

7th August 2024 / National Environment Service NBSAP Meeting minutes

Meeting	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan										
Date	Wednesday 7 th August 2024										
Time start	9:00am										
Present	<p>NGO's, Civil Society and Communities</p> <p>National Environment Service</p> <p>Elizabeth Munro – Environmental Stewardships Manager Jessie Nicholson – National Biodiversity Manager Karen (Kas) Silk– NBSAP Coordinator Rima Moeka'a – NBSAP Consultant Benjamin Maxwell – NES Senior Compliance Officer Eva Patai - NES Compliance Officer Hayley Weeks – Environmental Partnerships Manager Fred Nicholas, Terena Wiki-Koteka – GEF 7 Project Officers Ngatupuna Kae – NES Independent Contractor</p> <p>NGOs</p> <table> <tr> <td>TIS</td> <td>Alanna Smith, Rachel Selwyn, Akeina Tairea</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MEC</td> <td>Brennan Panzarella</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Te Rito ote Vairaku</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maori</td> <td>Charles Koronui</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Koutu Nui</td> <td>Itaata (Noeline Kainuku Browne)</td> </tr> </table>	TIS	Alanna Smith, Rachel Selwyn, Akeina Tairea	MEC	Brennan Panzarella	Te Rito ote Vairaku		Maori	Charles Koronui	Koutu Nui	Itaata (Noeline Kainuku Browne)
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Time end	1:00pm										

Agenda

1. Welcome, prayer and overview of the program

- **Opening Prayer – Benjamin Maxwell**

Environmental Stewardships Manager, Elizabeth Munro, opened the meeting and welcomed all NGO's and CSO's for taking time to attend.

Elizabeth Munro acknowledged Rima Moeka'a as the Consultant that will assist the National Environment Service, put this document together, and make this a Cook Islands National Biodiversity and Action Plan. This document will help guide us in the development, implementation and recovery of the biodiversity in the Cook Islands.

2. Objectives of the workshop – Kas Presenting

- Overview of the Framework – Purpose, Vision and Mission statement
- To engage with stakeholders
- Overview of the current NBSAPs
- Alignment of the CI NBSAP to the GBF and Island Plans
- Identify top 5 targets for each agency
- Collective targets identified
- Formulate a Working Group

3. Menti Mini Quiz

- Tell us who you represent
 - TIS
 - MEC
 - Te Rito o te Vairaku Maori
 - Koutu Nui
 - Private consultant nes
 - Project Enea
 - NGOs
- What does 'biodiversity' meant to you?
 - LIFE, VARIETY, NATURE, Mei te maunga ki te moana, Plants and animals, family in the environment, health nature, adaptation, tangata, ecosystems, flora, food, greenery, thriving, fauna, habitat, plants, interconnectivity, te riot enua e te moana
- Is Biodiversity linked to your agency mandated?
 - Yes, strongly aligned = 8
 - Medium = 2
 - Low = 0
 - No alignment = 0
- What biodiversity area do you focus on?
 - RESTORATION, MONITORING SURVEYS, mountains, conservation, natural resources, protected areas, te au mea katoatoa, sustainable land management, endemic, food security, protection, advocacy, lagoon rai, ecosystems, awareness, monitoring, our home
- What is a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan? Or what do you think it is about?
 - Our country's roadmap to achieve global biodiversity goals and targets within our national context
 - A framework and commitment to protect and enhance global biodiversity
 - Actions needed by the nation to look after our biodiversity
 - It's about creating a plan looking at the future of the environment and also having records of restoration, preservation and education
 - Guiding document to sum up a collective vision to give direction to diverse efforts
 - E kaveinga tauturu I te Taporoporo I te au mea natura
 - NBSAP would ensure we have a roadmap to protect our biodiversity.
 - A strategy that prevents the overcrowding or dominance of invasives so there's more diversity in our environment
 - To pitch a plan for the future

4. Global Biodiversity Framework – Presented by Kas Silk

3 Main Objectives:

The conservation of biological diversity

The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity

The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources

Outputs:

- Global Goals: Long-term objectives to halt biodiversity loss and ensure ecosystem resilience.
- Targets: Specific, measurable outcomes to be achieved by 2030.
- Indicators and Monitoring: Systems to track progress and ensure transparency.

- Support Mechanisms: Financial, technical, and collaborative resources for effective implementation. Policy Integration: Embedding biodiversity considerations into various sectors.
- Public Awareness and Engagement: Raising awareness and involving stakeholders.
- Legal and Institutional Frameworks: Strengthening governance structures to support biodiversity actions.

NBSAP: All parties to the CBD to develop, review and align their NBSAP to the GBF (Decision 15/6)

The three components of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF):

1. Biodiversity Targets and Goals
2. Implementation Support Mechanisms
3. Monitoring and Reporting Framework:

Together, these three components provide a comprehensive approach to achieving the objectives of the GBF:

1. Setting Clear Objectives (Targets and Goals): Establishing what needs to be achieved.
2. Ensuring Effective Implementation (Support Mechanisms): Providing the means to achieve those objectives.
3. Tracking Progress (Monitoring and Reporting): Ensuring that progress is measured and reported, facilitating course corrections as necessary

The three components provide a comprehensive approach to achieving the objectives of the GBF

4 Goals, 3 themes and 24 targets

- 4 goals – Goal A: Protect and Restore
 Goal B: Prosper with Nature
 Goal C: Share Benefits Fairly
 Goal D: Invest and Collaborate

3 Themes and 24 Targets

Theme 1: Reducing Threats to Biodiversity:

- Target 1: Plan and Manage Areas to reduce biodiversity loss
- Target 2: Restore 30% of Degraded Ecosystems
- Target 3: Conserve 30% of Land, Waters, and Seas
- Target 4: Halt Species Extinction and Protect Genetic Diversity and manage conflicts
- Target 5: Ensure Sustainable Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species
- Target 6: Reduce Introduction of Invasive Alien Species by 50%
- Target 7: Reduce Pollution
- Target 8: Minimize Climate Change Impacts

Theme 2: Meeting People's Needs through Sustainable Use and Benefit-Sharing

- Target 9: Manage Wild Species Sustainably
- Target 10: Enhance Biodiversity in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry
- Target 11: Restore, Maintain, and Enhance Nature's Contributions
- Target 12: Enhance Green Spaces and Urban Planning
- Target 13: Increase Sharing of Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge

Theme 3: Tools and Solutions for Implementation and Mainstreaming:

- Target 14: Integrate Biodiversity in Decision-Making
- Target 15: Assess, Disclose, and Reduce Biodiversity Risks
- Target 16: Enable Sustainable Consumption Choices

- Target 17: Strengthen Biosafety and Biotechnology Distribution
- Target 18: Reduce Harmful Incentives and Increase Positive Ones
- Target 19: Mobilize Funds for Biodiversity
- Target 20: Strengthen Capacity-Building and Tech Transfer
- Target 21: Ensure Availability of Knowledge
- Target 22: Ensure Participation and Access to Justice:
- Target 23: Ensure Gender Equality and Gender-Responsive Approaches

Targets are all interconnected to each other. Examples of how targets are interconnected

5. NBSAP Project – Results from NBSAP 2002 – Project Achieved presented by Elisabeth Munro

- 8 themes, 10 goals and 21 actions
- Endangered Species Management
- Invasive Species
 - National Invasive Species Strategy and Action plan only focuses on invasive species.
- Ecosystem management
 - Marae Moana – Kevin and his team have been working hard to get this work underway
 - Suwarrow has regulations and rules in place for yachts
- Biodiversity Awareness and Education
- Mainstreaming of Biodiversity

This is an opportunity for NGOs and CSOs to align their projects to the following targets.

What have we done in the Cook Islands under the NBSAP

- Endangered Species Management
 - Insert the following information from the slide
- Invasive Species Management
 - Developed a National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan
 - Insert the following information from the slide
- Ecosystem Management
 - EEZ has been declared as a Marae Moana
 - Marae Moana Outlook Report
 - Suwarrow National Park → Project ENUA will be helping to develop a draft management plan
 - Takitumu Conservation Area management plan (OECM)
 - Takuvaine Water Catchment Regulations & management plan (2006)
 - Ra'ui sites established – Rarotoga & Pa Enua → this is something that we may need to focus more of our attention on
- Equitable Sharing of Benefits and Access to Biodiversity
 - Biological Research and Benefits Bill → still in draft form
 - Cook Islands Access and Benefit Sharing Policy – we did not realize that our own people are accessing our own genetic resources. There were many discussions with the vairaku Maori groups.
- Management of knowledge related to biodiversity
 - National Research Committee – Any research that comes into the Cook Islands needs to be verified by the committee
 - Atiu Arapo published – Published in Maori (Atiu dialect)

- Contributes to biodiversity in an indirect way
- Fisherman look at the arapo (phases of the moon)
- Biodiversity Awareness and Education
 - Biodiversity Day celebration (event or an article in the newspaper)
- Nolene did the layout for us
 - Lagoon Day and Environment Week – we still continue with
- Mainstreaming of Biodiversity
- Financial Resources and Mechanisms for Biodiversity
 - Pakau Aroa Act – conduct many of its work and some of this also helps with the biodiversity work that is being done within the National Environment Service. Back in 2008, this Act the funds went straight into the national funding pool.
- Challenges/Issues
 - Limited capacity to develop management plans for species or ecosystems – some of these areas are dependent on the communities
 - Value of biodiversity – not really recognized, people only like things that are important to them. Today we do not plant coconut trees as much as we used to.
 - National Funds for Biodiversity Protection – there are no funds directly given for biodiversity protection.
 - Gaps in the NBSAP – Climate Change, Pollution, etc. – we have to look ahead.
 - Invasive plants vs. Vairakau – How do you differentiate the two?
 - Land ownership system – How do we try and get landowners to preserve native plants that only have existence on their land?
 - Awareness does not reach the Pa Enea – Awareness was all about printing and sending the documents out to the PE.
- Technology has contributed to awareness reaching out to the Pa Enea
 - Why is NBSAP important?
 - Guides the Cook Islands to address biodiversity
 - Creates partnerships between agencies
 - Avoids duplication of work

6. Kas was addressing the National targets

- Jessie explained moving forward through the workshop
 - Which targets would you take/or which part of the targets would you take?
 - Moving forward we want to be able to form National targets.

7. Morning tea

8. Review the NBSAP Project – Kas Silk

- Component 1 – Alignment of current NBSAP and targets with the GBF
 - Outcome: Reviewing and updating national targets to align with the GBF and relevant SDGs - ensuring it is measurable, costed, grounded in programs and spatially-explicit where appropriate
 - Reviewing NBSAP for updates in line with the GBF via an inclusive whole-of- government and whole of society process
- Component 2 – Assessment of national monitoring systems and development of monitoring action plans
 - Outcome: Gaps in existing national data and knowledge systems, and institutional monitoring systems and frameworks, are assessed for monitoring.

- Monitoring action plans are developed. An initial costing of monitoring systems, and sequencing of investment support to fill the monitoring gaps are determined.
- Component 3 – Policy and institutional alignment and review for achieving coherence with the GBF
 - Outcome: A policy review to assess the alignment between the GBF and National policy.
 - Policy alignment and action plans are developed and shared across agencies:
 - A prioritized action plan for policy coherence using a whole-of-government approach,
 - Opportunities for enhanced biodiversity mainstreaming identified.
 - A plan to promote a nature-positive approach to sectors and
 - Develop spatialized mapping of nature-related policy targets (*optional*)
- Table of the Targets/Goals/Actions from NBSAP 2002

9. Breakout activity – How your agency aligns with the targets

- Choose your top 5 targets
- Justify why you have chosen that target
- Present to the workshop group

Muri Environment Care Group

- T2 → Restoration on streams nursery
- T4 → Halt species extinction
- T6 → Invasive
- T5 → Sustainable harvesting
- T1/T7 → Plans to reduce pollution

Kumiti Au Vaine

- Insert image of Rima and Ngatupuna and written information

Te Ipukarea Society

- **Strategic Areas:** 4 Key Themes
- **Biodiversity, Waste Management, Youth, Eco sustainable Development**
- T6 → Rat Eradication Projects
- T8 → **Nature Based Solutions** → Sand bags: providing an alternative solution rather than rock walls
- T21 → Educating community groups and sharing knowledge
- T7 → Reduction on pollution, waste management (big awareness raising area for the society), composting (key area that we can do more of)
- T3 → Conserving 30% of land, water and sea → TIS are part of the TAG team

10. Overall Target Results

Target		Target		Target		Target	
T1	1	T6	2	T12	1	T18	
T2	1	T7	2	T13	1	T19	
T3	1	T8	2	T14		T20	
T4	1	T9		T15		T21	1
T5	1	T10		T16	1	T22	1
		T11		T17			

11. Menti Survey

- Is biodiversity linked to your agency mandate?
 - Yes, strongly aligned = 7
 - Medium = 2
 - Low = 0
 - No alignment = 0
- What does 'biodiversity' mean to you?
 - LIFE, VARIETY, NATURE, Mei te maunga ki te moana, Plants and animals, family in the environment, health nature, adaptation, tangata, ecosystems, flora, food, greenery, thriving, fauna, habitat, plants, interconnectivity, te riot enua e te moana
- Is biodiversity captured in your agency plans or policies? Please name the plans/policies below.
 - Citizen science turtle monitoring, nep 2022-2032, reinvigorate raii, nes-tis mou project enua, NES -korero o te orau mou, government constitution, strategic plan 2020-2030
- What key biodiversity priority areas should be highlighted in the NBSAP? E.g. PA, health, urban planning, gender etc;
 - PROTECTED AREAS, RESTORATION PROTECTED SPECIES, urban development, cloud forest protection, enforcement regulations protection of areas pa enua, pesticides, raii, health, research and data, invasive, infrastructure, health and wellbeing, more nature reservations
- What expertise do you have to contribute to the NBSAP Working Group to create targets and monitoring indicators?
 - Species and ecosystem knowledge and ecological monitoring methods
 - Monitoring data, seabird population surveys, invasive species control eradication
 - Traditional knowledge, experience, passionate Kukie.
 - Vegetation survey, team building
 - Legal analysis Landowner of major clans (Aronga Mana) Conservation of nature oriented
 - Community engagement
- Please indicate your interest and availability to join the NBSAP Working Group
 - Interested = 3
 - Not sure – will need to check with the boss = 2
 - No thanks = 0

12. Other Matters

- **NBSAP Working Group** → What expertise do you have to contribute to the NBSAP Working Group to create targets and monitoring indicators
- Representatives were need for all specialist areas to ensure the correct information and targets are identified
- ES may call a meeting if they decide to have an area for terrestrial/marine/water → if this is your area of expertise.
- Establish a working group, get the working group established and move forward from there.
- Working Group to take place once a month or when required

13. Questions:

- **Hayley** – Liz → GBF I think Kas has emailed a link and that is a longer version. At the national level we decide how we come up with land degradation and ecosystem services. We come up with our own.
- **Jessie** → There are headline indicators as part of the GBF as we try to align best to our original indicators. But it is up to us to measure.

14. Closing of the Workshop – Elizabeth Munro

- On behalf of Halatua thank you for attending the NBSAP meeting
- Closing prayer – Ngatupuna Kae

Summary of the NBSAP Workshop How will we review and update the NBSAP – next 10 – 15 years the actions that we highlight will still stand.

15. Closing Prayer – Ngatupuna Kae

Lunch Break