

Report No.4/2016

Implementing a Ridge to Reef Approach to Biodiversity and Ecosystems Functions in Nauru

Combined Community Consultation Report: The Stock Taking, Analysis of Problems & Solution

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28th - 29th April 2016



INTRODUCTION

The combined community consultation workshop was a follow up activity to set the ground work for establishing Locally Managed Marine Areas. Six representatives were invited from each district with the support of the implementing partners, Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources, Division of Agriculture and Water CIE.

In his opening remarks the chief secretary urge the participants and the people of the Nauru to take responsibility taking care of their resources and environment.

Agenda

28th of April, 2016

Day 1 Program

Time	Item(s) of Discussion	Facilitator(s)
9am	Registration	Ms Newton
10.05-10.20am	Official Opening by the Chief Secretary Mr Bernard	Ms Amwano
10.20-10.40am	Overview of Nauru Biodiversity- Ridge to Reef Approach	Ms Fihaki (Annex A: Overview/Background of R2R Presentation)
11.30-12.45am	Technical Team presentations Baseline/Background on current Efforts and linkages to R2R	Environment/Agriculture/Water Mr Agir, Ms Jacob, Mr Depaune Annex A: Power point presentations
14.00-15.30pm	Stock Taking of Nauru's natural resources (Terrestrial group work)Resource Mapping group work	Mr Kini/Mr Soma & Ms Amwano
	End of Day 1 Consultation	

29th of April, 2016

Day 2 Program

Time	Item of Discussion	Facilitator
9.30-9.45 am	Registration & Recap Session of Day 1	Community Representation
9.45-10.40am	Mapping of resources-group work activity	Ms Amwano/ Mr Soma/Mr Koto
11.30am-13.30pm	Threat Analysis Group work	Ms Fihaki
14.10-15.30pm	Strategies Analysis Problem Tree Exercise- Group work Introduction of Resource	Ms Fihaki

	Management Plan Group Work	
	Closing of workshop	CIE Secretary
	End of Day 2 Consultation	

DISCUSSION

A. Linkages and Synergies

(Annex A)

Sector	Linkages & Synergies to Project
Nauru Fisheries & Marine Resources Authority	Implementer of component one. Provide technical advice on biological assessment of species and habitats, ecosystem and livelihoods alternatives. Collection of data to confirm intervention regarding conservation of marine environment and alternative livelihoods initiatives such as Aqualculture.
Division of Agriculture	Implementer of component two. Provide technical advice for replanting of trees, soil profiling and land use planning initiatives. In addition the division can advise in terms of capacity building with practical solutions using the nursery at Buada. Provide seedlings and relevant assistance to planting and management of livestock.
Water Unit	Provide technical advice on water management, ground water pollutions and aligning intervention to policy and Nauru priorities. In addition identifying and prioritizing sites of impacts within the districts.



- The selection of intervention for additional water catchment will be done according to assessment of baselines and undercurrent activities. USAID's new project will install 14 water tanks in each districts.
- Project implementation for water initiatives have a poor track record. Funds got remitted as slow implementation due to administrative hurdles and construction problems. For community projects it would be better to involve communities for implementation/construction etc
- High presence of ecoli in underground water. Measuring pollution level is vital for R2R interventions and at the moment no capacity and facility to monitor or evaluate level of pollutions. NFMRA has a new lab and partnership with CIE assessing water pollution as it is also vital for aquaculture initiatives.
- Local consumption of fish protein is very high but been sustained by the importation of milkfish from Australia (Philippines).
- The governing of natural resources in Nauru is weak and no legal provision for community conservation protection. The NFMRA is in the process of reviewing the Marine Resources/Fisheries Act and consideration for bye laws to enforce community based conservation efforts.
- Legalising the Community Based Organisation and to have in place an Act is another way to create bye laws.

B. Stock Taking of Terrestrial Resources

The NFMRA has started the consultation process of stock taking resources with the communities since 2009. The process take record of threats with possible actions, which is, continuous and reviews/updates were followed up by the Authority.

There hasn't been any development of any sort in the terrestrial environment and hence an important agenda for the workshop. To match the work done in the marine environment the project in a participatory manner listing and identifying stocks with simple indicators. Focusing on the resources with depleting stocks, the participants investigate the factors causing the depletion rate with possible solutions.

Annex B: Maps & Lists/Status of Terrestrial Resources

C. Threat Analysis

Annex C: Group Work Results

1. Cutting down of trees for clearance of land-houses and development
2. Overharvesting
3. Severe climate conditions in particular droughts
4. Invasive-Pests
5. Soil Erosion (coastal plants)
6. Mining
7. Ignorance attitudes

D. Strategies Analysis

Annex D: Group Work Results

1. Revive the importance of traditional replanting methods
2. Planting Preservation methods like Mulching, crafting, composting
3. Local or herbal remedies for control of pests
4. Replanting campaign
5. Awareness
6. Enforcement of Regulatory systems at different levels



CONCLUSION

The content of the workshop was not new to the participants as other sectors have begun this process with all the 14 districts however this doesn't mean R2R project exclude discussions regarding the marine environment and resources.

Evaluating the threats and its causes, it is evident that there is minimal arrangements or provision to pull community members to work together. This is reflected by the poor attendance of community in the past and current consultations¹. It can be further generalised that individual members are more concerned for their own survival than a community as a whole. This is an important aspect to consider for R2R interventions, community involvement.

There is an organisation structure exist within communities which is a forum to voice community concerns and an agent for the people of the community in response to government. It is considered a legal or recognised setting for the governance of community. The question here is how strong is this organisation and what can it perform?

The governance and strengthening of environmental related institution is an important aspect of the project. This maybe applicable and doable in other PICs however in the case of Nauru this is important

¹ Appendix E: Participants lists

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and need more support at the beginning of the project. Moreover the complexities in ownership of resources, lands and government mining rights are factors of equal attention.

With regard to project's objectives it is evident from the workshop that there is little concern from the participants regarding underground water pollution and eco-sanitation though it was highlighted by the technical focal point. This is an area of need in terms of awareness program.

"Ignorance is not a nice word to label people's behaviour however it is the truth.²" Consequently there is little awareness of communities and leaders on the importance of the natural environment. The people are isolated from their environment.

Each districts have identified plants and trees of great value to their existence. R2R project will focus on this list for the replanting initiatives with the assistance of the Technical Corporation Project (FAO), Taiwan Technical Mission and Division of Agriculture. To complement the activity R2R should have in place community trainings on simple/basic planting skills.

The way forward for the project is to visit each district for further consultation and confirmation of data concerning the project's activities. Using the results of this workshop as a basis of discussion.

² A comment made by the President of the Anibare Community Based Orgainsation, Mr David Gadarara.