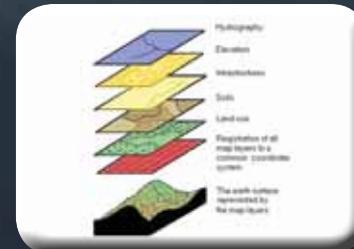
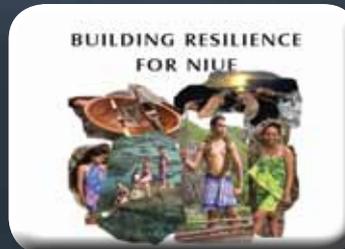




NIUE

SUSTAINABLE COASTAL DEVELOPMENT

POLICY



Approved by the Government of Niue - April 2008

A collaboration between

Niue Coastal Policy Steering Committee and SOPAC

with funding assistance from the

EU EDF 9 Project: Reducing Vulnerability in Pacific ACP States

SOPAC Miscellaneous Report 658

Foreword

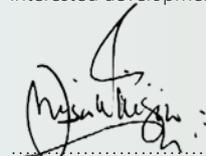
The impacts of Cyclone Heta and other disasters before Heta are still very much on our minds affecting our way of life and our environment here in Niue. As a small island state, we are vulnerable to the impacts of disasters and our vulnerability will continue in view of our fragile economy, our limited capacity as well as the long-term consequence of climate change.

This sustainable coastal development policy for Niue however is a testament to our collaborative commitment to reduce the risks of disasters on development, sources of livelihoods and to our people living in our coastal areas. This policy is a tool to assist us Niueans in adopting disaster risk reduction and disaster management processes and procedures to ensure that development on our coastal areas continues to support and provide us with the socio-economic and environmental benefits and a basis for our sustainable development as highlighted by Niue's Integrated Strategic Plan.

Cabinet endorsement of this policy calls for Niue's international and regional development partners to continue to provide necessary support and assistance for the implementation of this policy. Similarly, that all government agencies, the private sectors and the communities in Niue use this policy as a guide to sustainable coastal development. The challenge ahead of us is the implementation of this policy through appropriate action plans and programmes.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the Niue Coastal Policy Steering Committee, the European Union through the EDF 9 regional project for funding this important initiative as a response to our request following Cyclone Heta and to the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) for the technical assistance.

The Government of Niue welcomes this policy and will be pleased to consider ways and means of assisting with its implementation with interested development partners, intergovernmental organisations and donors.



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Fisa E Pihigia

Hon Minister for Department of Works
April 2008

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1. THE SUSTAINABLE COASTAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY



1.1 Vision Statement

The vision statement provides the overall intent for the policy and is as follows:

**'A SAFE, PRODUCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE
COASTAL ENVIRONMENT FOR NIUE'**

*'KOE TAKATAKAI KAUKAU TAHI HAOHAO
MITAKI, OLATIA MO E AOGA MAU MA NIUE'*

1.2 Scope of the Policy

- 1.2.1 The foreshore, internal waters, territorial waters and exclusive economic zone (and seabed thereof) and land are vested in the Crown. The term or the concept 'coast' is not defined in existing legislation which refer to such an entity. The nearest definition of a 'coast' is a combination of the descriptions provided by the Niue Land Ordinance, Niue Amendment Act 168 (Section 5) and 1996 Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Act (Section 7) for 'foreshore'. The sea-ward boundary of 'foreshore' being 3 nautical miles (nm) from the nearest point of low water mark and the land-ward boundary 10 m inland from the mean high water mark (MHWM) (Figure 1).

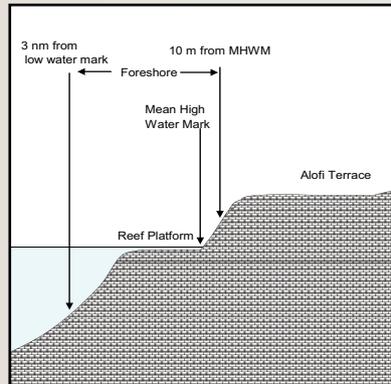


Figure 1. The 'Foreshore' extends 3 nm from the low water mark landward to 10 m from MWHM (not drawn to scale).

- 1.2.2 Based on lessons learnt from previous disasters such as those caused by cyclones Ofa and Heta and to ensure consistency with existing legislation and resource management plans (e.g. the Integrated Coastal Management Plan for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries); the scope of this policy covers all coastal areas of Niue from the edge of the upper terrace cliff as the land-ward boundary to the sea-ward boundary of the Territorial Waters, 12 nautical miles from the edge of the reef exposed at lowest astronomical tide (Figure 2).

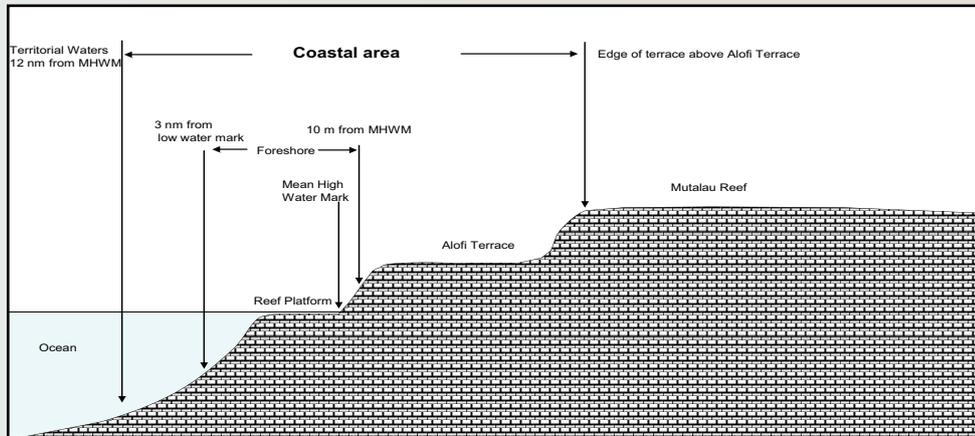


Figure 2. The coastal area is defined by the seaward boundary of the Territorial waters to the edge of the terrace above the Alofi Terrace (not drawn to scale).

- 1.2.3 The major challenges faced in Niue's integrated coastal management relate to the segmented responsibilities that are resource based; the lack of zoning policies and the lack of a 'strong agency' with the legislative support to drive management and development coordination. It is common to have habitat and species that are trans-boundary and migratory that might call for a trend to manage the coast on the basis of 'issue-by-issue' boundary definitions; or for adaptative management that does not necessarily mean that the 'coastal area' needs to be redefined but that the management process and methodologies need to be suitable to different management units.
- 1.2.4 Where there are approved existing policies or management plans that have defined 'coastal areas' for the purpose of managing specific 'coastal resources', the scope of the 'coast' defined as the management unit applies to the management or development of that particular resource, or species and should not conflict with the scope of the coastal area for this policy.



2. PRINCIPLES FOR COASTAL MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT



2.1 Principles provide the point of departure for translating the Vision into practice. They are the fundamental basis for reasoning and action. These principles are seen as ‘universal truths’ drawn from principles of integrated coastal management and disaster risk reduction and disaster management in the context of sustainable development. These principles must be considered as a whole – the full meaning of each principle can be realised only in relation to the other principles. To support the Vision, the following principles are established to guide the policy Goals, Objectives and Action Strategies.

1. National heritage

The coast should be retained as a national heritage, with public rights to access and benefit from coastal resources.

2. Economic development

Suitable coastal economic development opportunities should be optimised to meet the development aspirations of the people of Niue while ensuring that people are safe to enjoy the benefits.

3. Social equity

Coastal management and development efforts should ensure the conservation of common property resources; and that all people, including future generations, are treated with dignity and fairness.

4. Ecological integrity

The diversity, health and productivity of coastal ecosystems should be maintained.

5. Governance

Sustainable coastal management and development is a shared responsibility between the Government in partnership with the land owners, private sector, NGOs requiring a whole-of-country approach in an open, inclusive and transparent manner. All people should be responsible for the consequences of their actions, and have the duty to act with care to avoid hazard and disaster risks to themselves, to their properties, to others and their coastal environment.

6. Risk reduction and risk management

Coastal management and development efforts should adopt a risk reduction and risk management precautionary approach under conditions of uncertainty with regard to impacts' consequences of climate change (prolonged drought periods, sea-level rise, increased intensity and frequency of cyclones and changing rainfall patterns).

7. Coordination and integration

The coastal area is a unique resource system with multiple uses and users. These require coordinated and integrated approaches to management and development, recognising the inter-relationships between coastal users and ecosystems; and between the land and sea.

3. GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTION STRATEGIES



- 3.1 The goals, objectives and action strategies for a sustainable coastal development policy were developed based on the vision and principles outlined previously. There are six thematic goals.
- Goal 1: Upholding coastal areas as national Taoga for all Niueans.
 - Goal 2: Integrated coastal planning, management and development.
 - Goal 3: Pollution control and waste management.
 - Goal 4: Sustainable management and development of coastal resources.
 - Goal 5: Disaster risk reduction and disaster management.
 - Goal 6: Strengthening governance and capacity building.
- 3.2 The goals and objectives provide more detailed direction for achieving the vision of sustainable coastal development. They address the key issues of concern. They also apply, build upon, integrate and clarify directives outlined in other relevant policies and laws, where appropriate. Under each of the 'goals', a list of key issues, and then a set of proposed objectives and action strategies are presented. These goals and objectives should not be viewed in isolation from each other – they must be considered as a whole as they all contribute to the vision and are inter-related.
- 3.3 There are many policies and laws in Niue that are directly relevant to realising the outcomes of sustainable coastal development. Among the more important of these are the 1974 Constitution, 1996 Land Act, 1997 Territorial Sea and Economic Exclusive Economic Zone Act, 1977 Business Licence Act, 1992 Building Code and Environmental Legislation 2004. Other relevant policies and laws include those relating to agriculture, fisheries biodiversity conservation, disaster management, energy, forestry, maritime activities, minerals, pollution and waste management, the foreshore, tourism, transport and water. Furthermore, Niue is a signatory to a number of international and regional conventions and agreements that have an important bearing on coastal management and development.

GOAL 1:



UPHOLDING COASTAL AREAS
AS NATIONAL TAOGA FOR ALL
NIUEANS

The coast holds significant cultural value as Taoga for the Niuean people. As such, it should be planned and managed in the long-term interest of the public. All Niueans have a responsibility to ensure that the coast is maintained as a Taoga.

Key Issues

- Concious of rights: public and villages rights, private property, traditional access rights to the foreshore and the sea
- Awareness of reef fishing rights of villages and families
- Respecting the traditional canoe fishing grounds (boat owners, recreational users)
- Safe and on-going maintenance of public access to the foreshore and the sea
- Concious of traditional ownership (legal vs traditional and privately owned) issues of sea tracks
- Safe access to canoe landing areas
- Avatele ramp
- Wharf repair (Avatele and Namukulu)
- Managment of Aliluki area Plan
- Use of traditional fishing grounds by other vessels and users

Objective 1.1 To ensure that the public has fair and equitable rights consistent with the traditional rights to access the foreshore and the sea.

Action Strategies

- Ensure fair and equitable public rights to access the foreshore and traditional sea bed in light of any proposed development that affects those rights through EIA that includes socio-economic aspects.
- Private ownership and/or exclusive usage of the sea tracks and areas above high water mark should be assessed in the interests of the public.
- All new coastal leases that might obstruct public access to the foreshore and the sea shall be assessed in terms of this Policy.
- Investigate mechanisms to bring together key stakeholders of traditional fishing areas including the village councils to decide on the development and protection of traditional fishing grounds and to resolve conflicting and competing uses.
- Clarify the 'ownership status' of sea tracks as public access pertaining to management roles and responsibilities.
- Maintain popular coastal areas for public recreation and enjoyment.
- Investigate the feasibility of new recreational areas.
- Identify and map potential locations for new sea tracks at areas where the fringing reef is wide and conduct appropriate studies (EIA that includes socio-economic impacts).
- Strengthen education and awareness programmes using multiple media to promote awareness of traditional uses and methods related to coastal resources/ecosystems.

Objective 1.2 To manage public access in order to minimise adverse environmental impacts and to ensure the safety of the access to users.

Action Strategies

- Ensure public health and safety and the physical characteristics and landscape of the surrounding environment are taken into account in the design, development and management of public access to minimise risk to hazards such as storm surge, erosion and run-off.
- Ensure ongoing maintenance of existing sea tracks.
- Assess the capacity of existing sea tracks and ramps and develop a long-term plan for its strengthening including engineering designs and construction to minimise erosion and to better cope when exposed to storm surges and wave run-up.
- Develop a village plan for the removal of canoes and other marine vessels to higher ground in the event that relocation is warranted.

GOAL 2:



INTEGRATED COASTAL PLANNING, MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

The multi-faceted character of coastal management issues merits the adoption of a holistic approach. Integrated coastal planning and management is the process of combining all aspects of the human, physical and biological aspects of the coastal area within a management framework. Emphasis is also placed on the integration of information and disciplines that deal with a variety of coastal issues, trends, conditions, impacts and risks.

Integrated coastal planning and management should be undertaken proactively to optimise sustainable development opportunities. The coast provides many development opportunities that are dependent on maintaining the diversity and productivity of the coastal ecosystems while at the same time are vulnerable to both human-induced and natural coastal hazards.

Key Issues

- Lack of an integrated policy to guide coastal development for Niue
- Need to improve integrated coastal ecosystem planning
- EIA regulations to be developed and enforced
- Coastal policy need to address socio-economics and environment (people's lives and livelihoods)
- Land-use zoning and plans to be developed
- Weak coordination among key sectors and stakeholders for management of coastal resources
- Ad hoc planning
- Appropriate baseline information and data and for coastal planning and decision making needs to be established
- Policy to apply to all coastal areas of Niue
- Need a thorough consultative process for policy development

Objective 2.1 To establish an enabling environment for integrated coastal planning, management and development.

Action Strategies

- Review key legislation in view of integrated coastal planning and management and develop and clarify coordination roles and responsibilities.
- Develop regulations that enable effective implementation of the Environment Act 2004 as pertinent to integrated coastal planning and management:
 - Urgent to develop the EIA Regulations and to clarify roles and responsibilities of the regulator and the proponent.
 - Incorporate disaster risk reduction and disaster management principles into the EIA process where potential impacts of key natural or human induced hazards on coastal development are assessed and strategies formulated to minimise the risks.
 - Incorporate appropriate socio-economic assessments into the EIA process.
 - Define the scope of the coastal areas and the type of development that would trigger the application of the EIA process.
 - Review and amend development or business licensing and permitting processes to incorporate the requirements of the EIA regulation and the risk reduction aspects.
 - Urgent EIA capacity building for relevant government agencies.
- Review the membership of the Sustainable Development Council and consider its establishment as provided for by the Environment Act 2004 to act as the Integrated Coastal Planning Committee (ICPC).
- Incorporate ICM principles into key national policy documents such as 'The Niue Integrated Strategic Plan', Niue Integrated Strategic Action Plan (NISAP) , and the Niue Private Sector Development Strategic Plan.

- Incorporate ICM principles in the priority areas for development: Tourism, Agriculture and Fisheries.
- Consider the need for a standalone umbrella coastal management legislation to amalgamate provisions for coastal management, incorporate key principles of ICM and to provide for an 'ecosystem approach' to management and for disaster risk reduction.
- Develop coastal management plans for vulnerable and/or key coastal areas in close consultation with villages and families.
- Coastal planning and management efforts shall apply to the ecosystem management approach.
- Review the draft landuse zone/town planning plan for implementation.

Objective 2.2 To develop guidelines for new economic development opportunities or activities that are dependent on a coastal location.

Action Strategies:

- Guidelines for development activities (such as tourism and recreational) that applied for a coastal location should be developed as part of the business or company licensing process and incorporate disaster risk reduction and disaster management conditions.
- Activities that are not dependent on a coastal location, as far as practical, shall be relocated inland.
- New village facilities built on the coastal area should also have plans for disaster evacuation and shelters as conditions for construction.
- Assess existing building code process and other relevant ones to incorporate disaster risk reduction considerations.

Objective 2.3 To take into account the inter-relationships between the land and sea, and between coastal ecosystems and development during planning and management decisions.

Action Strategies

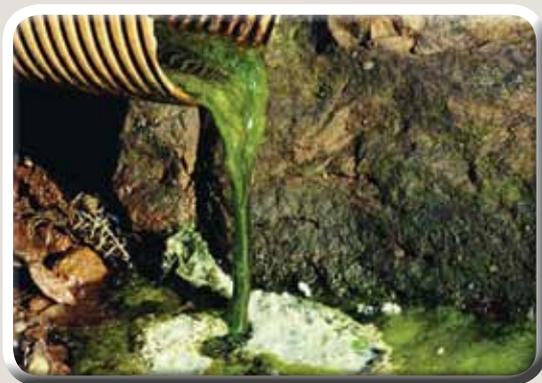
- New structures should be designed and located in a manner that retains the visual beauty, natural character and associated benefits of undeveloped coastal areas.
- Scenic and landscape values should be protected as cultural and economic assets.
- Alterations to landforms in highly dynamic areas should be avoided or at least minimised.
- Village participation and involvement in coastal management should be promoted.
- Consideration of any development on coastal areas should be subject to an environmental impact assessment including a hazard and disaster risk assessment.
- Application of precautionary principle where there is uncertainty on the ‘best’ management course to take.

GOAL 3:



POLLUTION CONTROL AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

A wide variety of point and non-point source pollutants and waste enter coastal ecosystems, largely through the medium of water. This has adverse effects on coastal ecosystems and humans. Fragmented control and authority along with the lack of capacity are key constraints to pollution control and waste management. Development on the coast should be planned and managed to ensure that pollution and waste do not compromise opportunities for sustainable coastal development.



Key Issues

- Coastal run-off
- Inadequate sewage treatment
- Direct discharge of untreated waste
- Septic tanks leakages
- Derelict houses
- Asbestos material
- POPs
- High level of nutrients (phosphate, nitrate and ammonium) in coastal waters
- Need to promote the recycle and re-use of materials and reduce waste
- Land-based activities causing pollution in coastal waters
- Territorial waters and EEZ hazards or disaster impacting coastal waters and foreshore and its resources
- Marine disposal of effluent
- Ballast discharge
- Oil spillage from ships
- Effluent disposal in harbours
- Litter and waste on coastal areas and close to cliff edges
- Lack of pollution monitoring system
- Need to promote the use of phosphate-free detergents
- Solid waste management
- Old vehicles, metals and refrigerators
- Used batteries
- Makato national dump site management

Objective 3.1 To implement pollution control and waste management measures in order to minimise and strictly control discharges into coastal ecosystems.

Action Strategies

- Strategies should be developed to control coastal run-off in consultation with developers, private sector, village councils and the Government.
- Design sea tracks with retaining walls to control runoff into marine protected areas.
- Appropriate coastal water quality standards should be determined and maintained according to different uses.
- The direct disposal of untreated waste and or hazardous material into coastal systems should be strictly controlled through appropriate regulation and penalty provisions.
- Appropriate economic incentive should be provided for developers who treat pollution discharges at source or promote waste minimisation, re-use and recycling.
- Incorporation of reduction, recycling and re-use of waste at source should be compulsory for major development on coastal areas that requires a Business License or through the Companies Act, where appropriate; and subject to environmental impact assessment.
- Landfills should consider a set back by not less than 500 m from the edge of the cliff and vegetation (trees) should be grown as 'buffer zones' between the landfill and the edge of the cliff.
- An assessment of the current capacity of the existing dump at Makato should be carried out as a matter of urgency.
- Based on the assessment; investigate the opportunities (feasibility) for relocation of the dump (landfill).
- Strengthen the capacity of the current waste management system with appropriate resources.

Objective 3.2 To control and prohibit the discharge of marine pollutants and waste from ship-board waste, marine fuels and ballast waters, into coastal waters.

Action Strategies

- International and national marine pollution policies and protocols ratified by Niue should be implemented.
- Release of ballast water into coastal waters should be strictly controlled to minimise the introduction of exotic organisms and/or invasive species.
- Review and incorporate corporate responsibility and compliance to relevant existing policies pertinent to sewage, wastewater discharge, pollution control and solid waste management.
- Develop an eradication plan for the management of invasive species.

GOAL 4:



SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT
AND DEVELOPMENT OF
COASTAL RESOURCES

Coastal ecosystems provide a range of goods and services that make enormous contributions to the economy and sustain communities. Maintaining the capacity of these ecosystems to provide these goods and services is vital. The coast, and the use of its resources, should be planned and managed to maintain the diversity, health and productivity of coastal ecosystems.



Key Issues

- Degraded coastal habitats
- Coastal resources depletion/over exploitation of inshore fisheries
- Illegal harvesting in marine protected areas
- Size and coverage of marine protected areas are too restrictive/small
- Western reef damaged – reef covered with macro algae
- Fish poisoning (ciguatera) due to disturbances to reef environment
- Lack of knowledge of inshore marine resources
- Lack of information about the resources of Niue's three distant reefs
- Information base for status of inshore fisheries needs to be established
- Protect indigenous fauna and flora
- Weak management of existing protected areas
- Few dedicated marine protected areas
- Illegal exporting of coral
- Lack of baseline data and information on threats to inshore reef ecology
- Deep sea (ocean bottom) fisheries baseline data and research need to be strengthened
- Destructive fishing practices
- Vulnerability to invasive species
- Strengthen the enforcement and awareness of key relevant legislation that provide protection/conservation status for coastal resources and/or species and its habitat

Objective 4.1 To maintain the diversity, health and productivity of coastal processes and ecosystems.

- Strengthen the existing scientific monitoring programme for key coastal ecosystems, including species and coastal water quality.
- Strengthen the capacity to collect, analyse, apply and disseminate the monitoring information in support of sustainable management and development of coastal areas and resources.
- Ensure a regular State of the Coastal Environment reporting in line with national reporting requirements.
- Assess government agencies' capacity to access regional and national databases for coastal planning, management and development.
- Update the list of rare and endangered coastal species and strengthen its protected status.
- Investigate the feasibility of ratifying the CITES Convention.
- Community-based management of key coastal ecosystems should be promoted and facilitated.
- Develop strategies for the recovery of corals habitat and other important coastal fauna and flora.
- Conduct a risk assessment of any introduced or translocation species into the coastal areas of Niue.
- Support existing mariculture initiatives to improve coastal resources diversity.

Objective 4.2 To strengthen protected areas in order to maintain the integrity of coastal ecosystems.

Action Strategies

- Support and strengthen existing protected areas.
- Assess and identify new areas that have potential for protected status due to its biological diversity.
- Promote and document, where possible, traditional biodiversity conservation methods.
- Protected areas should be managed as “benchmarks” or baseline indicators for national resource management efforts.
- Protected areas should be managed to contribute to the regeneration of coastal and reef species.
- Protected area management practices should be based on scientific, local and traditional knowledge.
- Encourage the establishment of temporary closed areas (fono concept) and other alternatives for conservation purposes.
- Protected area management practices should involve the local community.
- Neighbouring human activities should be compatible with protected area management objectives.
- Compatible resource uses and educational activities should be promoted.
- Irreversible impacts and destruction of irreplaceable or rare coastal resources and species should be prohibited.
- Improve awareness of the importance and locality of the protected areas.

Objective 4.3 To rehabilitate damaged or degraded coastal ecosystems and habitats.

- An assessment of significantly degraded coastal areas including coral reef should be conducted as a matter of urgency.
- Attention should be given to rehabilitating ecosystems in areas of intense human activity (e.g., ports, stormwater and sewage discharge points, development areas and coastal tourist facilities).
- A rehabilitation programme should be prepared and implemented through a process of public participation, with the relevant agencies of the Government playing lead roles.
- Development of an appropriate regulatory framework to provide for full reparation for any human-induced degradation or damage.



Objective 4.4 Any coastal prospecting, mining, exploitation of petroleum, oil and gas and commercial development should be conducted in an environmentally responsible manner.

Action Strategies

- Develop appropriate regulations to control the potential adverse environmental impacts.
- Such regulations should provide for the rehabilitation of degraded coastal ecosystems associated with the exploration or prospecting and non-compliance thereof should be remedied by the prospector.
- Revisit the Niue Mining Policy and review its implementation progress in view of this policy.



GOAL 5:



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
AND
DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Coastal development should be planned and managed to minimise disruption of dynamic coastal processes and to avoid exposure of people, property and economic activities to significant risk from natural hazards.

Key Issues

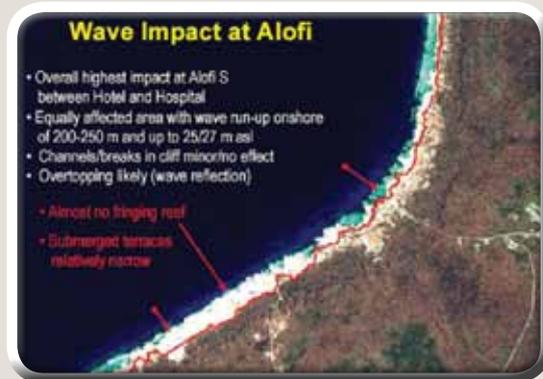
- Emphasise risk reduction in coastal planning and management
- Improve disaster management
- Predicted sea-level rise threatens freshwater lens
- Increased incidence and severity of tropical cyclones and associated storm surges causing damage to coastal infrastructure and the environment
- Natural and human-induced hazards impacting coastal areas
- Living on an environment/location of Niue vulnerable to natural hazards
- Lack of capacity to deal with impacts of hazards and disasters
- New development on Alofi terrace based on wave hazard zonation, with special emphasis on areas behind channels
- Current and future location of fuel tanks and depots away from coastal areas
- Existing public facilities located on lower terrace
- Need to review the Building Code
- Lack of risk reduction strategies and consideration in existing coastal planning and management
- Need for an integrated early warning systems

Objective 5.1 To plan and manage coastal development so as to reduce risk and exposure of people, property and economic activities to significant risk from dynamic coastal processes

Action Strategies

- Incorporate disaster risk reduction policies and measures into existing and new development policies, plans and actions at the national and village council levels.
- Increase effectiveness, efficiency and longevity of development efforts such that development do not increase risks and/or reduce the impact of disasters.
- Conduct coastal hazard and risk mapping for the whole of Niue as a matter priority.
- Consider a 'set back area' from the edge of the cliff for all new development based on wave impacts and lessons learnt from Heta.
- A precautionary risk reduction approach should guide decision making.
- Conduct a feasibility study on the relocation of water, telecommunication and power facilities cables, transformers and other essential infrastructure to the upper terrace.
- Assess and strengthen the capacity of the early warning systems to provide accurate and timely warning to the community.
- Enhance public/community awareness and education on coastal risks and early warning.
- Promote and strengthen community-based disaster management through appropriate training of village councils, NGOs and community groups in disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

- Strengthen evacuation plans and strategies in view of designing and constructing safe evacuation centres in the upper terrace (linked to the Niue National Disaster Plan).
- Review the appropriateness of the Building Code to Niue and develop standards.
- Retrofit existing residential and public buildings for cyclone proofing.
- Strengthen the links between national government and village councils for disaster risk reduction and disaster management.
- Conduct a feasibility study to assess income generation activities (such as eco-tourism among others) and develop a revolving fund managed by the village council for village coastal management and development initiatives.
- Support the removal of the fuel tanks at the wharf to higher ground.
- Restrict development/location of fuel facilities on coastal areas.
- Emergency roads (including existing tracks to the upper terrace) linked to the disaster emergency plan should be upgraded.



Objective 5.2 To take into consideration the potential and known consequences of climate change and associated sea-level rise in all coastal planning, management and development.

Action Strategies

- Appropriate mitigating and adaptive measures to address the consequences of sea-level rise, droughts and storm surges on the coastal resources should be included in the priorities of climate change programmes.
- Attention should be given to the dynamic, high-energy character of the coast, its complex biophysical and chemical processes, and local variability in the context of coastal development.
- Strengthen appropriate public education and awareness programmes relating to the impacts of climate change on coastal areas and resources.
- A risk reduction and precautionary approach should be adopted under conditions of uncertainty.

GOAL 6:



STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE
AND
CAPACITY BUILDING

Realising the ideal of sustainable coastal development requires meaningful participation by all spheres of Government, the private sector and civil society. Coastal development should be proactively planned and managed to promote efficient decision making, cooperation, coordination and integration.

Key Issues

- Involvement of communities in coastal management is lacking
- Need to establish a processes for public participation
- National and community/village authorities lack capacity
- Lack of enforcement and ongoing monitoring
- Insufficient communication between forums
- Lack of coordination between sectors
- Lack of public awareness
- Coastal Policy to be reviewed and updated
- Low priority of coastal management
- Need to develop integrated coastal management plans
- Lack of technical capacity on coastal engineering, monitoring and planning

Objective 6.1 To ensure meaningful public participation and partnerships between the Government, the private sector and civil society in order to foster co-responsibility in coastal management and development.

Action Strategies

- Support and encourage full participatory and consultative processes for all stakeholders.
- Commercial activities affecting other coastal users should be subject to full public consultative processes.
- Community- and NGO-based generated coastal activities should be encouraged in line with the principle of sustainable coastal management and development.



Objective 6.2 To strengthen national capacity on coastal planning and management and development.

Action Strategies

- Assess technical capacity required for coastal planning in key Government sectors and facilitate formal or short-term training opportunities.
- Assess the need to incorporate coast-related subjects or teaching aids in primary and secondary schools.
- Support existing appropriate awareness, education and training programmes.
- Ensure that adequate provision is made for agencies with multi-sectoral responsibilities affecting coastal areas to assist them to fulfil their responsibilities in accordance with this policy.
- Identify traditional and non-traditional funding sources for coastal planning and management.

Objective 6.3 To design and maintain an effective and accessible national information system to support coastal planning and management efforts.

Action Strategies

- Assess the capacity of existing information systems and develop a user-friendly, cost-effective and integrated national information system.
- Ensure that all coastal managers and key stakeholders have access to appropriate information.

Objective 6.4 Coastal planning and management decision making and approval procedures to be clarified and simplified.

Action Strategies

- Clarify the roles and responsibilities of Government agencies in coastal planning and management.
- Identify a lead agency to be responsible for the coordination of the implementation of this policy in line with existing policies and mandates and to generally coordinate coastal management and development.
- Coastal planning and management procedures should be simplified and streamlined to promote efficient decision making.

Objective 6.5 To monitor and evaluate the progress of the implementation of the Niue Coastal Development Policy.

Action Strategies

- Develop a costed implementation/action plan for this policy.
- The coastal management implementation plan should be developed, implemented, monitored and reviewed.
- The Coastal Development Policy should be reviewed and updated every five years.
- Undertake a mid-term review and evaluation of policy implementation.
- Develop monitoring tools to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of the policy.



*'KOE TAKATAKAI KAUKAU TAHI HAOHAO
MITAKI, OLATIA MO E AOGA MAU MA NIUE'*

