

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN WORKSHOP REPORT

Crown Beach Resort, Rarotonga, Cook Islands

7th – 8th of August 2024



7th August 2024 – Non Government Organisations



8th August 2024 – Government Agencies

Photos by Ngatupuna Kae, NES

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**Presentation slides for these workshops are available by contacting the National Environment Service and will be available on the National Environment website*

Summary

On Wednesday, August 7th, and Thursday, August 8th, 2024, the National Environment Service (NES) hosted two half-day workshops focused on the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). These workshops took place at Crown Beach Resort in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

The primary audience for the NBSAP workshop comprised of conservation practitioners, policymakers, and key stakeholders with a vested interest in biodiversity and environmental protection. The workshops aimed to engage a broad spectrum of government and societal stakeholders, introduce the NBSAP project and its components, align national policies with the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), identify priority targets, and establish a working group.

This marked the first NBSAP workshop in the Cook Islands in nearly twenty years, as the existing NBSAP was drafted in 2002. On the first day, attendees included representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the community, while the second day featured government agency representatives. NES staff from the Partnerships, Stewardship, and Compliance departments were present on both days.

Separate workshops will be organized for the Pa Enea and the Rarotonga community. Plans are underway to visit as many Pa Enea islands as possible following the Island Council Elections on August 15, 2024, (these elections occur every four years).

Attendance varied between the two days, with a low turnout on Day 1 and a higher turnout on Day 2. Both days saw active engagement from participants, who presented their top five priority GBF targets.

Although there was no interest from the five NGO groups in joining the Working Group, all five are KOAN representatives. Eight individuals, excluding NES and the NBSAP consultant, expressed interest in participating in the Working Group.

For more information, please email karen.silk@cookislands.gov.ck

Participants

Day 1 (signed register attached at Appendix B)

Day 2 (signed register attached at Appendix I)

Summary RSVPs	DAY 1 Wed 7 Aug 2024	DAY 2 Thurs 8 Aug 2024	Names
TMO - Public health		2	Mura Herman, Taaki Moekopiti
MFAI		1	Peka Fisher
MMR		4	Phoebe Argyle, Liam Clegg, Epeli Maisema (policy), Mereana Atatoa Carr
TIS	3		Alanna Smith, Rachel Selwyn, Akeina Tairea
INTAFF		2	Mereina Herman, Helina Glassie
MOA		3	William Wigmore, Ngatoko Ngatoko, Eitiare Vano
OPM - CPPO		1	David Pori
MFEM DCD		2	Ana Tiraa, Tessa Vaetoru,
SBMA		2	John Parianos, Tanga Morris
MOT		1	John Hosking
MOE		1	Jane Taurarii
MEC	1		Brennan Panzarella
Te Rito o te Vairaku Maori	1		Charles Koronui
CCCI		2	Wayne King, Charlene Akaruru
MOCD		1	Jane Wichman Poa
MFEM		1	Eileen Story
Koutu Nui	1		Itaata (Noeline Kainuku Browne)
CIIC		1	Bianca Herman
Tourism		1	Jeremy Goodwin
NES	9	9	Hayley Weeks, Liz Munro, Jessica Nicholason, Kas Silk, Terena Koteka-Wiki, Fred Nicholas, Ben Maxwell, Eva Patai, Rima Moeka'a
	15	34	

Workshop Agenda

Time	Agenda item
8:30am	Participants to arrive and sign attendance sheet
9:00am	Welcoming remarks, prayer and overview of the program
9:15am	Overview of the NBSAP project
9:45am	Overview of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) also known as The Biodiversity Plan
10:15am	Morning tea
10:30am	Setting the scene: alignment of national plans with the GBF
10:45am	Break out group activities
11:45am	Survey, Working Group and Closing
12pm	Lunch

Day 1

The workshop commenced at 9:00 a.m. with an opening by Elizabeth Munro, Manager of the NES Stewardship Division, followed by a prayer from Benjamin Maxwell. Liz Munro introduced Rima Moeka'a as the Consultant, leading to an overview presented by Kas Silk, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Coordinator. Jess Nicholson, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Manager, conducted a Menti Quiz for all participants.

Kas Silk provided an overview of the workshop's objectives, including a presentation on the Global Biodiversity Framework, outlining its vision, purpose, mission statement, goals, themes, and targets, as detailed in the attached minutes and presentation. Following this, Liz Munro discussed the 2002 Cook Islands NBSAP and the projects achieved thus far, after which participants enjoyed morning tea.

An overview of the NBSAP Project's components, including alignment, assessment, monitoring, and policy alignment, was delivered by Kas. This was followed by a breakout activity where stakeholders, either representing their organization or collaborating with others, presented their top five targets aligning with the GBF and justified their choices. After the presentations, a second Menti Survey was conducted by Jess Nicholson. Expectations for the Working Group were outlined, including monthly meetings or as required. The workshop concluded with a karakia from Ngatupuna Kae before lunch.

Day 2

The second day followed a similar format to Day 1 but with minor adjustments based on feedback and reflections. Some slides were removed and others added to better address the change in stakeholders. The workshop began at 9:00 a.m. with an opening by Liz Munro and a prayer by Kevin Iro. Liz introduced Rima Moeka'a as the Consultant, followed by a Menti Quiz led by Jess Nicholson.

Kas Silk presented the workshop's objectives, an overview of the Global Biodiversity Framework, including its vision, purpose, mission statement, goals, themes, and targets, as detailed in the attached minutes and presentation. Liz Munro reviewed the 2002 Cook Islands NBSAP and its achievements to date, followed by morning tea. An icebreaker activity facilitated by Eva Patai helped energize and integrate the group.

A review of the NBSAP Project's components was presented by Kas Silk, focusing on alignment, assessment, monitoring, and policy alignment. A breakout activity followed, with stakeholders presenting their top five targets aligning with the GBF and providing justification. After the presentations, a second Menti Survey was conducted by Jess. The Consultant, Rima Moeka'a, provided a Rapid Review, discussing methodology, gaps, challenges, and steps to align the current CI NBSAP with the GBF framework, emphasizing the need for a Working Group to represent specialist areas of biodiversity and address technical issues. The workshop ended with a karakia from Ngatupuna Kae before lunch.

Workshop Outcomes and Learnings

The two half-day workshops were successful in presenting an overview of the Global Biodiversity Framework's goals, themes, and targets, and engaging stakeholders through the Menti Quiz and breakout exercises to identify their top five targets.

Feedback and Observations:

- Stakeholders responded positively to the separation of NGO and government agency sessions.
- While more NGO participation would have been beneficial, those present appreciated the workshop.
- The half-day format was effective, preventing fatigue and maintaining engagement.
- Government representatives found the workshop interactive and appreciated the Menti Quiz and breakout exercises.
- The workshop was more technical for NGOs but appropriate for government participants. This outcome was expected given the technical nature of the content.
- The presentation and delivery method will need to be adapted for the Pa Enea, focusing more on the GBF target questions.
- It is helpful to prepare participants for the Menti Quiz by informing them in advance and advising them of the option to use their computers.
- Adjustments to the presentation were needed, as it was too technical for some attendees.
- A draft of National Targets by August 30th is acceptable, though the final targets' identification timeline needs confirmation.
- Future presentations for Pa Enea should be completely restructured, emphasizing GBF questions on the website.
- It is necessary to confirm whether the objectives were achieved, noting the positive linkage of agency policies to the GBF.

Next Steps

- Develop a schedule for one-on-one consultations conducted by the Consultant, Rima Moeka'a and NBSAP Project Coordinator, Kas Silk, with a transparent booking calendar.
- Revise presentations and delivery methods for community engagement and Pa Enea workshops, focusing on GBF target questions.
- Conduct additional workshops in the Vaka's to engage community leaders and stakeholders.
- Organize workshops in the Pa Enea following the Island Elections on 15 August 2024.
- Implement a survey to gather broader community views using a variety of ambassadors.
- Modify Presentation and Menti questions for the Pa Enea – less technical, emphasizing GBF questions on the website.
- Distribute the Terms of Reference when sending out presentations to ALL stakeholders.

Appendices

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