



GOVERNMENT OF NIUE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
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NATIONAL PORTFOLIO DOCUMENT

NIUE ISLAND

Prepared by the Department of Environment



CONTENTS

Introduction

National Steering Committee

National Consultations

Global Environmental Challenges

- a. Biodiversity
- b. Land Degradation
- c. Climate Change
- d. Other

STAR Allocation and Priority Projects

Priority Areas in Focal Areas outside the STAR

Priority Areas for Regional Collaboration

Other Project Concepts

Fulfilment of Conventions' Obligations

Introduction

The National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) serves as a priority setting tool to identify and describe the national strategic priorities under each of the GEF focal areas of biodiversity, climate change and land degradation. The outputs include an indicative list of project concepts that could be developed to achieve the objectives of the three focal areas.

Funding was provided for countries to undertake this exercise. This will also be a guide for GEF Agencies as they assist recipient countries, however, this exercise is on a voluntary basis and it is not a requirement or a pre-requisite for requesting GEF grants.

Countries will have to submit a proposal that gives a detailed description of the activities that have to be carried out to produce the National Portfolio Formulation Document as well as expected costs. The NPFE was undertaken by the GEF focal point of Niue, the Department of Environment.

Through stakeholder consultations in Niue, requirements of the GEF-5 were discussed. A multi-stakeholder, multi-disciplinary approach to integrate preparations for the GEF-5 with other key upcoming environmental planning processes was determined. Included are Niue's State Of the Environment (SOE) and NBSAP reviews and a plan for relevant implementations of the CBD COP10 decisions.

1. National Steering Committee

The Niue National Steering Committee was established during a special deliberation to discuss requirements of the GEF-5. A multi-disciplinary approach to integrate preparations for the GEF-5 with other key upcoming environmental planning processes was determined.

The Committee is a seven-member body with a quorum of four, with the Department of Environment as the secretariat. The Director of the Department of Environment is the chairperson and SPREP and CROP agencies to provide technical backup support when required.

The membership includes:

- a. Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries
- b. Water Division of the Public Works Department
- c. External Affairs
- d. Climate Change Office
- e. Treasury Department
- f. Civil Society Organisations (NIUANGO)

The Steering Committee is guided by the Terms of Reference for the coordination and implementation for the national prioritisation process;

- Prepare the work-plan, timelines and budget for the national prioritisation exercise
- Compile necessary information and data
- Conduct sector stakeholder consultations to confirm priorities
- Organise public awareness raising on GEF-5
- Organise necessary training for sector stakeholders on processes and tools to assist the national prioritisation exercise
- Prepare the terms of references for and recruit the consultancy services to assist them with the preparation of the following:
 - The national prioritisation report
 - The basic guidelines for the multi-focal programme based on the results of the national prioritisation exercise report and the GEF-5 STAR requirements

- Keep Cabinet and stakeholders updated on the progress and results of the prioritisation exercise and the preparation of the multi-focal programme.

2. National Consultations

The NPFE involved consultations with the following Government Agencies:

- DAFF
- PWD
- External Affairs
- Treasury
- Climate Change Office
- Justice Lands & Survey
- Health

These are key agencies responsible for the coordination of environmental programs in the thematic areas of lands, water, biodiversity, coastal and marine, climate change and waste and pollution management.

Public consultations were convened to discuss requirements of the GEF-5 processes and requirements, and to determine a multi-stakeholder, multi-disciplinary approach to integrate preparations for GEF-5 with other key upcoming environmental processes. Among these are Niue's State of the Environment and the National Biodiversity Strategic & Action Plan (NBSAP) reviews and a plan for the relevant implementation of the CBD COP10 decisions. Consultations considered several key processes, tools and activities that can contribute to the national prioritisation exercise.

After lengthy discussions and deliberations, the best approach agreed upon to streamline and integrate these various processes is to work towards a national prioritisation process to assess and identify the priority issues for Niue's environment program in the next five to ten years. The fundamental consideration is to increase the integration of diverse environmental programs and projects in order to maximise the use of resources and to strengthen the collaboration of stakeholders to levels that can enhance the quality

and positive results of the environmental actions nationally, thus providing the framework to effectively generate the requirements for a multi-focal program that is relevant to the GEF-5 funding requirements in the next five years.

The following were identified that needed immediate consideration post-consultations:

- a) The review of and report on the State of the Environment;
- b) The review of Niue's NBSAP;
- c) Socio-economic and vulnerability assessments for adaptation to climate change for Niue's National Adaptation Program, under the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) Project;
- d) The development of a multi-focal country project to access funding under the GEF-5 STAR.

Guidelines and policies of the GEF-5 STAR and other related funding opportunities to support an effective national prioritisation process was discussed, and developed an initial matrix of priority issues, – persistent and emergent – using the following criteria below to prioritise issues to serve as a starting point for the national prioritisation consultations:

- Urgency and immediate impact;
- Irreversibility;
- Effects on human health;
- Effects on economic productivity;
- Number of people affected;
- Loss of aesthetic values and
- Impacts on cultural and historical heritages.

Table 1: Prioritisation of Key Biodiversity Issues

THEME	ISSUE	CRITERIA	PRIORITY		
			LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invasive species – land and marine (IS) Endangered Species – land and marine (ES) Unsustainable harvests of native species – both land and marine (UHS) Lack of ecosystem, planning and management of Protected areas – land and marine (EMP) Limited Traditional knowledge management (TKM) Biosecurity & biosafety (BB) Eco-tourism – land & marine (ET) Inshore and offshore fisheries management constraints (IOFM) 	Urgency & immediate impact		IS, ES, BB, IOFM	UHS, EMP, TKM, ET
		Irreversibility	ET	EMP, BB, IOFM	IS, ES, UHS, TKM
		Effects on Human Health	IS, ES, UHS,	TKM, ET	EMP, BB, IOFM
		Effects on economic productivity		ES,	IS, UHS, EMP, TKM, BB, ET, IOFM
		Number of people affected	ES	IS, ET, IOFM	UHS, EMP, TKM, BB
		Loss of aesthetic values		IS, BB, ET, IOFM	ES, UHS, EMP, TKM
		Impacts on cultural and historical heritages		BB, IOFM	IS, ES, UHS, EMP, TKM, ET

Table 2: Prioritisation of Key Water Issues

THEME	ISSUES	CRITERIA	PRIORITY		
			LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contamination of water quality (CWQ) Protection of the water lens (PWL) Water use management/ including monitoring (WUM) Response to natural disasters (RND) Wastewater management (WWM) 	Urgency & immediate impact		PWL	CWQ, WUM, RND, WWM
		Irreversibility		WUM, RND	CWQ, PWL, WWM
		Effects on Human Health			CWQ, PWL, WUM, RND, WWM
		Effects on economic productivity			CWQ, PWL, WUM, RND, WWM
		Number of people affected			CWQ, PWL, WUM, RND, WWM
		Loss of aesthetic values	CWQ	PWL, WUM, RND	WWM
		Impacts on cultural and historical heritages	CWQ, PWL	WUM, RND	WWM

Table 3: Prioritisation of Land Issues

THEME	ISSUES	CRITERIA	PRIORITY		
			LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land use management (LMGT) • Soil fertility rejuvenation (SFR) • Land clearing practices (LCP) • Land use planning (LUP) • Land contamination with agricultural and industrial chemicals (LCC) 	Urgency & immediate impact		LMGT, LUP, LCP	SFR, LCC
		Irreversibility		LCP, LUP	LMGT, SFR, LCC
		Effects on Human Health	LCP	SFR, LUP	LMGT, LCC
		Effects on economic productivity		LCC	LMGT, SFR, LUP, LCP
		Number of people affected		SFR, LCP	LMGT, LUP, LCC
		Loss of aesthetic values		LCP, LUP, LCC	LMGT, SFR
		Impacts on cultural and historical heritages		LUP, LCC	LMGT, SFR, LCP

Table 4: Prioritisation of Climate Issues

THEME	ISSUES	CRITERIA	PRIORITY		
			LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing severity and frequencies of extreme events (cyclones, droughts, heat-waves, sea surges, etc.) (ISFE) Climate early warning and response system (CEWRS) Impacts on food security, water supply, health, and marine and terrestrial biodiversity (IMPS) Renewal energy, sustainable transport, green economy and low carbon development (RES) 	Urgency & immediate impact			ISFE, CEWRS, IMPS, RES
		Irreversibility		CEWRS, IMPS, RES	ISFE
		Effects on Human Health			ISFE, CEWRS, IMPS, RES
		Effects on economic productivity		CEWRS	ISFE, IMPS, RES
		Number of people affected			ISFE, CEWRS, IMPS, RES
		Loss of aesthetic values		ISFE, CEWRS, IMPS, RES	
		Impacts on cultural and historical heritages	CEWRS	IMPS, RES	ISFE

Table 5: Prioritisation of Waste and Pollution Issues

THEME	ISSUES	CRITERIA	PRIORITY		
			LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Waste & Pollution Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine pollution - ballast water, storm water, etc. management (BWM) Solid wastes management including e-waste, etc. (SWM) Liquid wastes – wastewater, waste oil, sewage, animal waste, etc. management (LWM) Hazardous wastes – POPs, chemicals, hospital wastes, asbestos, etc management (HWM) 	Urgency & immediate impact			BWM, SWM, LWM, HWM
		Irreversibility		SWM, LWM	BWM, HWM
		Effects on Human Health			BWM, SWM, LWM, HWM
		Effects on economic productivity		SWM	BWM, LWM, HWM
		Number of people affected			BWM, SWM, LWM, HWM
		Loss of aesthetic values		BWM, SWM, LWM, HWM	
		Impacts on cultural and historical heritages		BWM, SWM, LWM, HWM	

Table 6: Prioritisation of Society Issues

THEME	ISSUES	CRITERIA	PRIORITY		
			LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated institutional capacity constraints (ICC) Awareness raising and education (ARE) Health issues (HIS) Economic issues (EIS) Civil Society Organization issues (CSI) Gender Issues (GIS) Youth issues (YIS) Children issues (CIS) Spiritual issues (SIS) Traditional & cultural issues (TCIS) Governance issues – local & national (GVS) Population issues – depopulation/ repopulation (POS) 	Urgency & immediate impact		HIS, GIS, CIS, SIS	ICC, ARE, EIS, CSI, YSI, TCIS, GVS, POS
		Irreversibility	ARE	ICC, HIS, EIS, CSI, GIS, CIS, SIS	YSI, TCIS, GVS, POS
		Effects on Human Health	ICC	ARE, EIS, GIS, CIS, SIS, POS	HIS, CSI, YSI, TCIS, GVS
		Effects on economic productivity		GIS, CIS, SIS	ICC, ARE, HIS, EIS, CSI, YSI, TCIS, GVS, POS
		Number of people affected		GIS, CIS, SIS	ICC, ARE, HIS, EIS, CSI, YSI, TCIS, GVS, POS
		Loss of aesthetic values		ICC, HIS, EIS, CSI, GIS, CIS, SIS, POS	ARE, YSI, TCIS, GVS
		Impacts on cultural and historical heritages		ICC, HIS, EIS, GIS, CIS, SIS	ARE, CSI, YSI, TCIS, GVS, POS