



# Mainstreaming *The Cook Islands experience*

**2 – 7th February 2008**  
**Nadi, Fiji**

Presentation by Elizabeth Munro, National Environment  
Service, Cook Islands



**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT SERVICE**

TU'ANGA TAPOROPORO  
COOK ISLANDS

# *Mainstreaming?*

## **ISSUES:**

- **Understanding the terminology?**
- **How is it to be done?**
- **Who is supposed to do it?**
- **Where in the scheme of things does it start and end?**
- **What are the expectations if mainstreaming is done?**
- **Connectivity to the different sectors?**
  - Why is it our problem?
- **Biodiversity considerations overarching or underlying?**
  - How should we tackle this then?
  - Who will do the work?



**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT SERVICE**

TU'ANGA TAPOROPORO  
COOK ISLANDS

# *Mainstreaming of BD on the broader scale...*

<b>STEP 1</b>	<b>NBSAP</b>	<b>Public-wide consultation on biodiversity issues as per CBD requirements and obligations</b>
<b>STEP 2</b>	<b>NBSAP Add-on</b>	<b>Pilot projects implemented to identify national and local capacity needs – traditional knowledge, invasives, protected areas network etc</b>
<b>STEP 3</b>	<b>NESAF</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overall environment strategy with biodiversity programs</li> <li>- NBSAP updated and included in entirety into NESAF</li> <li>- Gives rise to community leadership in biodiversity management activities</li> </ul>
<b>STEP 4</b>	<b>NSDP</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides for overall sustainable development</li> <li>- Recognizes the NESAF to be implementing tool</li> <li>- Provides for integration of various sectoral harmonisation</li> </ul>



**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT SERVICE**  
 TU ANGA TAPOROPORO  
 COOK ISLANDS

# *Cook Islands National Environment Strategic Action Framework (NESAF) 2005 – 2009*

**It is the Cook Islands National Environment Strategic Action Framework 2005 – 2009. A tool to mainstream Environmental Management into various sectors of society**

- The framework is designed to recognize the significance of sustainable development as we begin to come to terms with issues such as biodiversity changes, changing weather patterns, unchecked tourism development, increasing waste and contaminated lagoons, as well as struggling infrastructure and utility services.



**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT SERVICE**

TU'ANGA TAPOROPORO  
COOK ISLANDS

**This Framework is linked to the National Environment Act 2003 and to other National Guiding Documents**

- National Sustainable Development Plan
- National Millennium Development Goals
- Draft Tourism Master Plan
- National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management
- Biosafety Framework

**The NESAF replaces the 1992-93 NEMS as the leading policy framework and to empower communities, which is crucial to the successful implementation of this Strategy.**



**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT SERVICE**

TU'ANGA TAPOROPORO  
COOK ISLANDS

**Pre NESAF the approaches to environmental management were sectoral based and most people considered “*environment*” to be the NES responsibility alone.**

**Many activities were uncoordinated at the national level and often replicated.**

**The NESAF has assisted in streamlining Government activities in the Environment arena.**

**Have assisted NES in its government business plan priorities**

**The NESAF recognizes that for it to be implemented effectively is must have “grassroots” community buy-in.**



**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT SERVICE**

TU'ANGA TAPOROPORO  
COOK ISLANDS

# *Challenges and Needs*

**Linkage to all these sectoral plans on paper but has not translated to real implementation**

**Environment sector is trying to Mainstream with other sectors but these Environment issues are not being taken up by the other sectors**

**Scattered islands with limited capacity and high transport costs makes it harder to get them involved**

**Need incentives and communication strategy to engage agencies such as the tourism sector to take on BD work which is outside their core function**

**Need capacity building programmes to reach out to the outer islands**

**Need to monitor and evaluate implementation across sectors.**



**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT SERVICE**

TU'ANGA TAPOROPORO  
COOK ISLANDS

# *Meitaki Maata*



**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT SERVICE**

TU'ANGA TAPOROPORO  
COOK ISLANDS



# Mainstreaming by sector...

## MARINE

- By-products or by-catch
  - turtles
  - pearl industry - clams

## TOURISM

- Tourist infrastructures and activities
- ecotourism
  - impacts of tourism development and activities

## AGRICULTURE

- Agro-biodiversity
  - impacts of invasive alien species

## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL HERITAGE

- Environment Impact Assessment
- Biodiversity Database

## NGOs & Communities

- Ra'ui – protected areas

**Extent of sectoral integration of biodiversity considerations are prevalent to their core functions.**



**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT SERVICE**

TU'ANGA TAPOROPORO  
COOK ISLANDS

# *Lessons Learnt – biodiversity specific*

## **The Good**

- **We have a plan in place!**
- **The plan is widely promoted and distributed across sectors**
- **There is an avenue for regular improvement**
- **EIA process allows for biodiversity consideration in the assessment**
- **Able to use plans to justify budget requests**
- **Led to establishment of Biodiversity Unit within NES**
- **Draft MOU for implementation with key stakeholders**
- **Draft Programme of Work**
- **There is a comprehensive database in place for the Cook Islands**

## **The Bad**

- **Cannot monitor or evaluate progress across sectors**
- **Those promoting the issue need to be on par every time to make sure it gets reflected in the different sectoral and national planning systems**
- **Some systems ie EIA are too limited to project sites and cumulative effect not assessed**
- **Database – information gaps, population and spatial distribution information lacking**



**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT SERVICE**

TU'ANGA TAPOROPORO  
COOK ISLANDS

# *Lessons Learnt...*

## **The Good**

- Knowing the issues and identifying the players makes it easier to mainstream
- Extent of mainstreaming is limited and prevalent to core functions
- Mainstreaming promotes partnership and engagements with other sectors
- High Level buy-in very important

## **The Bad**

- Extent of mainstreaming is limited and prevalent to core functions in the different sectors
- Allocation of resources to implement what has been mainstreamed is shortcoming
- Reflection of mainstreaming in sectoral policies don't always mean implementation
- Need for monitoring and evaluating implementation across sectors



**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT SERVICE**

TU'ANGA TAPOROPORO  
COOK ISLANDS