

“The role of local village governance systems in environmental management: Tokelau Experience”

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Introduction or Background

- Geographical and Demographic Background
 - Three coral atolls
 - Non-self Governance Territory of New Zealand
 - Population of 1,466 (Census, 2006)
- National Governance Structure
 - General Fono
 - Council for the Ongoing Government
- Village Governance Structure
 - Village Taupulega (Village Council)

Role of local Governance Structure – In Regards to
Environment Management

- Pre devolution, Modern House, Devolution and NSP

THE TOKELAU DREAM

Tokelau National Strategic Plan

The Vision for the 2010 -2015 Tokelau National Strategic Plan is for *“Healthy and Active Communities with Opportunities for All”*

(Four Strategic Development Goals/Four Policy outcome areas)

1. **Good Governance** - Improve governance, public sector and financial management, law
2. **Infrastructure Development** – Improve standard of living, reliable and efficient infrastructure
3. **Human Development** – Improve Health, Education and social well being of our communities
4. **Sustainability** – Improve Economic, Cultural, Environmental and Spiritual sustainability

Tokelau's Accomplishment and Progress to date

- Tokelau Renewable Energy Programme
- Village Waste Management Initiatives
- Marine Resource Conservation Areas
- Coastal Area Management
- Organic Farming



Tokelau's Environmental Governance Challenges

- Lack of information and awareness
- Lack of financial and human resources
- Competing Priorities
- Robust infrastructural support
- Geographical distances
- Improve local standards and capacity
- Changing of Roles of Government in terms of managing environmental issues

Opportunities to Strengthen Natural Resources Management

- National approach
- Information network to support village governance
- Improve awareness and capacity building
- Review and update existing policies
- Collaborations
- Financial support from regional and international organisations and development partners
- Environmental issues inclusion in relevant with regional initiatives (PACC as an example)

Summary of Main Points Raised

- Strengthening the roles of Taupulega – as leaders in environmental management
- Challenging threats : Need to strengthen the important of natural resources management system
- Opportunities to strengthen collaboration at the regional level
- Strengthening our Environmental strategies and policies on sustainability and infrastructure development



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