

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
Global Environment Facility

Country Name: Niue
Project Title: Biodiversity Enabling Activity 'Add-on' components for Niue
Country Eligibility: CBD Ratified on 28 February 1996
GEF Financing: US\$ 280,000
Government Contribution: US\$ 25,000 (in-kind)
Estimated Total Budget: US\$ 305,000
GEF Implementing Agency: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
National Executing Agency: Environment Unit, Department of Community Affairs (DCA)
GEF Operational Focal Point: Mr. Crossley Tatui, Deputy Secretary to Government
CBD Operational Focal Point: Mr. Crossley Tatui, Deputy Secretary to Government
CHM Focal Point: Mr. Crossley Tatui, Deputy Secretary to Government
Estimated Starting Date: 1 August 2001
Estimated Ending date: 1 August 2003

EA Status

Niue has previously secured funding from the GEF to develop a National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (NBSAP) and to prepare its first National Report to the Conference of the Parties (CoP). This Enabling Activity (EA) proposal was approved on 26 May 1998, and amounting to US\$ 134,930. The draft NBSAP was finalized at a workshop in September 2000 through developing consensus on the components, strategies and action plans. The NBSAP was officially approved by Cabinet in May 2001 and implementation of the NBSAP is expected as soon as funds can be identified.

Remaining activities yet to be completed include the printing of the NBSAP document, first National Report to the CBD and technical reports produced as part of the NBSAP, translation of the NBSAP document into the Niuean language, and the completion of awareness activities. Financially, the delivery rate for the project for the year 2000 was recorded at 99 percent, which is considered to be fully satisfactory.

The development of the NBSAP has been highly consultative. A multi-disciplinary Steering Committee, with representation from a wide array of stakeholders, has guided the process, and a number of national workshops have provided input to the document. Major secondary achievements have materialized as a direct consequence of the original project. The technical capacity of the Environment Unit within the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to address biodiversity management issues and consolidate information about Niue's biodiversity has been raised significantly. Furthermore, important networks have been established between various Government Departments and other involved partners, which will further facilitate the implementation of the add-on component.

A request for additional US\$14,000 for a Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) was approved by the GEF CEO on 7 September 2000. The implementation of activities for the CHM component are already underway, preparing a sound framework for the implementation of activities proposed in the add-on proposal.

Project objectives

With this request, the Government of Niue expresses its priorities and seeks to undertake the following activities which are seen to be fully in line with the “Guidelines for Additional Funding of Biodiversity Enabling Activities” (Expedited Procedures). The prioritization of the suggested activities was initially discussed by the Steering Committee and other involved partners in August 2000, and reflect a consensus amongst all key stakeholders.

1. Priorities for Assessing Capacity Building Needs

Based on the approved NBSAP, the following table shows thematic areas identified as priorities for capacity building needs assessment for Niue.

The needs assessment will be undertaken by building on the consultative process undertaken as part of the NBSAP formulation. This process has involved community-based consultations covering all communities in the country. The NBSAP project manager will review the opinions presented during the consultative process in relation to capacity building needs, and this will form the basis of an additional round of stakeholder consultations.

Priority	Reasons for Priority	Work to be done	Product expected	Notes
Implementation of general measures for in-situ and ex-situ conservation: Capacity building measures for biodiversity conservation	Ad hoc nature of existing activities that raise capacity for in-situ conservation	<p>Stocktake existing human and institutional capacity, as well as legal, policy and financial mechanisms, and prepare detailed recommendations for on-going capacity building</p> <p>Working groups will be established to undertake consultations with government ministries and community groups. Experts undertake specific studies to identify and analyze gaps in capacity and propose capacity development programmes. These will be reviewed and</p>	Action plan for raising in-situ conservation capacity, detailed costing and budgeting proposals and information materials and training needs identified	Build on existing baseline and on-going work by regional and multilateral organizations

		validated at a national workshop.		
Methodologies to evaluate/mitigate specific threats to components of biodiversity:	Need to further raise the capacity within local communities for conservation of biodiversity	Assess gaps in existing methodologies, human, institutional, legal, and financial needs for effective implementation. Prepare detailed recommendations for capacity building. Identify training and awareness raising needs.	Capacity assessment, identification of capacity building priorities and mechanisms. Awareness raising plan, training plan and promotion/ Information materials prepared	Activities to build on existing baseline
Preservation/Maintenance of biodiversity related knowledge of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles: Improved understanding of traditional biodiversity management mechanisms and their application	On-going need for better understanding and documentation of the unique and diverse indigenous biodiversity knowledge in Niue. Loss of indigenous knowledge and associated biodiversity.	Stocktake existing capacity, document centres of traditional knowledge and prepare detailed recommendations for capacity building	Assessment of capacity building needs and detailed proposal on financing and costing. Identification of legal and policy changes necessary to preserve traditional knowledge. Identification of capacity building mechanisms at a national and local level to document and use traditional knowledge.	Activities to build on existing baseline

Priority 1: Implementation of general measures for in-situ and ex-situ conservation

Given the ad hoc nature of existing activities for in-situ and ex-situ conservation, it is crucial to identify and assess capacity building needs, to ensure a more coordinated approach is undertaken to facilitate the implementation of general measure for in-situ and ex-situ conservation in Niue.

Activities

1. Stocktake existing human and institutional capacity, as well as legal, policy and financial mechanisms and prepare detailed recommendations for ongoing capacity building;
2. Establish working groups to undertake consultations with government ministries and community groups;

3. Experts to undertake specific studies to identify and analyze gaps in capacity and propose capacity development. These will be reviewed and validated at a national workshop.

Priority 2: Methodologies to evaluate/mitigate specific threats to components of biodiversity

Specific threats to components of biodiversity can be detrimental if they are not properly studied, monitored and mitigated. This is why it is important to identify and assess existing methodologies, which are appropriate and effective to address specific threats to components of Niue's biodiversity. In doing so, human and institutional capacities will be assessed, to ensure the effective and practical application of recommended measures to control and mitigate any specific threats.

1. Assess gaps in existing methodologies, human, institutional, legal, and financial needs for effective implementation. Prepare detailed recommendations for capacity building. Identify training and awareness raising needs.

Activities

Priority 3: Preservation/maintenance of traditional knowledge, practices and innovations of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles

Niue places significant importance to traditional conservation practices, knowledge and innovations being one of the most effective measures for biodiversity of conservation. The NBSAP recognizes and fully supports this significant role of traditional knowledge, practices and innovations especially with existing conservation initiatives, which are managed through the traditional systems. It is therefore important to assess measures for capacity building that will ensure the preservation and maintenance of traditional knowledge, practices and innovations significant to biodiversity conservation.

Activities

1. Stocktake existing capacity, document centres of traditional knowledge and prepare detailed recommendations for capacity building.

2. Country Driven CHM Project for Niue

To facilitate access and exchange of information regarding the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), sustainable use and benefit sharing of biological resources, Niue intends to implement a country driven CHM project. The direct beneficiaries of this project will be the Environment Unit within the Department of Community Affairs, the CHM focal point, and the focal point for the Convention on Biological Diversity. Indirect beneficiaries will include other Government agencies, institutions, NGOs related to biodiversity and donor community who will benefit from the access to biodiversity information and data via Internet. This component will build on the initial CHM proposal already approved by the GEF.

The overall goal of the CHM is to promote and facilitate the sharing of technical and scientific information on biodiversity amongst all stakeholders both locally and internationally. This is built on the understanding that all stakeholders will participate and have easy access to pertinent

information on which sound decisions are based regarding the conservation and sustainable uses of biodiversity. The CHM process follows the participatory approach used for the NBSAP process. Furthermore, the CHM component of this proposal is in line with the priorities set out in the NBSAP document.

For Niue, the following overall objectives and activities are set out to ensure the successful achievement of the overall goals of the CHM:

Objective 1: To raise awareness and understanding of the CBD and in particular, biodiversity issues specific to Niue

It is important that all stakeholders are well aware of, and have a better understanding of biodiversity issues to enable them to make sound decisions regarding the conservation and sustainable uses of biodiversity. Awareness is a fundamental element of any conservation programme, and with the CHM in place, this will facilitate it further through the following activities:

Activities

1.1 Develop and implement an awareness programme involving all stakeholders on biodiversity issues pertaining to Niue, and issues of global significance as specified under the CBD;

1.2 Develop, produce and publicize resource/information materials on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use through the media including the Internet;

1.3 Develop and set up a national biodiversity website to facilitate the sharing and dissemination of information locally and internationally;

1.4 Conduct a specific training on website development and management.

Objective 2: To establish a national biodiversity information system that will provide reliable and accurate information on Niue's biodiversity which subsequently result in sound decision making on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

A substantial amount of research and surveys have been undertaken in the past on Niue's biodiversity, but this important information is scattered amongst various agencies. It is considered imperative to compile all this information into a national biodiversity database, thus providing a holistic perspective on the status of Niue's biodiversity, which will assist with national resource planning and decision makings at all levels. Having such important information in a national database will make it easier to access and coordinate the dissemination of information through the CHM. The biodiversity database will provide all necessary information required for the effective and efficient implementation of the CHM. In addition, it will also make it easier to coordinate and facilitate national reporting requirements under the CBD and other relevant international conventions and programmes.

Activities

2.1 Develop and implement a national biodiversity information management plan;

- 2.2 Coordinate, review and assess existing information/documents/reports etc. relevant to biodiversity for compilation and incorporation into a biodiversity database;
- 2.3 Assess and implement possible linkages to other information-based databases (such as GIS, etc);
- 2.4 Develop protocols and information sharing agreements between stakeholder agencies and centers of information.
- 2.5 Coordinate and facilitate the sharing of information amongst all the stakeholders, in particular key information needed to update the database;
- 2.6 Develop a bibliography of Niue's biological diversity as part of the national biodiversity information system;
- 2.7 Conduct a training programme on database management for those who will be directly involved in the daily operational and management of the biodiversity database.

Project Implementation/ Institutional Framework

The project will be implemented in Niue by the Environment Unit within the Department of Community Affairs. Oversight and coordination will be provided by a multi-disciplinary Steering Committee, approved by Cabinet. All activities will be under the responsibility of the project manager and implemented by the incumbent with assistance from various Government Departments, and a number of national consultants approved by the Steering Committee. It is envisaged that the CHM Focal Point will play an active role in ensuring that the project is successfully implemented, with the full support and active participation of all stakeholders. The UNDP Apia office will provide overall project monitoring and management in accordance with UNDP/GEF requirements.

Timetable

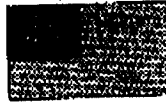
Activity	Months																							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Priority 1: Implementation of general measures																								
Activities																								
Stocktake existing human and institutional capacity, as well as legal, policy and financial mechanisms and prepare detailed recommendations for on-going capacity building.	█																							
Establish working groups to undertake consultations with government ministries and community groups.		█																						
Experts to undertake specific studies to identify and analyze gaps in capacity and propose capacity development. These will be reviewed and validated at a national workshop.			█																					
Priority 2: Methodologies to mitigate threats																								
Activities																								
Assess gaps in existing methodologies and human, institutional, legal, and financial needs, and prepare detailed recommendations for capacity building.				█	█	█	█	█																
Priority 3: Preservation/maintenance of traditional knowledge, practices & innovations																								
Activities																								
Stocktake existing capacity, document centres of traditional knowledge and prepare detailed recommendations for capacity building.							█	█	█															
Country Driven CHM Project																								
1. Awareness raising programme																								
Activities																								
1. Develop & implement an awareness programme on																								

Table of cost estimates for additional enabling activities (biodiversity)

ACTIVITY	PRODUCT	PROCESS	TOTAL
APPROVED EARLIER			
Original EA, less costs of CHM activities			\$134,930
CHM component			\$14,000
Total approved support			\$148,930
ADDITIONAL REQUEST			
1. Assessment of Capacity-building needs for:			
Priority 1: Implementation of general measures for in-situ and ex-situ conservation and sustainable use	15,000	35,000	50,000
Priority 2: Methodologies to evaluate and mitigate specific threats to biodiversity components	15,000	15,000	30,000
Priority 3: Preservation/maintenance of biodiversity related knowledge of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles	10,000	20,000	30,000
Sub total	40,000	70,000	110,000
Country Driven CHM Project	38,000	132,000	170,000
Total new request	78,000	202,000	280,000

Attention: Tom Twining-Ward

FAXED
80: 9:00



GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

Office of the Secretary to Government
Premier's Department

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29th September 2000

TO: Mr Serge Ducasse
Resident Representative
UNDP
Samoa

FAX: (685) 23 555

FROM: Crossley Tatui
GEF Focal Point
Niue Government

SUBJECT: ENABLING ACTIVITIES "ADD ON" PROPOSAL

Dear Mr Ducasse,

I am pleased to submit herewith a proposal on the GEF Enabling Activities "Add On" facility.

I understand that this "Add On" project proposal is directly associated with the Niue Strategy Action Plan. The Cabinet of Ministers has favourably endorsed the proposal. And I must express our appreciation to you, and in particular the Environment Advisor, Tom Twining-Ward for his guidance in the formulation of the proposal.

May I ask for your assistance in this matter by ensuring that Niue's proposal is in conformity with GEF criteria.

I hope the proposal will be supported by GEF so we can implement this significant project as planned.

I look forward to your response. Best Regards!

Sincerely,

Crossley Tatui

UNDP
FILE NO: <i>Pw 300 EA-Niue</i>
FOR ACTION: <i>TW</i>
FOR INFORMATION: <i>AT</i>
DATE RECEIVED: <i>28</i> OCT 2000