

# Niue's National Designated Authority Office Newsletter



April to June 2025

## Upgrade of the Environmental Social Safeguard Management System (ESMS)

Protecting the environment is an integral part of all project development. As we endeavour to become more resilient to climate change, the need to have a national environmental safeguards management system will minimise environment and social risk, comply with our national policy and donor funding requirements.

In the last year, the GCF Readiness Fund has provided funding to the Department of Environment to engage with the South Pacific Regional Environmental Program - (SPREP) and DDA International Consulting to review and upgrade the existing national Environmental Social Safeguard Management System - (ESSMS). To achieve this, Niue has also updated its Environmental Safeguard Policy. Work commenced last year and the final ESMS upgrade was completed in April 2025. The system is now being piloted under the Department of Environment.

The ESMS is designed to provide a structured approach for managing environmental and social risks associated with projects. The ESMS will strengthen the existing Environmental and Social Impact Assessment- ESIA and Environmental Social Management Plan for all project development.

In April, SPREP provided the necessary training specifically for the screening checklist process of the ESMS. The scenarios were contextualised to Niue and the participants strategically tested the screening process. Many discussions were had with an array of lenses to consider during the screening checklist activity. This activity showcased the benefits of knowledge and sharing, gaining new skills.

<https://www.facebook.com/pmcuniue/>



## Project Concept Note Niue has Sustainable and Climate Resilient Water Management Services

One of the greatest and basic commodities for health and well-being is water. Our human adult bodies are made up of up to 60% water. It is a global concern to ensure that everyone has availability and accessibility to fresh potable drinking water. Here in Niue, we rely on our water bores for fresh water supply and the harnessing of rainwater in household tanks.

The Niue Climate Change Profile 2013 states, *“projections of sea-level rise under the high emissions scenario (A2) indicate that, by 2030, Niue will have experienced sea-level rise in the range of 6 cm to 27 cm. Ocean acidification is likely to continue throughout the current century in waters around Niue.”* These predictions put Niue at risk to the availability and accessible to freshwater.

In our Niue ke Monuina National Strategic Plan (2016-2026), water is listed as key priority under the infrastructure pillar. PMCU together with the Department of Infrastructure, MET Services and the Department of Environment are working closely with our partner, South Pacific Community (SPC) on the development of a concept note to seek funding to enhance water security in Niue.

It is a very comprehensive process, collating and aligning various national and international policies and strategies for a positive outcome on submission to the GCF to fund this proposal, Niue has Sustainable and Climate Resilient Water Management Services. It is intended to transform Niue's approach to climate-resilient water governance by integrating resilient infrastructure, inclusive planning, and institutional reform. The proposal will establish robust systems for water management that respond to the climate-induced relocation of communities and future climate variability. Key interventions include relocating and climate-proofing vulnerable infrastructure, introducing inclusive governance frameworks, and investing in monitoring, planning, community capacity building.



## Pacific Community of Practice

The Community of Practice is an initiative that was established by Niue under the Readiness program in 2022. The purpose of the Cohort, Community of Practice, is to draw lessons experienced to strengthen engagement with the GCF. This year the knowledge sharing and learning community practice has continued through virtual meetings. Eight of the small island states (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and the Maldives tuned in for the May meeting and welcomed Fiji Islands to the community. Invitations to NDAs from Tonga, PNG, Kiribati and Nauru to join in the future adding momentum to the virtual community of practice.

Niue hosted a very successful face-to-face conference in September 2024 and our Niue representatives at the recent COP29 meeting in Baku show cased the concept as a side event. This prompted a huge interest from other National Designated Authority - NDAs from Pacific Small Island Developing States wanting to be involved in this group.

At the forefront of climate change, SIDS countries are extremely vulnerable, Xavier Matsutaro of Palau’s NDA said, “Right now, we are realising there are some bottlenecks between donor systems and our systems. If we can make a transition so our systems are more compatible, then it [climate finance] can more effectively reach where it is needed at the grassroots level.

The long-term aim of setting up the Cohort is that it continues to exist and sustain itself between countries without the need for funding. Making the connections for colleagues to be comfortable to have each other to share knowledge and experience in improving country access to the Green Climate Funds.

<https://www.greenclimate.fund/news/niue-launches-community-practice-accelerate-climate-action-pacific>

## GCF Readiness Team Local Short Term Consultants

We have recently engaged two local short term consultants, Julie Talagi and Angela Tuhipa to support the project team with specific outputs in the GCF Readiness Program activities.

Angela is continuing work for Niue to have a national entity accredited with the Green Climate Fund. This is a large piece of work that started in 2019 undertaking gap assessments of the Niue Development Bank and the Ministry of Finance. Passing accreditation will enable National Direct Access to manage the GCF project funds.

Angela will concentrate her time looking at the Project-Specific Accreditation (PSAA) model.

Julie is supporting the Niue Chamber of Commerce CEO and Board with the implementation of their Private Sector Climate Finance Strategy funded from the GCF Readiness program.

The Private Sector Climate Finance Strategy has key objectives specifically tailored for the private sector to access funds to adapt to climate change impacts.

Both consultants are also supporting in the work of developing a concept note on Food Security under the GCF funding modality, the Simplified Approval Process (SAP).

The Food Security idea stemmed from a Pacific Climate Change Centre - PCCC training workshop with stakeholders in September 2024, supported in principle by Prime Minister, Dalton Tagelagi and encouraged by SPREP’s Climate Change Resilience Director Tagaloa Cooper-Halo.

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## InForm online Library Environmental Portal

Data and analysis is critical for baseline information to inform project ideas for climate finance.

The InForm online database housed under SPREP, is a secure platform for countries to upload and store information and access information from other countries in shared public files for project development.

It is a user-friendly platform, simply type a keyword in the search bar and InForm will reward you with everything stored in the portal related to your keyword.

This centralised platform is an information haven for sharing knowledge of environmental information for decision makers, policy development, monitoring and evaluation and national planning.

<https://niue-data.sprep.org/>





## Phase 2 PCCC Training



The Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) that sits within the office of SPREP is working in partnership with Niue, funded under the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness program to deliver ongoing project management training.

In February the 2nd training workshop was delivered for officials working in areas of project management. Training was delivered on project development principals using an active concept note in the design of a Food Security proposal under the Green Climate Fund Modality (SAP), a Simple Approval Process. The Food Security design work commenced under the first training modules in September 2024. This project idea is being partnered between The Niue Chamber of Commerce on behalf of the Private Sector/Niue Development Bank/PMCU/DAFF/Dept of Environment. This is strengthening cooperation and collaboration under the Public Private Partnership agreement.

The training agenda for the 3 days involved capacity building in group activities and enhancing on current understanding of climate change projects based on Niue's GCF Strategic Plan Country Program that outlines priorities for climate change interventions.

Participants at the training were from PMCU, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Niue Chamber of Commerce, Niue Growers Association and the Department of Environment.

