

**NIUE**  
**UNCCD : NATIONAL REPORT**

**Executive Summary:**

**(i) National plans and strategies available in other social and economic areas.**

The National Strategic Plan is currently being implemented as from 1998. This plan highlights the importance of sustainable development including areas relevant to the combating of land degradation. In addition, there are other plans, which include the Land and Marine Resource Use Plan, and the Environment Management Plan, both of which have been formulated and have yet to be implemented.

**(ii) National plans and strategies in the field of combating desertification developed prior to the UNCCD.**

Prior to the formulation of UNCCD, National Strategic Plans for Niue have always been directed at sustainable development. However, no specific strategies have been formulated in the field of combating desertification.

**(iii) Established and Functional National Coordination Bodies (NCB) and the role of National Focal Points (NFP).**

The National Focal Points are External Affairs and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), both of which were officially nominated by the Government of Niue. They have very limited legal capacity and resources (ie. human, financial and material). The National Co-ordinating Body (nominated by the National Focal Points) reflected a cross sectorial and multidisciplinary representation which include both Non Government Organisations and Government Organisations.

**(iv) National Action Plans (NAP) as part of the National Economic and Social Development and Environment Protection Plans.**

The outcome of this report highlights the need for strengthening of areas to combat land degradation, which can be incorporated into Niue's National Economic and Social Development and Environment Protection Plans.

**(v) Coherent and functional legal and regulatory framework.**

Niue's environmental laws are spread through a range of sector-specific legislation. A draft Environment Management Bill (Govt. of Niue 1992) has been prepared and is intended to create a consolidated body of environment laws. This bill deals with the following issues;

- (a) Establishment of a Conservation Council, a conservation service and conservation officers;
- (b) Preparation of management plans relating to area management (such as protected areas) and a range of environmental issues (such as soil erosion, pollution, wildlife);
- (c) Coastal zone management;
- (d) Pollution of sea and waters; and

(e) Litter control.

**(vi) Effective participation of actors in defining national priorities.**

Although Niue has a small population with limited resources, information is readily disseminated through media such as radio, television and Village Council meetings. The two schools (Primary and Secondary) actively participate in teaching environmental issues.

Awareness programme methods and activities utilised by the Biodiversity and climate change National Action programmes implemented to highlight combating land degradation issues.

**(vii) Effective support from international partners for cooperation.**

Various organizations such as AusAid, New Zealand Overseas Development Assistance (NZODA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) etc. have supported projects that although not specific for UNCCD, deal with issues relating to combating land degradation.

The developmental projects have yet to identify relevant international partners for specific activities related to combating land degradation. With Niue recently a member of FAO, most of these specific activities will be investigated.

**(viii) Adequate diagnosis of past experiences.**

As stated earlier, there have been no specific activities undertaken in the field of combating land degradation. However, various feasibility studies in the past have been towards sustainable development. For example, the development of the Vanilla Industry, NZODA Forestry Project, Development of the Nonu Industry (draft), to name a few.

**(ix) Action Programmes implemented in compliance with priority fields set out in the convention.**

Due to ongoing sustainable developmental programmes, a majority of measures identified in Article 4 of the Regional Implementation Annex for Asia of UNCCD have already been incorporated, thus avoiding duplication.

**(x) Linkages achieved with sub-regional and regional action programmes (SRAP, RAP).**

Various regional and sub-regional action programmes are currently ongoing which deal with sustainable development and raising the level of environmental awareness. However, these are not specifically targeted at combating land degradation. Such programmes are Biodiversity, Climate Change, SPREP-Niue Environmental Management Strategy, SPREP – State of the Environment Report.

**(xi) Effectiveness of measures in local capacity building.**

The Climate Change and the Biodiversity projects, both have Capacity Building components incorporated which are relevant to UNCCD issues. In addition, Niue has

the capacity dealing with environmental law issues and land and marine resource management. Therefore, ensuring sustainable development.

**(xii) Adopted financial mechanisms.**

Land degradation is of concern to Niue and the majority of Aid projects incorporate this issue. Due to financial constraints, the Government is only able to offer assistance through its human resource pool.

The majority of developmental projects that are in line with combating land degradation have been funded externally, the majority of which include technical support. Hence, minimal financial support was required from the Government of Niue.