State of Environment: Niue’s Experience

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Background

- 25 years lapse due to competing priorities and limited capacity
- Niue finalizing its newest SOE Report and NEMs
- Data availability to inform policy and decision makings
Challenges Faced

- Data was not readily available… WHY?
  - Personnel availability
  - Scattered around various departments/agencies
  - not collected
  - dependency of the National Statistics Office to collect data
  - Lost data due to no back-ups, staff departure, reports provided to consultants were never returned
  - If data is collected, they are not always accessible
  - No dedicated person/unit responsible for ensuring data is collected
  - No Centralized Database
Remedial Actions

- Importance of Data Collection and Analysis to be emphasized -> fostering a data collection culture

- GEF/UNDP/Niue Ridge to Reef Project
  - Establishment of a Environment Information Management System (EIMS) – ensuring all data, reports are recorded and saved
  - Series of ecological surveys – to be carried out over next three years. Reptile Survey (discovery of the olive small scaled skink (Emoia Lawesi); Caves and Fauna survey (Sept – Oct 2017, Finfish Survey – Sept 2017
  - Information collected will provide evidence to justify to provide required information
Remedial Actions cont

- Niue Ocean Wide Project (NOW)
  - Focus on marine spatial planning
  - Beveridge Reef Expedition (and survey) – October 2016
    - Exploring option of establishment marine protect areas within Niue’s EEZ
    - Cost Benefit Analysis on various MPA size scenarios

- Climate data – has been collected…but not widely available

- Traditional/Cultural Knowledge on climate

- Clean Seas Turn the Tide on Plastic – 2 hrs rubbish collection on coastal side. We collected approx. 300-400kg of waste.