

State of Environment: Niue's Experience

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Background

- Niue's last State of Environment Report – 1992
- 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.