

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

**PENRHYN COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS**  
**Omoka and Te Tautua**

**31<sup>st</sup> 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 – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024

#### 1. Area Management and Restoration



Milkfish pond

- **Raui Systems:** Community members discussed re-establishing raui 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 raui 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 raui 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 raui 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 – 1<sup>st</sup> 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.
- **Raui and Biodiversity:** Protecting local species such as kaveu and pipi through raui 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.

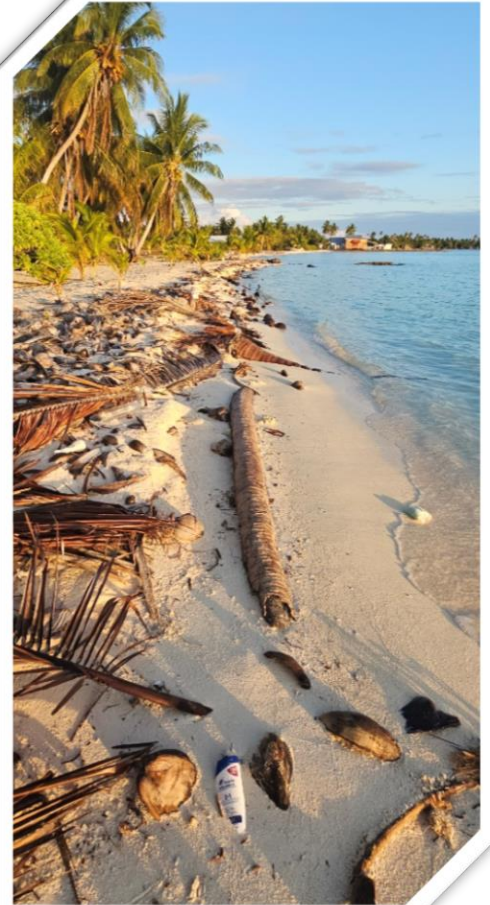
## Attachments:

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



Rubbish pit at Te Tautua

Rubbish pit at Omoka











Erosion on Omoka




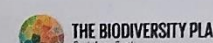
## Annex A. Signed registers of participants

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


















Name	Gender	Contact details: Phone or Email *optional	Signature
1 Teika Faira	M		
2 Tehesa Viniki	M		
3 Tami TE TAMARA	M	42716 / 42085	
4 TAVIVANABA: NIUKORE	M		
5 Matara Akatapurua	M	70383	
6 Rangitara. Tais	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
Mathias Rasmussen-Takai	F	79011	
Raewyn Biggs-Jones	F	56273	
Aroha Faira	F	80179	
Teika Faira	M		
Tehitire Akatapurua	F		
Purote Tame Williams	F	76710	
Matara Akatapurua	M	70383	
Nikiana. Orah. Williams	M	75779	
Rakora. Utania	F	423.30	
TEOPA WOE	M	56592	
Patrick	M		
Apara Williams	M	56572	
TOMU TOMU	F	42323	
ALAN RASMUSSEN TAIA	M	50228	

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Te Tautua  
1 NOV 2024  
page 2



**THE BIODIVERSITY PLAN**  
For Life on Earth

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

### Attendance Sheet

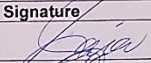

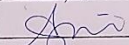


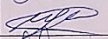
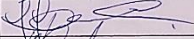


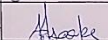
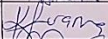



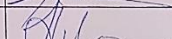
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Tongareva Community Workshop  
31 October 2024 3pm  
Omoka



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Name	Gender	Contact details: Phone or Email *optional	Signature
1 Rangitawa, Taia	M	57829	
2 Alex. Marekapi	M.	42020.	
3 Tereapi Napa	F	79033	
4 Emma Viniki	F	79933	
5 Harapo Viniki	F	50438	
6 Paterongo Marekapi	M	53877	
7 Thomas Taima	M	89642	
8 Victor Tukora	M	53058	
9 Tobu Taima	M	77103	
10 Abba Isaaka	F	78104	
11 Karen Turanga	F	50128	
12 Tamu T F TAPAITAU	M	42116 / 42085	
13 Napa. Sonny	F	71383 / 42300	
14 Karatis. Reaga	M	50108	
15 Veronica William.	F	70030.	



	Name	Gender	Contact details: Phone or Email *optional	Signature
16	Mositia Taima	F	58 51118	Mosie
17	Melakore Masters	F	<del>58 51118</del>	Melakore
18	Poerou Taima	F	57061	Poerou
19	Namatu Isaka	F	56778	Namatu
20	Tuoa Tuina	W.	77103 & 42041	Tuoa
21	Ina Taraare	F	77637	Ina
22	Marata Akatapurua	M	58989	Marata
23	Hina Taima Williams	F	76999 hina.taima@cookislands.gov.ck	Hina Williams
24	Ru. Taima	M	72496 maystella.taima@gmail.com	Ru
25	Abni Williams	M	72446	Abni

## Annex B. Workshop Agenda

DATE	TIME	ORGANIZATION/GROUP/DEPARTMENT	ACTIVITY	VENUE
Thu 31 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	8 am	Site visits - Omoka	Assessment	
	12:30 pm	Depart Penrhyn		