

TU'ANGA TAPOROPORO
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT SERVICE



Strategy and Business Plan

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Authorised:.....

**Vaitoti Tupa
DIRECTOR**

Date:.....

Approved:.....

**Hon. Geoffrey Henry
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Environment**

Date:.....

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Executive Summary

In the 2005/2006 Budget years Tu'anga Taporoporo or National Environment Service is required to expand their operations in accordance with the recent enactment of the 2003 National Environment Act. The specific strategy and additional resources required for implementing the objectives, results and work programmes are described in detail in this document, which will serve as a guide for all personnel activities throughout the budget year.

There are two main outputs covering six key objectives. These outputs are

- 1) Implementation of the National Environment Act 2003. Establishment of the Tu'anga Taporoporo, the Island Environment Authorities and the National Environment Council. Develop future National Environment strategies. Strengthen and improve the key action areas of; Environment Impact Assessment (EIA), building and species permits, monitoring, parks management, environmental health, and education and awareness, and
- 2) 2) Co-ordination, implementation and monitoring of national and international environment and conservation programs. Including projects related to, sustainable development (WSSD/BPOA), climate change and sea level rise, biodiversity conservation measures, water and waste systems management, oceans and lagoon environment programmes

A number of issues will arise if funding for both new initiatives and existing operations is not sufficient, in particular limiting the implementation of the National Environment Act 2003 in the outer islands.

1. Background

Tu'anga Taporoporo or National Environment Service is an agency of Crown as defined by the National Environment Act 2003. It comprises of a National Environment Council (permitting authority) Island Environment Authority (the policy and decision making body) three divisions of the National Environment Service (secretariat and technical body);

- Management
- Operations
- International

The national goal of the service is geared towards building a more sustainable future in our environment. Depletion in our environment and natural resources provides a very bleak future for our children. Therefore increasing environment concerns (global warming and sea level rise, erosion and sand mining, biodiversity and habitat loss, coral bleaching and coral death, pollution, waste management and recycling) require urgent responses from government and community if sustainable development as an overall national goal is to be realised.

The Government is committed to improving the service's environment management strategies, which provides a framework for sustainable development in the Cook Islands. The National Environment Act 2003 will guide these strategies and ensure that regional and international obligations are met.

1.1 Vision

To protect, conserve and manage the environment of the Cook Islands, our heritage, in a sustainable manner through promoting community participation for the benefit of current and future generations.

"Ko te paruru e te taporoporoanga tau i te aotini, to tatou ipukarea, no roto i te tauturu a te iti tangata ei meitaki no teia uki e te uki a muri mai"

NATIONAL OUTCOME: Social Progression and Environment Management

POLICY OBJECTIVE: To provide for the protection, conservation and management of the environment of the Cook Islands, our heritage, in a sustainable manner through promoting community participation for the benefit of current and future generations

1.2 Objectives

Objectives
1) Help ensure an acceptable level of environmental health through guidelines, standards and monitoring.
2) Conservation/preservation of natural resources and biodiversity, through sustainable management of the marine, freshwater, and terrestrial ecosystems of the Cook Islands
3) Minimise impacts of, and risks to, development in the environment through compliance, enforcement, and monitoring
4) Promote community participation in the sustainable management of the environment by incorporating environmental considerations from economic and social development policies, plans, and activities on an ongoing basis.
5) Contributing to international efforts to find solutions to global environment threats through national actions
6) Be a good employer.

1.3 Customers / Stakeholders

Customers	Benefits
Public	Enhance environmental health and safety Improve quality of living Maintain food security
Developers	Businesses remain sustainable over the Medium/Long term. Adding value to investments Improves public support of development Promotes sound practices
Tourists	Attractive place to visit Sensitivity to local environment issues and appreciate unique attractions Legitimise natural souvenir products to avoid confiscation and penalties, limit exports. Good will – knowledge that they have not damaged the environment.
Govt. Agencies	Sharing of resources and information Better co-ordination to meet responsibilities Increased understanding of obligations and roles under national policies and laws Improved ability through environmental awareness and capacity building Confidence in the environmental stewardship by the agency and partners
Aid Donors	National and International recognition of achievements through their support Implementation of local activities that meets global objectives and goals Promote long term sustainable financing and commitment of national activities Improved Multi-Lateral relationships
NGOs	Opportunities for meaningful partnerships Shared responsibilities for mutual interests in environmental management Clearer understanding of legal framework that government operates from the environmental management Opportunities for independent implementation of activities that contribute to achieving national goals
Schools	Career opportunities Teaching resources, learning materials and personnel provided Knowledge transfer that meet teacher and student learning development goals Increased awareness that improve value and appreciation of natural environment through active participation
Private Sector	Profitable business opportunities through requirements for environmentally sound products and practices Consultancy opportunities and business referrals Adds value to business by promoting 'green environmentally friendly' image

2. Strategy -Objectives, Results and Work Plans

Objectives	Results	Measures	Work plan
1. Help ensure an acceptable level of environmental health through guidelines, standards and improved monitoring systems.	Integrated Coastal Management programme initiated	Capacity built through submitted course work and practical trainings.	Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) role allocated to two ES staff members as local counterparts to NZAid ICM advisor
	Recovery of lagoon under targeted improvements e.g. septic retrofitting and new standards.	Published environmental standard for septic tanks by April 2006	Facilitate and coordinate with relevant stakeholders (eg plumbers, engineers, consultants) development of environmental monitoring guidelines standards and requirements
	Reduce the number of inspection failures	Level of Compliance by identified high-risk contributors with new standards e.g. pig farmers.	Promotion, Education and Awareness about new standards. Litter reduction and recycling campaign in collaboration with NGO's
	Reduced visual rubbish.	Outcome of waste audit	Carry out a waste audit including baseline data study. Collation and reporting of waste and recycling data
	Nikao Dump Compaction Completed – 1 st Stage	Compaction 1 st Stage completed by August 2005	Complete compaction and remedial action on Nikao dump prior to closure and return to landowners
	Waste appropriately disposed of and Improved landfill management for Rarotonga and Aitutaki	Quarterly monitoring report for landfill management received including recycling quantity and components	Support island specific waste management strategies
	Environment quality monitoring, guidelines, and standards improving environmental health Limit adverse impact on food availability and health caused by environmental hazards.	Report of Tutaka Programme submitted – August and December Quarterly report for lagoon and stream monitoring programme	Monitoring (Tutaka) and enforcement (letters to offenders, court action if necessary) of new standards Water and soil quality monitoring, collect and analyse data through involving the community and partners such as the International Waters Project (IWP) Weekly lagoon and stream water monitoring programme

Objectives	Results	Measures	Work plan
	Improved access to funding for programmes such as export of recyclables and hazardous materials	Implementation of relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) Recycling and waste management programme implementation including documented export of hazardous materials	Incorporate relevant aspects of Montreal-Ozone, Climate Change, Bio safety (quarantine, invasive species, genetically modified organisms), Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), hazardous wastes (Basel)
2. Conservation of natural resources and biodiversity, through sustainable management of the marine, freshwater, and terrestrial ecosystems of the Cook Islands	Tourists and locals utilise the permit issuing service under the Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), avoiding confiscation of goods	Quarterly reporting of CITES permits issued	Ongoing processing of CITES permits and development of policies relevant to CITES at the national level. Maintain records of permits issued and quantities of shells. Awareness raising to limit exports of CITES species
	Natural resources monitoring, guidelines and strategies for protection preventing species and habitat loss	NBSAP Add-on project quarterly report National protected Areas Report published October 2005 Baseline Data for vulnerable ecosystems for targeted islands established by Jan 2006 Completion of NBSAP Add-on Project December 2005 with final report published	Promotion of ra'ui and other traditional environmental management systems Survey for ecosystems set up for Aitutaki, Atiu and Mitiaro Complete all activities for NBSAP Add-on
	Targeted National parks managed, enhanced and regulated	Placement of Caretakers May – October and Six monthly report for Suvarrow submitted December 2005 Establishment of Suvarrow Island Authority by May 2006 Inclusion of traditional knowledge aspects in policies strategies and management plans	Suvarrow caretakers support for six months, monitoring of port entries, species surveys, pest control Engage community involvement in development of monitoring and management plans Development of management plans for national parks and strategies for implementation of those plans

Objectives	Results	Measures	Work plan
	Access to genetic resources through research permits improved and regulated	Review for access to genetic resources completed by September 2005	Undertake review and consultation on access to genetic resources
	Increased Awareness and use of traditional knowledge for environmental and cultural benefits		
	Food security improved and introduction of invasive species including genetically modified organisms, avoided	Project Implementation for National Biosafety Framework commence by Jan 2006	Follow up project funding for national biosafety framework with GEF-UNDP Follow up actions for biosecurity regime with Ministry of Agriculture
	The reefs are improved through greater coral growth Rarotonga and Aitutaki Beach management improved through enhanced management systems	Survey and data collection and processing completed and available for analysis by Feb 2006 Annual Reports for Coral and Beach Profile submitted by June 2006 Analysis Report completed June 2006	Survey of Coral to monitor condition of coral reef and lagoon ecosystem, complete annual survey report Beach profile complete annual survey report and transfer accumulated data to Geographical Information Systems (GIS) mapping and carry out analysis Contract consultants to undertake profiling work.
3. Minimise impacts of, and risks to, development in the environment through compliance, enforcement, and monitoring programmes	Developers gain environmental value and risk reduction for their projects	Weekly monitoring of developmental projects and advisory services instant and enhanced, quarterly reports submitted	Weekly monitoring programmes for all outstanding cases Weekly compliance staff meeting
		Reduced number of negative public & customer opinion of developments on environmental grounds	Training outer island ES staff members in proper application of the project permitting and the EIA processes and the 2003 Environment Act Facilitate application for project permits and where necessary the EIA process with ongoing enforcement of the EIA provisions, under Sections 36, 50, 57, and 58 of the 2003 Act

Objectives	Results	Measures	Work plan
	National Environment Act 2003 implemented for targeted islands	<p>Monitoring guidelines and standards including EIA developed and regulated by April 2006</p> <p>Documented meetings of Island Environment Authorities with consistent application of the provisions of the Act across all islands that have elected to participate in the Act</p> <p>Monthly Workplans and reports from each island officers</p> <p>Public compliance with guidelines and standards initiated, documented, and enforced</p> <p>Implementation regulations under the Act fully operational by May 2006</p>	<p>ADB-TA undertakes public consultation on guidelines and standards in full collaboration with NES</p> <p>Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) role allocated to two ES staff members as local counterparts to NZAid EIA advisor.</p> <p>Implement ADB Technical Assistance for institutional strengthening related to the Act in the outer islands.</p> <p>ADB-TA for Legal and Institutional Strengthening fully implemented</p>
4. Promote community participation in the sustainable management of the environment by incorporating environmental considerations from economic and social development policies, plans, and activities on an ongoing basis.	<p>Strengthened community consultation and institutional initiatives for national environment management strategies</p> <p>Increased involvement of Cook Islands citizens in conserving their natural resources and environmental "protection".</p> <p>Relevant education resources and materials readily available to schools and the general public Library records up to date and available electronically</p> <p>Incorporation of policies beneficial to the environment in national development strategies (NDS)</p>	<p>Recommendations of the national environment forum reported</p> <p>Submissions made during the public consultation phase of EIA</p> <p>Complaints and reports of non-compliance recorded</p> <p>Successful implementation of PEIN project Collaboration with Marine Resources and the National Library</p> <p>Effectiveness of advertising</p> <p>Recorded involvement in NDS, textual contribution</p>	<p>Convening of Cook Islands Environment Forum, including logistical arrangements and agenda setting</p> <p>Awareness raising about EIAs when available for public viewing and collation of submissions from the public on those EIAs for consideration by Island Environment Authorities</p> <p>Undertake fieldwork and research to address public, government and partner organisation concerns on environmental issues..</p> <p>Effectively cataloguing all library and video resources</p> <p>Implement effective tools for distant education and awareness</p> <p>Use social marketing as an effective tool for education and awareness activities</p> <p>Capacity Building initiatives for students e.g. careers day, guest lecturing in schools, resource distribution</p> <p>Participate in NDS taskforce, carry out environmental audit, supply policy concepts and reports that reflect key environmental concerns in the Cook Islands</p>

Objectives	Results	Measures	Work plan
			<p>Undertake National Capacity Self Assessment to evaluate the ability of Cook Islanders in relation to the various MEAs</p> <p>Enter into partnerships with NGOs, Government ministries, community groups and the private sector for environmental projects and activities</p>
<p>5. Contributing to international efforts to find solutions to global environment threats through national actions</p>	<p>Coordination, implementation, and monitoring of national and international environment and conservation programs including projects related to sustainable development (WSSD/BPOA), climate change and sea level rise, biodiversity conservation measures, water and waste systems management, oceans and lagoon environment programmes</p> <p>Strengthened Cook Islands commitment to the various MEAs, conventions and treaties e.g. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on Biodiversity (UNCBD), Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD), Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPS), Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), International Waters Program (IWP), Convention on Sustainable Development (CSD)</p> <p>National obligations to International Multilateral Environment agreements are met</p> <p>Aid and non-aid projects are executed with national benefits</p> <p>Increased understanding of Cook Islands citizens (NGOs, government ministries, agencies, community groups and the private sector of global environmental threats</p>	<p>National actions to address global environment threats reported and recognised internationally.</p> <p>Timely and quality reporting of all activities to government, donor agencies, and implementing agencies</p> <p>Inter-ministry endorsement and adoption of plans and policies that address national issues</p> <p>Accession to additional relevant MEAs, conventions, and treaties</p> <p>Documented Taskforce and stakeholder participation in MEA related training and meetings</p> <p>Catalogued additions to library and records of information distributed.</p>	<p>Environment Service secretariat coordinating or facilitating national actions in sustainable environment development (BPOA, WSSD), climate change (including adaptation planning and promotion of energy efficiency to reduce Green House Gases), biodiversity preservation, waste management, ocean & lagoon programs.</p> <p>Compilation and distribution of relevant information from participation in international meetings and conferences within the Cook Islands, including support available to NGO's for national implementation of MEAs</p> <p>Provide policy advice to Government and the general public on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)</p> <p>Maintain close affiliations with regional and international environment related intergovernmental organisations (IGOs).</p> <p>Facilitate negotiations for and on behalf of the Cook Islands at International meetings, workshops, conferences.</p> <p>Monitor the outputs of each project and ensure they are executed in a timely manner and in harmony with national goals</p> <p>Produce quarterly reports and other reports e.g. project proposals and financial audits as required for government, donor agencies and implementing agencies</p> <p>Participate in and conduct Taskforce and Stakeholder meetings for programmes under the various MEAs</p>
<p>6. Be a good employer.</p>	<p>Sustainable financing mechanisms for</p>	<p>Operations are able to be completed</p>	<p>Budgeting in terms of proper business planning</p>

Objectives	Results	Measures	Work plan
	<p>environmental and sustainable resources initiatives are created</p> <p>Employment of in country technical capacity to support environmental programs</p> <p>Human Resources Development Strategy established</p> <p>Training, performance indicators, management, reporting, planning, organizational structure, information management are developed.</p>	<p>with sufficient funding</p> <p>Accountability and performance management systems including mentoring are available and understood</p>	<p>Develop and ensure organisational structure and personnel are suited to the work of the Environment Service including relevant technical and administrative expertise i.e. operations manager, legal advisor, climate change, biodiversity, compliance officers, and engaging of consultants for specific tasks.</p> <p>Build effective Island Environment Authorities</p> <p>Undertake human resource development in the priority areas of national environment concerns.</p> <p>Effectively build the capacity of environment staff to enforce and monitor and promote community involvement.</p> <p>Implementation of the HRD strategy formulated in 2003.</p> <p>Weekly staff operations meetings and regular Performance Management reviews</p> <p>Develop and advertise and assign appropriate local consultancies including Terms of Reference, selection panels, and stakeholder consultations.</p>