



2018  
Project Implementation Review (PIR)



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

**Strengthening Natural Resource  
Management**

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## A. Basic Data

Project Information	
UNDP PIMS ID	5168
GEF ID	5348
Title	Conserving biodiversity and enhancing ecosystem functions through a “ Ridge to Reef” approach in the Cook Islands
Country(ies)	Cook Islands, Cook Islands
UNDP-GEF Technical Team	Ecosystems and Biodiversity
Project Implementing Partner	Government
Joint Agencies	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
Project Type	Full Size

Project Description
<p>In August 2012, the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, Hon. Henry Puna, announced the creation of the Cook Islands Marine Park encompassing approximately 1.1 million square kilometres of the country's southern Exclusive Economic Zone (or more than 50% of its EEZ) at the opening ceremony of the 43rd Pacific Islands Forum. By creating the Park, the Government signalled its commitment to sustainable development and intention to balance economic growth interests in sectors such as such as tourism, fishing and agriculture, with biodiversity conservation objectives. This project will enhance the Cook Islands' capacities to effectively manage its protected area estate, focusing more specifically on the operationalization of the Marine Park and community conservation areas falling within it. The project will assist the government to tailor its policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks to suit the specific characteristics of this large marine protected area where protection and sustainable use will need to be carefully planned and zoned, with the recognition that tenure over most land areas is vested in local communities through a traditional tenure system. This project has been designed to engineer a paradigm shift in the management of marine and terrestrial PA sites from a site centric approach to a holistic ridge to reef management approach, whereby activities in the immediate production landscapes adjacent to marine and terrestrial protected areas will be managed to reduce threats to biodiversity stemming from key production activities (tourism and agriculture).</p>

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Other Partners	MMR (g.matutu@mmr.gov.ck)

**B. Overall Ratings**

Overall DO Rating	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall IP Rating	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	High

## C. Development Progress

Description					
Objective					
To build national and local capacities and actions to ensure effective conservation of biodiversity, food security and livelihoods and the enhancement of ecosystem functions within the Cook Islands Marine Park					
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2017	Cumulative progress since project start
Overall framework in place for conservation in the Southern Group of the Cook Islands	Cook Islands Marine Park (CIMP) declared as protected, but with no legal designation or active management	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	1.1 million sq. km. of CIMP legally designated and actively managed, with dedicated staff implementing planning and coordination of the entire CIMP by end of year 2	Whole of Cook Islands EEZ is now under CIMP and the Marae Moana Bill 2017 is in parliament waiting to be passed. The CIMP has been expanded to include the entire Cook Islands EEZ of 1.9 million square kilometres. The Marae Moana Park Policy has been completed and endorsed by Cabinet in May 2016.  A 50 nautical mile buffer zone around (all) islands was endorsed in March 2017 for domestic fishing.	1.9 million sq km of CIMP legally designated actively managed with one dedicated staff implementing and coordinating entire CIMP. Marae Moana Act passed in July 2017. Council and Technical Advisory Group active.
Area of inhabited Outer Islands in Southern Group managed for BD conservation through Island Development Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terrestrial</li> <li>• Marine</li> </ul>	0 0	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	By end of project: 6 islands totalling 15,110 ha. 6 islands totalling 16,174 ha.	These targets are still realistic, and achievable, it requires more communication and support to both Outer Island coordinator based at the Office of the Prime Minister and the Pa enua Island Administrators themselves. The ability to have measures for area coverage in targets is still achievable currently but may need some technical expertise to verify these targets.	Still on track following spatial mapping project with various partners. Marae Moana has take the lead in marine spatial planning starting with Palmerston this year. MMR and NES will work with Government partners for the remaining islands. All islands have a Island Development plan, it is a matter of strengthening the environment component by ensuring that these terrestrial and marine components are included also.
Tracking Tool IW1: Innovative solutions implemented for reduced pollution, improved water use efficiency, sustainable fisheries with rights-based management, IWRM, water supply protection in SIDS, and	Limited local capacity exists for overseeing and monitoring of water quality in lagoons	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Water quality improved through small demonstrations and monitoring mechanisms in	Water quality testing by MMR and NES is operational only on Rarotonga and Aitutaki on a monthly basis. Water for Rarotonga is currently managed by Infrastructure Cook islands. They	Consistent water quality testing conducted every month by key agencies, NES, MMR, MOA and other partners including health carried out in Rarotonga with water testing carried out by MMR

aquifer and catchment protection			place for project related indicators	<p>have the mandate for this operation. Respective outer islands have their island administration who manage these resources with technical support from ICI.</p> <p>Planning and consultation with the Aitutaki Island Council has proceeded well with agreement reached for NES, MMR and the ADB/GoCI GHD Project to align and collaborate on the development of the Aitutaki Lagoon Master Plan.</p> <p>Many partners are engaged in different activities on different islands under this project: it may pay to review this during the MTR.</p>	in Aitutaki. Water reports available every month. A major water project 'Te Mato Vai' is currently underway now with all agencies using information to support their work. This data is available to anyone requesting information.
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**The progress of the objective can be described as:** Off track

**Outcome 1  
Strengthening Protected Areas Management**

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2017	Cumulative progress since project start
Improved management effectiveness of Cook Islands Marine Park, as measured by GEF BD 1 Tracking Tool (METT)	METT score = 30	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	METT score > 60 by end of project	<p>Establishing Marae Moana Office within the Office of the Prime Minister would create opportunities for this indicator.</p> <p>Work is progressing, from Marae Moana Policy to the Marae Moana Act 2017: this may need some revision.</p>	Key steps going forward is looking at setting an outlook report for where Marae Moana will be going and how this will improve management of the CIMP. This will be a long term commitment to get this indicator to the point necessary.
National agencies responsible for PA management are effectively delivering PA management functions (as measured by the Capacity development indicator score for protected area system): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systemic</li> <li>• Institutional</li> <li>• Individual</li> </ul>	50% 47% 52%	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	By end of project: 70% 70% 70%	Currently, baseline levels have not changed dramatically but may progress towards the 70% end of project target as the Marae Moana Act is implemented and becomes fully functional. Institutional authority has been considered by the project and Protected Areas coordination is a major undertaking as this is spread	This is becoming a challenge for all stakeholders involved in PA management. Quarter 3, 2018 will be focused on bringing this group together. The Marae Moana Technical Advisory Group is a mechanism that shares information regarding PA management and advises on Marae Moana coordination of

				<p>across several ministries, NES, MMR, and the House of Ariki, TIS. Some technical support has been sought to harmonise these activities and better coordinate efforts of all involved.</p> <p>The placement and mandate of Protected Areas has waited on the development and endorsement of the Marae Moana (Cook Islands Marine Park) Policy and Bill. Once this is in place, the need for a Protect Areas Policy and/or necessary regulatory changes will be considered.</p>	<p>activities however clear roles and responsibilities for PA management still need to be agreed on and mandated. For terrestrial PA's, there is an opportunity to update these in Quarter 3 with agencies involved, looking at this work.</p>
<p>Updated and consolidated legal framework for management of the Cook Islands Marine Park (CIMP) and all other protected areas in the country</p>	<p>Existing legislation for PAs is out-dated and incomplete: CIMP and Ra'ui systems have no legal standing; detailed regulations are not in place</p>	<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>	<p>Protected and Managed Areas Act drafted and enacted by end of year 2; detailed regulations for resource restrictions and PA management enacted by end of project</p>	<p>Marae Moana Policy has been endorsed and awaiting the Marae Moana Bill 2017 to be considered/passed in Parliament. Parliament sitting was much delayed due to reasons beyond agencies' control and did not sit from 2016 until July 2017. Parliament is now currently in session with the Marae Moana Bill 2017 prioritised for consideration.</p>	<p>Discussions on progressing a Protect Managed Areas Act is stalled as it is not a political move to endorse the Protected Managed Areas Act. Further review and assessment is needed to determine the gap and overlap between MM Act, Environment Act and MMR Act to find a way forward in consolidating under one Act or agreeing on defined roles of each agency. This may not be possible at any point currently.</p>
<p>Consolidated management authority for protected areas in the Cook Islands</p>	<p>Institutional authority for protected areas is spread among various agencies</p>	<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>	<p>Marae Moana Office undertaking coordinated management of protected areas by end of project</p>	<p>Marae Moana Policy has been endorsed and now awaits the Marae Moana Bill 2017 to be passed in Parliament, which is currently in session. Coordination to be strengthened, as called for by the Prime Minister Hon. Henry Puna, within the Marae Moana framework to ensure that all activities and partners involved participate actively in the process and its implementation.</p>	<p>The responsibility is spread amongst agencies, there needs to be coordination amongst agencies to move this forward. The different mandates has been challenging as components of protected areas, is in almost five different legislations. NES Act 2003, MMR Act 2017, Ministry of Culture Act 1990, Marae Moana Act 2017 and House of Ariki Amendment Act 1970-71). This also includes the Historic places and artefacts Act managed by Ministry of Culture.</p>

Management of protected area sites on islands in the Southern Group	1 existing protected area site (Takitumu Conservation Area) is actively managed	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Management plans for at least 15 protected area sites under implementation by end of project	TOR's are currently being developed for TA's to be able to meet this target. Capacity has been sought for this key indicator and target should be met in time or by end of project.	Takitumu Conservation area is going to develop a management plan by Dr. Hugh Robertson with all updated data and information. The other areas should have a template to follow after this on what is needed in the respective sites.
% Area of Southern Group islands managed as Protected Areas (protected natural areas, community conservation areas, ra'ui sites) • Terrestrial • Marine (to the outer reef)	2.8% 9.7%	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	By end of project: 6.7% 12.3%	This indicator and target should be met as there have been some new terrestrial and marine protected areas and Raui sites. Consolidating of all terrestrial and marine information will need to be done by the R2R team during 2017.	Mokoero Nature Reserve established in Dec 2017 setting aside Mokoero leeward coastal forest as a protected area on Atiu. Community consultations held in Puaikura, Rarotonga to discuss arrangements and management of existing ra'ui areas and potential new sites. MMR to carry out area assessments to inform community decisions. A new ra'ui area has also been declared on Atiu towards the end of this PIR period and has thus far been supported with signage.
Improved management effectiveness of priority conservation zones, as measured by the GEF BD 1 Tracking Tool (METT): • Takitumu Conservation Area (Rarotonga) • Cloud Forest Nature Reserve (Rarotonga) • Manuae Wildlife Sanctuary / Marine Reserve (Manuae) • Moko Ero Nui Leeward Forest Reserve (Atiu) • Takutea Wildlife Sanctuary / Marine Reserve (Takutea)	64 26 12 26 29	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	By end of project: METT score >70 METT score >50 METT score >40 METT score >50 METT score >50	Work to be done for these priority conservation zones are in progress with management plans to be developed first. Technical assistance is required for this to be completed.  TCA is on track with targets that should be met by end of project.  Mokoero Nui has been declared as a Forest Reserve and plans are in place to support this PNA.  Consultations with Island councils and landowners for Manuae and Takutea have been carried out with plans in place to carry out terrestrial and marine assessments in late	In progress, need to put into action technical assistance for this component to be completed at close of project. Arrangements for development of management plans for kakerori and the Takitumu Conservation Area as well as Mokoero are underway. Bird surveys in TCA and rapid assessment of Mokoero carried out to info next steps - management plans. TCA management plan consultant identified.(see above)

				2017, in order to inform management plans.,  Cloud Forest work will progress based on the outcomes of the IIB Project Cloud Forest report.	
Lagoon ecosystems are managed in a coordinated manner and with clear ecological conservation objective	Lagoons in the Cook Islands are not actively managed for conservation	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Aitutaki Lagoon Master Plan in place, with conservation zoning, goals and targets	The Aitutaki Island Council are fully supportive of the ALMP and a coordinated approach between R2R (NES, MMR), Mei te vai ki te Vai (GHD) looking at sanitation in Aitutaki to be conducted in this process. The passing of the Marae Moana Bill will also provide some guidance from this work and vice versa. It is hoped that this effort in Aitutaki can be replicated for the Muri Lagoon Area also.	A consultant was recruited to carry out the stakeholder analysis for the ALMP however, after significant delays and lack of results, this contract was terminated. The project technical team have put out an EOI for new consultants to finish this stakeholder analysis as well as bring all information together for the ALMP to take this delay into account and will implement these changes in Quarter 3, 2018.
Funds available for management of Protected Areas, as reported in the GEF BD1 Tracking Tool – Financial Scorecard: • Non-governmental financing mechanisms • Government budget allocations	US\$23,800 US\$63,750	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	By end of project: US\$523,800 US\$148,750	It is envisaged that the target will be met if all partners maintain their support to protected areas within their current budget allocation. With Marae Moana Bill to be passed also provides opportunity for stakeholders to better coordinate funding and efforts. Some technical advice is required for this financial scorecard to ensure that the Cook islands meet its financial obligations to this indicator.	Recruitment of a consultant for the Sustainable Financing Mechanism TA has been delayed due to a lack of applications. The project has decided to revise the terms of reference for this consultant and readvertise widely. Efforts are being seen now, in Quarter 3, with recruitment in progress now.
Conservation of critical coral reef habitat within the CIMP, as measured by finfish populations at coral reefs around Rarotonga and Aitutaki	Baseline TBD in year 1 of project	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	No decrease in finfish populations by end of project	The baseline for this indicator is yet to be determined. Living Oceans Foundation has completed surveys on Aitutaki and Rarotonga but their full report is awaited.  Finfish surveys were planned by MMR in this reporting term; however due to loss of staff,	All marine surveys have been completed and the technical team will be working this next quarter on completing all of the survey technical reports.



				<p>capacity to implement these surveys was affected with delays in recruiting replacements. This has been reprogrammed to commence in late 2017.</p> <p>Planned surveys for Aitutaki Lagoon Master Plan starting in 2nd half of 2017 will provide information for this indicator as team is planning to carry out reef surveys to inform the plan.</p>	
<p>Conservation of priority species at selected sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Turtle (Takutea and Manuae)</li> <li>• Hawksbill turtle (Takutea and Manuae)</li> <li>• Loggerhead Turtle (Palmerston)</li> <li>• Napoleon (Humphead) Wrasse (Rarotonga &amp; Aitutaki)</li> <li>• Atiu Swiftlet (Atiu)</li> <li>• Mangaian Kingfisher (Mangaia)</li> <li>• Rarotongan Monarch (Rarotonga &amp; Atiu)</li> <li>• Mitiaro Tree Palm (Mitiaro)</li> </ul>	<p>Baseline TBD in year 1 of project</p> <p>Baseline TBD in year 1 of project</p> <p>Baseline TBD in year 1 of project</p> <p>Baseline TBD in year 1 of project</p> <p>420 individuals</p> <p>1,000 individuals</p> <p>428 individuals (Rarotonga); 125 individuals (Atiu)</p> <p>375 mature trees</p>	<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>	<p>By end of project:</p> <p>No net decline in population</p> <p>No net decline in population</p> <p>No net decline in population</p> <p>No net decline in population</p> <p>No net decline in population</p> <p>No net decline in population</p> <p>No net decline in population</p> <p>No net decline in population</p> <p>No net decline in population</p> <p>No net decline in forested area</p>	<p>Surveys to determine baseline levels for the Green turtle (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>) and hawksbill turtle (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>) on Takutea and Manuae and the loggerhead turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>) have yet to completed.</p> <p>The baseline level for the Humphead wrasse (<i>Chelinus undulatus</i>) is yet to be determined but the survey by Living Oceans Foundation on Aitutaki and Rarotonga have been completed but only a summary of report is available. Project will work with MMR to source information for Rarotonga.</p> <p>MMR and NES are planning joint terrestrial/marine assessments for Takutea and Manuae late 2017 and surveys will inform this indicator. Follow up surveys for the birds (Mangaian kingfisher and Rarotonga monarch) and mitiario tree palm are forthcoming.</p>	<p>Baseline surveys has not been possible for some species due to difficulties in travel to that island. Mitiaro Tree Palm survey has been undertaken with a little more work to be done and a survey of the Rarotonga Monarch is currently underway and will continue on for the next 2 months. Data is available however this needs to be done with concentrated effort from all partners involved.</p>

The progress of the objective can be described as:

Off track

## Outcome 2

Effective mainstreaming of biodiversity in key sectors to mitigate threats within production landscapes

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2017	Cumulative progress since project start
Landscape/seascape area covered by the project (ha), as measured by GEF BD 2 Tracking Tool <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directly covered</li> <li>• Indirectly covered</li> </ul>	0	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	1.1 million sq. km. (CIMP) 0.83 million sq. km. (Northern Group)	Due to the scope of the CIMP being the entire Cook Islands EEZ of 1.9 million square kilometres, it is safe to say that this meets if not exceeds the target. The entire EEZ was put in as a consideration for the CIMP. This will now receive more attention in terms of managing pockets of different activities within the EEZ whether it be for pure conservation, seabed mining and fisheries.	1.9million sq. km is covered by the project through the Marae Moana. The whole EEZ is directly and indirectly covered taking into consideration Seabed Mining as well as Purse Seining.
Pressures from resources uses in the land- and seascape are reduced through Ridge to Reef management approaches, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced use of agricultural chemicals, based on value of annual imports</li> <li>• Fertilizers</li> <li>• Pesticides</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NZ\$339,554</li> <li>• NZ\$406,701</li> </ul>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	At least 15% reduction in value of imports of agricultural chemicals by the end of the project	The Ministry of Agriculture is still compiling information pertaining to this indicator and target. Some technical expertise may be required for this purpose specifically either from the National Statistics office as well as the Ministry's market survey activities. This is a key area that needs strengthening within the Ministry as it is, National statistics collect data on this as well as customs, there needs to be some agreement between agencies to be able to access this information to meet their targets.	Reports are complete on the reduced use of fertilizer and agriculture chemicals with the reduction being significantly less than anticipated and will be available soon. Training of farmers on various islands on pesticides and reduction in pesticide use have begun, with more planned in the 2nd half of 2018.
Planning approval process for infrastructure and other development	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process depends on self reporting by developers	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	EIAs for infrastructure development in or around PAs are subject to independent review, and development plans are adapted as necessary to conserve biodiversity	Activities have been carried out to help strengthen the EIA process in the Cook Islands, including through cost shared delivery of a SPREP organised training workshop to all NES Advisory and Compliance officers and capacity development of the Division.  Information on EIA applications is currently being inputted into a database within NES. However,	This is ongoing and has been improved on from Compliance to Authority and back to the Customer.

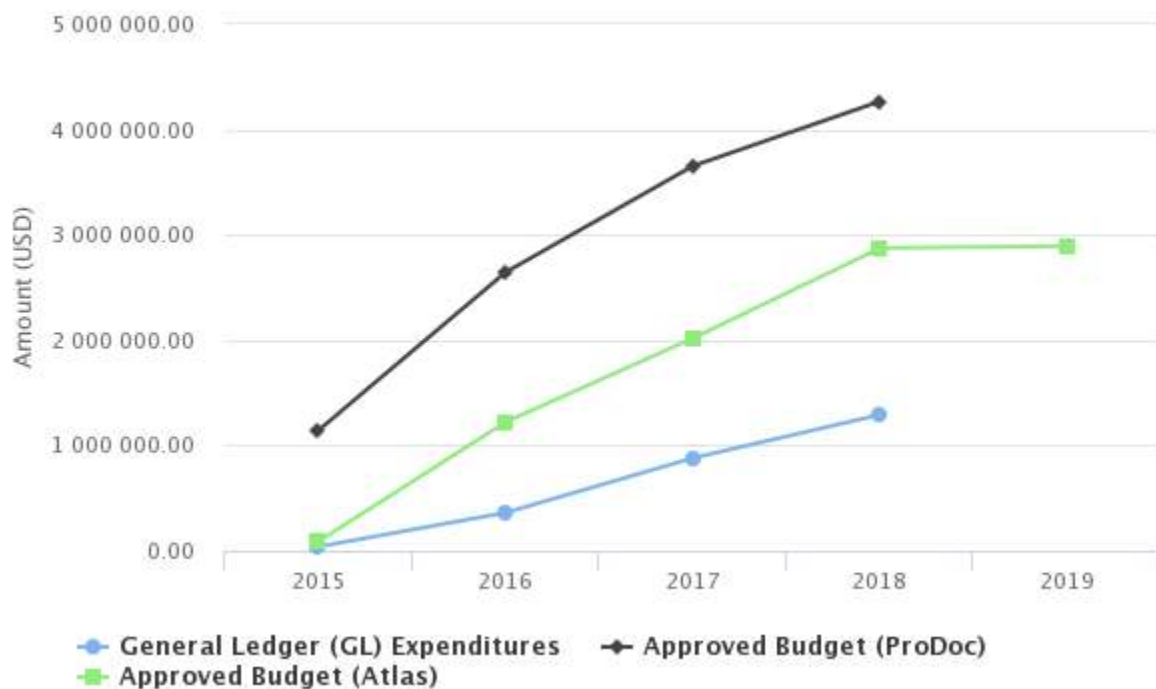
				<p>further work is needed to develop a policy or make necessary changes to regulations to support additional considerations, such as independent review being given to applications in or around PAs.</p> <p>Further support to the EIA process from the project is planned.</p>	
Forest cover on the 9 islands within the Cook Islands Marine Park	13,245 hectares of natural forested area	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	No decline in forest cover by the end of the project	This baseline may need to be verified again before end of 2017 to confirm forest cover and the methodology for this assessment. Many of the natural forested areas in the Cook Islands also contain a significant number of invasive species plants and trees which could possibly skew our baselines - as any activity outside the project that positively tackles invasive species will have a negative impact on this indicator.	There is data available, however this too is scattered in various agencies. It would be a matter of pulling this information from all these agencies to gauge forest cover on 9 islands.
Sedimentation and pollution of aquatic and marine habitats	Sedimentation and pollution (pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, waste) have significant negative impacts on streams and lagoons in the country	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	At least 10 sites within CIMP where water quality will be improved through measures to control water pollution and sedimentation (from agriculture or other sources)	Currently only Rarotonga and Aitutaki have consistent water quality testing with monthly reports available upon request from MMR. NES is the only other partner supporting this activity. Ministry of Agriculture is also working in tandem with MMR for testing of both soil and water runoff on Rarotonga to test for effects of pesticides and fertilizers if any. There is an opportunity to strengthen water quality testing under the national water policy 2015 for more tests to be done by other agencies. Ministry of Health carry out water testing to be safe enough to drink but only on Rarotonga at this time. Project will endeavor to coordinate with responsible agencies to	There are over 20 sites tested every month by National Environment and the Ministry of Marine Resources so this is data that is readily available for us to use. The opportunity would be to provide reports to the PIR as well as reports within the R2R project.

				conduct testing and identify/implement control measures in other sites in the coming year.	
Reduced impacts of human activities on land on the health of inshore marine ecosystems, as measured by algal levels (coralline algae, turf algae, and macro-algae) on coral reefs around Rarotonga and Aitutaki	Baseline TBD during year 1 of project	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	No increase in algal levels on coral reefs by end of project	This is an outstanding indicator and one that may need some further technical support or advice, particularly in accurately measuring algal levels within lagoons. There is opportunity that the Aitutaki Lagoon Master plan will also be able to inform this indicator for the project. Project will collaborate with responsible agencies to collate/collect information on algal levels around Rarotonga	The water quality testing provides data that shows, there are still flows of waste water into the lagoons and is deemed seasonal on Rarotonga especially in the Muri area where algae has contaminated the area with high bacteria levels being reported. Rainwater run off has been high as of late and this has caused some flooding of low-lying areas as well as wetlands. On Aitutaki lagoon water quality suggests that salinity, pH and Enterococci bacteria levels were satisfactory at all sites. For streams, salinity and pH were satisfactory at all sites. The current reports for August show that some digging around two sites show Enterococci bacteria and total suspended solids levels as unsatisfactory.
Impact of tourism businesses on biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in targeted KBAs	Less than 5 tourism businesses in the Cook Islands actively implement environmental management programs	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	At least 20 tourism businesses are implementing BD management programs that comply with conservation guidelines developed through the project and included in national accreditation system	This target may need to be reviewed and/or the Tourism Council needs to be provided support to identify 20 tourism businesses that are implementing BD management programs and provide some support to them. Currently, two local businesses have applied through Cook Islands Tourism for support to their biodiversity conservation projects, which has been approved by the NBSC for 3rd Q 2017. It is hoped that these two projects can be demonstration models for other tourism operators in country.	Two projects have been supported through the Project. The Mana Tiaki scheme by Te Ipukarea Society will strengthen the development of the Green Accreditation Scheme and capacity building for tourism operators, that more projects will be identified and established. The STA will also be recruited by Quarter 4, 2018 to help push tourism efforts in the project.

				Work on the national accreditation system has not commenced and technical advice in this area to progress this activity may be necessary as well as in engaging businesses in biodiversity conservation.	
# of projects by tourism operators that support biodiversity conservation (e.g. creating Ra'ui sites / CCAs; coral gardens; beach clean-up; sponsored species conservation)	6 on-going projects in the Southern Group	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	At least 15 projects operating by the end of the project	This is an ideal target and one that can easily be met if the industry can better coordinate their stakeholders to provide information soon. Two projects are identified but may need support to be able to successfully implement and sustain their activities. Support will be provided to CITC to be able to pull this information out so that they can meet the targets they set out in the R2R Prodoc. Capacity is limited so there should be more effort put to supporting the tourism team.	Workshops and training is being developed for tourism operators to be better informed in their respective tourism ventures. There has been outer island ventures who have sought support and have received this.
<b>The progress of the objective can be described as:</b>		<b>Off track</b>			

## D. Implementation Progress

### Cumulative Disbursements



Highcharts.com

Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc):	30.27%
Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year:	30.27%
Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August):	1,291,941.03

Key Financing Amounts	
PPG Amount	150,000
GEF Grant Amount	4267431
Co-financing	14,950,000

Key Project Dates	
PIF Approval Date	Jun 14, 2013
CEO Endorsement Date	Feb 23, 2015
Project Document Signature Date (project start date):	Jul 6, 2015
Date of Inception Workshop	Nov 1, 2015
Expected Date of Mid-term Review	Dec 30, 2018
Actual Date of Mid-term Review	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation	Jan 6, 2019
Original Planned Closing Date	Jul 5, 2019
Revised Planned Closing Date	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>

Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2017 to 1 July 2018)	
2017-07-19	
2017-10-10	
2018-01-26	

## E. Critical Risk Management

Current Types of Critical Risks	Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period
Operational	Unexpected departure of R2R NES officer, responsible for coordinating and implementing NES activities under the R2R workplan, and difficulties in recruiting a replacement. This position has been advertised twice with no success. The project is one again looking to recruit in this next months. The has meant little progress under NES deliverable in the last 2 quarters other than those activities that we have managed to complete using NES staff however it is urgent that this recruitment happen as soon as possible so as not to fall further behind in implementation.
Financial	Timing of funds in country, was delayed, and therefore, implementation of activities and work plans were delayed as well. Also, with the Ministry of Marine Resources having the ability to manage their own bulk disbursement of R2R quarterly funds, has continued to lead to errors and the need for time consuming reconciliation by the project Finance officer in order to be able to compile financial reports for the whole project. Further training of MMR staff, the creation of templates to simplify recording of payments etc have been implemented repeatedly to little success. This impacts all partners access to funds, waiting for reconciled financial reports as well as ensuring 100% disbursement is met. Agreement has now been reached between NES as the responsible implementing partner and MMR that all finances will now be managed solely by NES PMU staff and that MMR will follow the process of the other partners in payments. This should eliminate the delays in financial reporting moving forward and allow management of R2R funds from a single account for audit and monitoring purposes.
Political	The general elections for the Cook Islands were held on the 14th of June, in terms of changes there would be operational and institutional changes that may occur in country and within agencies with personnel being moved or leaving the organisation. A change in Minister also has some weighting on the impact within our Environment Organisation as well as with all stakeholders involved. As there may be many little changes and adjustments. There may be expected further delays in implementation as the Pa Enuu (outer islands) would be the first to be impacted. Quarter 3, 2018 may be a period to take this into consideration. Political will is needed to ensure that the project stays on focus and is able to be supported at the highest level possible.
Operational	It has been noted that there is limited technical capacity available on island and within agencies, or if they exist, it is quite tasking as that personnel gets overwhelmed. Therefore, there needs to be a safety net to keep and capture as much technical expertise as possible in all agencies. The Capacity National Assessment TA should provide solutions for this going forward.

## F. Adjustments

### Comments on delays in key project milestones

**Project Manager: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure.**

Delays were caused due to a key partner (head of ministry) being suspended leaving a time lag in decisions being made for one of the partners. The mid-term review had some issues that needed high level endorsement and this was a delay in the process. The need to employ a CTA and a research expert is yet to be agreed to by the Heads of Agencies and endorsed in the next project steering committee. This issue although small, is significant to the project moving forward. This partner has since agreed to come on board with the recommendations and a joint agreement with the Project Steering Committee to look at a CTA realistically for timing purposes. There is also the need to request for an extension as recommended in the mid-term review. These issues, can be managed once there is a full team on board.

**Country Office: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure.**

There has been delay in the implementation and delivery of the project and this is reflected in the USD 1,291,941 (30.27%) expenditure of a USD 4,267,431 grant as of the 30 June 2018 while the end date of the project is July 2019. The project intends to submit a request for a project no-cost extension for an additional 15 -18 months in order for project to deliver and progress towards meeting project targets.

Project also needs to recruit a Chief technical adviser, Protected areas expert and the NES project officer.

**UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure.**

According to the ToR, the Mid-Term Review was due to start on 31 May and be completed within 5 months (31 October 2017). It was delayed on three accounts: (i) procurement was not completed until mid-July; the field mission was delayed until early November due to a combination of being unable to dove-tail the availabilities of the Evaluator (International Consultant) and the Project Manager or Coordinator; and two additional weeks of delay were incurred in January 2018 because the draft report had not been circulated by PMU to all government implementing partners at the outset.

Further delays then ensued, following submission of the final MTR on 7 February 2018, with respect to agreeing on the Management Response to the MTR recommendations. The RTA, while on mission in the South Pacific, was able to attend a PSC Meeting on 26 February 2018 at which the MTR recommendations were discussed by implementing partners (Heads of Ministries). While there was broad support for most recommendations, not all partners agreed on the need to procure an IC Senior Technical Advisor to boost the technical capacity of PMU and facilitate the adaptive management changes recommended as necessary to turn around the project from its Moderately Unsatisfactory MTR assessment. Despite a further PSC meeting the following week, just prior to the RTA's departure for Samoa and a follow-up teleconference call that same week, it was not possible to secure agreement on this recommendation.

Thus, it is not totally accurate to ascribe delays in implementation to the suspension of one of the Heads of Mission, as that happened only in the last month or so of this reporting period. It may have been a contributory factor but if the PSC had fulfilled its role in a timely and responsible manner at the outset of its deliberations, the project would have been able to move on and implement the recommendations from the beginning of quarter 4. The project is now way behind (over 7 months) in agreeing its response to the MTR recommendations and while it will require an extension to address these and earlier delays in implementation, the project has yet to demonstrate that it has taken the necessary preliminary actions in line with MTR recommendations to justify such additional time.



## G. Ratings and Overall Assessments

Role	2018 Development Objective Progress Rating	2018 Implementation Progress Rating
Project Manager/Coordinator	Moderately Unsatisfactory	- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -
Overall Assessment	<p>Our rating has not changed for this year as much of the same within the project has contributed to this. Timing delays and lags have happened, due to sometimes unforeseen circumstances, logistical challenges as well as coordination limitations. The project warrants an important opportunity to turn things around or at least be proactive and push the Technical Assistance agenda forward to meet targets within the tracking tools and to bring all the information together. There is still opportunity to also bring on board the CTA and Research Expert as recommended in the Midterm review. The recommendations also since the MTR suggests that the changes that have happened, is favourable to the PMU as well as to all partners to move forward in the implementation. The Project steering committee has also worked hard with the PMU to move on decisions outstanding and ensure that the project keeps momentum. Response before during and after the meetings have proven fruitful as well as keen interest from ministers of the crown on progress on their respective islands.</p> <p>The previous year annual workplan was not fully implemented again due to unforeseen circumstances, as well as funding delays including many changes in operations as well as personnel. Delays outside the control of the project also contributed to this. Looking forward, the team will need to recall all the work carried out during a R2R Retreat for the R2R project coupled with the recommendations from the Midterm review to strengthen those areas needed for better or increased delivery of the project. A revision for all project personnel is needed for consideration.</p> <p>The management of personnel is vital to the coming year. The notion to bring on board the CTA as well as the Research expert is priority as well as ensuring that everyone is fully on board with their workplans and budgets. The need to ensure that they are following their workplans, will start with a two-days summarization of the previous and how the R2R project can move forward. Also there is the need to engage and utilize the LOA with UNDP to be able to support with securing Technical Assistance and let this be one less thing for project management unit to manage, and as long as outcomes are achieved. Better planning with each partner includes national events calendar and/or changes or risks to the project that may arise will be a big part of planning. Understanding what could, might happen would benefit all stakeholders. Reporting at the Quarterly interval may be tightened to include a two-weekly update from each agency as a means to monitor progress in their delivery of their workplans. Key support is needed for our Finance and Administration officer for the two accounts that sit with National Environment Service as well as Ministry of Marine Resources to mitigate further delays and mistakes. This will also be a great support to the project itself if all understand the process again.</p>	
Role	2018 Development Objective Progress Rating	2018 Implementation Progress Rating
UNDP Country Office Programme Officer	Moderately Unsatisfactory	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall Assessment	<p>Progress towards meeting the development objective within this reporting period has been rated as moderately unsatisfactory. The project in this reporting period as continued to support the work on the Marae Moana in which 1.9 million square kilometres of the Exclusive Economic Zone has been declared as the Cook Island Marine Park. The Marae Moana Act was passed in 2017 and the Council and Technical Groups are active. Mokoero Nature Reserve was established on Atiu in December 2017. Consultations have continued to discuss management arrangement of existing and potential Rau'i areas. Surveys leading up to inform development of Management plans for the Mokoero Nature Reserve and Takitumu Conservations Area are underway. All marine surveys of critical coral reef area around Rarotonga and Aitutaki have been completed and</p>	

	<p>technical reports are forthcoming in the next reporting period. Studies are complete on the reduced use of fertilizer and agriculture chemicals have also been completed and reports are also forthcoming.</p> <p>The mid-term review of the project was completed in in February and recommendations include the need to recruit a Chief Technical Adviser and Protected Area Management Expert to support the project implementation for the remainder of the project, implementation consolidation phase build on the stakeholder/partner consultations and reach agreement on targets, revised indicators, key activities, project work plan. The mid-term also recommends that the project request for a no-extension of 15 -18 months.</p> <p>The implementation progress rating is moderately unsatisfactory as the cumulative delivery rate for the project is USD1,291,941.03 at the 30 June 2018 which is 30.27% of the expected cumulative delivery for this reporting period although significant project implementation progress has been made on the ground. The project has suffered delays in implementation due to institutional arrangements not only for financial arrangements and reporting but also implementation of activities of the project. Measures have been taken in country to resolve these issues and UNDP has also supported the development of TORs ( development of management plans for Mokoro, Takutea and Takitumu, Aitutaki Lagoon Management Plan, Carrying Capacity Assessment, Chief Technical Adviser) and continue to offer support in procurement of technical assistance to provide implementation support to the project. It has been noted that also the NES Project Officer position is vacant and due to the limited human capacity on islands, this position is yet to be filled.</p> <p>A Gender Assessment and Action Plan is strongly recommended for the coming period, and this could be included in the consolidation phase of the project</p>	
<b>Role</b>	<b>2018 Development Objective Progress Rating</b>	<b>2018 Implementation Progress Rating</b>
<b>GEF Operational Focal point</b>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<i>- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -</i>
Overall Assessment	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	
<b>Role</b>	<b>2018 Development Objective Progress Rating</b>	<b>2018 Implementation Progress Rating</b>
<b>Project Implementing Partner</b>	Moderately Unsatisfactory	<i>- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -</i>
Overall Assessment	<p>While the project has progressed significantly in some areas, including in capacity building activities and technical surveys, delays due to ongoing issues with institutional and financial arrangements, difficulties in recruiting TAs and replacement project staff, lack of available technical expertise in country, resistance to implementing some of the MTR recommendations and ongoing need for additional support and capacity building with the project technical team has all impacted progress overall and the teams ability to fully implement their workplan - leading to a rating of Moderately Unsatisfactory.</p> <p>While the project teams have been working hard, we note that this work is not quite reflected in the indicators that the project was originally designed with. Some of these indicators and activities do need to be revised as they are not achievable or realistic and the project team will work on reviewing these with a view to proposing ways forward to achieve those that are and discuss options for the remaining.</p> <p>Some of the issues faced have since been addressed through meetings of the technical team and and agreement for changes to institutional arrangements for finances which should have a major impact on progress moving forward. The biggest risk is if the project is unable to recruit staff and necessary technical assistance/consultants in a timely manner and so alternative arrangements from the usual modality are being discussed with UNDP.</p>	

Role	2018 Development Objective Progress Rating	2018 Implementation Progress Rating
<b>Other Partners</b>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<i>- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -</i>
Overall Assessment	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	
Role	2018 Development Objective Progress Rating	2018 Implementation Progress Rating
<b>UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser</b>	Moderately Unsatisfactory	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall Assessment	<p>There is consistent agreement between the Project Manager, Samoa Multi-Country Office Programme Officer and Implementing Partner that the Development Objective and, in the case of the Samoa MCO, Implementation Progress should both be rated as Moderately Unsatisfactory. The RTA fully endorses such assessments and welcomes their integrity and self-awareness of shortcomings.</p> <p>The project's Development Objective is rated as Moderately Unsatisfactory because progress to June 2018 continues to be sufficiently off track for end-of-project targets to be expected to be only partially achieved and having significant shortcomings by project closure (5 July 2019). As commented by the Project Manager: "... much of the same within the project has contributed to this. Timing delays and lags have happened, due to sometimes unforeseen circumstances, logistical challenges as well as coordination limitations."</p> <p>Under Outcome 1, improved management effectiveness of protected areas and critical coral reef habitats, institutional capacity development (including the consolidation of management of protected areas, underpinned by a legal framework) and sustainable financing of protected areas are all well behind schedule. Likewise, under Outcome 2, mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation across key sectors to mitigate threats to production landscapes are in their infancy with respect to the agriculture, planning and tourism sectors.</p> <p>The project's Implementation Progress is also rated as Moderately Unsatisfactory because of its continuing slow delivery of outputs. This is reflected in the cumulative expenditure of the project's budget to June 2018, with only USD 1,291,941 (30.3%) of the approved budget (ProDoc) having been spent. While the rate of expenditure has been approximately consistent over the last two years, it needs to increase exponentially (to approximately USD1.5 M per year) if it is to be fully utilized over the next two years or so (including a 15-month extension).</p> <p>The MTR, also delayed for reasons explained above (Section F), proved to be a very thorough undertaking and its recommendations provide a timely opportunity to turn the project around – as anticipated in the 2017 PIR. The MTR, while rating the project's overall performance as Moderately Unsatisfactory due to its limited progress by mid-term, acknowledges that: many of the individual activities have been undertaken well; project staff are good, dedicated but overstretched; and PMU lacks technical capacity having engaged only two of the 21 consultants originally planned. The 13 MTR recommendations provide a sound basis for turning the project around, key interventions including a 15-month no-cost extension and the recruitment of a Chief (Senior) Technical Adviser and Protected Area Management Expert. Additionally, the RTA advocated at the February 2018 PSC Meeting that a Sustainable Tourism Expert be recruited to work directly with the Tourism Corporation.</p> <p>While the PSC has yet to agree the Management Response to the MTR recommendations as reported above (Section F), it is reassuring to note that during the R2R Retreat with implementing partners and stakeholders in December 2017 there was considerable resonance with draft MTR findings. This is reflected further in the Overall Assessment (above) provided by the Project Manager. It is now incumbent on the PSC to reach consensus on the Management Response and ensure that appropriate next steps are being put in</p>	

place, in line with MTR findings and recommendations, to justify an extension for the project.

Critical risks to address are mostly operational, concerning slow procurement and limited technical capacity within PMU (again revolving around procurement). The financing risk has since been resolved as MMR no longer holds a separate budget, as explained in Section E; and the political risk concerning changes in ministerial and senior civil servant positions following the June elections will need to be kept under review.

## H. Gender

### Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

This information is used in the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP-GEF Annual Gender Report, reporting to the UNDP Gender Steering and Implementation Committee and for other internal and external communications and learning. The Project Manager and/or Project Gender Officer should complete this section with support from the UNDP Country Office.

<b>Gender Analysis and Action Plan:</b> <i>not available</i>
<b>Please review the project's Gender Analysis. If the Gender Analysis is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis.</b>
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
<b>Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.</b>
<b>Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.</b>
Inclusiveness is always a key contributor to the project outcomes. Both boys and girl, women and men and included in all consultations. There have been opportunities to ensure that both men and women actively participate in the consultations as well as in surveys and activities planned. For our team in all agencies, there is a good balance of both men and women carrying out the work for the project. In the reports, both men and women contribute to this as well as work together to strengthen their respective teams and work.
<b>Does this project specifically target woman or girls as direct beneficiaries?</b>
No
<b>Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.</b>
The gender equality and womens empowerment provides support to the communities where these women belong too. Having the womens committees or leaders present in their respective communities provides opportunities for young and old, as well as those with disabilities, as they are natural leaders within their community. There is a need to develop a Gender Assessment and Action Plan and is strongly recommended for the coming period, and this could be included in the consolidation phase of the project.

## I. Social and Environmental Standards

### Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)

The Project Manager and/or the project's Safeguards Officer should complete this section of the PIR with support from the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP-GEF RTA should review to ensure it is complete and accurate. For reference, the project's Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP), which was prepared during project design, is available below. If the project began before the SESP was required, then the space below will be empty.

SESP: <a href="#">5168 Annex 2 UNDP Environment and Social Screening.docx</a>
<b>1) Please provide a brief update on the project's social and environmental risks listed in the SESP. If the project has not prepared an SESP (i.e. if the project began before the SESP was required), then please indicate when that screening will be done (recommended before the Midterm Review and/or Terminal Evaluation, or after a significant change to the project context). If the project has updated its SESP during implementation, then please upload that file to this PIR. If any relevant grievances have arisen during the reporting period please describe them in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.</b>
SESP uploaded on file library
<b>2) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?</b>
Yes
<b>If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during project implementation please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.</b>
Any changes to Government would ultimately see possible changes in project delivery. These may include change in government priorities and/or respective development areas, may take precedence over project outcomes and outputs. This is something to be considered.
<b>3) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks been escalated during implementation? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.</b>
Yes
<b>If any existing social and/or environmental risks have been escalated during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.</b>
Although slight, the risk of having key senior personnel either be dismissed or removed from their positions is to be considered seriously. Although not so much change has impacted on the project, the risk of the incumbent senior with no background on the project needs vigilant consultation from the project team.
The traditional leaders that are key partners in the Strengthening of Protected Areas is becoming nonchalant about their roles and have usurped their own ideals around how the project should be managed. The need to just keep talking with them to show them the project process and systems is a key activity for the project management unit. There also seems to be a clash of ideals from both perspectives, ours from the project management aspect and the traditional leaders from their traditional customs and practises. The two clearly can become easily conflicted as the project is subject to financial management scrutiny, traditional leaders tend to not lend itself to these controls. However that being said, the project team are working with them closer now to ensure that they understand the process and why we have these in place.

## J. Communicating Impact

**Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's lives.**

**(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)**

The two components 1. Strengthening protected Areas, 2. mainstreaming biodiversity within production landscapes has been a key drive in communications. The different concepts for the above have been communicated by all partners in their respective activities. The idea that there is support for protected areas is always a good initiative and that there are moves by traditional leaders to take a more proactive role in this area. The opportunity to also make contact with different media people overseas via radio, social media has been promising. The need to ensure that if the surveys and studies are communicated back to the community then there is support to the lives of these people on the outer islands (pa enua).

**What is the most significant change that has resulted from the project this reporting period? (This text will be used for internal knowledge management in the respective technical team and region.)**

It must be noted that the agencies picked up implementation of their activities as well being more visible to the communities they have supported during the project. The idea of being visible is always a key drive for most agencies and for the communities as well. One event that was held with all partners participating was the environment expo that looked at the last 25 years of environment development. This included sharing the efforts of all partners in biodiversity conservation within their respective groups.

**Describe how the project supported South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year.**

**(This text will be used for internal knowledge management within the respective technical team and region.)**

The visit by the project RTA provided support to the project team for a short period as well as supported the need for an in country technical person who knows all the processes from UNDP and GEF point of view. This helped immensely with the work that is needed.

### Project Links and Social Media

**Please include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, Adaptation Learning Mechanism (UNDP-ALM) platform, Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents using the 'file upload' button in the top right of the PIR.**

1. Facebook - @nationalenvironmentservices, Ministry of Marine Resources - @MinistryofMarine  
Ministry of Agriculture - @cookislandsagriculture, Cook Islands Tourism Corporation - @theCookIslands

2. Websites
  - a. National Environment Services: [www.environment.gov.ck](http://www.environment.gov.ck)
  - b. Ministry of Marine Resources : [www.mmr.gov.ck](http://www.mmr.gov.ck)
  - c. Ministry of Agriculture : [www.agriculture.gov.ck](http://www.agriculture.gov.ck)
  - d. Cook Islands Tourism Corporation : [www.cookislands.travel](http://www.cookislands.travel)
  - e. Marae Moana : [maraemoana.gov.ck](http://maraemoana.gov.ck)

Other partners

1. Climate Change Cook Islands - @sriccookislands
2. Seabed Minerals Authority – [www.seabedmineralsauthority.gov.ck](http://www.seabedmineralsauthority.gov.ck)
3. Te Ipukarea Society – @tiscookislands,[www.tiscookislands.org](http://www.tiscookislands.org)

Video hyperlinks to R2R videos :-

Water Use: <https://www.facebook.com/nationalenvironmentservices/videos/464595013898155/>

Sanitation: <https://www.facebook.com/nationalenvironmentservices/videos/464591813898475/>

Rubbish: <https://www.facebook.com/nationalenvironmentservices/videos/463551597335830/>

Inland: <https://www.facebook.com/nationalenvironmentservices/videos/463546264003030/>

Lagoon: <https://www.facebook.com/nationalenvironmentservices/videos/463542770670046/>

Opener: <https://www.facebook.com/nationalenvironmentservices/videos/463537560670567/>

There will be more of these that will be highlighted in the quarterly progress reports.



## K. Partnerships

Give the name of the partner(s), and describe the partnership, recent notable activities and any innovative aspects of the work. Please do not use any acronyms. (limit = 2000 characters). This information is used to get a better understanding of the work GEF-funded projects are doing with key partners, including the GEF Small Grants Programme, indigenous peoples, the private sector, and other partners. Please list the full names of the partners (no acronyms please) and summarize what they are doing to help the project achieve its objectives. The data may be used for reporting to GEF Secretariat, the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP Corporate Communications, posted on the UNDP-GEF website, and for other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts. The RTA should view and edit/elaborate on the information entered here. All projects must complete this section. Please enter "N/A" in cells that are not applicable to your project.

<p><b>Civil Society Organisations/NGOs</b></p> <p>Te Ipukarea Society has been a great partner in supporting Cook Islands Tourism in their efforts to create environment or green accreditation for all tourism operators, be that accommodation, services (tours).</p> <p>Korero o te Orau is a new NGO on the block, the group are looking to support the cloud forest work that is important to be completed in the project. The number of technical people in this NGO makes it fitting to be considered as a key partner for the project.</p>
<p><b>Indigenous Peoples</b></p> <p>Traditional leaders (Ui Ariki) have this area covered, however it must be noted that these titled leaders also sit on decision making bodies that work directly with the project, both on Rarotonga and in the Outer Islands (pa enua). These leaders, make many land decisions on island and if there are surveys, all agencies provide an update on the outcomes and findings for them.</p>
<p><b>Private Sector</b></p> <p>These would be our suppliers of materials, they are Cook islands Trading Corporation, Bounty Bookshop, FAVE designs, Vonnias shopping centre, Dive shop Cook islands.</p> <p>Operators that also support the project are Onu Divers (Aitutaki), Vaka Cruises, Air Rarotonga (domestic airline of the Cook Islands), Cook Island divers (support to marine surveys). Noni manufacturer - support with tests and information to support Agriculture studies. Te Mou Enea and Titikaveka Growers association (as local growers associations) who participate in providing training for sustainable agricultural practices.</p>
<p><b>GEF Small Grants Programme</b></p> <p>The project works closely with the GEF Small Grants programme, by providing them a space in workshops or the recent environment expo that was help to help provide visibility to the programme especially to our communities working in that space.</p>
<p><b>Other Partners</b></p> <p>A new partner that has joined the ranks are pacific radio station 531PI who cover the myriad of pacific islanders in New Zealand. Although the project doesn't impact them as such in New Zealand, the message gets out on the work that is being carried out in the Cook Islands. In this instance we have had much support from Cook Islanders based overseas. Freelance journalists like Lisa Williams also, have come on board even ad hoc to promote and communicate some of the work needed to reach more people. The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) have come on to support communications for the project and for the agencies in being able to communicate the message of Ridge to Reef and the approaches taken. Landcare New Zealand, providing technical insight in biodiversity and the support to the project and national environment services. Department of Conservation with their work with Takitumu Conservation Area. It must also be noted that all agencies have established respective partnerships with other stakeholders in respect to their own work within the agency. The spillover benefits have been important for the support to the project.</p>

## **L. Annex - Ratings Definitions**

### **Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

### **Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.