plastics and tyres, was identified as a priority to reduce health risks and environmental degradation.
- **Lagoon Health:** Concerns over declining lagoon health and coral reef degradation prompted discussions on stricter conservation measures and habitat restoration.
- **Health Risks:** Issues like pig pens near households and the buildup of black smoke from waste burning were raised as concerns requiring immediate attention.



Tauhunu Community

4. Integrating Knowledge and Learning for Sustainability

- **Workshops and Education:** Community workshops and school-based programs were suggested to promote environmental awareness and conservation practices.
- **Traditional Practices:** Preserving traditional knowledge, including fishing techniques and weaving, was seen as vital for cultural and environmental sustainability.

5. Mainstreaming Policies and Financial Mechanisms

- **Policy and Collaboration:** Reviewing and updating bylaws to incorporate waste management and biodiversity conservation was recommended.
- **Funding Support:** Financial assistance was requested to support conservation projects, improve waste management, and build capacity for biodiversity management.

Conclusion

The Manihiki workshops in Tauhunu and Tukao successfully brought together community members, Island Councils, and stakeholders to discuss pressing biodiversity issues, waste management, and strategies for resilience to environmental challenges. Through engaging discussions, and group activities, the workshops provided a platform for integrating traditional knowledge with modern conservation practices. These efforts emphasized the importance of community engagement and collaboration in shaping a sustainable future for Manihiki.

The insights and recommendations gathered during the workshops will guide the development of a comprehensive Island Plan tailored to the unique needs of both villages. This plan will align with the National

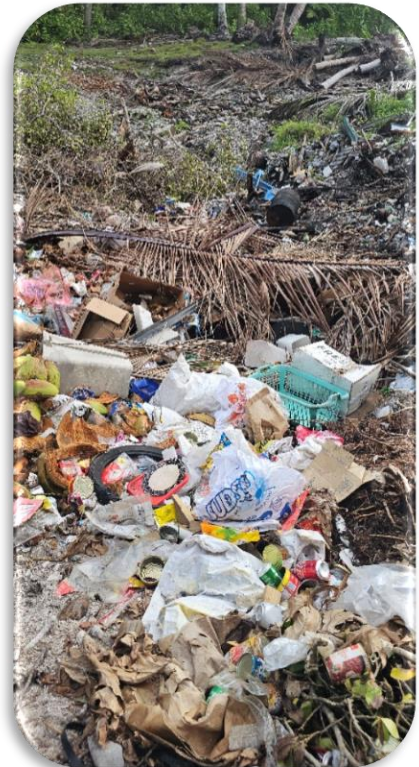
Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) goals and support the implementation of the new Environment Bill and Project ISLANDS initiatives. Continued collaboration, funding, and support from stakeholders will be critical for translating these strategies into actionable outcomes, ensuring the protection of Manihiki's biodiversity, the well-being of its residents, and the resilience of its environment for generations to come.

Acknowledgement

A sincere thank you to the Manihiki Island Council for their outstanding organization and support in planning our visit. Your dedication to arranging site visits and facilitating our activities played a crucial role in making our time on the island productive and meaningful.



Attachments:

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





Annex A. Signed Registers of Participants

Manihiki Island Council
Wed 30 Oct 2024
11:30am

Name	Gender	Contact details: Phone or Email *optional	Signature
JOSEPH HINO	M	Joseph.joseph@cookislands.gov.ck	<i>[Signature]</i>
PEPE MAKIRA	M	pepe.makira21@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
TRAIINGE SAMSON	M	Mobile 682.833.88	<i>[Signature]</i>
JAMES KARGROA	M	Mobile 70413	<i>[Signature]</i>
Wireless. Tefuke	M	Mobile 56018	<i>[Signature]</i>
TOKA. TOKA	M	MOBILE 56839	<i>[Signature]</i>
TARAL. KANA	M	" 50968	<i>[Signature]</i>
DANIEL TUTERU	M	" 51274	<i>[Signature]</i>
TANGI TOKA	M	" 51069	<i>[Signature]</i>
JOHN McLEOD	M	" 52409	<i>[Signature]</i>
JUSTINE WILLIAM	F	mobile 74252	<i>[Signature]</i>

Manihiki Community Workshop
30 Oct 2024
TUKA
6pm-8pm






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

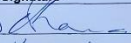
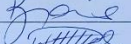
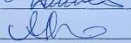
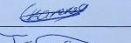

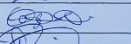
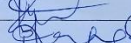
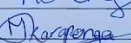
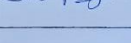

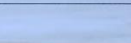
Attendance Sheet

#	Name	Gender	Contact details: Phone or Email *optional	Signature
1	JOHN McLEOD	M	MB 52409	<i>[Signature]</i>
2	JOHNSONE NARARA	M		<i>[Signature]</i>
3	SIRIGWA IMAHIA	M	59494	<i>[Signature]</i>
4	Carol Tepano	M	87652	<i>[Signature]</i>
5	Loane Elisa	M		<i>[Signature]</i>
6	PETER WILLIAM	M	79788	<i>[Signature]</i>
7	Hannah William	F	71932	<i>[Signature]</i>
8	JENN MARIE WILLIAMS	M	78783	<i>[Signature]</i>
9	HAUMATA TEPAHIA	F	71534	<i>[Signature]</i>
10	TERE TEPAHIA	F		<i>[Signature]</i>
11	EMMA JOHN	F		<i>[Signature]</i>
12	William KAITARA	M	89339	<i>[Signature]</i>
13	Eli Tuteru	F	81963	<i>[Signature]</i>

Manihiki Community Workshop
Tuhunu Village
30/10/24
6:10pm



 

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

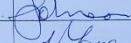
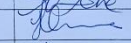

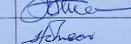
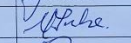

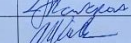
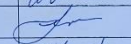
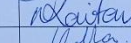
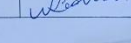
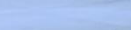


Name	Gender	Contact details: Phone or Email *optional	Signature
14. BERNARDINE B. Kineia	M	HA. 43307. MB. 74674 (Police)	
15. JANE KAINA	F	mob: 79255	
16. Nimie Williams	F	mob: 50116	
17. Angela Tosiua	F	angela.tosiua@cookislands.gov.ck	
18. Clesta Brown	M	Students	
19. Tuhine Samson	M	Students	
20. CECILIA KAITARA	F	Students	
21. Christina Johnson	F	Students	
22. PETE. MAKIA	M	MB: 51393	
23. Reni Karaponga	F	reni.karaponga@cookislands.gov.ck	
24. Muriel Karaponga	F	renimkara@gmail.com	

Page 2




Manihiki Community Workshop
Tuhunu Village
30/10/24

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

Name	Gender	Contact details: Phone or Email *optional	Signature
1. Nga Tio Johnson	F	MB 76537	
2. Vainu Donna Tele	F	MB 72557	
3. Tui Umurua	M	" 52732	
4. Helen Wokenzie	F	" 43327	
5. RUMU TAMAUHU	M	MB-58210	
6. PAVIN JOHNSON	M	A-Phone 43329	
7. UMURUA TUIE	M	PHONE NO: 43313	
8. P.T. RUPA	M	888-12	
9. JAMES KAREOTA	M	70413	
10. PAPA WILLIAMS	M	45354	
11. LUKA KAITARA	M	70723	
12. KA KAITARA	F	89924	
13. Ngatufunua Iona	M	73131	

page 1

					
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT SERVICE TUANGA TAPAKORFO COOK ISLANDS		THE BIODIVERSITY PLAN For Life on Earth			
Name	Gender	Contact details: Phone or Email *optional	Signature		
14. Tangi Toka	M	51069	Toka		
15. Here Teperima	F	73532	Here		
16. Joyana Williams	F	51206	Joyana		
17. Malone Tuiarii	F	43048	Malone		
18. JOHN MATANGARO	F	43067	John Matangaro		
19. Taitoku Taitoku	F	43048	Taitoku		
20. JUSTINE WILLIAM	F	74 252	Justine		
21. Rosalina Tutoa	F		Rosalina		
22. Teupa WIRELESS	M	70888	Teupa		
23. Anthony Yama	M	71760	Anthony		
24. Mataia Ioane	M		Mataia		
25. Brian Maru	M		Brian		
26. Rev. Horea Toka	M	72619	Rev. Horea		
27. MJ SIMIONA	F		MJ		
28. Motavaka Toka	F	51672	Motavaka		

[illegible]

Annex B. Workshop Agenda

DATE	TIME	ORGANIZATION/GROUP/DEPARTMENT	ACTIVITY	VENUE
Wed 30 th Oct	11 am	Arrive Manihiki	Boat from Rakahanga	
	11:30 am	Island Council Meeting	NBSAP Intro	Council chambers
	1:30 pm	Welcoming at Tauhunu Presentation with the Community Discussions on the NBSAP Rapid Review on NBSAP 2002 Group work	NBSAP Presentation	Tauhunu Community Hall
	5:40 pm	Boat transfer to Tukai		
	6:14 pm	Welcoming at Tukai Presentation with the Community Discussions on the NBSAP Rapid Review on NBSAP 2002 Group work	NBSAP Presentation	Tukai Community Hall
Thu 31 st Oct	8 am	Site visits	Assessment	Waste sites, Milkfish ponds
	11 am	Depart Manihiki		