Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: NIUE

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GLOSSARY

AZEs   Alliance for Zero Extinction sites
CEPF   Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
EBSA   Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area
EEZ   Exclusive Economic Zone
GCF   Green Climate Fund
GD-PAME   Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness
GEF   Global Environment Facility
IBA   Important Bird and Biodiversity Area
ICCAs   Indigenous and Community Conserved Area Area (may also be referred to as territories and areas conserved by Indigenous peoples and local communities or "territories of life")
IPLC   Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
KBA   Key Biodiversity Area
MEOW   Marine Ecosystems of the World
MPA   Marine Protected Area
NBSAP   National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
OECM   Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures
PA   Protected Area
PAME   Protected Area Management Effectiveness
PPA   Privately Protected Area
PPOW   Pelagic Provinces of the World
ProtConn   Protected Connected land indicator
SOC   Soil Organic Carbon
TEOW   Terrestrial Ecosystems of the World
WDPA   World Database on Protected Areas
WD-OECM   World Database on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures

Disclaimer

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This country dossier is compiled by the UNDP and SCBD from publicly available information. It is prepared, within the overall work of the Global Partnership on Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, for the purpose of attracting the attention of the Party concerned and other national stakeholders to facilitate the verification, correcting, and updating of country data. The statistics might differ from those reported officially by the country due to differences in methodologies and datasets used to assess protected area coverage and differences in the base maps used to measure terrestrial and marine area of a country or territory. Furthermore, the suggestions from the UNDP and SCBD are based on analyses of global datasets, which may not necessarily be representative of national policy or criteria used at the national level. The analyses are also subject to the limits inherent in global indicators (precision, reliability, underlying assumptions, etc.). Therefore, they provide useful information but cannot replace analyses at a national level nor constitute a future benchmark for national policy or decision-making.

The preparation of this dossier was generously supported by: the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GMbH*; the European Commission; the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and the Government of Japan (Japan Biodiversity Fund). The dossier does not necessarily reflect their views.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document provides information on the coverage of protected areas (PAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), as currently reported in global databases (the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and World Database on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (WD-OECM)). It also includes details on the status of the other qualifying elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 based on this data. These statistics might differ from those reported officially by countries due to difference in methodologies and datasets used to assess protected area coverage, differences in the base maps used to measure terrestrial and marine area of a country or territory, or if global datasets differ from the criteria and indicators used at the national level. This dossier also provides a summary of commitments made under Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, and a summary of potential opportunities regarding elements of the target for future planning.

The dossier has been developed in consultation with the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), which manages the WDPA, WD-OECM and Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness (GD-PAME). Parties to the CBD are requested to contact protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org with any updates to the information in these databases.

Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Elements: Current status and opportunities for action

Coverage - Terrestrial & Marine
- **Status:** as of May 2021, terrestrial coverage in Niue is 54.7 km^2 (20.4%) and marine coverage is 129,207 km^2 (40.6%).

- **Opportunities for action:** opportunities for the near-term include updating the WDPA with any unreported PAs, and the recognizing and reporting OECMs to the WD-OECM. In the future, focus on relatively intact areas, while addressing the elements in the following sections, could be considered if planning new PAs or OECMs.

Ecological Representativeness– Terrestrial & Marine
- **Status:** Niue contains 1 terrestrial ecoregion, 1 marine ecoregion, and 1 pelagic province: coverage by reported PAs and OECMs is 20.9% (terrestrial), 48.6% (marine), and 40.6% (pelagic).

- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for Niue to increase protection for ecoregions that have lower levels of coverage by PAs or OECMs, and to focus on effective management for ecoregions that already have higher coverage.

Areas Important for Biodiversity
- **Status:** Niue has 1 Key Biodiversity Area (KBA): coverage by reported PAs and OECMs is 95.3%.

- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for Niue to focus on effective management for the 1 KBA which already has adequate coverage by PAs and OECMs.

Areas Important for Ecosystem Services

- **Status:** coverage of areas important for ecosystem services: In Niue, 22.4% of aboveground biomass carbon, 22.4% of belowground biomass carbon, 21.8% of soil organic carbon, 39.7% of carbon stored in marine sediments is covered by PAs and OECMs.

- **Opportunities for action:** for carbon, there is opportunity for Niue to increase PA and OECM coverage in terrestrial areas with high carbon stocks, and to focus on effective management of marine areas with high carbon stocks. Protecting areas with high carbon stocks secures the benefits of carbon sequestration in the area.

- For water, there is opportunity to increase the area of the water catchment under protection by PAs and OECMs, or in cases where there is high levels of protection, focus on effective management for these areas. Protecting the current area of forested land and potentially reforesting would have benefits for improving water security.

Connectivity and Integration

- **Status:** coverage of protected-connected lands is 22.0%.

- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity to focus on PA and OECM management for enhancing and maintaining connectivity. Improving connectivity increases the effectiveness of PAs and OECMs and reduces the impacts of fragmentation.

- As well, a range of suggested steps for enhancing and supporting integration are included in the voluntary guidance on the integration of PAs and OECMs into the wider land- and seascapes and mainstreaming across sectors to contribute, inter alia, to the SDGs (Annex I of COP Decision 14/8).

Governance Diversity

- **Status:** the most common governance type(s) for reported PAs in Niue is: 83.3% under Shared (Collaborative governance).

- **Opportunities for action:** There is opportunity for Niue to complete governance and equity assessments, to establish baselines and identify relevant actions for improvement. As well, a range of suggested actions are included in the voluntary guidance on effective governance models for management of protected areas, including equity (Annex II of COP Decision 14/8).

Protected Area Management Effectiveness

- **Status:** 0.0% of terrestrial PAs and 0.0% of marine PAs have completed Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) assessments reported.

- **Opportunities for action:** the 60% target for completed management effectiveness assessments (per COP Decision X/31) **has not** been met for terrestrial PAs and **has not** been met for marine PAs. Therefore, there is opportunity to increase protected area management effectiveness (PAME) evaluations for both terrestrial and marine PAs to achieve the target.

- There is also opportunity to implement the results of completed PAME evaluations, to improve the quality of management for existing PAs and OECMs (e.g. through adaptive management and information sharing, increasing the number of sites reporting 'sound management') and to increase reporting of biodiversity outcomes in PAs and OECMs.

INTRODUCTION

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 was adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan from 18-29 October 2010. The vision of the Strategic Plan is one of "Living in harmony with nature" where *"By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people"* (CBD, 2010). In addition to this vision, the Strategic Plan is composed of 20 targets, under five strategic goals. Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 states that *"By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes."*

With the conclusion of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in 2020, Target 11 on area-based conservation has seen success in the expansion of the global network of protected areas (PA) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs). The negotiation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and its future targets provide an essential opportunity to further improve the coverage of PAs and OECMs, to improve other aspects of area-based conservation, to accelerate progress on biodiversity conservation more broadly, while also addressing climate change, and the Sustainable Development Goals. This next set of global biodiversity targets are to be adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. These new targets must aim to build upon lessons learned from the last decade of progress to deliver transformative change for the benefit of nature and people, to realize the 2050 Vision for biodiversity.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity have developed the Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossiers, which provide countries with an overview of the status of Target 11 elements, opportunities for action, and a summary of commitments made by Parties over the last decade. Each dossier can support countries in assessing their progress on key elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and identifying opportunities to prioritize new protected areas and OECMs.

This dossier provides an overview of area-based conservation

in Niue. Section I of the dossier presents data on the current status of Niue's PAs and OECMs. The data presented in Section I relates to each element of Target 11. Section I also presents the PA and OECM coverage for two critical ecosystem services: water security and carbon stocks. In addition, the dossier presents potential opportunities for action for Niue, in relation to each Target 11 element. The analyses present options for improving Niue's area-based conservation network to achieve enhanced protection and benefits for livelihoods and climate change. Section II presents details on Niue's existing PA and OECM commitments as a summary of existing efforts towards achieving Target 11. This gives

focus not only to national policy and actions but also voluntary commitments to the UN. Furthermore, where data is available, this dossier provides information on potential OECMs, Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs; also, often referred to as territories and areas conserved by Indigenous peoples and local communities or "territories of life") and Privately Protected Areas (PPAs) and the potential contribution they will have in achieving the post-2020 targets.

The information on PAs and OECMs presented here is derived from the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and World Database on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (WD-OECM). These databases are joint products of UNEP and IUCN, managed by UNEP-WCMC, and can be viewed and downloaded at www.protectedplanet.net. Parties are encouraged to provide data on their PAs and OECMs to UNEP-WCMC for incorporation into the databases (see e.g., Decisions 10/31 and 14/8). The significant efforts of Parties in updating their data in the build up to the publication of the Protected Planet Report 2020 (UNEP-WCMC and IUCN, 2021) were greatly appreciated. UNEP-WCMC welcomes further updates, following the data standards described here (www.wcmc.io/WDPA_Manual), and these should be directed to protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org. The statistics presented in this dossier are derived from the May 2021 WDPA and WD-OECM releases, unless explicitly stated otherwise. Readers should consult www.protectedplanet.net for the latest coverage statistics (updated monthly).

Some data from the WDPA and WD-OECM are not made publicly available at the request of the data-provider. This affects some statistics, maps, and figures presented in this dossier. Statistics provided by UNEP-WCMC (terrestrial and marine coverage) are based upon the full dataset, including restricted data. All other statistics, maps, and figures are based upon the subset of the data that is publicly available.

Where data is less readily available, such as for potential OECMs, ICCAs and PPAs, data has also been compiled from published reports and scientific literature to provide greater awareness of these less commonly recorded aspects. These data are provided to highlight the need for comprehensive reporting on these areas to the WDPA and/or WD-OECM. Parties are invited to work with indigenous peoples, local communities and private actors to submit data under the governance of these actors, with their consent, to the WDPA and/or WD-OECM.

Overall, PAs and OECMs are essential instruments for biodiversity conservation and to sustain essential ecosystem services that support human well-being and sustainable development, including food, medicine, and water security, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction. The data in this dossier, therefore, aims to celebrate the current contributions of PAs and OECMs, whilst the gaps presented hope to encourage greater progress, not just for the benefit of biodiversity and the post-2020 GBF, but also to recognize the essential role of PAs and OECMs to the Sustainable Development Goals and for addressing the climate crisis.

SECTION I: CURRENT STATUS

Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 refers to both protected areas (PAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs). This section provides the current status for all elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 where indicators with global data are available. Statistics for all elements are presented using data on both PAs and OECMs (where this data is available and reported in global databases like the WDPA and WD-OECM). It is recognized that statistics reported in the WPDA and WD-OECM might differ from those reported officially by countries due to differences in methodologies and datasets used to assess protected area coverage and differences in the base maps used to measure terrestrial and marine area of a country or territory. Details on UNEP-WCMC's methods for calculating PA and OECM coverage area available here. The global indicators adopted here for presenting the status of other elements of Target 11 may also differ from those in use nationally.

COVERAGE - TERRESTRIAL & MARINE

As of May 2021, Niue has **6** protected areas reported in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA).
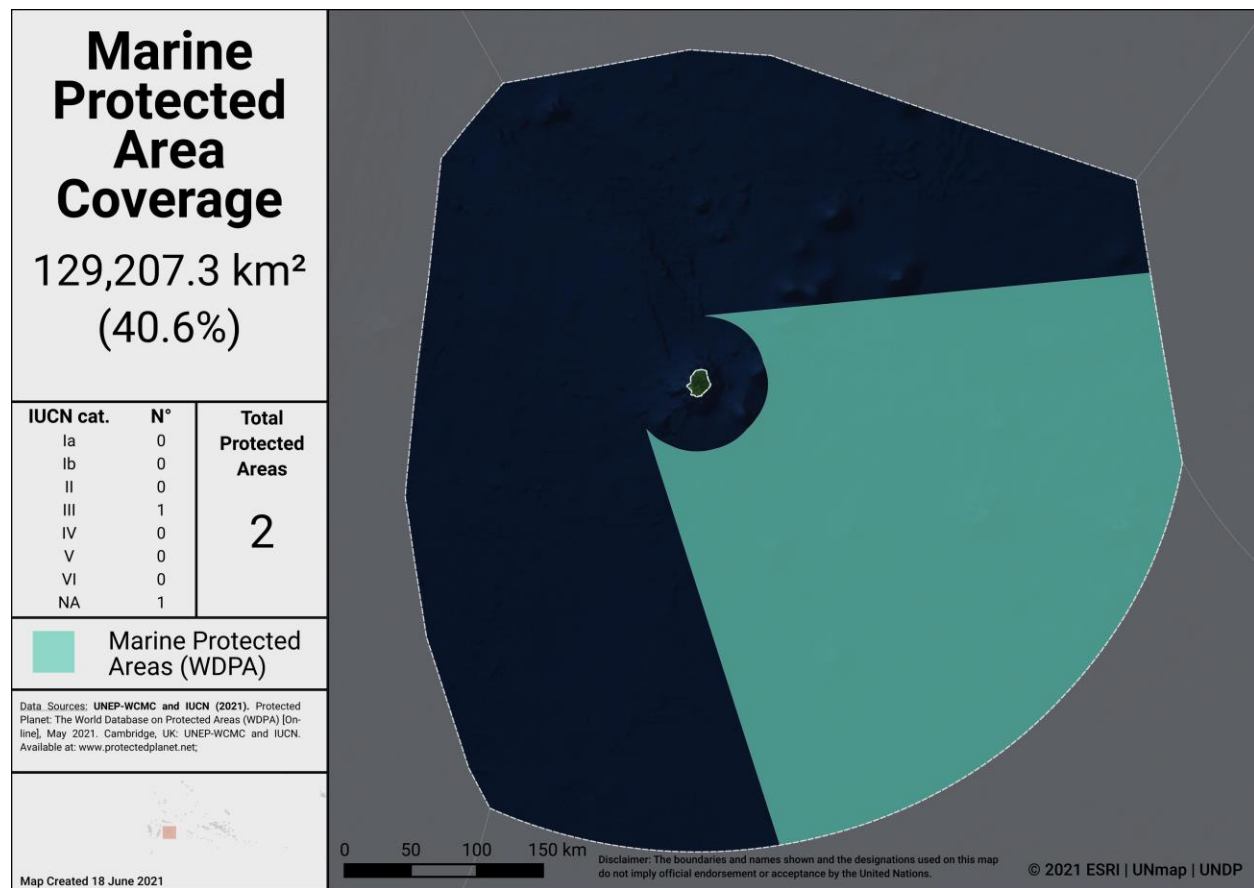
As of May 2021, Niue has **0** OECMs reported in the world database on OECMs (WD-OECM).

Current coverage for Niue:

- 20.4% terrestrial (5 protected areas, 54.7 km^2)

- 40.6% marine (2 protected areas, 129,207 km^2)

Terrestrial Protected Area Coverage

54.7 km² (20.44%)

IUCN cat.	N°	Total Protected Areas
Ia	0	
Ib	0	
II	0	
III	1	
IV	0	5
V	0	
VI	2	
NA	2	

Protected Areas (WDPA)

Data Sources: **UNEP-WCMC and IUCN (2021).** Protected Planet: The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) [Online], May 2021. Cambridge, UK: UNEP-WCMC and IUCN. Available at: www.protectedplanet.net;

Map Created 17 June 2021

Terrestrial Protected Areas in Niue

Marine Protected Area Coverage

129,207.3 km²
(40.6%)

IUCN cat.	N°	Total Protected Areas
Ia	0	
Ib	0	
II	0	
III	1	**2**
IV	0	
V	0	
VI	0	
NA	1	

Marine Protected Areas (WDPA)

Data Sources: **UNEP-WCMC and IUCN (2021).** Protected Planet: The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) [Online], May 2021. Cambridge, UK: UNEP-WCMC and IUCN. Available at: www.protectedplanet.net;

Map Created 18 June 2021

0   50   100   150 km

Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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Marine Protected Areas in Niue

Potential OECMs

There are currently no potential OECM examples for Niue.

Opportunities for action

Opportunities for the near-term include updating the WDPA with any unreported PAs, and the recognizing and reporting OECMs to the WD-OECM. In the future, as Niue considers where to add new PAs and OECMs, focus on relatively intact areas, while addressing the elements in the following sections, could be considered.

ECOLOGICAL REPRESENTATIVENESS – TERRESTRIAL & MARINE

Ecological representativeness is assessed based on the PAs and OECMs coverage of broad-scale biogeographic units. Globally, ecoregions have been described for terrestrial areas (Dinerstein et al, 2017), marine coastal and shelf ecosystems (to a depth of 200m; Spalding et al 2007) and surface pelagic waters (Spalding et al 2012).
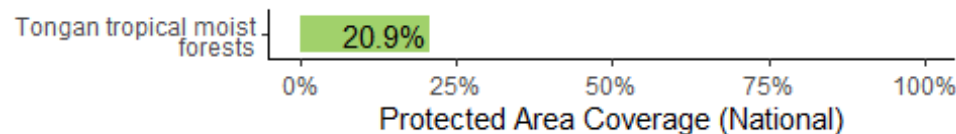
Niue has 1 **terrestrial** ecoregion; coverage from PAs and OECMs is 20.9%.

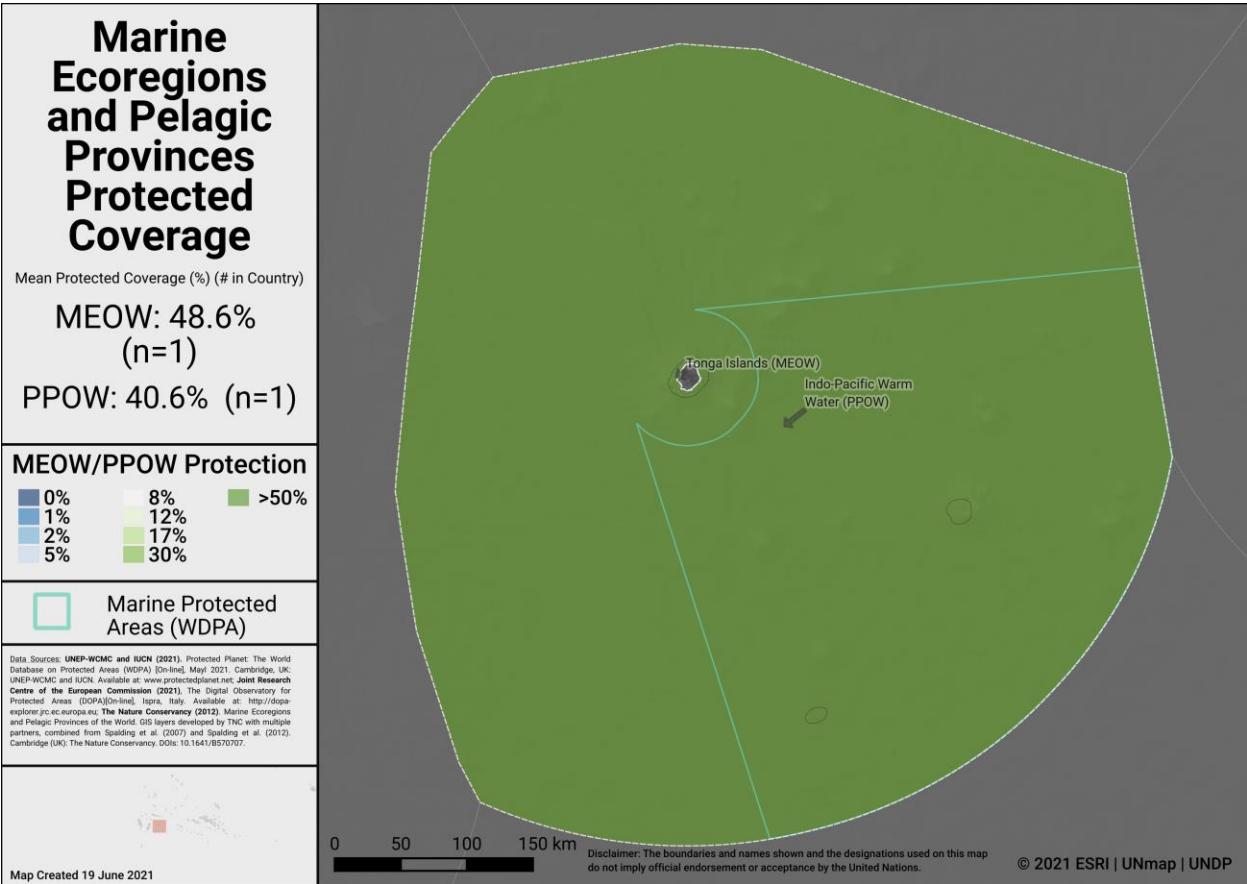Niue has 1 **marine** ecoregion and 1 **pelagic province**;

- coverage from reported PAs and OECMs within Niue's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) is 48.6% (marine ecoregion) and 40.6% (pelagic province).
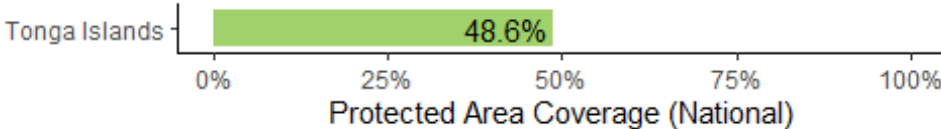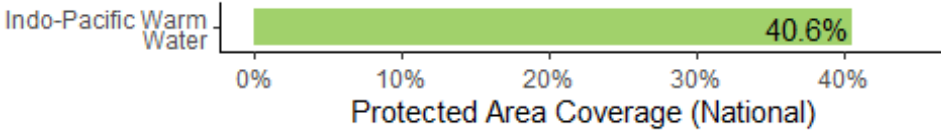

Terrestrial ecoregions in Niue

Terrestrial ecoregions of the World (TEOW) in Niue

Marine ecoregions and pelagic provinces

Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW) in Niue

Pelagic Provinces of the World (PPOW) in Niue

Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for Niue to increase protection for ecoregions that have lower levels of coverage by PAs or OECMs, and to focus on effective management for ecoregions that already have higher coverage.

AREAS IMPORTANT FOR BIODIVERSITY

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)

Protected area and OECM coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) provide one proxy for assessing the conservation of areas important for biodiversity at national, regional and global scales. KBAs are sites that make significant contributions to the global persistence of biodiversity (IUCN, 2016). The KBA concept builds on four decades of efforts to identify important sites for biodiversity, including Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas, Alliance for Zero Extinction sites, and KBAs identified through Hotspot ecosystem profiles supported by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund. Incorporating these sites, the dataset of internationally significant KBAs includes Global KBAs (sites shown to meet one or more of 11 criteria in the Global Standard for the Identification of KBAs, clustered into five categories: threatened biodiversity; geographically restricted biodiversity; ecological integrity; biological processes; and irreplaceability), Regional KBAs (sites identified using pre-existing criteria and thresholds, that do not meet the Global KBA criteria based on existing information), and KBAs whose Global/Regional status is Not yet determined, but which will be assessed against the global KBA criteria within 8-12 years. Regional KBAs are often of critical international policy relevance (e.g., in EU legislation and under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands), and many are likely to qualify as Global KBAs in future once assessed for their biodiversity importance for other taxonomic groups and ecosystems. To date, nearly 16,000 KBAs have identified globally, and information on each of these is presented in the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas: www.keybiodiversityareas.org.
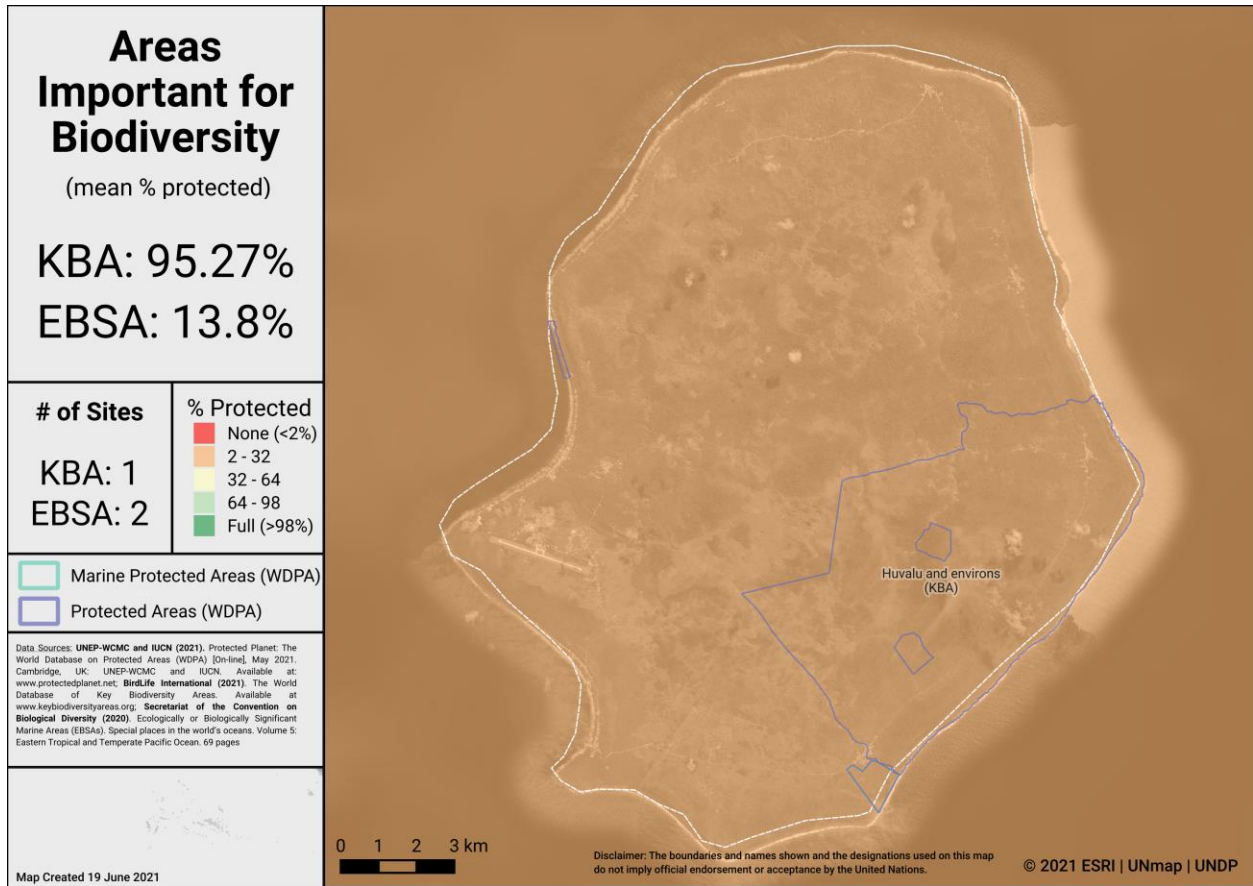
Niue has **1** Key Biodiversity Area (KBA):

- Coverage by PAs and OECMs is **95.3%**.

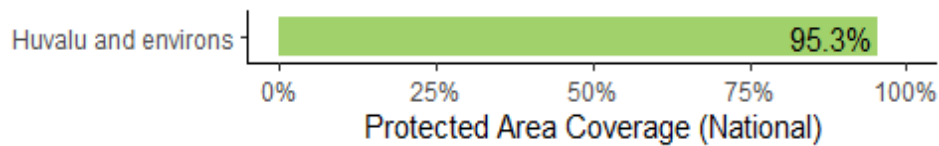**Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)**

Other important areas for biodiversity may also include Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs), which were identified following the scientific criteria adopted at COP-9 (Decision IX/20; see more at: https://www.cbd.int/ebsa/). Sites that meet the EBSA criteria may require enhanced conservation and management measures; this could be achieved through means including MPAs, OECMs, marine spatial planning, and impact assessment.

There are 2 EBSAs with some portion of their extent within Niue's EEZ, of which 1 EBSA has <0.1% coverage from PAs and OECMs.

Areas Important for Biodiversity in Niue

Key Biodiversity Area Coverage (KBA) in Niue
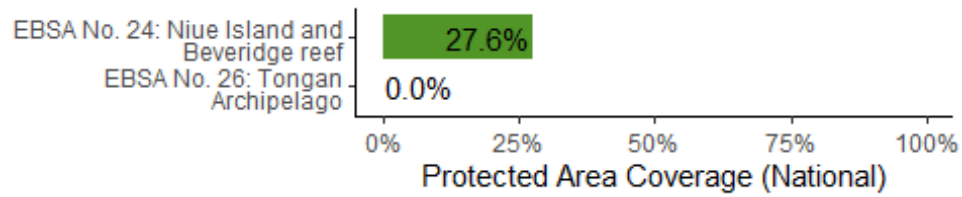
Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in Niue

Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for Niue to focus on effective management for the 1 KBA which already has adequate coverage by PAs and OECMs.

AREAS IMPORTANT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

There is no single indicator identified for assessing the conservation of areas important for ecosystem services. For simplicity, two services with available global datasets are assessed here (carbon and water). In future, other critical ecosystem services could be explored.

Carbon

Data for biomass carbon comes from temporally consistent and harmonized global maps of aboveground biomass and belowground biomass carbon density (at a 300-m spatial resolution); the maps integrate land-cover specific, remotely sensed data, and land-cover specific empirical models (see Spawn et al., 2020 for details on methodology). The Global Soil Organic Carbon Map present an estimation of SOC stock from 0 to 30 cm (see FAO, 2017). Data is also presented from global maps of marine sedimentary carbon stocks, standardized to a 1-meter depth (see Sala et al., 2021, and Atwood et al., 2020).

The map below presents the total carbon stocks in Niue and the percent of carbon in protected areas. The total carbon stocks is 0.1 Tg C from aboveground biomass (AGB), with 22.4% in protected areas; 0.1 Tg C from below ground biomass (BGB), with 22.4% in protected areas; 5.0 Tg C from soil organic carbon (SOC), with 21.8% in protected areas; and 1,550.3 Tg C from marine sediment carbon, with 39.7% in protected areas.
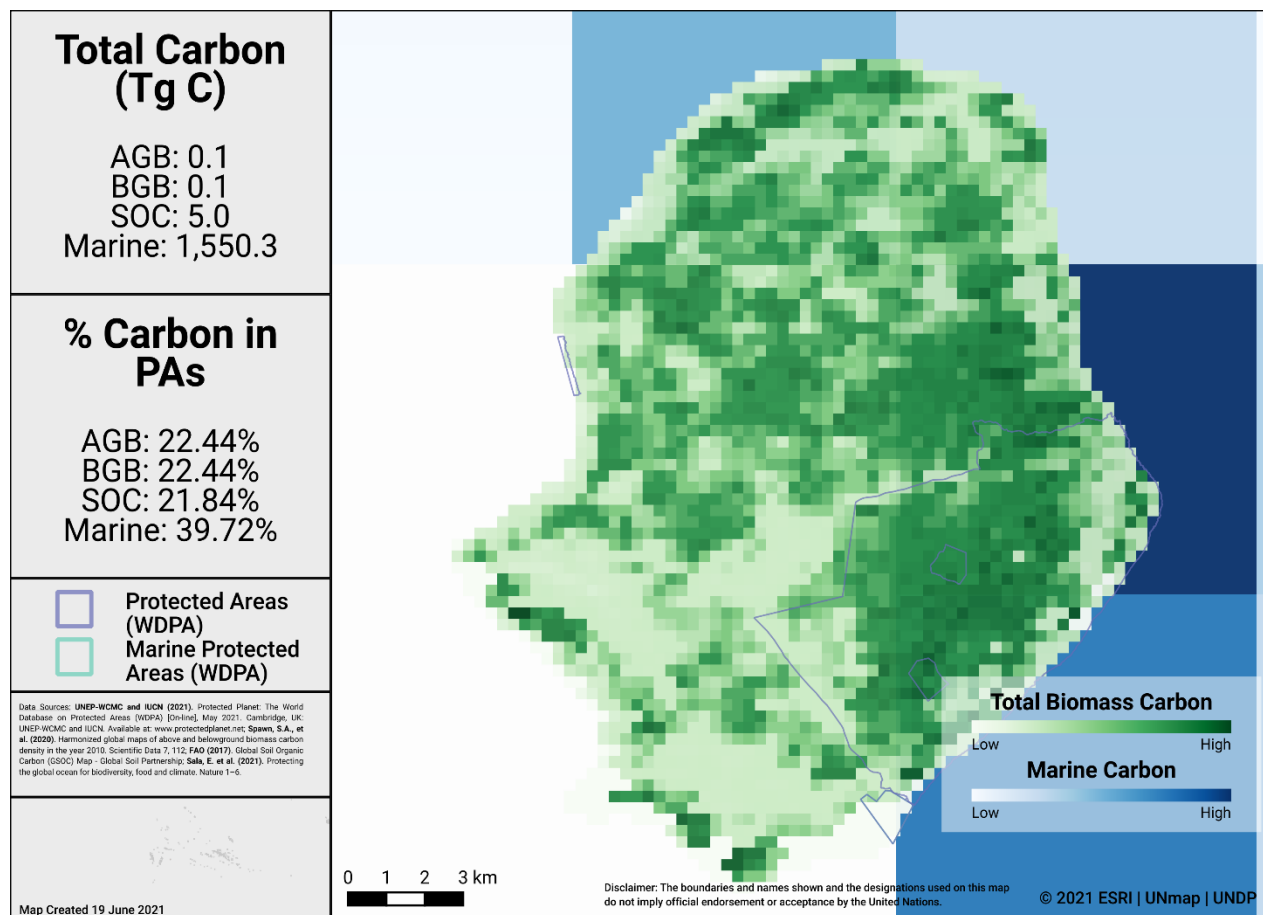
Carbon Stocks in Niue

Water

Forests and intact ecosystems support stormwater management and clean water availability, especially for large urban populations. Research that has examined the role of forests for city drinking water supplies shows that of the world's 105 largest cities, more than 30% (33 cities) rely heavily on the local protected forests, which provide ecosystem services that underpin local drinking water availability and quality (Dudley & Stolton, 2003).

Drinking water supplies for cities in Niue may similarly depend on protected forest areas within and around water catchments. Intact catchments can support more consistent water supply and improved water quality.

Opportunities for action

For carbon, there is opportunity for Niue to increase PA and OECM coverage in terrestrial areas with high carbon stocks, and to focus on effective management of marine areas with high carbon stocks, as identified in the map above. Protecting areas with high carbon stocks secures the benefits of carbon sequestration in the area.

For water, there is opportunity to increase the area of the water catchment under protection by PAs and OECMs, or in cases where there is high levels of protection, focus on effective management for these areas. Protecting the current area of forested land and potentially reforesting would have benefits for improving water security.

CONNECTIVITY & INTEGRATION

Two global indicators, the Protected Connected land indicator (ProtConn; EC-JRC, 2021; Saura et al., 2018) and the PARC-Connectedness indicator (CSIRO, 2019), have been proposed for assessing the terrestrial connectivity of PA and OECM networks. To date there is no global indicator for assessing marine connectivity, though some recent developments include proposed guidance for the treatment of connectivity in the planning and management of MPAs (see Lausche et al., 2021).

Protected Connected Land Indicator (Prot-Conn)

As of January 2021, as reported in the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission's Digital Observatory for Protected Areas (DOPA) (JRC, 2021), the coverage of protected-connected lands (a measure of the connectivity of terrestrial protected area networks, assessed using the ProtConn indicator) in Niue was 22.0%.

PARC-Connectedness

There is no data for Niue.

Corridor case studies

There are currently no corridor case studies available for Niue (but see general details on conserving connectivity through ecological networks and corridors in Hilty et al 2020).

Opportunities for action

There is opportunity to focus on PA and OECM management for enhancing and maintaining connectivity. Improving connectivity increases the effectiveness of PAs and OECMs and reduces the impacts of fragmentation.

As well, a range of suggested steps for enhancing and supporting integration are included in the voluntary guidance on the integration of PAs and OECMs into the wider land- and seascapes and mainstreaming across sectors to contribute, inter alia, to the SDGs (Annex I of COP Decision 14/8).

GOVERNANCE DIVERSITY

There is a lack of comprehensive global data on governance quality and equity in PAs and OECMs. Here, we provide data on the diversity of governance types for reported PAs and OECMs.

As of May 2021, PAs in Niue reported in the WDPA have the following governance types:

- 16.7% are governed by **governments** (by federal or national ministry or agency)
- 83.3% are under **shared** governance (by collaborative governance)
- 0.0% are under **private** governance
- 0.0% are under **IPLC** governance
    - 0.0% by Indigenous Peoples
    - 0.0% by local communities
- 0.0% **do not** report a governance type

OECMs

As of May 2021, there are **0** OECMs in Niue reported in the WD-OECM, therefore there is no data available on OECM governance types.

Privately Protected Areas (PPAs)

There is currently no data available on PPAs for Niue (see Gloss et al., 2019, and Stolton et al., 2014 for details).

Territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities (ICCAs)

There is currently no data available on ICCAs for Niue (see Kothari et al., 2012 and the ICCA Registry for further details).

Other Indigenous lands

There is currently no data available on the total area of lands managed and/or controlled by Indigenous Peoples in Niue (for details on analysis see Garnett et al., 2018).

Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for Niue to complete governance and equity assessments, to establish baselines and identify relevant actions for improvement. Examples of existing tools and methodologies include: Governance Assessment for Protected and Conserved Areas (Franks & Brooker, 2018), Social Assessment of Protected Areas (Franks et al 2018), and Site-level assessment of governance and equity (IIED, 2020). As well, a range of suggested actions are included in the voluntary guidance on effective governance models for management of protected areas, including equity (Annex II of COP Decision 14/8).

PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS

This section provides information on the coverage of PAs and OECMs with completed protected area management effectiveness (PAME) assessments as reported in the global database (GD-PAME). The proportion of terrestrial and marine PAs with completed PAME assessments is also calculated and compared with the 60% target agreed to in COP-10 Decision X/31.

Protected area management effectiveness (PAME) assessments

As of May 2021, Niue has 6 PAs reported in the WDPA; of these PAs, 0 (0.0%) have management effectiveness evaluations reported in the global database on protected area management effectiveness (GD-PAME).

- 0.0% (0.0 km^2) of the terrestrial area of the country is covered by PAs with completed management effectiveness evaluations.
    – 0.0% of the area of terrestrial PAs have completed evaluations.
- 0.0% (0.0 km^2) of the marine area of the country is covered by PAs with completed management effectiveness evaluations.
    – 0.0% of the area of marine PAs have completed evaluations.

The 60% target for completed management effectiveness assessments (per COP Decision X/31) **has not** been met for terrestrial PAs and **has not** been met for marine PAs.

As of May 2021, there are 0 OECMs in Niue reported in the WD-OECM and no information available on the management effectiveness of potential OECMs.

Opportunities for action

The 60% target for completed management effectiveness assessments (per COP Decision X/31) **has not** been met for terrestrial PAs and **has not** been met for marine PAs. Therefore, there is opportunity to increase protected area management effectiveness (PAME) evaluations for both terrestrial and marine PAs to achieve the target.

There is also opportunity to implement the results of completed PAME evaluations, to improve the quality of management for existing PAs and OECMs (e.g. through adaptive management and information sharing, increasing the number of sites reporting 'sound management') and to increase reporting of biodiversity outcomes in PAs and OECMs.

SECTION II: EXISTING PROTECTED AREA AND OECM COMMITMENTS

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS (NBSAPs)

Niue has submitted an NBSAP during the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (most recent NBSAP is available at: https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/search/).

Actions from the NBSAP that address elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11:

NBSAP Action #	Action (original language from NBSAP)
1.1.1.4	Develop a 'Ridge to Reef' (R2R) programme as a key framework for habitat conservation. (Integrate R2R into crosssectoral plans such as climate change mitigation and adaptation, tourism and the plan for achieving water security.)
1.2.1.2	Finalise and map the boundaries of existing Protected Areas and give them legal protection. - Review and formalise existing conservation arrangements with stakeholders of Huvalu Conservation area
2.2.1.1	Declare Huvalu Conservation Area under the Forest Act.
2.2.1.3	Using cultural mapping and other techniques, establish and map the Tapu Areas within the protected areas.
2.2.2.1-3	Establish a single and continuous terrestrial conservation area covering 2,550 ha that links at least 7 traditionally strictly protected sites (Tapus) covering at least 300 ha) and their surrounding landscapes. - Consult communities and landowners; Map agreed areas for Protected Areas; Categorise areas according to IUCN list and its intending use
2.2.3.1-5	Identify new Protected Areas; finalise and map the boundaries, and give them legal protection. - Identify new potential areas for protection (including coastal forests); Assess the biodiversity and environmental features of potential areas and select two high priority sites; Collect baseline information on land-use and socio-economic conditions in priority sites; protection.- consult with local people about the proposed protected areas; Formalise the new protected areas and map them.
2.2.4.1-4	Develop protected area management plans to ensure that biodiversity conservation is agreed between all stakeholders and effectively implemented in practice. - Establish multi-stakeholder protected area management committees; Assess needs for protected area management activities (including surveys of biodiversity status and threat assessment where needed); Prepare management plans for each area, to include: areas for strict protection (Tapu areas); areas for restoration and active conservation management; and sustainable use areas; Identify and cost high- priority conservation activities and implement them.
2.2.6.1-3	Ensure that sufficient financing is identified and secured to support protected area management activities beyond the end of the FPAM project. - Assess long-term financing needs for protected area management and compare to current availability of resources; Review and assess new potential financing mechanisms; In consultation with other stakeholders, select the most viable financing mechanisms.

NBSAP Action #	Action (original language from NBSAP)
2.2.7.1-4	Generate income from eco- cultural tourism services, including user fee to support Protected Area management costs. - In consultation with local stakeholders, identify potentially viable eco-cultural tourism opportunities; Conduct market research and identify interested local participants; Select three or more of the most promising opportunities and test the market (including user fees to support protected area management costs).; Based on the test results, formalise the arrangement and prepare and implement long-term business plan.
2.2.8.1-4	Generate income from sustainable locally produced Non- Wood Forest Products (NWFPs), including levy to support Protected Area management costs. - In consultation with local stakeholders, identify a range of products that can be simply and sustainably produced from Huvalu Forest resources and have potential for sale to tourists; Conduct market research and identify interested local producers and retailers; Select three or more of the most promising products and test the market (including simple certification and levy to support PA management costs); Based on the test results, formalise the arrangement and prepare and implement long-term business plan.
3.2.1.1-2	Support and strengthen existing protected areas - Analyse benefit of existing protected areas; Assess status of key species.
3.2.10.1-2	Designate Beveridge Reef as a protected area. - Carry out surveys and map protected area boundaries; Prepare legislation to designate Beveridge Reef as protected area.
3.2.2.1-2	Assess and identify new areas that have potential for protected status due to their biological diversity - Carry out ecological survey assessment of identified areas; SWAT analyses of those identified areas
3.2.3.1-3	Manage and monitor protected areas as baseline indicators for national resource management efforts. (Ano-no- Marine Reserve, Hakupu Heritage Marine Area and other sites). - Develop monitoring programmesl Conduct annual data collection of key species in the protected areas; Conduct long-term training in data collection and analyses.
3.2.4.1-3	Develop a Management plan for Ano-no- Marine Reserve. - Strengthen responsible agencies' capacity in resource management; Undertake community consultations on the importance and benefits of the protected area;
3.2.5.1	Encourage the establishment of temporary closed areas (fono concept) and other alternatives for conservation purposes. - Develop and encourage cultural and traditional conservation methods.
3.2.6.1-2	Protected area management practices to involve the local community.- Encourage and support community participation in resource management. - Undertake capacity training for communities in resource management.
3.2.7.1	Improve awareness of the importance and locality of the protected areas.- Develop information billboards on the importance of existing protected sites for local communities.
3.2.8.1-2	Strengthen existing marine protected areas (fono) to protect breeding biomass and habitats - Establish protection programmes for key habitats within the protected areas; Develop awareness information on breeding biomass and habitats.
3.2.9.1	Support the development of more community- based protected areas at priority sites.- Undertake community consultations to determine priority sites.

APPROVED GEF-5 & GEF-6 PROTECTED AREA PROJECTS

Approved GEF-5 and GEF-6 PA-related biodiversity projects

This includes biodiversity projects from the fifth and sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-5 and GEF-6) with a clear impact of the quantity or quality of PAs; also including some projects occurring within the wider landscapes/seascapes around PAs. Only those with a status of 'project approved' or 'concept approved' as of June 2019 were considered. The qualifying elements likely benefiting from each GEF project is assessed based on a keyword search of Project Identification Forms (PIF).

GEF ID	PA increase?	Area to be added (km²)	Type of new protected area	Qualitative elements potentially benefitting (based on keyword search of PIFs)
5552	Yes	already in WDPA	Marine	All except Ecosystem services
5552	Yes	26	Terrestrial	All except Ecosystem services

UN OCEAN CONFERENCE VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS

Voluntary commitments for the UN Ocean Conference are initiatives voluntarily undertaken by governments, the UN system, non-governmental organizations, among other actors—individually or in partnership—that aim to contribute to the implementation of SDG 14 (here we focus in particular on SDG 14.5). The registry of commitments was opened in February 2017, in the lead up to the first UN Ocean Conference (5 to 9 June 2017).

Ocean Actions improving MPA or OECM coverage:

#OceanAction17050: Application of Ridge to Reef Concept for Biodiversity Conservation and for the Enhancement of Ecosystem Services and Cultural Heritage in Niue. Niue Ocean Wide Public-Private Partnership - Niue Large scale MPA (40% of EEZ encompassing all existing bioregion components), by Niue Ministry of Natural Resources (Government).

- Area to be added: 0 km² (**Action completed in 2020**).
- Progress report: Yes (As of Oct 2018; Overall status = On track); October 2019, 2020 not submitted
- Further details available at: https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=17050.

OTHER ACTIONS/COMMITMENTS

Commitments for PAs and OECMs from Other National Policies

Policy document	Ecosystem	Policy text
Nationally Determined Contribution	Forest ecosystems	Preserving environmental integrity, social stability, and the Niue culture
Nationally Determined Contribution	Forest ecosystems	Maintain or enhance the capacity of removals of greenhouse gases by AFOLU
Nationally Determined Contribution	Forest ecosystems	Develop effective adaptation responses and enhance adaptive capacity in order to protect livelihoods, natural resources and assets, and vulnerable areas to the impacts of climate change to all sectors
Nationally Determined Contribution	Coastal ecosystems	Preserving environmental integrity, social stability, and the Niue culture
Nationally Determined Contribution	Coastal ecosystems	Develop effective adaptation responses and enhance adaptive capacity in order to protect livelihoods, natural resources and assets, and vulnerable areas to the impacts of climate change to all sectors
Nationally Determined Contribution	Grasslands & Agricultural systems	Preserving environmental integrity, social stability, and the Niue culture ❖ Maintain or enhance th
Nationally Determined Contribution	Grasslands & Agricultural systems	Maintain or enhance the capacity of removals of greenhouse gases by AFOLU
Niue Strategic Energy Roadmap	Forest ecosystems	Rehabilitate the EDF9 LPG stove project – including training and awareness of LPG use
National Strategic Plan	Forest ecosystems	Protecting biodiversity, maintaining sufficient remaining habitats and ecosystems to support the population of all species and their genetic diversity
National Strategic Plan	Coastal ecosystems	Protecting biodiversity, maintaining sufficient remaining habitats and ecosystems to support the population of all species and their genetic diversity
National Strategic Plan	Grasslands & Agricultural systems	Protecting biodiversity, maintaining sufficient remaining habitats and ecosystems to support the population of all species and their genetic diversity

Policy document	Ecosystem	Policy text
National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan	Forest ecosystems	Declare Huvalu Conservation Area under the Forest Act
National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan	Coastal ecosystems	Prepare management plans for each area, to include: areas for strict protection (Tapu areas); active conservation management
Nationally Determined Contribution	Grasslands & Agricultural systems	Develop effective adaptation responses and enhance adaptive capacity in order to protect livelihoods, natural resources and assets, and vulnerable areas to the impacts of climate change to all sectors

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