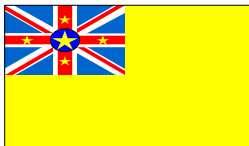


FOURTH NATIONAL REPORT TO THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

NIUE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The fourth national report to the CBD will provide an opportunity to assess progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Targets at national level, drawing on analysis of current status and trends in biodiversity and actions taken to implement the Convention at the national level.

Guidelines for the production of the report were provided by the CBD Secretariat based on experiences from previous national reporting processes. In particular, Parties are encouraged to present reports primarily in a narrative way as it was seen from previous national reports, particularly for the second and third reports, that multiple-choice questionnaire has proven less helpful than expected for review and decision-making processes to Parties rather than providing a more complete picture of national implementation.

In preparation of this fourth national report, focus is on the following:

- (a) status and trends of, and threats to, biodiversity;
- (b) current status of implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (c) progress towards the 2010 biodiversity targets and the goals and objectives of the strategic Plan;
- (d) sectoral and cross-setoral integration or mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations.

In elaboration on national actions to implement the Convention, Parties are also encouraged to focus on:

- (e) outcomes and impacts of actions or measures taken to implement the Convention;
- (f) success stories and case studies;
- (g) major obstacles encountered in implementation

The information contained in national reports will be used primarily for:

- (a) Review of national implementation and assessing its effectiveness;
- (b) Review of implementation of the provisions of the convention, programmes of work and cross-cutting issues under the Convention;
- (c) Facilitating decision making processes under the Convention;
- (d) Defining the priorities for the Conference of the Parties after 2010;
- (e) Review of priority agenda items at the tenth and eleventh meetings of the Conference of the Parties;
- (f) Review of progress towards the 2010 target;
- (g) Supplementing global information in the Global Biodiversity Outlook;
- (h) Exchange and dissemination of success stories;
- (i) Communicating to various stakeholders at various levels information on implementation of the Convention.

INTRODUCTION

Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity are required by Article 26 of the Convention, to present national reports to the Conference of the Parties on the measures which they have taken for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention and their effectiveness in meeting the objectives of the Convention.

Since Niue's ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1996, it has shown its commitment to sustain and effectively manage its environment by meeting obligations of the Convention. Furthermore, the ratification of the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Framework Convention on Climate Change should also be indicative of its consolidated efforts and commitment in sustainably managing its environment but also in achieving the 2010 goals and targets; although the 2010 goals were introduced after Niue have developed its NBSAP.

Niue has strived to achieve its goals as stipulated in its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). Sectoral policies have been seen as an instrument to implement national biodiversity goals. Mainstreaming of biodiversity goals into sectors have been seen as effective method in achieving national goals, as the main focus for Niue is to reduce adverse effects of development on the environment, and promote sustainable management of its resources.

The flexibility in setting national targets to achieve global goals is seen as appropriate for Niue. Nationally, it is not necessary to set targets that will correspond to each and every target in the 2010 framework. Niue's unique circumstance include its isolation, limited range of species, restricted range of habitats, susceptibility to natural hazards such as cyclones and its declining population. Niue has assessed its national conditions and has considered what is appropriate and achieve-able.

1. OVERVIEW OF BIODIVERSITY STATUS, TRENDS AND THREATS

1. Is your country monitoring the status and trends of various components of biodiversity at genetic, species and ecosystem levels in your country?	
a) No	
b) Yes, a few components being monitored at one of the levels (please specify)	
c) Yes, a few components being monitored at all levels (please specify)	√
d) Yes, most of the components being monitored at one of the levels (please specify)	
e) Yes, most of the components being monitored at all levels (please specify)	
Please provide further details below.	
Avifauna regularly monitoring programme; Inshore fisheries species monitoring programme; Forest inventory of tree species;	
2. Has your country assessed and identified major threats to various components of biodiversity in your country?	
a) No	
b) Yes, a few major threats identified (please specify)	
c) Yes, most of the major threats identified (please identify)	√
Please provide further details below.	
Unregulated hunting of targeted species e.g. pigeon, fruit bats; over-harvesting of coconut crabs;	

This section will provide a brief overview of biodiversity in Niue using the ecosystems approach. Information for each ecosystem will include the following:

- current state of the ecosystem
- the importance of the ecosystem to the local and/or indigenous communities
- positive or negative trends or changes in the ecosystem that affect or could affect its capacity to support livelihoods or to provide goods and services.

Agricultural ecosystem:

Agriculture sector is seen as very important for the development of Niue. As the sector is one of the primary or traditional sectors in any developing country, it is not surprising that Niue adopt this sector as one of the key development sectors.

Recently, emphasis has been placed on organic farming practices for both vanilla and nonu (*Morinda citrifolia*) farming in order to capture the high value market. The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) and the Niue Organic

Farming Association (NIOFA) have been promoting this aspect and hence, it has become a widely accepted practice by farmers. Niue has commenced exporting these products to international markets and promoted them as organically grown. The interests and the demand have been significant however there are problems with consistently supplying the volume required by overseas markets.

An organic farming policy currently being drafted will enable Niue to provide a framework to regulate organic related activities at farm level.

Regardless of organic farming practices being promoted, there is still a high usage of herbicides and synthetic fertilizers for farming of Niue's traditional and staple food crop, taro. Over the last 20 years, traditional methods of farming taro have changed dramatically and this has made a huge impact on every Niuean family in terms of simplicity and convenience. For example, the traditional slash and burn method has been replaced by the usage of a bulldozer to clear land for plantations. Furthermore, herbicides are used to manage weed growth and fertilizers to boost taro growth to mature faster; hence the ongoing usage of these is inevitable.

Concern on the impact of land clearing through the use of bulldozers on Niue's biodiversity and the potential adverse effects on the water lenses through the continuous usage of synthetic fertilizers and weed killers, have been noted. With the ratification of the UNCCD in 1998, Niue is currently implementing a project on Sustainable Land Management (SLM). This project hopes to demonstrate sustainable and integrated land-use system e.g. Agro-forestation and mixed farming activities. Organic farming practices is also expected to be tested at the SLM farm.

NIOFA is at the forefront advocating and lobbying for the ban of importation of herbicides and fertilizers, and to provide alternatives that are environmentally friendly. The adoption of organic standards has been used to certify vanilla and nonu plantations following International Federation of Agriculture Movement (IFOAM) sanctioned standards. One of NIOFA's main aims in association with the Government is to work towards declaring Niue as the first organically certified nation by 2010.

Niue's small population however, has made current farming practices sustainable to a certain extent. If taro is to be continued to be exported to New Zealand markets mainly, stringent measures must be in place to monitor and encourage sustainable farming practices.

Forest ecosystem:

A land cover map for Niue is currently being updated by Landcare NZ. This will determine whether there have been any changes to the forest cover since 1994, and it will also be an indicative measure to the sizes of both secondary and primary forest.

The forest is the critical habitat for three prized food species; fruit bats, wood pigeons and coconut crabs. The forest also yields edible ferns, medicinal plants and minor wood products.

The environmental values of the Niuean forest include the island's biodiversity, which is otherwise undermined by agriculture's focus on very few crops. The environmental

values of the forest also have economic value: the natural environment of Niue is its principal tourist attraction.

Substantially all forest in Niue is privately owned, held by kinship groups (magafaoa) in a form of inalienable tenure; with an exception of land areas that have been closed by customary law processes (tapu), usually to protect bat and pigeon habitats, the land may be used as the magafaoa sees fit. In particular, it may be freely cleared and logged. It may also be leased.

A Forest Law is currently being drafted to enable sustainable management of Niue's forest; both primary and secondary. Currently the forest is underexploited and the main task of management at this stage is to prevent needless destruction of mature trees in the course of land clearance. The Land tenure system is being addressed herein, as this is a critical issue.

In future, Government wishes to promote sustainable logging (selective logging) for local, forest-based industry. This can lead to a large scale harvesting which will need to be limited so that it does not exceed the regenerative capacity of the forest. The enforcement of the present Code of Logging will ensure sustainable harvest of the indigenous forest.

Two existing protected areas, the Huvalu Conservation Area and the Hakupu Heritage and Cultural Site, (the latter being family owned and operated), with initiatives to strengthen the capacity of the community to manage the local conservation area; the focus being on sustainable use of the resources of these areas.

The project for the prevention, control and management of Invasive Alien Species in the Pacific islands will be implemented by the end of this year. This will complement the Forestry and Protected Area Management project currently being implemented in Niue. Both of these projects are under the umbrella of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Pacific Alliance for Sustainability.

The GEF Small Grants Program (SGP) was launched in 2005, in which the production of Niue's Strategy document to guide its assistance to NGOs and CBOs. About 75% of the SGP resources to date address the Biodiversity focal areas.

The proposed GEF Forestry and Protected Area Management project will address sustainable management of Niue's forest resources. Particular emphasis will be on the review of policy and institutional arrangements, establishment of new protected areas and capacity building in biodiversity assessment and monitoring.

Marine and Coastal ecosystem:

Niue's coastline descends precipitously to over 1000 m within 5km of the shore. There is a narrow fringing reef round most of the island with a thin layer of corals, and richer coral growth its edge. The total area of reef flat and sub-tidal reef has been estimated at 620 ha. Niue has an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 390,000 km².

Niue does not have an abundance of fish stock resources. However, this did not prevent former Government from wanting to pursue the potential revenue from a

fishing industry. Formerly, Niue has dependent on bilateral fishing fees from foreign boats operating in its EEZ, however, with the establishment of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, Niue have closed its waters to foreign fishing activities under the bilateral fishing access arrangement (with the exception of the US Treaty fishing vessels) and encouraging the participants to base operations in the island. Basically, this is a strategic move in order to build up a catch history to be used when allocation or catch quotas are negotiated at the Commission level.

The opening of the fishing processing factory, (a joint venture between the Government and Reef Group), further validated this provision. However this factory is now defunct as it is seen as un-operable and not sustainable.

The Sustainable Coastal Development Policy was adopted in 2008. It is a framework to guide sustainable management and development of Niue's coast. Lessons learnt from previous disasters left Niue with huge economic, social and environmental costs; justifying the need for a policy to guide development and in turn safe-guard the people and their livelihood from disastrous events. This policy supports the achievement of national development goals directed by the National Integrated Strategic Plan (NISP) 2009 – 2012, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Coastal Management Plan, Waste Management Plan, National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP), National Climate Change Adaptation Programme, Private Sector Development Strategic Plan 2007-2010, Heta Recovery Plan 2005, and the Taoga Niue Strategic Action Plan.

This policy explicitly addresses the coastal area as a system that has natural and human aspects and components that are inter-related and inter-dependent. The diversity and productivity of coastal ecosystems is interwoven with the safety and growth of livelihoods and development for the people of Niue.

The International Waters Program (IWP) was introduced in 2003 to Niue. This is a GEF funded programme with two main elements: *oceanic* – which is concerned with management and conservation of tuna stocks in the western central Pacific and *coastal* – focused on integrated coastal watershed management. The oceanic element is covered by work with the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the South Pacific Commission (SPC). Niue opted to focus on the coastal aspect of the programme. It aims to encourage action at the community level to address priority issues relating to marine and freshwater quality, habitat and community modification and degradation, and the unsustainable use of marine resources.

An additional marine protected area was established as an initiative of the International Waters Programme (IWP) on the western side of the island. Further sites were identified as potential marine protected areas, but have yet to be implemented. To date, no baseline data has been collated for the existing protected areas to gauge effective conservation measures for future monitoring purposes.

Underground water system:

Maintaining a sufficient, high quality water supply is always a key concern for Niue. It is a fundamental resource for human survival and economic development.

Niue has practiced a sectoral approach to water resource management which still prevails today. This leads to fragmented and uncoordinated development and management of resources. Having recognised the deficiencies, Niue needs to accept to adopt an integrated approach to managing water as a finite natural resource.

Currently the International Waters Resource Management (IWRM) approach encapsulates the process of change that will bring about positive impacts, effective long lasting solutions with political support and the user participation culminating in sustainable natural resources for future generations.

IWRM is seen as a new paradigm which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximise the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems including the needs of future generations.

Niue stands to gain enormously from the assistance of regional institutions through the implementation of the IWRM project. It is anticipated that gains will be seen in the efficient delivery of services and management of environment given the scarcity of financial and human resources.

The promulgation of a National Water Vision focusing on sustainable integrated water resource management and wastewater management provides Niue with a strategic direction it would take in implementing the IWRM.

Water resource management poses serious sustainable development challenge for Niue. The water resources and supply comes from underground source and rain catchments. The rainfall infiltrates the porous coral until it reaches the saline water that lies under the island where its lowest density allows it to form a pool over the salt water. This lens provides the freshwater used for human consumption, agriculture and industry. The aquifer strata are porous and vulnerable to contamination from activities carried out on the surface, and any large scale contamination of the freshwater lens will pose a risk to the population. However, to date, there has been no outbreak of diseases attributed to untreated water.

Water resources management is part of an overall strategic objective of the Government on environment which allows for “sustainable management of Niue’s natural resources for future generations”. The Water Resources Act 1996 sets out the policy guidelines for extraction, supply and use of water with the aim to provide a quality potable water supply to all residents. This particular legislation is currently under review to ensure a integrated approach to managing Niue’s underground water resource. The Department of Environment, Public Works and Health will take a holistic approach in managing the water resource on the island and to ensure sustainable use.

The Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project (PACC) main objective is to enhance the capacity of Niue to adapt to climate change, including variability in coastal development. This project is part of a suite of national projects currently being developed and to be implemented using a regional approach. Climate risks are recognised as a serious impediment towards poverty reduction targets under national Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The proposed outcomes and outputs of this

project will contribute toward Niue’s National Strategic Action Plan (NISP) 2009-2014. The development of the Coastal Management Development Policy also highlighted the importance of this project.

The anticipated risks of climate change on priority development areas will be given due consideration through national level policy interventions. Specific measures to reduce vulnerabilities of key investments to climate change will be financed and implemented in the form of pilot demonstration activities. These demonstration projects will provide guidance to future follow-up interventions, which will be required at a large scale, both in terms of the amount invested and scope of interventions.

The following tables give a summary of species of Niue and the identified “threatened” and “endangered” species from local records. The summation will give an indication as to the level of ongoing recovery programs identified.

SPECIES INFORMATION – STATUS, TRENDS AND THREATS

Table1. Species Count

Species - general	Total number (current)	Number that are endemic	Number that are introduced	Number of endemic species considered threatened
Birds	31	2		
Terrestrial Mammals	2		2	
Reptiles	5			
Invertebrates	376			
Insect pests	4			
Land crabs	8			
Marine mammals	2			
Reptiles	2			
Fish	240			
Invertebrates	25			
Plants	175		35	56

Table2. Threatened species

Scientific name – genus, species	Common name	Migratory species?	Level of threat	Date effective
<i>Ducula pacifica</i>	Pacific pigeon	Yes	Threatened	2004
	Fruit bat	Yes	Endangered	2004
<i>Vini australis</i>	Blue crowned lorry (hega)		Endangered	2001
<i>Porzana tabuensis</i>	Spotless crake (moho)		Endangered	2001

2. STATUS OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY and ACTION PLAN (NBSAP)

3. Has your country developed a national biodiversity strategy?	
a) No	
b) A strategy is being developed	
c) Yes, completed	
d) Yes, completed and adopted	√
Please provide further details below.	
4. If the answer to the above question is No, what biodiversity programmes have been developed to implement the Convention?	
5. Has your country developed a plan of action for biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) An action plan is being developed	√
c) Yes, completed	
d) Yes, completed and adopted	
Please provide further details below.	
6. If the answer to the above question is No, what plan or programme has your country developed and adopted to implement your national strategy or other relevant programmes?	
7. Has your country updated its national biodiversity strategy and/or action plan in light of developments under the Convention and at the national level?	
a) No	
b) NBSAP is being updated	√
c) Yes, updated (please provide details of updates to NBSAP)	
Please provide further details below.	
8. Has your country identified priority actions for its national biodiversity strategy and/or action plan?	
a) No	
b) Priority actions are being identified	√
c) Some priority actions have been identified (please provide details below)	
Please provide further details below.	
9. Has your country established adequate capacity for implementation of priority actions in its national biodiversity strategy and action plan?	
a) No	

b) Relevant plans and programmes under development	
c) Yes, capacities established for some priority actions	√
d) Yes, capacities established for most priority actions	
Please provide further details below.	
The National Capacity for Self-assessment (NCSA) document for Niue is completed.	
10. Is your country actively implementing the priorities in national biodiversity strategies and action plans as a means to achieve national implementation of the Convention?	
a) No	
b) Priority actions are being identified	
c) Yes some priority actions being implemented	√
d) Yes, most priority actions being implemented	
Please provide further details below.	
11. Has your country assessed the obstacles to implementation of its national biodiversity strategy and/or action plan?	
a) No	
b) Assessment is under way	
c) Yes	√
Please provide further details below.	
NCSA document completed.	
12. Are your national biodiversity strategies and actions plans (including updated NBSAPs) or other programmes and plans developed or adopted for the implementation of the Convention available on the Internet?	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant documents have been submitted to the Secretariat	√
c) Yes, (please provide details below)	
Please provide website address below.	

Niue submitted its NBSAP to the CBD in 2001. It defined national goals and targets to be achieved and an action plan for their implementation.

It contains a vision, six goals and actions grouped under seven themes. The vision is to turn Niue into an environmentally friendly nation that supports the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity to support all the living community. Six goals include: integrating biodiversity into government development policies and plans; improving local community understanding about biodiversity and mobilizing

their participation in biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing; improving capacities for sustainable management of natural resources; developing financial mechanisms at various levels for conservation and sustainable management; and strengthening environmental education and awareness and improving information sharing.

Seven themes cover terrestrial habitats, terrestrial species, marine biodiversity, governance, waste management and water resources, alien invasive species and public awareness and education.

Priority actions identified include: protection of traditional knowledge; in-situ and ex-situ conservation; protection of threatened species and establishing a database of biodiversity.

The Environment Act enacted in 2003 was one major outcome of the NBSAP. Currently, several Acts and Regulations are being developed that specifically deals with issues identified in the NBSAP; these are explained in detail Section 4 of this report.

A review of the NBSAP Action Plan was carried out in 2008 to identify progress to date. Niue's NBSAP was developed before the 2010 targets were introduced, hence it was recognised that the inclusion of these should be in conjunction with the revision. The revision is an opportunity to re-organise the goals, targets and activities in a hierarchical manner, and to include new activities that may require reaching the targets.

As identified in the NBSAP, a supplementary copy is to be developed which will identify the following:

- New information obtained such as changes in the status of species from new surveys and the arrival of new invasive species
- New programs established such as new regional programmes through UNDP< SPREP and other regional agencies
- New legislation, policies or plans in place
- Any changes in the structure of implementing agencies
- New issues that have arisen such as new threats to biodiversity conservation
- New actions required
- Summary of actions from the original NBSAP that have been completed and where information related to them can be found.

Niue is to complete this full re-drafting of its NBSAP later in the year.

As identified during the initial review of the NBSAP, about 80% of the activities have been addressed or are being addressed.

3.1 PROGRESS TOWARDS 2010 TARGET AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN.

Global Targets	National target development			Integration of targets			Indicator development	
	No	Same as global target	Yes (text of national target)	No	In NBSAPs	In other programmes	Yes	No
1.1			√		√	√	√	
1.2			√			√	√	
2.1		√				√		√
2.2			√		√	√	√	
3.1		√				√	√	
4.1		√			√	√		
4.2			√			√		√
4.3		√				√		√
5.1			√		√	√	√	
6.1		√			√		√	
6.2			√			√	√	
7.1			√			√		√
7.2		√			√	√	√	
8.1			√			√	√	
8.2		√				√	√	
9.1		√			√		√	
9.2		√			√			√
10.1		√			√			√
10.2		√						√
11.1			√		√			
11.2			√			√		√

Goal 1. Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes.

13. Has your country established a system of protected areas of various types to protect areas of particular importance to biodiversity and contribute to the conservation of the world's ecological regions? (Targets 1.1 and 1.2)	
a) No	
b) Relevant plans or programmes are under development	√
c) Yes, a system is in place but not adequate for conservation objectives	
d) Yes, an adequate system is in place	
Please provide further details below.	
Sustainable Management Plan for the Huvalu Conservation Area will be developed for communities concerned.	

Goal 2. Promote the conservation of species diversity

14. Has your country taken measures to restore, maintain or reduce the decline of populations of species of selected taxonomy groups? (Target 2.1)	
a) No	
b) Relevant measures are being developed	
c) Yes, some measures in place	√
d) Yes, comprehensive measures in place	
Please provide further details below	
Regulated shooting season for pigeon and flying fox are in place. A previous shooting ban of 5 years from 1994 has been lifted at the beginning of this year.	
15. Has your country taken measures to improve the status of threatened species? (Target 2.2)	
a) No	
b) Some measures are being developed	
c) Yes, some measures in place	√
d) Yes, comprehensive measures in place	
Please provide further details below.	

Goal 3. Promote the conservation of genetic resources of genetic diversity

16. Has your country taken measures to conserve genetic diversity of crops, livestock, harvested species of trees, fish, wildlife and other valuable species, as well as maintain associated indigenous and local knowledge? (Target 3.1)	
a) No	
b) Relevant measures are being developed	
c) Yes, some measures in place	√
d) Yes, comprehensive measures in place	
Please provide further details below.	
A collection of local taro varieties were collected and documented and was maintained at the local research farm.	

Goal 4. Promote sustainable use and consumption

17. Has your country taken any measures to ensure that biodiversity-related products are derived from sources that are sustainably managed and production areas are managed consistent with the conservation of biodiversity? (Target 4.1)	
a) No	√
b) Relevant measures are being developed	
c) Yes, some measures in place	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures in place	
Please provide further details below.	

But there have been consistency of following sustainable practices.	
18. Has your country taken measures to reduce unsustainable consumption of biological resources? (Target 4.2)	
a) No	
b) Relevant measures under development	√
c) Yes, some measures in place	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures in place	
Please provide further details below.	
Stringent monitoring of the shooting season for the pigeon and flying fox.	
19. Has your country taken measures to avoid or minimize negative impacts of international trade on species of wild flora and fauna? (Target 4.3)	
a) No	√
b) Relevant measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures in place	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures in place	
Please provide further details below.	
Measures used are only awareness programs.	

Goal 5. Pressures from habitat loss, land use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use, reduced.

20. Has your country taken measures to declare the rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats? (Target 5.1)	
a) No	
b) Some measures are being considered	√
c) Yes, some measures in place	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures in place	
Please provide further details below.	
GIS information are being collated and updated to analyse changes.	

Goal 6. Control threats from invasive alien species.

21. Has your country taken measures to control pathways for major potential alien invasive species? (Target 6.1)	
a) No	
b) Relevant measures are being developed	√
c) Yes, some measures in place	√
d) Yes, comprehensive measures in place	
Please provide further details below.	
A draft Bio-security Bill is currently awaiting Government endorsement and enactment.	
22. Has your country put in place management plans for major alien species that	

threaten ecosystems, habitats or species? (Target 6.2)	
a) No	
b) Relevant plans under development	√
c) Yes, relevant plans in place	
d) Yes, reports on implementation of relevant plans available	
Please provide further details	
Some action plans for major weed species were developed for wedelia and lantana.	

Goal 7. Address challenges to biodiversity from climate change, and pollution.

23. Has your country taken measures to maintain and enhance resilience of the components of biodiversity to adapt to climate change? (Target 7.1)	
a) No	
b) Relevant measures are being considered	√
c) Yes, some measures in place	
Please provide further details below.	
The development and appraisal of the Coastal Development Policy.	
24. Has your country taken measures to reduce pollution and its impacts on biodiversity? (Target 7.2)	
a) No	
b) Relevant measures are being developed	
c) Yes, some measures in place	√
d) Yes, comprehensive measures in place	
Please provide further details below.	
Regular awareness programme to educate the public. A National Oil Pollution Regulation was developed.	

Goal 8. Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods.

25. Has your country taken any measures to maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services? (Target 8.1)	
a) No	
b) Some measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken	
d) Yes, major measures taken	√
Please provide further details below.	
Proposed Niue Forest Bill.	
26. Has your country taken measures to maintain biological resources that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care? (Target 8.2)	
a) No	
b) Some measures are being developed	√

c) Yes, some measures in place	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures in place	
Please provide further details below.	
Niue Forest Bill and the Taoga Niue Bill.	

Goal 9. Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities.

27. Has your country taken measures to protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, including the rights of indigenous and local communities over their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices and to benefit sharing? (Targets 9.1 and 9.2)	
a) No	
b) Not applicable	
c) Some measures are being developed	√
d) Yes, some measures in place	
Please provide further details	
Consultations and assessments being currently under taken.	

Goal 10. Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources.

28. Has your country developed any legislation or mechanisms or measures to ensure that all transfers of genetic resources are in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and other applicable agreements? (Target 10.1)	
a) No	
b) Relevant legislations, mechanisms or measures are being considered	√
c) Yes, some legislations, mechanisms or measures in place	
d) Yes, comprehensive legislations, mechanisms or measures in place	
Please provide further details	
29. Has your country developed any mechanisms for sharing benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources with the countries providing such resources? (Target 10.2)	
a) No	√
b) Some mechanisms are being developed	
c) Yes, some mechanisms in place	
Please provide further details below.	

3.2 PROGRESS TOWARDS THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE CONVENTION

Goal 1. The Convention is fulfilling its leadership role in international biodiversity issues.

32. Is your country promoting the integration of biodiversity concerns into sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies at the regional and global levels? (Objective 1.5)	
a) No	
b) Relevant mechanisms are being considered	
c) Yes, in some sectors	
d) Yes, in major sectors	√
Please provide further details below.	
The development of the National Integrated Strategic Plan (NISP); FAO Food Security Program and the IWRM approach to sustainable use of water.	
33. Is your country promoting collaboration at the regional and sub-regional levels to implement the Convention? (Objective 1.6)	
a) No	
b) Relevant mechanisms are being developed	
c) Yes, some mechanisms established	√
d) Yes, reports on such collaboration available	
Please provide further details below.	
Sub-regional project on Forest Management and Invasive species.	

Goal 2. Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical, and technological capacity to implement the Convention.

34. Is your country promoting scientific and technical cooperation to contribute to capacity building? (Objective 2.5)	
a) No	
b) Relevant programmes under development	
c) Yes, in some areas	√
d) Yes, in many cases	
Please provide further details below.	
35. Has your country provide sufficient resources to implement the three objectives of the Convention? (Objective 2.2)	
a) No	
b) Relevant budgetary sources are being considered	
c) Yes, limited resources provided	√

d) Yes, adequate resources provided	
Please provide further details below.	
Government contribution is very limited.	
36. Has your country received resources from external sources to support the implementation of the Convention? (Objective 2.2)	
a) No	
b) Yes, extremely limited resources received	
c) Yes, limited resources received	
d) Yes, adequate resources received	√
Please provide further details below.	
GEF in particular and FAO, SPC and SPREP.	

Goal 3. National biodiversity strategies and action plans and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors as an effective framework for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention. (See questions 11 and 41)

Goal 4. There is a better understanding of the importance of biodiversity and of the Convention, and this has led to broader engagement across society in implementation.

37. Is your country implementing a CEPA strategy and promoting public participation in support of the Convention? (Objective 4.1)	
a) No	
b) Relevant strategy and programmes under development	
c) Yes, some programmes and activities being implemented	√
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes and activities being implemented	
Please provide further details below.	
38. Has your country taken measures to effectively involve indigenous and local communities in the implementation of the Convention and in the processes of the Convention at national, regional and international levels? (Objective 4.3)	
a) No	√
b) Relevant mechanisms are being considered	
c) Yes, in some areas	
d) Yes, in most areas	
Please provide further details below.	
39. Is your country engaging key actors and stakeholders in partnerships to implement the Convention?	
a) No	

b) Relevant mechanisms are being developed	
c) Yes, to a limited extent	
d) yes, to a significant extent	√
Please provide further details below.	
Public and Civil Society are widely consulted on all matters concerning CBD and in Biodiversity in particular.	

No specific targets to achieve the 2010 targets were set per se; however, certain programs and strategies have been included in the NBSAP. In addition, some actions are being taken to help achieve some targets related to the 2010 target.

- A national hunting ban was imposed on the flying fox and the pigeon for five years following the great devastation of Cyclone Heta of 2004. Monitoring surveys of bird numbers were undertaken since then to gauge the recovery rate of these specific birds before reopening of the shooting season.
- A Forest policy statement recommended a total allowable harvesting of 10-15 ha per annum.
- The Agriculture & Quarantine Act and associate regulations are enforced to reduce impacts of invasive species.
- The National Waste Management Plan, e.g. removal of scrap metal off the island, is being implemented to reduce pollution impacts on biodiversity.
- Organic farming practices are being promoted towards an eco-nation by 2010.
- Land clearing of forest areas and specific ecosystems are being discouraged.
- Traditional practices are integrated into conservation and management of marine resources.
- A national committee is to be established to oversee protection of traditional knowledge and access and sui-generic mechanisms for the protection of traditional knowledge.
- Efforts are made to increase primary and secondary forest area by discouraging land clearing in primary and secondary areas.

Initiatives in Protected areas:

One forest conservation area, 2 marine reserves and traditional tapu (taboo) village reserves have been established to protect forest, marine biodiversity and traditional knowledge.

Initiatives in Access and Benefit Sharing:

Licenses and contract agreements are applied on case-by-case basis with full stakeholder contributions. Once the guidelines are in place, the framework will be developed.

Workshops and awareness programs through radio are organized for various stakeholders. These workshops engage stakeholders in developing mechanisms for dialogue on access to and protection of traditional knowledge. The Bonn Guidelines were considered when reviewing mechanisms for access and benefit sharing.

Initiatives for Article 8(j):

Niue involved various stakeholders in preparing its bio-safety framework. The participation of local communities is promoted at the national level, through NBSAP review process, national planning process and development initiatives, and at the regional level, through the South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) and Biodiversity Roundtable.

4. SECTORAL & CROSS-SECTORAL INTEGRATION OR MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS.

40. Has your country developed the guidelines for environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environment assessment (SEA) and applied them to plans, programmes and projects that have impacts on biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) Relevant guidelines under development	
c) Yes, EIA guidelines developed and applied (please provide details)	√
d) Yes, both EIA and SEA guidelines developed and applied	
Please provide details below.	
The EIA Regulation is currently being developed but the Department of Environment carries out EIA at an ad hoc basis.	
41. Has your country integrated biodiversity concerns into relevant national sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies? (Objective 3.3 of the Strategic Plan)	
a) No	
b) Integration under way	
c) Yes, into some sectors (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, into most sectors (please provide details below)	√
Please list the main sectors into which biodiversity concerns have been integrated below.	
The recently endorsed NISP 2009 - 2014	

The CBD agreed at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, has three main objectives: the conservation of biodiversity, its sustainable use and the equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources. In order to implement the Convention's objectives in the national context, countries were to develop NBSAPs and to integrate biodiversity concerns into all sectors of the national economy.

Integrating biodiversity objectives into mainstream development is a challenge.

The Strategic Plan for the Convention, adopted at the sixth COP aims to achieve a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, and identified the lack of integration of biodiversity issues in development sectors as a key obstacle.

Mainstreaming biodiversity objectives is not only a commitment under the CBD. The integration of environmental, social and economic objectives lies at the heart of sustainable development, as expressed in Agenda 21. The World Summit on Sustainable Development of 2002 reinforced the importance of biodiversity for achieving sustainable development, identifying it as one of the five priority themes, along with water, energy, health and agriculture.

The main outcome of the WSSD, brought new political recognition of the critical role that biodiversity plays in sustainable development and poverty eradication. The Plan of Implementation reaffirms the need to integrate objectives of the CBD into sectoral and cross-sectoral programmes and policies.

Niue's current National Integrated Strategic Plan (NISP) 2009-2013 overall mission is to build a sustainable future that meets economic and social needs while preserving environmental integrity, social stability, and the Niue culture.

The NISP is Niue's attempt at trying to mainstream biodiversity in development policies and planning.

The following are a number of examples which has incorporated biodiversity concerns in key development sectors of Niue:

In **agriculture**, some farmers are enhancing biodiversity while increasing productivity and employment potential, through organic farming systems, mainly of vanilla and nonu (*Morinda citrifolia*), encouraging subsistence mixed-farming to diversify food crops available during adverse climatic conditions e.g. droughts and cyclones.

In **water** development, a rainwater harvesting project will be introduced later in the year. Each household will be fitted with catchment tanks. This will reduce pressure on the underground water system

In **forestry**, community initiatives are combining livelihood development with forest conservation; "tapu" areas are seen as an effective measure and is strongly supported and adopted by communities.

In **tourism**, vigorous promotions of eco-tours are in place targeting a niche market.

In **energy**, EU funded renewable energy projects are already underway. The introduction of the use of gas stoves and solar heaters for each households are subsidised by the government. Proposals for wind turbo are being developed to assist with electricity generation. Further, biogas initiatives are introduced as an alternative for government consideration.

LEGISLATION, STRATEGIES & ACTION PLANS

The following are legislation and policies/regulations relevant to biodiversity, enacted, and/or pending enactment after the production of the NBSAP. This is a brief overview of Niue's legislations, policies and regulations in place to address biodiversity issues and how it is working to improve environmental governance.

Environment Act 2003

This provides for the establishment of the Department of Environment as the focal agency for the implementation of all environmental agreements. It further provides for

the establishment of an Environment Council to coordinate the work of Government Departments regarding the different requirements of the CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC.

Environment Impact Assessment Regulation

As a requirement under the Environment Act 2003, this regulation will provide a legal framework that will guide development initiatives of the country.

An integrated approach in developing the draft EIA Regulation to include also social and economic issues and interactions.

National Bio-safety Framework 2006

This addresses modern bio-technology issues through the use of bio-safety methods and to implement its obligations under the Cartagena Protocol.

Bio-security Bill

This aims to protect health, environment and agriculture of Niue and to facilitate trade in its animal and plant products. This creates a comprehensive regime to control the import and export of plants and animals, as well as internal control of pests.

Coastal Management Policy 2008

The vision statement of the policy is: “a safe, productive and sustainable coastal environment for Niue”. It provides for a framework to guide the management and development of Niue’s coast.

Forest Policy 2004

The fundamental guiding principle refers to sustainability, “keeping in mind future generations so that equity between generations can be maintained”. The themes of sustainable use, conservation, basic needs, individual and collective responsibility, and economic development complete the statement of basic principles.

Forest Bill

The main purpose of the proposed Law is to provide a legal framework to manage Niue’s forests on a sustainable basis.

Integrated Coastal Management Plan

The Niue Government identifies the coastal resources as a priority. This priority is paralleled by the development of biodiversity projects for Niue. Comprehensive development of the EIA Regulation emphasise sustainable development.

National Tuna Fishery Management and Development Plan

This Plan is to manage and regulate the offshore fisheries in Niue’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

National Integrated Strategic Plan 2009 – 2014

This sets out the national strategic objectives for Niue's development. An environment component objective is to promote "sustainable use and management of Niue's natural resources and environment for present and future generations".

Niue Tourism Strategic Plan 2005 - 2015

"Niue's pristine land and ocean environments are the sole basis for the tourism industry's medium and long term potential. They are the biggest competitive advantage Niue has and must never be compromised. This will require ongoing, active management by Government on behalf of the people of Niue to preserve and enhance these environments"

Private Sector Strategic Development Plan 2007 – 2010

This provides a framework for the development of the private sector. Reference for the enactment of the Bio-security Bill is of importance to ensure stringent border controls are in place.

Niue National Action Plan (NAP) for Combating Land Degradation and Drought

This provides a program of work to combat land degradation and to promote sustainable management and land use.

National Implementation Plan for Persistent Organic Pollutants 2005

This provides strategies in the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in Niue. It consists of specific strategies that reflect those of the Stockholm Convention on POPs and attempt to address POPs issues in Niue.

Water Resource Bill

This is to review the Water Resources Act of 1996 to integrate and improve on strategies of water management. This will further consolidate integrated efforts of the three leading agencies, the Health Department, Water Division of the Public Works Department and the Department of Environment in water management.

APPENDIX 1

1. Reporting Party

Contracting Party	
NATIONAL FOCAL POINT	
Full name of the institution	Department of Environment
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CONTACTING OFFICER FOR NATIONAL REPORT (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE)	
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SUBMISSION	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report	
Date of submission	

2. Process of preparation of national report

Stakeholder consultations

List of stakeholders consulted:

Government Agencies:

Sauni Tongatule	Department of Environment
Judy Nemaia	“
Logopati Seumanu	“
John Talagi	“
Haden Talagi	“
Brendon Pasisi	Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries
Gaylene Tasmania	“
Poi Okesene	“
Colin Etuata	“

Chrispina Konelio	“
Tom Misikea	“
Terry-anne Mokoia	“
Natasha Tongakilo	“
Andre Siohane	Water Division
Clinton Chapman	“
Deve Talagi	Public Works Department
Sione Hetutu	Department of Health
Manila Nosa	“
Speedo Hetutu	Niue Power Corporation
Lose Siakimotu	Department of Education
Janet Tasmania	“
Frank Sioneholo	Economic Development & Planning Unit
Crossley Tatui	Premier’s Department
Joyce Tamate	“
Julie Talagi	“
Christine Ioane	“
Justin Kamupala	Department of Lands & Survey
Richard Siataga	“
Hubert Kalauni	“
Ida Talagi-Hekesi	Tourism
Meshu Inia	“
Morgan Mougavalu	Customs Division
Faapoi Akesi	Department of Community Affairs
Sioneheke Leolahi	“

NGOs

Fakahula Funaki	National Council of Women
Sifaole Ioane	Village Council Representative
Misa Kulatea	Private Sector
Ricky Makani	“
Robin Hekau	National Youth Council
Esther Pavihi	Chamber of Commerce

References:

- Niue NBSAP, 2001
- Capacity Building and support in development of Niue Forest Legislation, 2008
- Niue Thematic Assessment Report, 2008
- Niue National Action Plan Addressing Land Degradation and Drought, 2004
- National Assessment of the Priority Environmental Concerns of Niue, 2003
- Niue National Assessment Report on Strategic Sustainable Development, 2006
- National Integrated Strategic Plan 2009-2014
- Status of Birds and rodents on Niue following Cyclone Heta 2004
- Report on the Invasive Plant Species on Niue following Cyclone Heta 2004
- An Assessment of Cyclone Heta’s impact on Niue’s coastline 2004

APPENDIX 2

List of Indicators Adopted by the Conference of the Parties for Measuring Progress Towards the 2010 Target and Goals and Objectives of the Strategic Plan of the Convention

Goals and Targets	Relevant indicators
Protect the components of biodiversity	
<i>Goal 1: Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes</i>	
Target 1.1 At least 10% of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coverage of protected areas • Trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats • Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species
Target 1.2. Areas of particular importance to biodiversity protected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats • Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species • Coverage of protected areas
<i>Goal 2. Promote the conservation of species diversity</i>	
Target 2.1. Restore, maintain, or reduce the decline of populations of species of selected taxonomic groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species • Change in status of threatened species
Target 2.2. Status of threatened species improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in status of threatened species • Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species • Coverage of protected areas
<i>Goal 3. Promote the conservation of genetic diversity</i>	
Target 3.1. Genetic diversity of crops, livestock, and of harvested species of trees, fish and wildlife and other valuable species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in genetic diversity of domesticated animals, cultivated plants, and fish species of major socio-economic importance • <i>Biodiversity use in food and medicine (indicator under development)</i> • Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species
Promote sustainable use	
<i>Goal 4. Promote sustainable use and consumption</i>	
Target 4.1. Biodiversity-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed, and production areas managed consistent with the conservation of biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of forest, agricultural and agriculture ecosystems under sustainable management • <i>Proportion of products derived from sustainable sources (indicator under development)</i> • Trends in abundance and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> distribution of selected species • Marine trophic index • Nitrogen deposition • Water quality in aquatic ecosystems
Target 4.2. Unsustainable consumption, of biological resources, or that impacts upon biodiversity, reduced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological footprint and related concepts
Target 4.3. No species of wild flora or fauna endangered by international trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in status of threatened species
Address threats to biodiversity	
<i>Goal 5. Pressures from habitat loss, land use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use, reduced.</i>	
Target 5.1. Rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats decreased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats • Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species • Marine trophic index
<i>Goal 6. Control threats from invasive alien species</i>	
Target 6.1. Pathways for major potential alien invasive species controlled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in invasive alien species
Target 6.2. Management plans in place for major alien invasive species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in invasive alien species
<i>Goal 7. Address challenges to biodiversity from climate change and pollution</i>	
Target 7.1. Maintain and enhance resilience of the components of biodiversity to adapt to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connectivity / fragmentation of ecosystems
Target 7.2. Reduce pollution and its impacts on biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nitrogen deposition • Water quality in aquatic ecosystems
Maintain goods and services from biodiversity to support human well-being	
<i>Goal 8. Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods</i>	
Target 8.1. Capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity used in food and medicine (indicator under development) • Water quality in aquatic ecosystems • Marine trophic index • Incidence of Human-induced ecosystem failure
Target 8.2. Biological resources that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, especially of poor people maintained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and well-being of communities who depend directly on local ecosystem goods and services • <i>Biodiversity used in food and medicine</i>

Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices	
<i>Goal 9. Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities</i>	
Target 9.1. Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status and trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous language
Target 9.2. Protect the rights of indigenous and local communities over their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, including their rights to benefit-sharing	<i>Indicator to be developed</i>
Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources	
<i>Goal 10. Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resource</i>	
Target 10.1. All access to genetic resources is in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its relevant provisions.	<i>Indicator to be developed</i>
Target 10.2. Benefits arising out of from the commercial and other utilisations of genetic resources shared in a fair and equitable way with countries providing such resources in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its relevant provisions.	<i>Indicator to be developed</i>
Ensure provision of adequate resources	
<i>Goal 11. Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention</i>	
Target 11.1. New and additional financial resources are transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with Article 20.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official development assistance provided in support of the Convention
Target 11.2. Technology is transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance of Article 20, paragraph 4.	<i>Indicator to be developed</i>