



COOK ISLANDS  
TU'ANGA TAPOROPORO  
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT SERVICE



**THE BIODIVERSITY PLAN**  
For Life on Earth



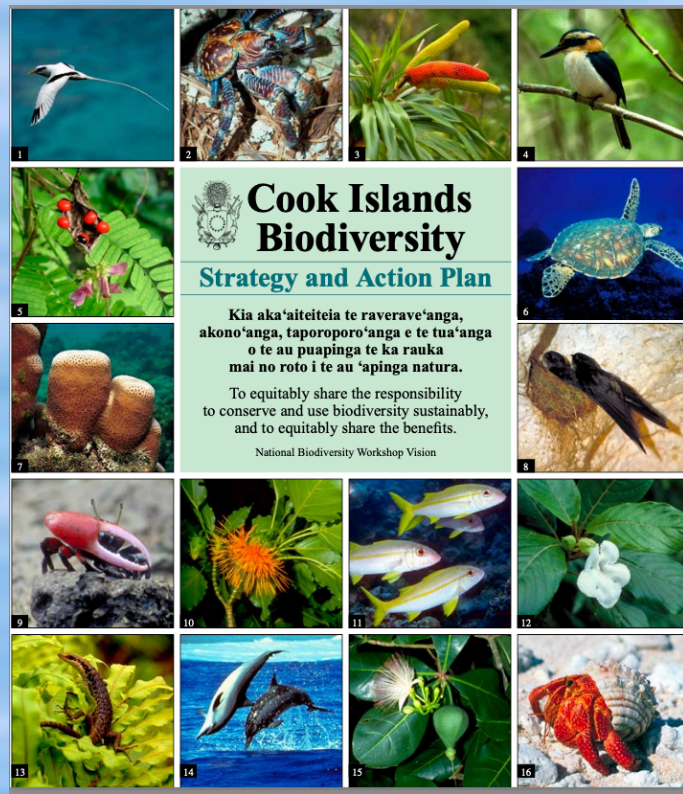
**ELIZABETH MUNRO**  
Manager Environmental  
Stewardship  
NES

# COOK ISLANDS NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN WORKSHOP

**CROWN BEACH RESORT  
RAROTONGA  
7 & 8 AUG 2024**

**eTango Maori**   
**te Ao Ora Natuira**  
*Our Biodiversity, Our Foundation*





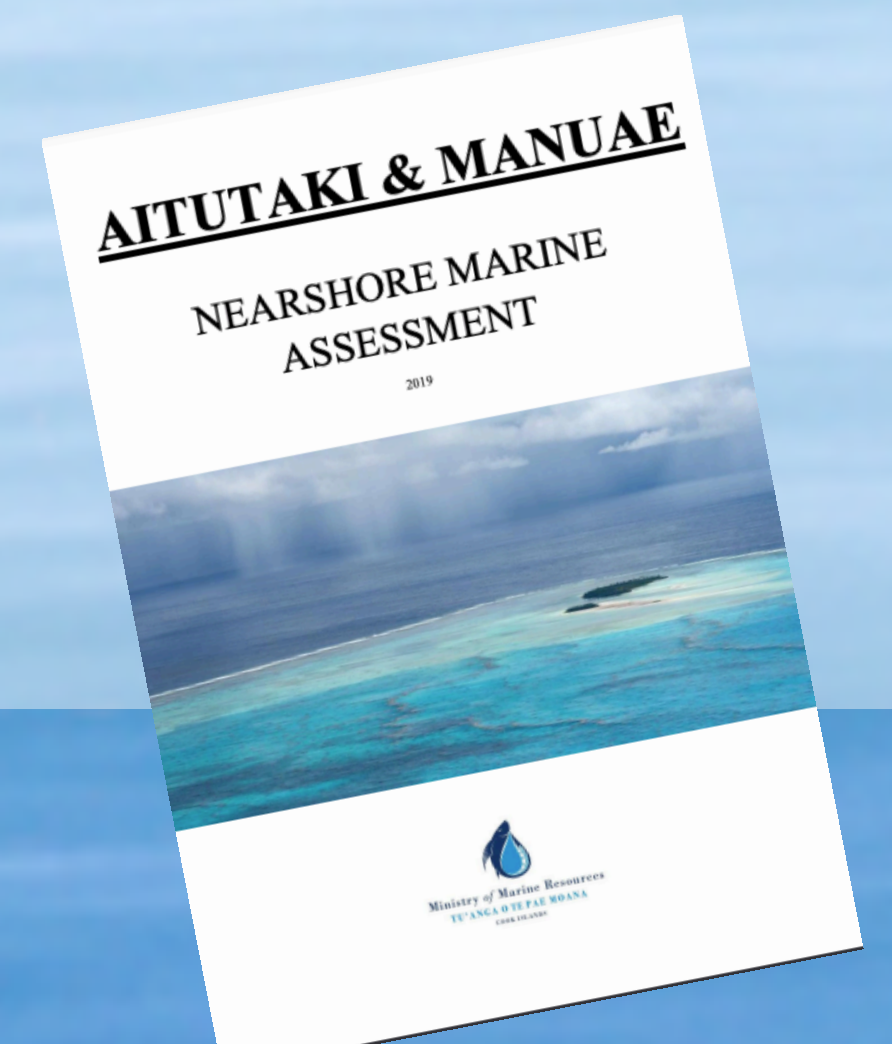
# National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2002

Themes	Endangered species management	Invasive species management	Ecosystem management	Equitable sharing of benefits & access to biodiversity	Management of knowledge related to biodiversity	Biodiversity awareness & education	Mainstreaming of biodiversity	Financial resources & mechanisms for biodiversity
<b>Strategic goals</b>	<p>Conserve native &amp; important naturalised plants &amp; animals, and provide for their sustainable use.</p> <p>Conserve important agricultural &amp; non-naturalised species &amp; provide for their sustainable use (agro-biodiversity)</p>	<p>Reduce adverse impact of invasive species on indigenous species &amp; ecosystems, &amp; prevent new invasions</p> <p>Reduce adverse impacts of invasive species on agricultural species &amp; ecosystems, &amp; prevent new invasions</p>	Conserve important ecosystems through system of protected areas with regulated & monitored activities	Ensure uses of biodiversity, including genetic resources, bring equitable benefits to stakeholders	Record & maintain records of scientific and traditional knowledge related to biodiversity, with consideration of Intellectual Property Rights	Make biodiversity information more readily available to all stakeholders and interested people	Integrate biodiversity into national & sectoral legislation, policies, plans & programmes	Secure long-term financial sustainability for all biodiversity related activities & programmes
<b>Actions</b>	7 actions	4 actions	3 actions.	1 action	2 actions	2 actions	1 action	1 action



# Endangered Species Management

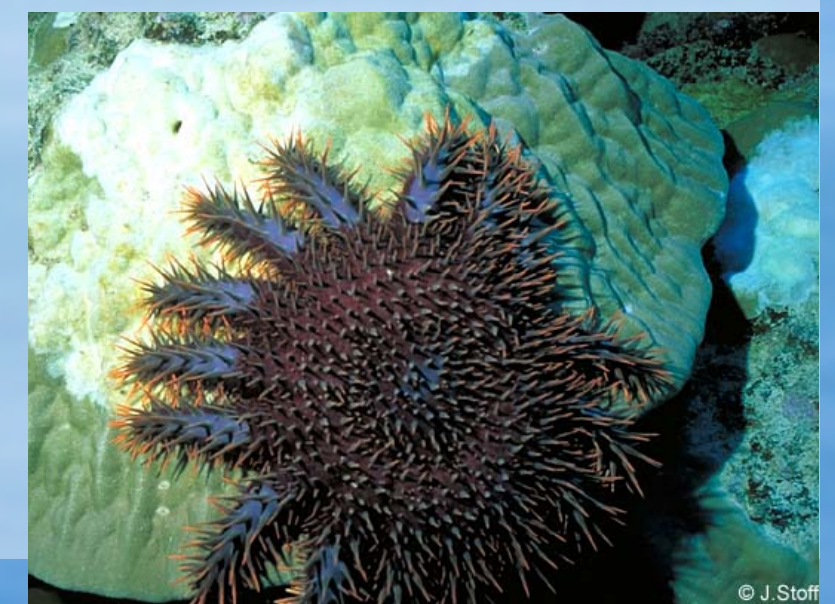
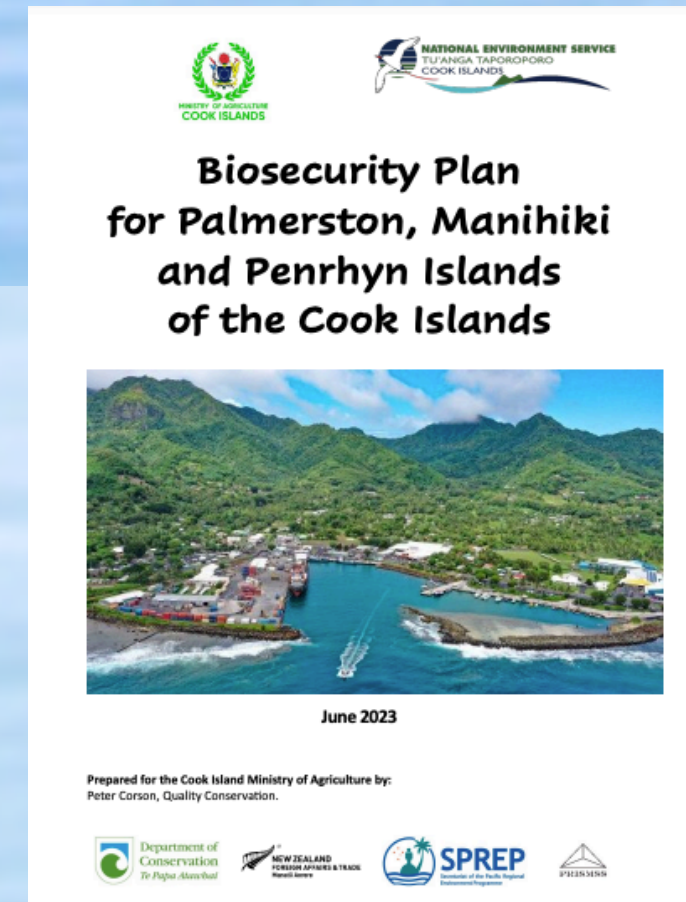
- Mitiaro & Rarotonga endemic species assessment - daisy, iniao, ai, cyrtandra etc
- Pandanus (arapepe) assessment on the islands of Atiu and Mauke
- Bird assessments and translocation (kakerori, Kura, Kopeka, Tanga'eo, Suwarrow, Palmerston)
- Cook Islands taro variety in ex-situ conservation - SPC
- On-going initiative to maintain variety of banana, taro, yam for food security
- Vegetation and marine species assessment for Manuae island
- Crop banks in the PE established to conserve traditional food crops and medicinal plants
- Replanting of native plants in the PE
- Survey on historical & significant trees & places
- Insect assessments (fruit fly, snails, beetles)
- Coconut crab assessments
- Marine species assessments (ceataceans, turtles, corals etc)
- Database on key species for trade (CITES listed spp)





# Invasive Species Management

- National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan
- Invasive spp. eradication and control programs (NES, MOA, Health)
  - Rarotonga – Oriental ffly, Brown widow spider control, cuscutta
  - Mauke – red passionfruit. Te Rito, acacia
  - Mangaia - Mimosa
  - Mitiaro – mimosa, sandflies
  - Aitutaki – monitoring of rattus rattus, Oriental Fruit fly, sandflies
  - Atiu – mynah bird eradication, rat monitoring
  - Suvarrow – Rat eradication
  - Pukapuka – beach burr control
  - Priority invasive species listing for control under War-on-Weeds program
  - Rarotonga & PE - Taramea removal program
- Biocontrol programs
  - Biocontrol agents released to control invasive species
  - Weed biocontrol priority listing
- Bio-Safety Framework (GMO/LMO)
- Invasive spp recognised under Island Environment regulations (Atiu & Mitiaro)
- Invasive spp. in Island plans eg Atiu island plan





# Ecosystem Management

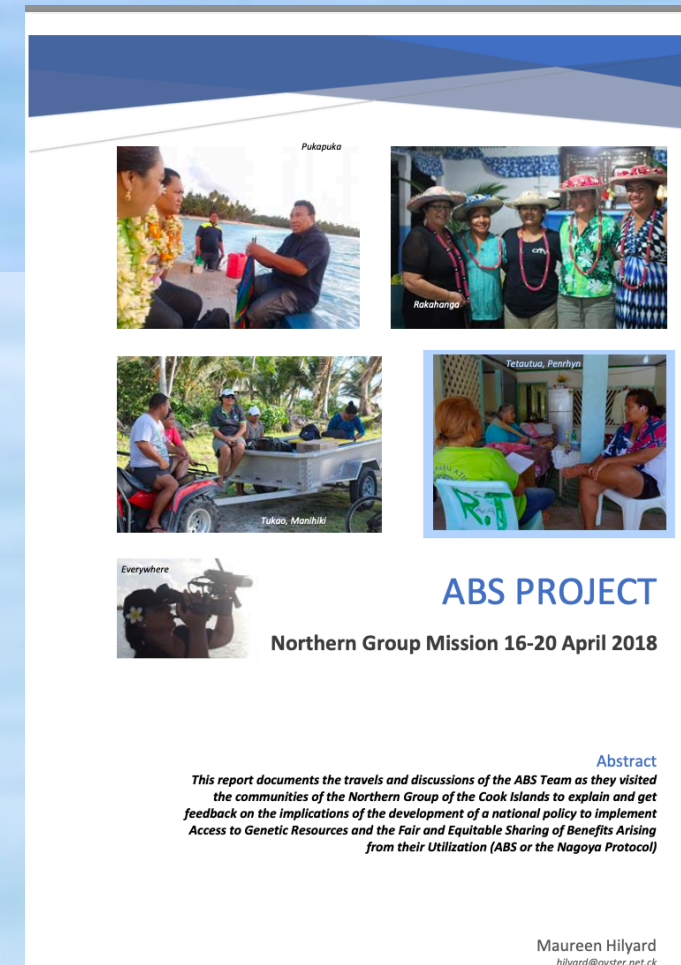
- Marae Moana
- Marae Moana Outlook report
- Suwarrow National Park
  - Management rules
  - Draft management plan
  - Draft Environment regulation
- Protected Areas Policy and Protected Classification System
- Priority Sites for Conservation in the CIs - KBA & IBA
- Marine Bio-region of the Cook Islands
- Takitumu Conservation Area management plan (OECM)
- Takuvaine Water Catchment Regulations & management plan
- Pouara Raii management plan - draft
- Island Environment Regulations and by-laws enforced for Mitiaro, Atiu - Takutea
  
- Wetlands
  - Surveys (Rarotonga & Aitutaki)
  - NES EIA process
- Ra'ui sites established - Rarotonga & PE





# Equitable Sharing of Benefits and Access to Biodiversity

- Biological Research and Benefits Bill - draft
- Cook Islands Access and Benefit Sharing Policy
- Community consultation on ABS and vairaku Maori
- Aitutaki Vairakau maori protocol
- Partnership with CIMTEC on access to genetic resources
- Te Vaka Tunga - Te Rito o te Vairakau Maori group
- 



## Management of knowledge related to Biodiversity

- Cook Islands Biodiversity Database
- Kopapa Ao Ora Natura - KAON
- National Research committee - OPM
- Atiu Arapo published





# Biodiversity Awareness and Education

- Biodiversity day celebration
- Environment week programs
- Lagoon Day
- Promote Biodiversity thematic areas in schools and into curriculum,
  - Careers Day
  - School presentations
  - Science expo
  - School biodiversity competition eg BioD art, speeches, etc
- Biodiversity stories and articles,
- Series of posters and pamphlets, Did you know etc
- Community programmes and promotions - spp eradication, protected area, ABS, etc

**Katiri Kikino**  
tuitarare i te Kuki Airani

**E na teia apinga e Katiri Kikino?**  
Ko te katiri kikino, e au tuma rakau, illa totoro me kore e au manamamu, te ka riro ana i te tikitikino me kore uamanamanati, i te tupa'anga o te katiri rakau tupuna me kore manu tupuna. Ko teia au katiri kikino, e tae kiteakore 'ia mai ana ki roto i te tatou basileia. Ka tupa viviki ratou e ka viviki katoa ratou i te totou, tamenamanata ana i te turanga o te Avurangi.

**E na tatou ka matakiti ei i te Katiri Kikino?**  
Te katiri kikino ka tamenamanati atu ana i te turanga o te avurangi, pera ilahi te ngai noo'anga, te tupa'anga, e te piri'anga o te au apinga ora mei tetai ki tetai. Ka riro katoa te katiri kikino i te uamanamanati e te takore takiri atu i te au katiri rakau e te manu tupuna e tupa nei i roto i te totou enua.

**A kapeea ratou i te totou'anga?**  
Te maala'anga o te taima na tatou na te tangata e totou ana i te katiri kikino na roto i te apai'anga mai i tetai no tetai akaloro'anga me kore kua uru mai i tetai au apinga ia tatou i apai mai ki roto i te basileia. I tetai taima e tae kiteakoreia mai ana te katiri kikino na roto i te mareva, na runga i te manu reweva e tetai i tetai apinga.

**Tetai au ravenga rikiriki no te paruru'anga i to tatou Ao Ora Natura:**  
Ka anoano'ia tatou, ka akakite atu i te au ni rairi e te au rakau pera te manu, ia tatou ka apai mai ki roto nei i te basileia kua pupu ia tatou e kore te reira e riro mai, ei uamanamanati i to tatou ao ora natura.  
• Me oki mai koe ki te ipukareva, ka anoanoia koe kua tama meitaki i te vari e te one mei runga mai i toou tamaka.  
• Me ka kua atu koe i tetai apinga angaanga, mei te pakoki, pera, me kore e motoka e te toroka, kua tama meitaki ia te one, repo e te tita mei runga mai i te reira.  
• Te paiti ana nei matou i ta kolou tauturu, kua angaanga, kapii tatou, i te paruru'anga i to tatou ao ora natura kua kore teia au katiri kikino e totou ana i roto i to tatou ipukareva e kua vai paraitau i to tatou basileia.

**Biodiversity Conservation Awareness**  
Report on Teachers Professional Development Training 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2015, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

**Ei! Kua kitea ainei koe...**  
The Giant African Snail is one of the world's most serious pests, One intercepted at the Rarotonga Airport in 1992 and seven more were intercepted in 2005

**Our Islands, Our Biodiversity, Our Future**  
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT SERVICE  
TUANGA TAPOROPORO  
COOK ISLANDS

**International Day for Biological Diversity**  
Monday 22 May 2006

**What is biodiversity?**  
Biological diversity - or biodiversity - is the vast range of life on Earth and the interactions between the living and non-living components of the biosphere. It is the variety of life forms, the genetic diversity within those forms, and the ecosystems that they inhabit. It is the variety of life forms, the genetic diversity within those forms, and the ecosystems that they inhabit.

**Protecting biodiversity on our islands**  
The threat of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) to our native biodiversity is a global concern. IAS are species that are introduced to an area from elsewhere, and which cause harm to the environment, the economy, or human health. Invasive alien species are a major threat to biodiversity on our islands.

**Importance of maintaining our marine resources**  
Our marine resources are a vital part of our natural heritage and provide a source of food, income, and employment. It is essential that we take steps to protect and manage these resources sustainably.

**Our marine turtles**  
Marine turtles are a vulnerable species and are facing a significant decline in their numbers. They are important for the health of our marine ecosystems and are a source of food and income for many people.

**Regenerating paua stocks**  
Paua stocks are a valuable resource and are essential for the sustainability of the paua industry. It is important that we take steps to regenerate paua stocks and ensure the long-term viability of the industry.

**Specialist experts for the Cook Islands Biodiversity Database**  
The Cook Islands Biodiversity Database is a comprehensive record of the biodiversity of the Cook Islands. It is essential that we have specialist experts to help us build and maintain this database.

**INVITATION**  
You are Cordially Invited  
To the Launching of the  
**Cook Islands National Biodiversity Report to CBD**  
and the  
**National Environment Wetlands Campaign**  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2011, 9:00am  
at The Pukapuka Hostel, Avarua

Programme: The programme is attached.  
Registration: Please RSVP to [resources@environment.gov.fk](mailto:resources@environment.gov.fk), or Apili or Rouru on Phone 21256.

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT SERVICE**  
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COOK ISLANDS



**Our Islands, Our Biodiversity, Our Future**

**To All Travelling Passengers to the Outer Islands**  
**STOP THE SPREAD OF THE ORIENTAL FRUIT FLY.**

Do not take any fruits and vegetables  
**DISPOSE HERE**



# Mainstreaming of Biodiversity

- National Environment Policy - 2022 - 2032
- National Sustainable Development Agenda
- Island Plans
- National Environment Strategy and Action Plan - 2005 - 2010
- National Sustainable Development Plans - Kaveinga Nui



## Financial Resources and Mechanisms for Biodiversity

- Pakau Aroa Act - its amendment resulted in funds for conservation to be mainstreamed into national funding pool





# Challenges/Issues

- Limited capacity to develop management plans for species and ecosystems
- Value of biodiversity
- National funds for Biodiversity protection
- Dependent on international funding for biodiversity
- Gaps in NBSAP - CC, pollution etc
- Baseline information available for flagship species only
- Invasive plants vs Vairakau
- Land ownership system
- Awareness does not reach PE



# Why is NBSAP important?

- Implementing instrument of CBD
- Tool for reporting to CBD on the countries progress on BD
- Guide the Cook Islands to address biodiversity
- Provides positive benefits for biodiversity protection
- Creates partnerships between agencies
- Avoids duplication of work
- A tool to access international funding
- Alignment to national plans and priorities



# *Burning Questions*

- How do we protect our endemic and native species from development?
- What biodiversity impacts do we foresee in the future, how would be address it?
- How do we engage the whole of society and whole of government once NBSAP is developed
- How do we find the balance between invasive plant and vairakau?
- How do we make biodiversity sexy, for us today and future generations to take action for its protection?
- On what basis should resources or areas be selected for management or protection. Should it be for, food security?, tourism?, based on scientific findings?, economic benefit?, our livelihood? part of our custom?



# Meitaki Ngao

