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The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

WORKSHOP REPORT

**Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) training
State of Environment (SoE) reporting
National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS) development**

Alofi, Niue, 15th – 18th August 2016

Jope Davetanivalu, Planning & Capacity Development Adviser
Melanie Bradley, Environmental Planning Officer

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Introduction

This report covers Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) training and an introduction to State of Environment (SoE) reporting and National Environmental Strategy (NEMS) development, delivered for the Government of Niue, 15th-18th August, in Alofi.

The workshop was facilitated by Mr Jope Davetanivalu, Planning and Capacity Development Adviser (PCDA), and Ms Melanie Bradley, Environmental Planning Officer (EPO), from SPREP's Environmental Monitoring and Governance (EMG) Division.

The opening address was delivered by Dr Josie Tamate (Mrs), Director General, Ministry of Natural Resources. Dr Tamate warmly welcomed the EIA training and the skills development opportunity for government officials, given Niue is soon to enact its EIA Regulations.

Mr Sauni Tongatule, Director, Department of Environment, emphasised the importance of the EIA workshop for Niue and the need to develop internal EIA guidelines to support effective implementation of Niue's new EIA Regulations.

The workshop was attended by representatives from the Department of Environment; Department of Transport; Department of Justice, Lands Survey and Communication Services; Tāoga Niue; Project Management and Coordination Unit; and Niue Meteorological Service. A total of fifteen government officials attended the workshop across the four day programme (refer to Appendix 1, Workshop attendance sheets).

Background and justification

In 2015 a revised *Environment Act* was enacted in Niue. To complement this Act, Environment (Development Consent and Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations have been drafted and are being considered by Cabinet.

In light of these legislative developments and potential renewable energy developments, a need for EIA training was identified by Mr Andrew Irvin from the Sustainable Energy Programme at IUCN, in consultation with Mr Sauni Tongatule, Director of the Department of Environment, Niue. IUCN sent a request to the EMG A/Director, Mr Clark Peteru, seeking assistance with the delivery of EIA training.

In consultation with IUCN and the Department of Environment, EMG's PCDA and EPO developed a four day workshop programme. In addition to EIA, the programme covered SoE reporting and NEMS development, to progress other core areas of EMG work.

Objectives

1. Provide participants with an overview of SPREP and its capacity-building work related to environmental policy, planning and assessment;
2. Develop participants' understanding of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process and how it can be effectively applied in Niue;
3. Strengthen participants' EIA skills through practical exercises and discussion; and

4. Provide an introduction to SoE reporting and the development of a NEMS for Niue, and determine the interest of government in progressing SoE and NEMS in 2017.

Workshop programme

Refer to Appendix 2 for a detailed workshop programme.

Outcomes

At the beginning of the workshop it was determined that government officials in Niue have limited knowledge of and experience with EIA. However, by the end of the workshop participants' knowledge of the EIA process had greatly improved. This was evident in the way the officials participated in practical exercises and also in the responses they provided on workshop evaluation forms.

Evaluation forms were completed by eight participants on the final day of the workshop. Key findings:

1. Seven participants 'strongly agreed' and one participant 'agreed' that the workshop had helped to develop their knowledge and understanding of EIA.
2. All participants 'agreed' they will be able to more effectively implement or participate in the EIA process.
3. All participants 'strongly agreed' that the workshop content was easy to follow, the trainers were well prepared, and the trainers effectively presented the material.
4. Six participants rated the workshop overall as 'excellent' and two rated it as 'very good'.
5. Some participants expressed a desire to undertake more practical exercises, especially exercises focusing on proposed developments in Niue.

Aside from the presentations and exercises that were delivered and facilitated by SPREP, there were two presentations delivered on behalf of partner organisations. Ms Jazinta Levi, from the Government of Niue's Project Management and Coordination Unit, delivered a presentation on the IUCN and UNEP Low Carbon Islands Project, which included discussion points related to environmental and social impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment. A representative from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Government of Samoa, delivered a presentation on the development of 3D models to support resource management and land-use planning. A 3D model will be constructed to support development planning in Alofi, which will help to ensure EIA is applied within a strategic planning context.

Representatives from various government departments expressed a strong interest in progressing an SoE report and NEMS for Niue, following the introductory SoE and NEMS presentations delivered by SPREP's PCDA.

Follow-up actions

Department of Environment

- It is recommended the Department of Environment undertake eight steps to help establish an effective EIA process in Niue:
 1. Consult widely on the draft Environment (Development Consent and Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations, to ensure the Regulations take into account all

relevant government policies and laws, and to secure inter-agency support for EIA implementation.

2. Review and revise the draft EIA Regulations taking into account the following:
 - the Department of Environment must only act as an independent administrator of the EIA process and not be involved with conducting on-ground impact assessments and writing EIA reports; and
 - direct reference should be made to relevant government policies and laws, especially if requested by stakeholders.
3. Ensure the scoping step of the EIA process is undertaken for all development consent applications, which will result in the development of terms of reference to guide on-ground impact assessments and the preparation of EIA reports.
4. Give consideration to the establishment of a trust account under the *Environment Act*, to be administered by the Department of Environment and to allow for the collection of fees related to environmental laws and programmes and the dumping of rubbish at landfill sites. Funds from the trust account could be used to support the operations of the Department e.g. EIA monitoring and enforcement, EIA awareness-raising.
5. Undertake a national EIA awareness-raising program that targets stakeholder groups internal and external to government.
6. Develop internal guidelines/standard operating procedures for EIA, with reference to the checklists and templates in SPREP's Regional EIA Guidelines.
7. Appoint enforcement officers, as required under the *Environment Act*.
8. Undertake strategic land-use planning, land-use zoning and business licensing, to provide a supporting framework for EIA.

- It is recommended that Mr Sauni Tongatule, Director of the Department of Environment, write to the A/Director of EMG, Mr Clark Peteru, requesting assistance with the development of Niue's SoE report and NEMS in 2017. Mr Tongatule is to raise this request with Mr Peteru during the 27th SPREP Meeting in Niue.

SPREP

- SPREP's EMG division is ready to:
 1. Provide technical assistance and support with EIA implementation, SoE reporting and NEMS development, as required.
 2. Support the Government of Niue and IUCN with applying the EIA process to potential renewable energy developments in Niue.

Acknowledgements

We wish to acknowledge financial assistance from the European Union and support from the United Nations Environment Programme, through the ACP MEAs 2 Project.

We also acknowledge Mr Andrew Irvin and the Sustainable Energy Programme, IUCN, for helping to coordinate the training and for providing funding to cover workshop expenses.

Thanks to Ms Jazinta Levi, Project Management and Coordination Unit, Government of Niue, for organising the workshop venue, logistics, materials and catering.

Appendix 1: Workshop attendance sheets

ATTENDANCE SHEET

WORKSHOP DATE: 15/8 WORKSHOP VENUE: NIVE GOLF CLUB FACILITATORS: JOPE & MELANIE

NAME	MINISTRY/AGENCY/ORG.	EMAIL
1. Sonya Talagi	Infrastructure Dept of Transport	Director.Transport@mail.gov.nu
2. Lynsey Talagi	Infrastructure Dept. of Transport	lynsey.talagi@mail.gov.nu
3. JOSIE TAMAPE	MNR,	josie.tamape@mail.gov.nu
4. ZARN KAVISI	TĀOGA NIVE	zarn.kavisi@mail.gov.nu
5. Rossy Mitiepo	NIVE METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE	Rossy.Mitiepo@mail.gov.nu
6. Clemencia Sioneholu	Nive Meteorological Service	Clemencia.Sioneholu@mail.gov.nu
7. Charlotte Pihigia	Environment / Ministry Natural Resources	charlotte-pihigia@mail.gov.nu
8. Judy Nemaia	Environment	Judy.Nemaia@mail.gov.nu
9. Luina Vilila	Environment	luina.vilila@gmail.com
10. Darrou Tshuraka	Dept Justice	darron.tshuraka@mail.gov.nu
11. Richard Sitala	DTLS	richard.sitala@mail.gov.nu
12. Hubert M. Kalanni	Dept Justice, Local, Subreg & Community Services	hubert.kalani@mail.gov.nu
13. Vilnus Talagi	Project Management & Coordination Unit	vilnus.talagi@mail.gov.nu

ATTENDANCE SHEET

WORKSHOP DATE: 16/8

WORKSHOP VENUE: NIVE GOLF CLUB

FACILITATORS: JOPE & MELANIE

NAME	MINISTRY/AGENCY/ORG.	EMAIL
1. Lawilopa Enelama	Department of Environment	Lawilopa.E@gmail.com
2. Clemencia Sioneho	Nive Meteorological service	Clemencia.Sioneho@mail.gov.nu
3. ZARN KAVISI	TAOCA NIVE CULTURE & HERITAGE	Zarn.Kavisi@mail.gov.nu
4. Charlotte Pitigia	Department of Environment/ Ministry of Natural Resources	charlottepitigia@mail.gov.nu
5. Judy Nemaia	Environment	
6. Hubert M Kabuni	DJLS	
7. Lynsey Talagi	Min. of Infrastructure Dept. of Transport	
8. Luina Vilila	ENVIRONMENT	luina.vilila@mail.gov.nu
9. Sauni Tongatapu	ENV	Sauni.tongatapu@mail.gov.nu
10. Rossy Mitiepo	Nive Meteorological Service	Rosy.Mitiepo@mail.gov.nu
11. Richard Satafa	DJLS	
12. Vilnus Taiagi	PMCU	
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ATTENDANCE SHEET

WORKSHOP DATE: 17/8 WORKSHOP VENUE: NIVE GOLF CLUB FACILITATORS: JOPE & MELANIE

NAME	MINISTRY/AGENCY/ORG.	EMAIL
1. Judy Nemaia	Environment	
2. Vilans Talagi	PMCU	
3. Sanni Tongatoh	ENV	
4. Rossy Mitiepo	Nive Meteorology	
5. Charlotte Pihigia	Environment	
6. Richard Stratage	DJLS	
7. Laina Vilika	Environment	
8. Hubert M Kalami	DJLS	
9.		



**Environmental Impact Assessment Training,
Introduction to State of the Environment Reporting and
National Environmental Management Strategy Development
for the Government of Niue**

Dates: 15-18 August 2016

Venue: Niue Golf & Sports Club, Alofi

Key objectives:

- Provide participants with an overview of SPREP and its capacity-building work related to environmental policy, planning and assessment;
- Develop participants' understanding of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process and how it can be effectively applied in Niue;
- Strengthen participants' EIA skills through practical exercises and discussion; and
- Provide an introduction to State of the Environment (SOE) Reporting and the development of a National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS) for Niue.

Logistical coordination and facilitation:

- Department of Environment – Sauni Tongatule
- Project Management and Coordination Unit – Jazinta Levi
- IUCN – Andrew Irvin, Maria Muavesi
- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) – Jope Davetanivalu, Melanie Bradley



DAY ONE – Monday 15th August			
Time	Presentation/Exercise	Materials	Facilitator(s)
9:00am-9:10am	Workshop opening Welcome & prayer		Director General, Ministry of Natural Resources Sauni Tongatule
9:10am-9:30am	Introduction: - Participants - Training workshop objectives & structure	- Laptop & projector	Jope Davetanivalu
9:30am-9:45am	Overview of SPREP and environmental policy/planning/assessment work	- Laptop & projector	Jope Davetanivalu
9.45am-10.00am	IUCN Project	Laptop & projector	IUCN Rep
10:00am-10:30am	MORNING TEA		
10:30am-11:30am	Overview of the EIA process, with a focus on Niue's legislation	- Laptop & projector	Melanie Bradley Sauni Tongatule
11:30am-11:45am	Introduction to EIA screening	- Laptop & projector	Melanie Bradley
11:45am-12:30pm	<u>Practical exercise 1</u> : Screening of a development proposal	- Butchers paper & pens - Screening template - Preliminary development proposals	Melanie Bradley Jope Davetanivalu
12:30pm-1:30pm	LUNCH		
1:30pm-2:15pm	<u>Practical exercise 1</u> : Report back & discussion	- Butchers paper & pens - Screening template - Preliminary proposals	Melanie Bradley Jope Davetanivalu
2:15pm-2:30pm	Introduction to EIA scoping	- Laptop & projector	Jope Davetanivalu
2:30pm-3:30pm	<u>Practical exercise 2</u> : Scoping & development of terms of reference for an EIA report	- Butchers paper & pens - Scoping template - Preliminary development proposals	Jope Davetanivalu Melanie Bradley
3:30pm-3:45pm	AFTERNOON TEA		
3:45pm-4:30pm	<u>Practical exercise 2</u> : Report back & discussion	- Butchers paper & pens - Scoping template - Preliminary development proposals	Jope Davetanivalu Melanie Bradley
4:30pm-4:45pm	Summary & reflections		Jope Davetanivalu
4:45pm	Day one close		

DAY TWO – Tuesday 16th August			
Time	Presentation/Exercise	Materials	Facilitator(s)
9:00am-9:15am	Welcome & recap of day one		Workshop rep
9:15am-9:30am	Introduction to EIA review	- Laptop & projector	Melanie Bradley
9:30am-10:30am	<u>Practical exercise 3</u> : EIA review & development of recommendations for project approval	- Butchers paper & pens - EIA review template - EIA reports	Melanie Bradley Jope Davetanivalu
10:30am-10:45am	MORNING TEA		
10:45am-12:15pm	<u>Practical exercise 3</u> : EIA review & development of recommendations for project approval	- Butchers paper & pens - EIA review template - EIA reports	Melanie Bradley Jope Davetanivalu
12:15pm-1:15pm	LUNCH		
1:15pm-2:30pm	<u>Practical exercise 3</u> : Report back & discussion	- Butchers paper & pens - EIA review template - EIA reports	Melanie Bradley Jope Davetanivalu
2:30pm-3:30pm	Monitoring & enforcement	- Laptop & projector	Jope Davetanivalu
3:30pm-3:45pm	The role of consultants in EIA	- Laptop & projector	Jope Davetanivalu
3:30pm-3:45pm	AFTERNOON TEA		
3:45pm-4:15pm	Public engagement & consultation: - When & how to consult - Developing an issues matrix	- Laptop & projector	Melanie Bradley
4:15pm-4:30pm	Summary & reflections		Jope Davetanivalu
4:30pm	Day two close		

DAY THREE – Wednesday 17th August			
Time	Presentation/Exercise	Materials	Facilitator(s)
9:00am-9:15am	Welcome & recap of day two		Workshop rep
9:15am-10:00am	EIA Q&A session		Jope Davetanivalu
10:00am-10:15am	MORNING TEA		
10:15am-12:30pm	<u>Practical exercise 4</u> : Development site inspection & public consultation	- Inspect a site close to training venue (could be a mock development site)	Sauni Tongatule Jope Davetanivalu Melanie Bradley
12:30pm-1:30pm	LUNCH		
1:30pm-3:30pm	Niue's State of the Environment (SOE)	- Laptop & projector	Jope Davetanivalu

	Report and National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS)	- Butchers paper & pens	
3:30pm-3:45pm	AFTERNOON TEA		
3:45pm-4:30pm	Workshop summary & reflections		Jope Davetanivalu Melanie Bradley
4:30pm	Workshop close		Department of Environment - Niue

DAY FOUR – Thursday 18th August: Field trip

Appendix 3: Workshop photos



Opening address, Dr Josie Tamate, DG Ministry of Natural Resources



Workshop participants, day 1



Jazinta Levi, Low Carbon Islands presentation



Practical EIA exercise – development proposal screening



Practical EIA exercise – EIA report review



Field trip – inspection of site for new cultural centre