Niue Climate Change Mainstreaming Strategy and Action Plan

This report has been prepared by Holdsworth Holistics Ltd 2022-2023
commissioned by SPREP

Executive Summary

During the production of this document the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published The Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report. The 270 scientists that worked on it called for a shift to a new model of 'climate-resilient development'. To this end they acknowledge the existence of adaptation barriers and constraints[1] that hinder the implementation of adaptation responses then go on to suggest 'enablers' to build resilience and improve adaptation outcomes. These include 'better governance and legal reforms; improving justice, equity and gender considerations; building human resource capacity; increased finance and risk transfer mechanisms; education and awareness programmes; increased access to climate information; adequately downscaled climate data and embedding Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge (IKLK) as well as integrating cultural resources into decision-making.'

Whether or not this is an appropriate mix of 'enablers' for Niue, it highlights the necessity for further investment, not just in terms of programme funding but also for investment in human capital. The IPCC singles out small islands as 'presenting the most urgent need for investment in capacity building and adaptation strategies'.

Mainstreaming[2] climate change is no longer 'optional'. In order to maintain a resilient nation in a changing world, climate change issues must be embedded at all levels, from individuals in a village setting to governmental decision making.

During our research and stakeholder engagement, it has become clear that more and more funding is becoming available on the basis that mainstreaming is in place. Conversely if it can not be demonstrated, some funding opportunities may not be available to Niue.

This document lays the groundwork to have mainstreaming happen which, in turn, will make Niue more resilient to disasters. There is evidence[3] that demonstrates a strong will by policy makers in Niue to mainstream climate change. This will has been present for many years but there has been difficulty having this manifest itself in practical terms.

It appears that this mainstreaming climate change strategy and action plan is the first in the world, so we are using this opportunity to create a model that is size appropriate for small island developing states. Our hope is that it provokes stakeholder engagement as the only way it can work is by agreement and 'joint ownership' of the ideas.

The proposals in this document include the improvement of cohesion and collaboration by the establishment of an independent climate change entity (referred to as the Climate Change Coordination Hub or CCCH). While vital, this alone will not engrain climate change considerations into the thoughts and behaviours of all stakeholders. An intentional focus on behaviour change, resourcing and monitoring and evaluation is to ensure a successful approach to mainstreaming.

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[1] IPCC: 'Barriers and constraints arise from governance arrangements, financial resources and human resource capacity. Additionally, institutional and legal systems are often inadequately prepared for managing adaptation strategies such as large-scale settlement relocation and other planned and/or autonomous responses to climate risks (high confidence). {ES-Ch15}.'

[2] The first calls for climate change mainstreaming were voiced during the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 ('Rio+10'). (Hofman 2015)

[3] Holdsworth (2022) Mainstreaming Climate Change in Niue. Phase one: The current state of Climate Change Mainstreaming in national strategies plans and policies.

Introduction

This report builds upon work that has been done in the past to address climate change in Niue. It is part of a year-long project[4] intended to accelerate the mainstreaming of climate change across all sectors in Niue.

This report has been informed by:
- Stakeholder engagement[5]
- A review of policies and strategies related to climate change in Niue and other jurisdictions
- Reviewing international literature regarding mainstreaming climate change[6]
- Preparing a gap analysis[7] to inform current status

The project commenced 15 November 2021 with a review of relevant plans, policies & strategies. A draft of this paper was used as the basis for stakeholder engagement which was followed up with one on one consultations and a survey.

Context and Governance

Reasons to do this work

The intention to mainstream climate change considerations in Niue has been talked about and written about for well over a decade. The Niue National Strategic Plan 2009 (NNSP) called for "action plans for mainstreaming climate change adaptation and disaster risk management" to be implemented by 2010. We can trace this back even further to the UNFCCC Initial Communication in 2000 which did not use the term mainstreaming but called for the need to "integrate climate change into medium to long term planning".

Below are barriers to implementation as identified in the gap analysis[8]:
Minimal coherence: Policies and strategies vary in structure, style and content.
No focal point/centralisation: Ideas/actions around climate change are somewhat scattered/inconsistent.
Insufficient resources: Money alone won't mainstream climate change. Human resources are needed along with budget to buy in expertise when required. Funding seems inconsistent.
Old habits: Anecdotally, there is a tendency to operate in ways that are not as collaborative as they could be. **Feedback loops:** While the need to review, monitor and evaluate[9] has been mentioned in many documents for over a decade, mechanisms to enable this have struggled to be established.
Lack of accountability: Goals can go unmet if no entity takes on the responsibility to action.
Training gaps: At all levels including the village / community level, education, government etc.
Overlaps and duplication: Whether from old habits (above) or coherence issues creating wasted resources.
Measurement and information: Even if data is available it needs to be shared (central repository).

In addition to these, other potential barriers worth noting are:
Insufficient institutional knowledge: Some knowledge being held by individuals rather than positions.

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[4] Consultancy to mainstream climate change in Niue (SPREP) which is part of a PACRES programme running until June 2023.

[5] Limited to remote consultation in early stages due to covid followed by in person consultation in September 2022.

[6] Such as Mainstreaming processes for climate change adaptation: Collection of best practices (SPC/GTZ)

[7] Holdsworth (2022) Mainstreaming Climate Change in Niue. Phase one: The current state of Climate Change Mainstreaming in national strategies plans and policies.

[8] Holdsworth (2022) Mainstreaming Climate Change in Niue. Phase one: The current state of Climate Change Mainstreaming in national strategies plans and policies.

[9] IPCC SPM.C.5.5 Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of adaptation are critical for tracking progress and enabling effective adaptation. Although most of the monitoring of adaptation is focused towards planning and implementation, the monitoring of outcomes is critical for tracking the effectiveness and progress of adaptation (high confidence). M&E facilitates learning on successful and effective adaptation measures, and signals when and where additional action may be needed.

Complexity and confusion: Numerous agencies worldwide have created documents and tools to help countries mainstream climate change. Many of them are large so a great deal of resources would be required to make them workeable for SIDS.

Framework for governance of Climate Change in Niue

We are proposing that the framework for governance of climate change is reviewed to ensure that mainstreaming ("*the integration of policies and measures that address climate change into development planning and on-going sectorial decision-making, so as to ensure the long-term sustainability of investments as well as to reduce the sensitivity of development activities to both todays and tomorrow's climate.*") [10] is achieved.

In the first instance a Climate Change Coordination Hub is required to create an independent, accountable base for climate change that can liaise with all stakeholders.

Then there is a tiering of roles; Premiers Office and the Niue National Strategic Plan (NNSP) provide strategic input. At the cabinet level and with the Niue National Climate Change Policy (NNCCP) guidance is provided which creates a landscape in which climate change considerations can be integrated into all areas of the nation[11] using directives such as 'Mainstream climate change into development / plans / strategies'.

As climate change considerations move further toward implementation, such as replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy, there are sectoral strategies generated by their corresponding departments. When we consider how projects play out in reality we find a rich tapestry of community groups, village plans, small projects and educational initiatives sitting alongside them.

While climate change activity happens at all levels, from the individual and village plan through to the Premier's Office and the NNSP, it requires integration to be considered mainstreamed. A way to provide this was mandated in NNCCP in 2009: "Establish (and fund) national Climate Change Unit[12] and steering committee." Towards the end of this project the Cabinet approved the creation of such a unit. During the on-island consultation a name for the unit was agreed upon by multiple stakeholders - Climate Change Coordination Hub (CCCH or The Hub). An appropriate name given its pivotal role as a central 'enabler' A visual representation of how this can look is presented in the strategy section of this document.

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[10] Klein et al, 2007:9

[11] IPCC SPM.C.5 Enabling conditions are key for implementing, accelerating and sustaining adaptation in human systems and ecosystems. These include political commitment and follow-through, institutional frameworks, policies and instruments with clear goals and priorities, enhanced knowledge on impacts and solutions, mobilisation of and access to adequate financial resources, monitoring and evaluation, and inclusive governance processes.

[12] IPCC SPM.C.5.2 Institutional frameworks, policies and instruments that set clear adaptation goals and define responsibilities and commitments and that are coordinated amongst actors and governance levels, strengthen and sustain adaptation actions. Sustained adaptation actions are strengthened by mainstreaming adaptation into institutional budget and policy planning cycles, statutory planning, monitoring and evaluation frameworks and into recovery efforts from disaster events.

Drivers for mainstreaming

Strategic plan and policy drivers

To create a deliberate path for the future, it may be worth reviewing the past. The following illustrates what has happened over the years and helps inform decisions required to accelerate the process and achieve mainstreaming in the most efficient way.

The Niue National Strategic Plan 2009 laid the foundation for mainstreaming climate change by specifying that National Action Plans for mainstreaming climate change adaptation and disaster risk management be developed and implemented reflecting the Pacific Islands Funds for Adaptation and Climate Change (PIFACC) framework by 2010. PIFACC built on The Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change, Climate Variability and Sea Level Rise 2000-2004 and was endorsed by Pacific Leaders at the 36th Pacific Islands Forum held in 2005 and was reaffirmed in a Niue Declaration in 2008.

PIFACC looked at:
- Implementing adaptation measures
- Governance and decision-making
- Improving our understanding of climate change
- Education, training and awareness
- Contributing to global greenhouse gas reduction
- Partnerships and cooperation

The Niue National Strategic Plan 2009 was more specific and included things like:
- All sectors to incorporate relevant climate change issues into their Corporate Plans by 2013
- Become 100% Carbon Neutral by 2011

The Niue National Climate Change Policy 2009 looked at ways of developing actions to address climate change within the PIFACC areas of interest and went on to suggest ways of mainstreaming climate change considerations into development / plans / strategies by the establishment of a 'national climate change unit and steering committee'. It went on to propose a review of legislation, plans, policies, regulations, standards and practises to identify gaps and strengthen responses to climate change concerns.

The Joint National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change (JNAP) 2012 laid the foundation for bringing the *Niue National Climate Change Policy 2009* from theory into practice. It refers to six objectives in the policy:
1. Awareness Raising
2. Data Collection, Storage, Sharing and Application
3. Adaptation
4. Mitigation
5. Governance and Mainstreaming
6. Regional & International Cooperation

The JNAP report went on to suggest five goals to address those objectives:
1. Strong and effective institutional basis for disaster risk reduction / climate change adaptation
2. Strong public awareness and improved understanding of the causes and effects of climate change, climate variability and disasters
3. Strengthened livelihoods, community resilience, natural resources and assets
4. Strengthened capacity to adapt renewable energy technologies and improve energy efficiency
5. Strengthened disaster preparedness for effective response

More specific strategies were suggested to action these goals followed by a proposal to manage implementation. These included:
• Establish and fund a JNAP Unit to coordinate and monitor JNAP implementation
• Niue National Building Code to incorporates disaster reduction and climate change considerations
• Strengthen evacuation plans and strategies

The ongoing task of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) was to fall under the responsibility of the National Climate Change and DRM Committee. However, it was also specified that each sector maintain up to date in reporting on JNAP activities as they are implemented (the JNAP Unit would assist sectors in undertaking this task). This should include compiling lessons learned as JNAP activities are implemented across the range of sectors.

The Niue National Strategic Plan 2016 maintained a commitment to addressing climate change by having 'Environment and climate change' as one of its 'seven development pillars' but the commitment to mainstreaming is barely mentioned other than a suggestion that there should be an 'integrated approach'.

In summary, the necessity for mainstreaming climate change in Niue has been evident for well over a decade. While addressing climate change itself has been worked on in various departments at various times, mainstreaming has not been initiated.

It is proposed that the way forward is a lean 'fit for purpose' approach that starts small with the opportunity to grow rather than emulating complex solutions designed for larger nations and running the risk of stalling.

Vulnerability to Climate Change

With a land area of 261 km2 (26,146 ha) and no protection, Niue is extremely vulnerable to extreme weather events. The population (approximately 1600 people) is partially reliant on fishing, hunting and crops for sustenance all of which can be affected by a change in climate. Imported food supplies can be disrupted by bad weather as there is no harbour to safely unload supplies unless the weather is relatively calm. Extreme weather events have a profound impact on human settlement as well as the natural environment. This was evident when the island suffered the effects of cyclone Heta in 2004. While disastrous, this event offers the knowledge from which resilience can be mastered. Already much has been done to secure the future like moving the school and commercial centre away from the coast. A retrospective review of this event could help identify which programmes are most important to pursue in order to further protect Niue from the effects of climate change.

On a positive note the average land height above sea level is 23 metres and the highest point is just under 70 metres making it somewhat protected from sea level rises compared to other pacific nations. A groundwater lens holds a significant amount of fresh water which is accessed via bores supplying 22 reservoirs around the island. Water is reticulated through a pipe network to households (consuming 80%), some of which also have rainwater collection tanks which provides resilience to disruptions to the main system. The lens is recharged by rain at a greater rate than the water is consumed.

Niue's vulnerability to climate change extends to all aspects of life on Niue. From food security, to infrastructure and having a safe haven in the event of cyclones. Much work has been done already to help with disaster resilience and mainstreaming climate change can support this even more. Every integrated action taken to adapt to or mitigate climate change now is a step towards a climate resilient Niue.

Adaptation and Mitigation

Adaptation aspects

Adaptation receives most of the attention in this document because climate change is going to affect Nuie regardless of any actions taken on-island to mitigate those effects now or in the future. Taking this approach does not mean to trivialise doing harm to the environment, rather, it's purely a matter of urgency. Ensuring that Niue remains safe, viable and robust, perhaps even thriving or contented takes precedence. Fortunately some of the mitigation aspects such as working towards 100% renewable energy fits perfectly with adaptation aspirations. In this case it will provide security - less reliance on imported fuel, less risk from unloading bulk fuel from ships and less danger of fuel supplies being disrupted by weather.

Mitigation aspects

In the short term some low-lying pacific islands are going to receive disproportionate effects from climate change than many larger countries. As time goes on this will swing towards large populations living near the coast. By the time sea levels get half way between where it is now and Alofi (around 10 metres higher) more than 600 million people will have lost their homes world-wide. While this is not expected to happen in our lifetimes it is the collective actions we take now that will influence how things unfold. While there are a number of ways humans can influence climate change the main lever we have in front of us is CO2 emissions (or CO2e[13]).

In 2020 each Niuean was responsible for just over 7 tonnes of CO2e being released into the atmosphere each year[14]. While considerably lower than Australia (one of the worlds worst per person at 15.4) it is slightly higher than New Zealand (6.94) and considerably higher than most pacific neighbours (Cook Islands 4.52, Tonga 1.36, Vanuatu 0.59) and the world average of 4.47.

These figures do not include emissions embedded in traded goods. For instance, if a family of three each got a new laptop computer you could add another tonne of CO2e to the household's annual emissions. If you buy a car it's even worse - you can add another 17 tonnes[15] to your total for the year (and this does not include things such as ethical disposal of a car at end of use).

Mitigating climate change while maintaining quality of life can be a balancing act. On the one hand avoiding greenhouse gas emissions and on the other, finding ways to make up for emissions we find difficult to avoid.

To understand what can be done to make a difference there needs to be an understanding of what is causing the damage. Worldwide it comes from Getting around (planes, trucks, cargo ships) 16%, Growing things (plants, animals) 19%, Plugging in (electricity) 27%, Making things (cement, steel, plastic) 31% and Keeping warm and cool (heating, cooling, refrigeration) 7%. (Gates, 2021)

While it is true that Niue can't significantly help mitigate the 51 billion tons of CO2e that is finding its way into the earth's atmosphere every year, it is achievable to reach a point at which it is 'doing no harm'. In addition to the positive effect of Niue's forest, much work has already been done to 'balance the books' like upscaling the use of solar electricity generation. To get a feel for what contributes to climate change here are some examples of things we use that add one tonne of CO2e to the atmosphere: Make one tonne of cement, make half a tonne of steel, take a return flight between Niue and Auckland (one person), buy three laptop computers or a small part of a car (6-45 tonnes CO2e per vehicle). As you can

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[13] The e in CO2e means equivalent - greenhouse gases like methane and nitrous oxide have a much greater effect so it's common to convert these into their CO2 equivalent for easy comparison.

[14] (Andrew et. al, 2021)

[15] Based on a Ford Mondeo

see there are a number of ways that we all 'export' some of our negative contributions by buying things like computers and phones whose emissions are counted in Asia, Europe or America.

In his book 'Drawdown' Paul Hawken ranks[16] ways in which we can reverse the damage and if we cross-reference with the sector contributions listed above and apply it to Niues geographic and demographic circumstances its possible to list changes that are likely to make a meaningful difference:
- Get to 100% solar electricity (with batteries to carry the evening load)
- Switch to electric vehicles (charged by solar during the day)
- Eat a plant rich diet (preferably locally sourced).
- Animal protein from Niue grown pigs or chickens is preferable to imported red meat.
- Minimise air travel
- Reduce food waste
- Refrigerant management
- Forest restoration
- LED lighting

The balance between adaptation and mitigation

In terms of mainstreaming, and as noted above, mitigation takes second place to adaptation in this strategy. It is worth noting though that often the two work together. For instance a self-sufficient power grid means that the lights will stay on if the weather prevents a delivery of diesel. The solution does not need to be complex - just a simple reminder when creating new policies or plans to scan the drawdown list (or a customised list) and identify opportunities before inappropriate actions are taken.
An 80/20 ratio has been suggested to view adaptation over mitigation but there is another 80/20 that may be relevant called Pareto's principle (sometimes called the 80/20 rule). It states that for many outcomes, roughly 80% of the consequences come from 20% of the causes. If considered in terms of climate change it could mean that the actions chosen could have a massive positive effect, while others may have very little. Whenever new proposals are made, this theory could be used to help provide weight to one over another to help conserve limited resources.

While some projects may be adaptation orientated and others mitigation orientated, some are just projects that are borne out of social, economic or some other need. When embarking on these ventures both aspects need to be considered with greater consideration to adaptation while at the same time considering effectiveness (using Pareto's principle).

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[16] See https://drawdown.org/solutions/ for a list ranked on impact.

Strategy - Mainstreaming Climate Change in Niue

## How Climate Change can be fully integrated in Niue

This mainstreaming strategy relies on a common understanding of mainstreaming. The introduction includes one of the 'official' definitions of mainstreaming. However, for the purposes of application for a small island state, we have defined mainstreaming as follows:

Mainstreaming occurs when climate change is **integrated**:

- Into the highest strategic level of the country and **flows down through to all policies, strategies, plans, projects legislation**.
- **Across all sectors** and government departments.
- Into the **work/business plans** or programmes of organisations (**at the beginning**).

The strategy for mainstreaming climate change in Niue is depicted in Diagram 1. It identifies the key stakeholders on the right, and key instruments on the left. Mainstreaming requires integration both on the horizontal and vertical planes. **And most critically it relies on the establishment of a Climate Change Coordination Hub. Without this centralised hub, the strategy will fail.**

Diagram 1 - Climate Change Integration
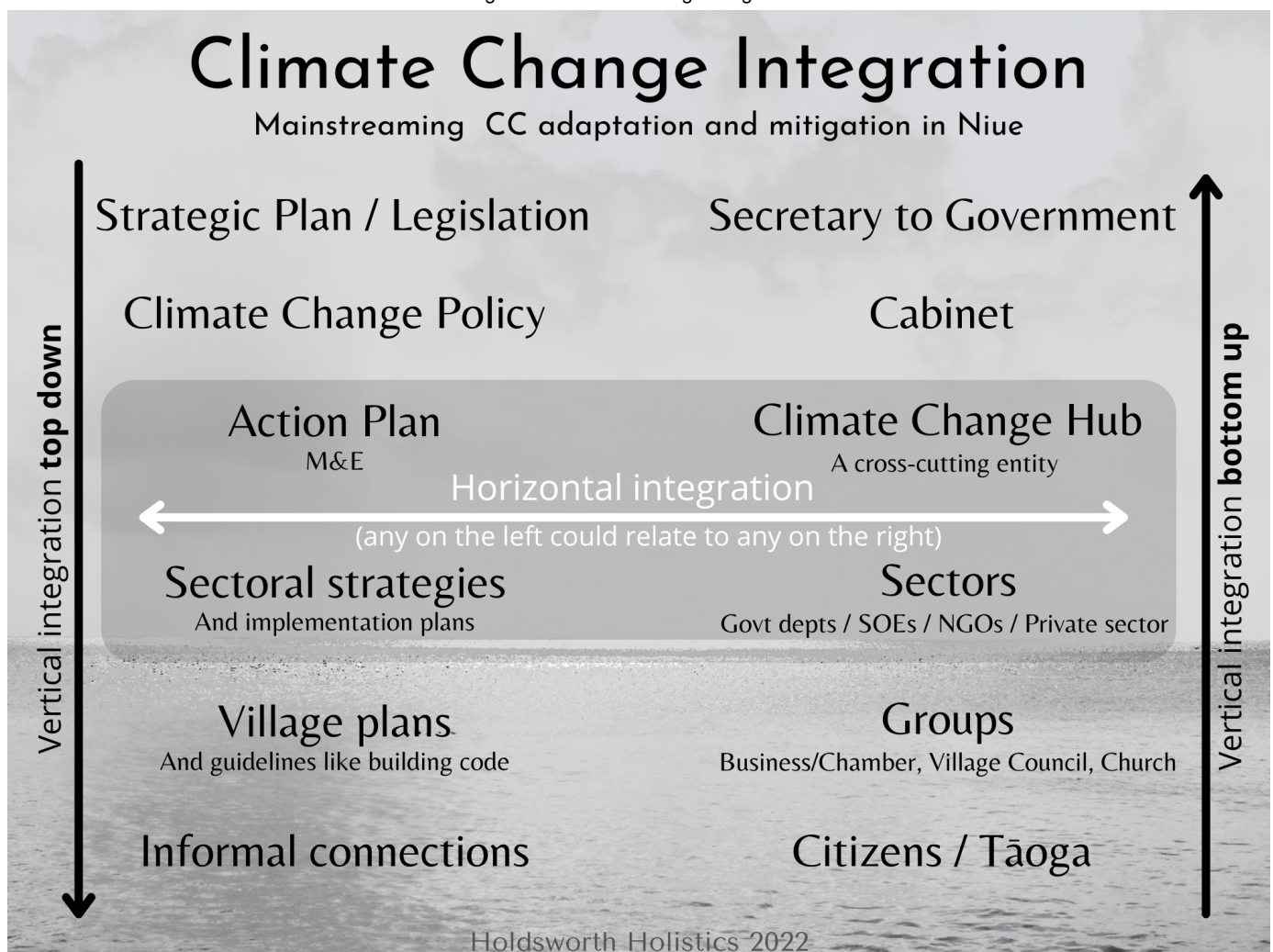
Horizontal integration will enable climate change to be mainstreamed into national level planning processes. The result will be strengthened coordination and increased robustness of the planning processes. It will also help prevent duplication (less waste) and avoid outcomes that don't help us with mitigation or adaptation.

Climate Change spans multiple government ministries and other entities (it's a cross-cutting issue). Mainstreaming ensures climate change is embedded in national-level planning processes. Horizontal integration will support the government to tackle national vulnerability and support efforts to address current and future climate impacts. Horizontal integration ensures that there is communication across sectors to avoid gaps as well as duplication.

Vertical integration in this strategy, refers to a two-way process of "creating intentional and strategic linkages between national and sub-national adaptation planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation" (Dazé et al., 2016). We have referred to the two way aspect of this by the terms 'Top Down' and 'Bottom Up'[17].

'Top down' is important as it ensures that the vision established for the country flows through to strategies, plans and action. 'Bottom up' is important because the primary stakeholders are the citizens. They are the foundation and the reason for doing the work and they can contribute at a local level as well as they have the potential to strengthen links between policy, strategy, sectoral plans and monitoring and is described by the IPCC as 'Enhancing knowledge on risks, impacts, and their consequences, and available adaptation options promotes societal and policy responses'.

After engaging with stakeholders and having analysed the drivers, we see the strategy requiring:

Behaviour change
● To have stakeholders work collaboratively to reduce waste, duplication and unnecessary work.
● To have stakeholders take action that continually reinforce a mainstreaming approach to climate change.

Structural reframing and technical interventions
● Amendments to the next national strategic plan (due 2027) to make climate change more explicit.
● Action some goals in the Climate Change Policy and review to prepare for the next one.
● Ensure JNAP carries out the aims of NCCP.
● Development of a screening tool for policies and programmes.
● Systematise the way sectoral strategies deal with climate change to avoid maladaptive responses.[18]
● Consistent use of a project screening tool (see appendix 7).
● Training to support climate change related activities.

Monitoring and evaluation framework/s
● Establish a way of ensuring calls to monitor or evaluate are followed up.

Resourcing
● Resource mobilisation - funding and human resources / skills.
● **Establishment of a Climate Change Coordination Hub**.

If we view mainstreaming as a process[19] it might look something like this:
● Preparation (Climate change mainstreaming project)

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[17] IPCC SPM.C.5.3 "A wide range of top-down, bottom-up and co produced processes and sources can deepen climate knowledge and sharing, including capacity building at all scales, educational and information programmes, using the arts, participatory modelling and climate services, Indigenous knowledge and local knowledge and citizen science (high confidence). These measures can facilitate awareness, heighten risk perception and influence behaviours (high confidence)".

[18] IPCC SPM.C.4 There is increased evidence of maladaptation across many sectors and regions since the AR5. Maladaptive responses to climate change can create lock-ins of vulnerability, exposure and risks that are difficult and expensive to change and exacerbate existing inequalities. Maladaptation can be avoided by flexible, multi-sectoral, inclusive and long-term planning and implementation of adaptation actions with benefits to many sectors and systems.

[19] Supported by: Climate hazard data and assessment, assessment of vulnerability, assessment of possible disaster risk, adaptation and risk reduction strategies and analysis, evaluation / prioritisation of measures to adapt and mitigate.

- Situation Analysis (Climate Change Mainstreaming Review February 2022)
- Problem Analysis (Stakeholder engagement)
- Solution Analysis / Design (Mainstreaming Strategy and Action Plan)
- Implementation (Adapting proposed strategy to stakeholder needs and developing joint ownership)
- M&E / Review / Feedback (Final report / responsibilities for ongoing support)

The role of the Climate Change Coordination Hub

It has been established that mainstreaming relies on the establishment of the CCCH. In the spirit of one of the values of the NNSP ('Keeping it simple and clear and achievable') it is suggested that this be done in the near future in a modest but achievable manner. The resourcing needs are to be scoped, but it is possible that initially the CCCH could be as little as one full time person with a working group drawn from various stakeholder groups and departments. For a more detailed outline of the role of the CCCH, see Appendix 8.

An SPC/GTZ[20] collection of best practices for mainstreaming explains that cross-sectoral committees or climate change units are important mainstreaming facilitators and that 'experience from different countries suggests that the mandate and strength of these organisational structures are decisive for their success'. The unit (which we refer to as CCCH or Hub) would be expected to undertake tasks such as:
- Maintain strong contacts between all sectors, facilitating information sharing, operational learning / training.
- Act as a contact point for similar units in other international organisations.
- Formulate environmental protection requirements.
- Document and share best practice.
- Satisfy climate specific reporting requirements.
- Start to develop institutional memory so behaviours move beyond the individual.
- Provide core competence and expertise.

For Niue's specific needs, the role can be informed by this guidance and enhanced with the outcomes from stakeholder engagement and refinement as The Hub becomes established and works with climate change champions from various sectors. One of the most important influences from this process to date is to clearly identify how a 'cross-sectoral committee or climate change unit' manifests itself in Niue. To emphasise that the intention is **not** to have this entity implement climate projects a name was chosen to reflect this: Climate Change Coordination Hub. To further emphasise this The Hub will **not** sit inside an implementing agency. During on-island consultation stakeholders expressed their preference that The Hub would be positioned in a central agency. The consultants support this and furthermore recommend this be Finance & Planning for the following reasons:

- It is deeply integrated into the machinery of mainstream government but does not favour any particular sector.
- Because climate change affects economic, social, and cultural wellbeing of communities, as well as impacting the environment, positioning The Hub in Finance enables a more developmental approach to climate change.
- A key mainstreaming tool is measurement, monitoring and evaluation - which are key functions within Finance & Planning.
- Finance & Planning are responsible for monitoring and coordinating the implementation of the National Strategic Plan. And as mentioned earlier climate change needs to be more heavily embedded into this plan.

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[20] Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)

A graphic representation of the proposed hub is shown below (updated after stakeholder engagement):
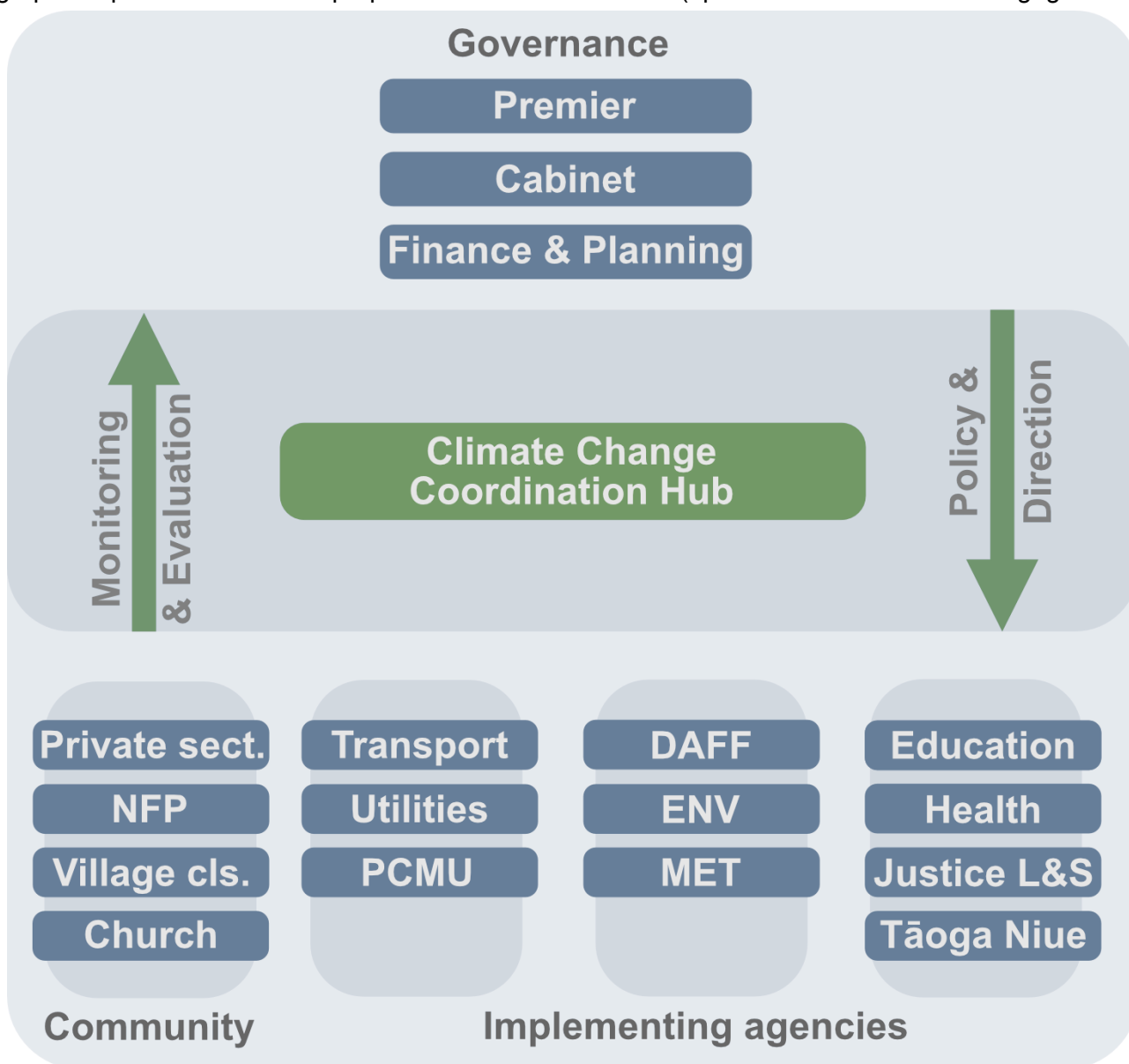
'....there is no "one size fits all" approach for mainstreaming.' (Mogelgaard 2018)

Action Plan

Overview

Climate change impacts all parts of society and the environment. Based on the stakeholder engagement, the Gap Analysis[21], and international guidance the actions to mainstream climate change will have impacts in the following areas:

Information services and management will help collate, manage, distribute, and use climate change information. It can help support stakeholders in anticipating environmental and climate events before they occur.

Enhancing awareness and knowledge will empower stakeholders by improving the understanding of climate change and increasing the relevant information flow to the right groups. When empowered like this there is more likelihood of engaging in decision making both locally and by communicating to their elected representatives.

Targeted resource mobilisation will ensure funding is available to undertake well thought out programmes rather than taking on projects in a more ad-hoc manner.

Considering food and nutrition security will ensure everyone remains well fed when faced with climate challenges. Forward thinking will help reduce risk by anticipating problems ahead of time rather than reacting as problems occur. Local food production can be maximised and sustainable without compromising resources.

Negative impacts on health can be avoided by ensuring infrastructure and systems are in place to support disaster response. By envisioning possible climate related health issues the expertise, equipment and supplies needed can be ready to deal with problems as they unfold resulting in resilient medical services. Mental health needs to be considered - particularly around trauma and loss.

Human settlements need to be robust and not vulnerable to major weather events. Resilient population centres provide a platform for community strength and economic sustainability.

Infrastructure is like the backbone of the community. It is vital that infrastructure will operate under future and stressed conditions. Planning by considering climate change will help to ensure the full life span of investments can be utilised.

Biodiversity and the natural environment underpins society. Many aspects such as food gathering, tourism and pure enjoyment are at risk if the state of the environment is not monitored and protected. This is an area that constantly needs consideration in terms of what can be influenced and what is clearly beyond our control.

The actions proposed below address the four key elements required to mainstream climate change in Niue, according to the Strategy (see p9):

- Behaviour change
- Structural reframing and technical interventions
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Resourcing

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[21] Holdsworth (2022) Mainstreaming Climate Change in Niue. Phase one: The current state of Climate Change Mainstreaming in national strategies plans and policies.

Action plan and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework

This action plan is anticipated to be a live, constantly evolving plan as it responds to external context changes. It is proposed that oversight of this action plan is with the Climate Change Coordination Hub (CCCH). M&E has been incorporated into the table in order to avoid duplication and to keep the process as simple as possible.

Actions	Outcome	M&E Question	Baseline / Indication	Accountability and timing	Reference
CCCH formation[22]					
Appoint the climate change champion who will maintain focus and momentum until CCCH is established.	Champion in place	Who is responsible for maintaining momentum for the bigger picture of climate change until the CCCH is established?	MNR Director	MNR Director[23] 2023	Horizontal / cross-cutting
Find funding for first year of CCCH (CCCH will seek funding from year two)	CCCH established	How will the establishment year of the CCCH be funded?	Draft concept note created and submitted by the consultants to Finance, SPREP and MNR Director.	Finance Secretary 2023[24]	Horizontal / cross-cutting
Establish Climate Change Coordination Hub[25] The CCCH needs to be independent but accessible to, and able to assist all sectors. This includes employing a staff member[26].	CCCH established	Is there a centralised unit to coordinate climate change related activities in Niue?	Cabinet has approved the establishment[27].	Finance Secretary 2023[28]	Horizontal / cross-cutting Establish Climate Change Coordination Hub Appendix 4
Agree on governance of the CCCH and appoint (eg climate change champions to represent each sector / agency (liaise with CCCH))	CCCH governance committee in place	How will governance of the CCCH be undertaken?	No formal structure but a working group has been in place during the mainstreaming project.	Working group led by CCCH / all sectors 2023	Horizontal / cross-cutting
Behaviour change					
Develop and implement a behaviour change plan, informed by the CC Communication Strategy 2022	Climate change is considered at the beginning of any project - private or public.	To what degree has climate change been integrated at a behavioural level across all sectors?	Varying degrees of integration between sectors and individuals.	Collaborative (all sectors) Coordinated by CCCH Informed by NCCCS Q2 2023 and ongoing	Horizontal / cross-cutting Collaboration / behaviour change Appendix 4
Include climate change in	Education of	Is climate change	Programmes already	MOEd to	Horizontal /

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[22] These actions enable the actions that follow and in particular are enablers for successful M&E.

[23] Although note we have been advised this position has or will be disestablished.

[24] References to the Finance Secretary are based on our recommendation for the unit to be established in Finance and planning. If stakeholders preferred another government agency, then this accountability would change.

[25] Discussions have been started with the Financial Secretary. She advised the next steps were to put together a concept note for the Parliamentary Commission. The consultants/authors of this report have drafted this and have submitted it to the Financial Secretary, Director of MNR and SPREP.

[26] The consultants have tried but been unsuccessful in sourcing a job description template to scope the role.

[27] Consultants have been advised this verbally by MNR Director. Associated paper work ("yellow paper") has yet to be seen.

[28] References to the Finance Secretary are based on our recommendation for the unit to be established in Finance and planning. If stakeholders preferred another government agency, then this accountability would change.

the preschool and USP curriculum.	CC issues expanded so it covers all age groups.	integrated throughout the education system?	established in primary and secondary school. This is a proposed extension.	implement and share programmes with CCCH by 2024	cross-cutting Collaboration / behaviour change Appendix 4

Structural reframing and technical interventions

Address knowledge gaps of climate related activities and provide training to bolster on-island capacity and reduce reliance on contractors.	Upskilled employees = increased climate change autonomy.	Do those responsible for climate change related activities have all the skills and knowledge needed to do their work?	The CC Mainstreaming review found disparity between departments.	CCCH to address through information sharing, assistance and workshops. Ongoing.	Horizontal / cross-cutting Training gaps Appendix 4
Develop a simple screening tool for strategy and legislation development to ensure climate change considerations are in place.	Screening tool in place for strategy, policy and legislation reviews.	How well have CC considerations been incorporated in all strategies and reflected in relevant legislation?	The CC Mainstreaming review found that strategies are inconsistent. Legislation varies greatly in terms of age, relevance and degree to which CC has been considered.	CCCH in conjunction with agencies for strategies and Law for legislation. 2023	Strategies and legislation Appendix 1
JNAP specifies: Conduct training for department policy and planning units on climate change and disaster risk reduction mainstreaming and the use of mainstreaming tools. Provide appropriate training for key personnel in: Negotiations for climate change, Grant and proposal writing to access funds such as GEF, EDF, Training for writing proposal for Small Grants Programme. Needs to be specific and actioned.	Execution of NCCP goal to 'Increase local technical capacity.' which is in line with JNAP goals.	Is there sufficient local expertise to undertake climate change related activities?	Depth of knowledge is evident in some areas but it is lacking consistency and cohesion.	DOE in NCCP currently under review. CCCH will be available to coordinate and assist in seeking funding for training on an ongoing basis. CCCH will be available to monitor for knowledge gaps and assist in bridging them. Ongoing.	Amendment to next NCCP goal to 'Increase local technical capacity.' Appendix 2 - NCCP
Amend NCCP goals to include a way of having sectoral strategies become more consistent (and possibly indicate regularity of updates). Note: To our knowledge consistency is not a requirement under any convention. The objective is to improve efficiency, reduce complexity and make things easier for decision makers.	Sectoral strategies structured in a consistent manner.	Are sectoral strategies consistent in the way they are structured?	There are vast differences. Partly due to the age of individual reports. All seem to improve over time but appear to develop within their own (sectoral) methodology.	DOE in policy currently under review. 2023	Appendix 2 - NCCP
Complete a climate change project	New projects commence	Are all projects planned with	Inconsistent.	CCCH to assist departments to	Sectoral strategies

assessment at the commencement of each new project over the value of $50k. (see appendix 7)	after climate change issues have been considered.	climate change considerations built in from the start?		do this on an ongoing basis.	Project management Appendix 3
Make climate information easily available to all sectors of government and citizens. Key data can be posted on a simple website (via CCCH?).	Single, accessible data source for climate data.	How easy is it to find simple climate data for Niue?	Generic data available on some overseas websites. No official, transparent data portal.	MET provide data for CCCH to put on simple website. Ongoing.	Horizontal / cross-cutting Climate information services Appendix 4
Create a one page guide explaining how climate change can be embedded in village plans.	All villages have a simple guide to help them with climate change considerations.	Is climate change embedded in village plans?	Plans seem to vary between non-existent and very detailed.	CCCH 2024	Village and groups Review village plans Appendix 5
Review village plans against CC guide (above) and note areas to be incorporated into next plan.	Every village has a village plan where climate change issues have been evaluated.	How many village plans are live documents with regular reviews?	Insufficient data.	CCCH can assist villages to maintain simple plans ongoingly.	Village and groups Review village plans Appendix 5
Develop a brief (simple and clear) one page guide explaining how climate change is to be integrated into sectoral strategies and action plans.[29]	Sectoral strategies and action plans have climate change considerations embedded in them in a consistent way.	To what extent is climate change being incorporated into strategies and action plans in a consistent manner?	Inconsistent.	CCCH create simple guide 2023 and offer support ongoingly.	Sectoral strategies Unified structure Appendix 3
Periodic review of core functions and work programmes.	Sectoral functions and work programmes independently reviewed.	To what extent are sectoral functions and work programmes ever viewed with fresh eyes through a climate change lens?	Sectors have historically acted like silos, keeping information to themselves.	CCCH to review annually from 2024.	Horizontal / cross-cutting
CC related goals to be reported on to CCCH. Goal, proposed completion date, progress.	Climate change 'state of the nation' held centrally and updated regularly.	Is there a point of reference for all climate change related activities and issues?	No	All relevant stakeholders and CCCH annually.	Sectoral strategies Measurement & Evaluation Appendix 3
CCCH shares CC related project progress with stakeholders. The easiest way would be via a basic website.	Climate change issues and activities summarised and openly communicated.	How would anyone find out what is happening with climate change related issues?	Fragmented, partial information available on the internet.	All relevant stakeholders and CCCH ongoingly.	Sectoral strategies Measurement & Evaluation Appendix 3
CCCH to survey sectors on the attainment of their goals then summarise and	Progress on climate change related	How do stakeholders know how things	Some reports hold partial information but they are often out	All relevant stakeholders and CCCH	Sectoral strategies Measurement &

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[29] For instance the current Transport Strategy has a principle: 'To incorporate climate change adaptation and disaster risk mitigation into plans' followed by a strategy key point: 'Making Niue's transport infrastructure resilient to the impacts of climate change and potential disasters'. Objectives include: 'Respond to climate change' and so on.
A guide would ensure each new strategy has CC considerations embedded in a consistent way.

share progress with relevant stakeholders.	activities shared among sectors / agencies.	are progressing in terms of climate change adaptation and mitigation?	of date and difficult to source.	ongoingly.	Evaluation Appendix 3

Foundational adjustments

Add guiding principle: 'Climate Change considerations to be incorporated at the commencement of all projects.'	Updated NNSP to reflect CC issues.	To what extent is climate change integrated in the NNSP?	Explicit overarching ethos is missing in 'values and guiding principles'.	Premier's office NSSP due to be reviewed 2026	Amendment to next NNSP under 'Our values/guiding principles' Appendix 1 - NNSP 2009
The NNSP section called 'Climate Change and Natural Hazards' needs strengthening to explicitly reflect mainstreaming of climate change.	Updated NNSP to reflect CC issues.	To what degree is climate change integrated in the NNSP?	Mainstreaming not explicit in Climate Change and Natural Hazards section.	Premier's office NSSP due to be reviewed 2026	Amendment to next NNSP under 'Environment and Climate Change' Appendix 1 - NNSP 2009
Amend NCCP goals to be specific. For instance: 'CCCH to collate data from all sectors, review annually and make public via a hub website by 2024'.	Updated NCCP to reflect CC issues with some specificity. Example: Data management.	Are NCCP goals specific enough to be executed?	Example: 'Review, consolidate and develop an integrated approach to data management.' is lacking who, when, how.	DOE in policy currently under review. CCCH may be available to implement in 2023.	Amendment to next NCCP goal to 'Review, consolidate and develop an integrated approach to data management.' Appendix 2 - NCCP
Amend NCCP goals to be specific. For instance: 'CCCH to analyse latest climate change data and publish consolidated risk profiles on their website.'	Updated NCCP to reflect CC issues with some specificity. Example: Data analysis.	Can decision makers access all relevant data easily and understand it without having to be an expert in that area?	Analysis is sometimes necessary to make things clear for decision makers - this is inconsistent and sometimes difficult to find.	DOE in policy currently under review. 2023. Analysis could be done by individual agencies but CCCH would be well placed to hold and make available all relevant information (and simplify if beneficial).	Amendment to next NCCP goal to 'Analyse and communicate data clearly to inform decisions at all levels.' Appendix 2 - NCCP
Amend NCCP goals to include accountability and a timeline. For instance: 'CCCH to identify climate vulnerabilities, rank them and liaise with implementing agencies to assess what can be addressed most cost effectively.'	Updated NCCP to clarify who is to take action and when it should be actioned by. Example: Priorities.	Is the most important work being done first?	Inconsistent.	DOE in policy currently under review. 2023. CCCH available to assist any agency in determining priorities.	Amendment to next NCCP goal to: 'Identify what is most vulnerable and implement most appropriate and cost-effective measures to adapt.' Appendix 2 - NCCP
Regularly review NCCP	NCCP to be relevant and	Is the NCCP relevant and up to	Current NCCP document dated	A five yearly review by an	NCCP - Appendix 2

	usable at any time.	date?	2009. Due for renewal.	external consultant	
Resourcing					
Survey climate related funding and share information with stakeholders.	Central information point for climate related funding.	How can the CCCH assist with climate change related funding requirements?	Pending Hub establishment.	CCCH ongoing.	Horizontal / cross-cutting Climate funding Appendix 4
Create a project prioritisation tool that can be used by (or adapted to) multiple stakeholders.	Tool to assess priority of climate related activities available to all stakeholders.	How do you know which climate change related project to do first?	Priorities sometimes skewed due to funding availability for certain projects.	CCCH 2023 with ongoing refinement.	Horizontal / cross-cutting Climate funding Appendix 4

Appendices and references

Appendix 1 NNSP

Niue National Strategic Plan
The existing plan runs from 2016 to 2026. The following describes how the current strategic plan embraces climate change: • Transition to efficient renewable energy sources. • Energy infrastructure to be climate-proof and low carbon. • Sufficient supply of fresh water during emergencies and CC risks minimised. • Transport prepared to respond to natural disasters and emergencies. • Buildings and structures resilient to natural hazards. • All citizens responsible for sustainable use of the environment and natural resources. • Protection of biodiversity and natural resources. • Have an integrated approach to increasing resilience to climate change. • Be strategic in assessing risk and vulnerability with a well planned and funded platform to adapt, mitigate and manage disaster risk. Food security. • Up to date climate and weather data. The following describes how the strategic plan embraces *mainstreaming* of climate change: Mainstreaming of climate change is not explicit in the 'values and guiding principles'. While 'Environment and climate change' is the title of one of the seven development pillars 'Having an integrated approach' is the strongest wording in terms of mainstreaming. Climate change is mentioned in regard to infrastructure but overall climate change mainstreaming is not explicit.

Appendix 2 NNCCP

Niue National Climate Change Policy
The existing policy was released in 2009 The following describes how the current policy embraces climate change: • Awareness raising (Comms strategy, school curriculum, awareness campaigns, resources) • Data collection (Integrated data management, more local capacity, communicate data clearly to other stakeholders) • Adaptation (Prioritise, enhance local technical capability, strengthen disaster response) • Mitigation (Renewable energy, energy efficiency, technology transfer. minimise emissions) • Regional and international cooperation (Ensure UNFCCC, Kyoto, Montreal etc are implemented, strengthen local capacity) The following describes how the policy embraces *mainstreaming* of climate change: • Mainstream climate change into development / plans / strategies. • Establish (and fund) national climate change unit and steering committee. • Review legislation, plans, policies, regulations, standards and practises to identify gaps and strengthen responses to climate change concerns. Climate change mainstreaming is a clearly stated goal in this document. It is also worth noting that participation from stakeholders is encouraged, financing is to be considered and that adaptation to climate change impacts is carried out in a coordinated, effective and sustainable manner. While it is always possible to find other aspects to add to a policy it is important not to add more than can be dealt with in terms of practical actions. The capacity for implementation should not be exceeded otherwise the policy becomes ineffective.

Appendix 3 Sectoral strategies

Sectoral strategies
The existing strategies vary in terms of timing. Some are current and some are due for rewriting. The degree to which climate change has been mainstreamed (or addressed) varies significantly. Refer to Niue Climate Change Mainstreaming Review (February 2022) The following briefly describes the extent that mainstreaming occurs in reviewed documents: Niue National Environmental Management Strategy 2018-2022 There is strong evidence of climate change integration in this strategy. Climate change mainstreaming is mentioned in the vision / mission, executive summary and comprises one of seven themes of the document body. In the introduction the Minister for Natural Resources refers to 'The global impact of climate change is no longer a challenge out there, but one that resides on the island and in our communities.' Niue Transport Strategy 2017-2026 There is strong evidence of climate change integration in this strategy. Climate change mainstreaming is mentioned in the introductions and reference is made to a key national development pillar in the NNSP: 'Sustainable use and management of key infrastructure that is climate-proof and resilient'. One of the principles of the strategy is to 'incorporate climate change adaptation and disaster risk mitigation into plans'. it goes on to comment about 'making Niue's transport infrastructure resilient to the impacts of climate change and potential disasters'. And then it cites specific climate related projects and explores funding opportunities for them. Niue Strategic Energy Road Map 2015-2025 There is some evidence of climate change integration in this document. In the foreword the minister of infrastructure notes the necessity for 'energy infrastructure in Niue becoming climate-proof and based on a low carbon approach' but other than that climate change is mentioned vaguely on only three occasions. If climate change is a core consideration in decision making it is not obvious in the document. Niue National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015 There is strong evidence of climate change integration in this strategy. There is deep reference to climate change in areas such as creating awareness, gathering data and developing responses to climate change. Despite climate change being one of the themes of the document it might be partially blind to the concept that climate change has the potential to undermine all of the other work being done in this area. Niue Health Strategic Plan 2011-2021 There is limited evidence of climate change integration in this plan. There is awareness that climate change exists and a desire to do something about it in future. Given the age of the document, this may well be underway.

Appendix 4 Cross cutting

Horizontal / Cross Cutting
Climate Change Unit / Climate Change Coordinating Hub A Climate Change Unit / Hub brings the possibility of bringing the mainstreaming of climate change from theory to reality. Possible roles can include: • Championing climate specific programmes. • Targeting climate change related funding. • Holding a list of training / education needs and matching up finance and capability to have those needs met. • Monitoring and evaluation of all climate change activities. • Maintain strong contacts between all sectors, facilitating information sharing, operational learning / training. • Act as a contact point for similar units in other international organisations. • Formulate environmental protection requirements. • Document and share best practice. • Satisfy climate specific reporting requirements. • Start to develop institutional memory so behaviours move beyond the individual. • Provide core competence and expertise. **Sectoral strategies / action plans.** Sectoral strategies, action plans and work plans appear to evolve in their own terms and have climate change issues applied in a way, and to a degree that the individuals involved feel applicable at the time. Due to inadequate stakeholder engagement we can only assess this through viewing the publicly available documents. A way to bring some consistency and cohesion to this work, in terms of climate change, is to introduce a screening process that takes place at the commencement of each project. It may be possible to have a single screening tool for all projects and another for strategies. This can be determined by assessing the **Departmental relationships** It appears that all departments would benefit from training to enable behaviour change around working together, sharing information and avoiding siloisation. **Training gaps** Government officials need to be informed and may need specific education and training programmes to raise the awareness in various governmental organisations. Some mainstreaming guides go as far as suggesting 'rotating officials among ministries' to foster mutual understanding and collaboration. **Information Services** Information needs of different actors should be considered and communications tailored more specifically to users. Wherever possible information should be simple and clear and free of jargon. While international data is freely available online there needs to be country-specific information. This should include reducing vulnerability to climate change, the contribution to economic development, effects of ocean changes for fisheries and climate changes for crops. **Behaviour change** In order to successfully mainstream climate change, all stakeholders will require some degree of behaviour change. SPC have funded a Niue Climate Change communication strategy that we expect will support the designing of the behaviour change plan.

Appendix 5 Village Plans / Community Groups / Environment

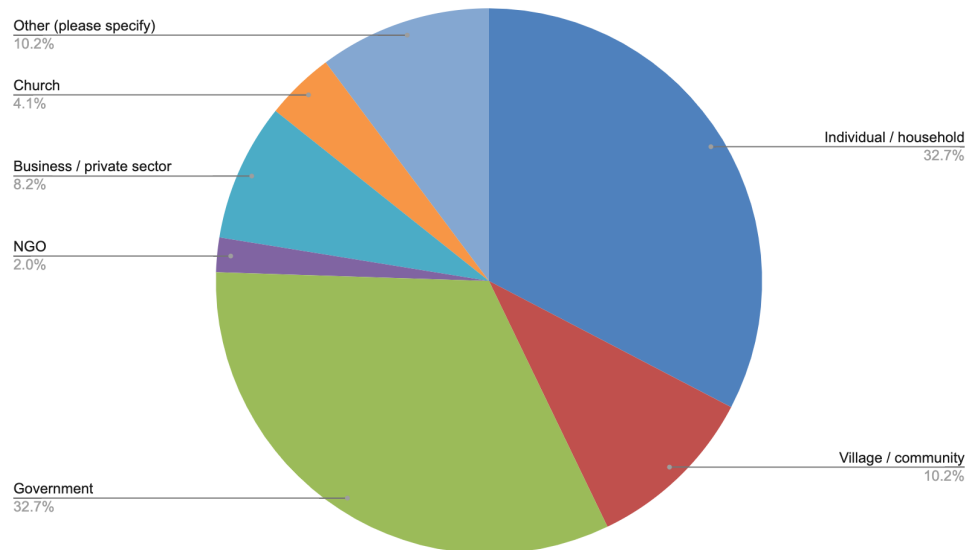| Village / Community Groups / Environment |
| --- |
| **Village plans**
One village climate change adaptation plan was made available for review. At 29 pages it was an impressive document for a village of seventy people. But is it useful? This comes back to M&E. A helpful exercise might be to go back and ask if it has been useful, if not, how might it be useful? It, no doubt, played an awareness raising role when it was written but it may be of greater use to the community if it was simpler and subject to an annual meeting with brief feedback going back up to the CCCH so a central unit remains connected to all villages.

Church Groups
No data is available, probably because at this level communication is largely verbal. This is really just a placeholder as it may be useful to explore how churches interact with climate change other than in physical terms (ensuring the physical churches endure climate threats).

Environment
The people are interacting with the environment daily. Two way communication is valuable between the people and the Department of Environment. |

Mainstreaming Climate Change in Niue

Results of survey conducted June 2022

Holdsworth Holistics Ltd

Introduction

Due to delays in being able to meet with stakeholders in person (border closure due to covid), an online survey was undertaken to gauge levels of understanding of climate change issues and to increase understanding of how projects integrate climate change considerations. The survey was distributed by multiple channels and the results are collated from fifty respondents fairly evenly spread across sectors (graph to right).

Other (please specify)
10.2%

Church
4.1%

Business / private sector
8.2%

NGO
2.0%

Government
32.7%

Individual / household
32.7%

Village / community
10.2%

Executive summary - very brief survey results:

- Awareness of climate change implications: More severe cyclones, effect on food and water.
- In the longer term add: Biodiversity, coral bleaching and the Niuean quality of life.
- Climate change is considered in 75% of new projects.
- That consideration is largely casual - only 25% stemming from a policy or something official.
- To mainstream there needs to be: Funding, human resources, strong leadership, CC unit, guidelines.
- Greater communication is required to understand what will help most with mitigation.

The biggest threats

To understand how people perceive the threats to Niue from climate change, participants were given a number of prompts and were asked to what extent they considered each one to be a threat.

The results lean heavily towards consequences of cyclones, whether directly through damage / physical harm or by follow-on effects such as not being able to get food or fuel because the wharf has cyclone damage. This was reinforced by free-form comments in which respondents wrote what they considered was the highest potential impact. These can be grouped in the following way (highest response first):

- **Cyclones** - Severity / intensity is clearly understood to be more of a threat than a higher frequency.
- As a **consequence of cyclones** the issue top-of-mind is the possible negative effect on **water** supply through saline intrusion.
- Next comes **food** security in terms of growing crops and to a lesser extent, fishing. As a spin-off from this there is consciousness around the possibility of becoming more reliant on imported food as a result and the negative health implications associated with this (packaged food). One respondent

went further and queried changes in methods used to grow food (adaptation) and the possible degradation of water by increasing pesticides leaching into the lens.

- The next grouping could be summarised by the word **culture** if we combine concerns about the Niuean 'way of life', traditions, damage to (the most vulnerable) churches, moving villages in the predominant cyclone path to higher ground and the socio-economic impact if the government is not able to respond / recover from another event like Heta.
- **Biodiversity** loss / ecosystem degradation / rise in invasive species / coral damage are mentioned to a lesser extent putting it on a similar level to concern about **migration** / population loss.

### Effects of climate change likely to impact on Niue
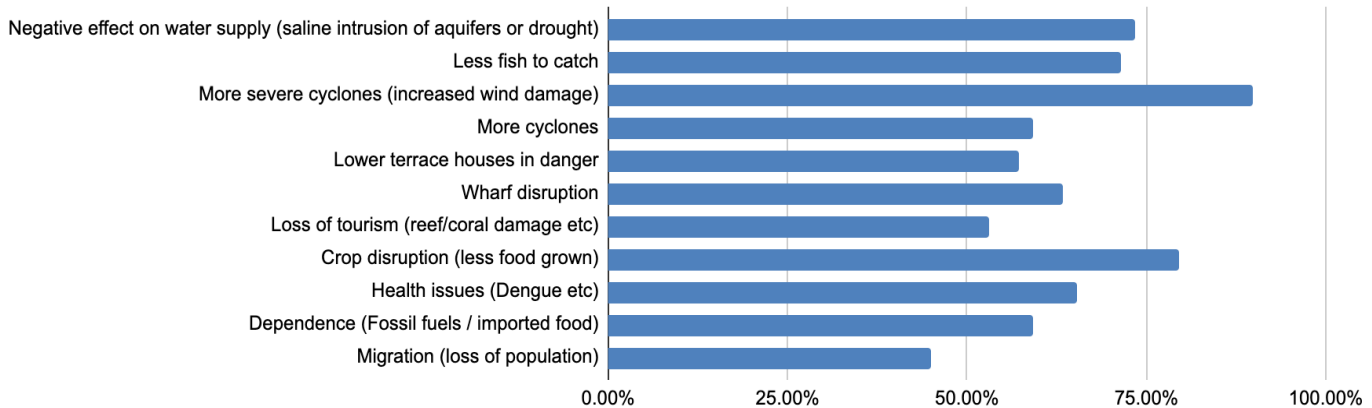
Couched another way, the respondents were asked to **consider future generations**.

Water and food remain high considerations when viewed in this way but **biodiversity and coral bleaching** get more consideration. The personal comments become more emotive; A disrupted water supply and crop implications start to imply a sense of loss and an indication that self-sufficiency will not be a possibility along with uncertainty about the future **quality of life** on Niue. An inability to be self-sufficient drives fear of being able to afford imported food. There is a fear that drinking tap water will not be possible without making you sick and fear that **migration** will increase. The flow on effect on **public health** is also a concern.

Recovery from major cyclones is flagged as a concern which has implications around planning for disaster (including having finance ready), having strong **resilient infrastructure** and sound health preparation. Related to infrastructure is coastal erosion and possible **relocation of lower terrace housing**.

Which concern you most when thinking of future generations?
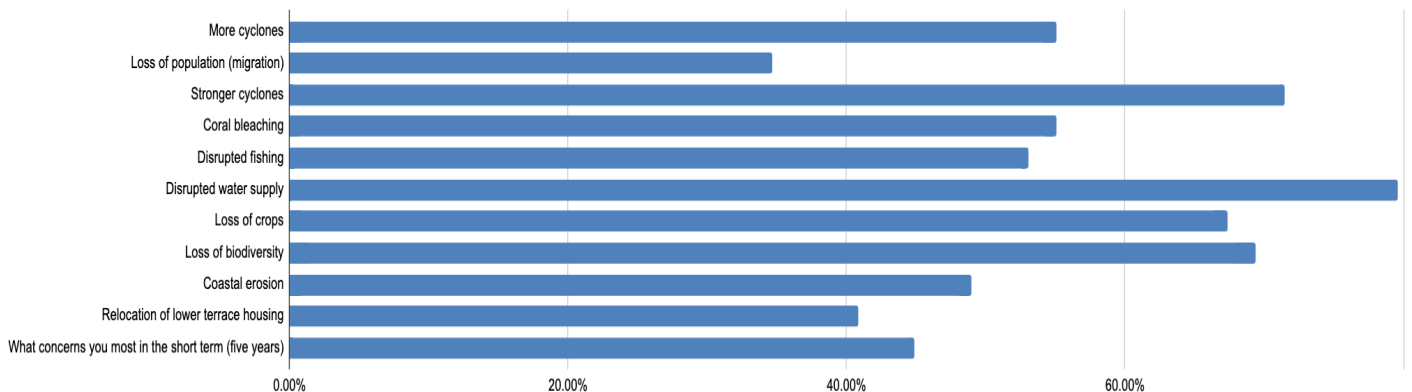
In addition to these specific concerns some respondents highlighted the need for a clearer overall vision for Niue and questioned how that vision could be held (or owned) in such a way that the community could have a cohesive voice about climate change in order to make better informed decisions.
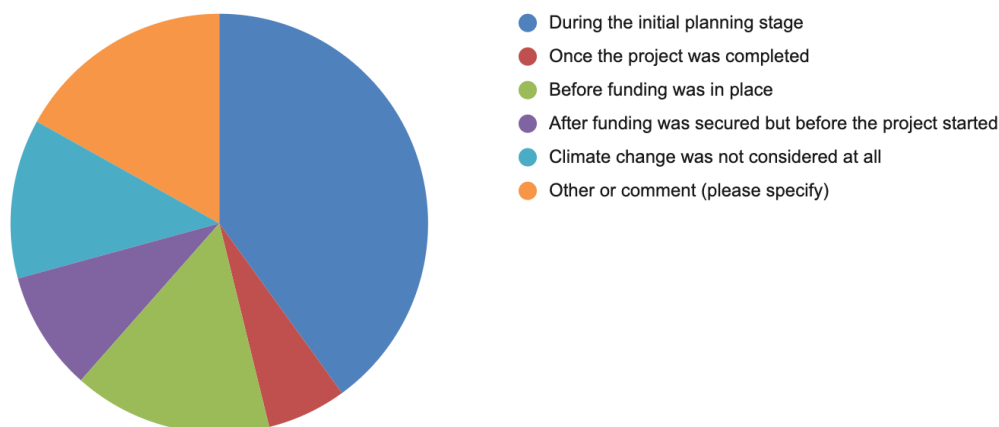
A small number of responses proposed specific ideas such as identifying Niuean experts living off-island and utilising their help. One proposed climate change innovation - we interpret this to mean Niue forging ahead with new ideas rather than passively waiting for projects to be offered from overseas.

The above is a snapshot of what is perceived as the greatest threats resulting from climate change. Next we will look at how ingrained climate change consideration is when it comes to projects undertaken in Niue.

Extent to which climate change is currently mainstreamed

To understand how deeply climate change considerations are embedded in planning and decision making, a series of questions were put forward and the respondents were encouraged to comment on or clarify their choice. The first question was to find out which stage in the project climate change was considered.

Where climate change was considered in respondent's most recent project

- During the initial planning stage
- Once the project was completed
- Before funding was in place
- After funding was secured but before the project started
- Climate change was not considered at all
- Other or comment (please specify)

The results suggest that climate change was considered before commencement of the project in **most cases** (if we consider initial planning, before funding, before commencement and some of the 'others' combined). Government respondents had a slightly higher result in this aspect but not significantly, suggesting all sectors consider climate change in similar proportions. The next question attempted to ascertain the driver for that action.

Where that consideration came from

- A policy (something you have to do whenever a project starts)
- Someone senior to you
- Collective knowledge (your team / village / group just knows its vital)
- Yourself (you had to drive the idea otherwise it may have been overlooked)
- Other (please specify)

Regional organisation that had own agenda. Poor consideration/flexibility to Niue's needs incl the language and context. Didn't allow flexibility to conduct activities Nov-Jan (finance closed at the regional agency) and yet this is a premium high cyclone alert level time (important to the project).
Ourselves - this response same as 'Yourself'.
It came with the project itself.
Traditional Knowledge
Five responses not applicable (ie respondent not part of planning process).

The results indicate that about half of the examples reflect inherent 'mainstreaming'. That is the combination of collective and individual knowledge as opposed to those requiring guidance by someone superior or a policy / guiding procedure. The downside of innate reasoning over procedure is that things might be missed, there could be inconsistencies, important decisions may not be documented, personal opinion could rule over collective agreement and a lack of documentation could result in exclusion from certain funding opportunities.

To further gauge the level of understanding and acceptance of mainstreaming, the respondents indicated how relevant they thought mainstreaming was to their organisation or village.

How relevant is climate change mainstreaming to your organisation (or village)?
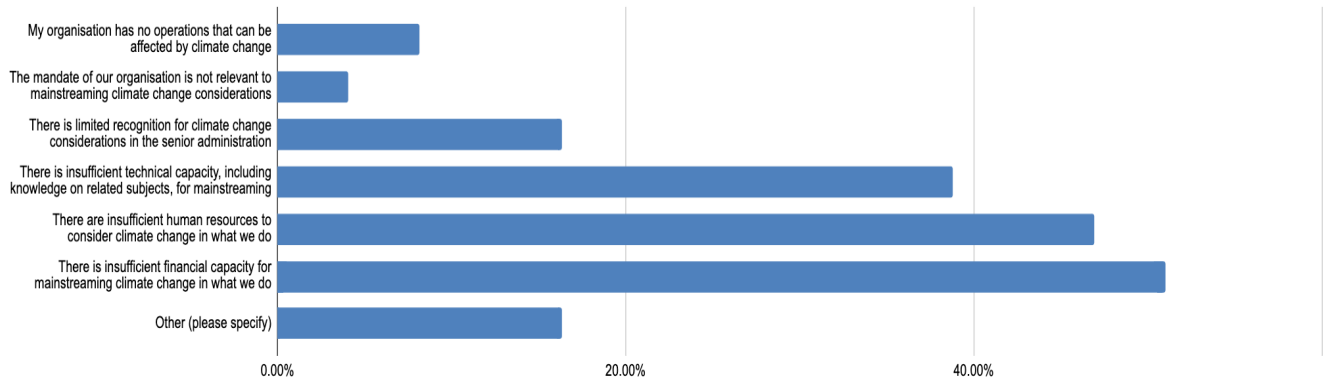
The responses suggest that greater **financial capacity / human resources and knowledge** is relevant in terms of furter mainstreaming climate change. One respondent went on to expand on this: 'External Funding is not an issue. Limited human resources hinders our efforts to coordinate climate change priorities and implement programmes across sectors.' One respondent supported all in terms of relevance but highlighted the need for action.

When asked whether the policies / guidelines for their business / department / group included processes to consider climate change **over half responded positively** and roughly a quarter negatively. The rest included comments such as:
'We have a Government Climate Change Policy but **not a clear guideline to consider climate change**. Usually we work with our Donors when preparing project documentation and adopt their guidelines for climate change considerations.'
'Of course, but it's very hard because we're **poorly funded** by the government and we're not led by the government either - poor leadership.'
'No, because there would be a **cost** implication to the Department.'
'I'm not sure if it's a specific policy but it helps us with access to TA and **funding**.'

Do policies / guidelines in your business / department / group consider climate change?
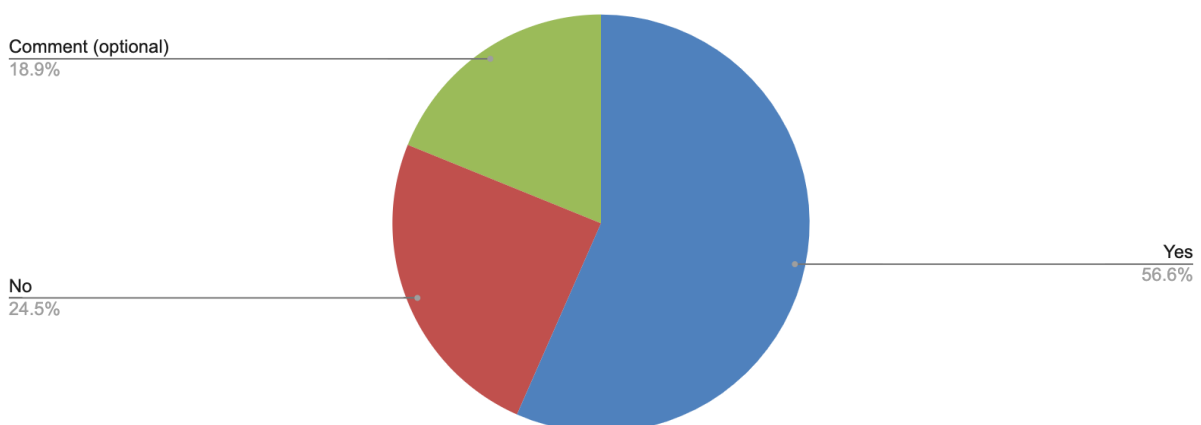
How to improve mainstreaming of climate change

By asking people where they feel the levers are to improve climate change integration we can not expect 'the answer' as the respondents are not necessarily experts in the field or well versed in all that is possible or achievable. However, it gives us some insights into what might be supported, it initiates conversation / thinking, and opens the door to new ideas.

Most helpful ways to mainstream / integrate climate change into processes and actions in Niue (Opinion)
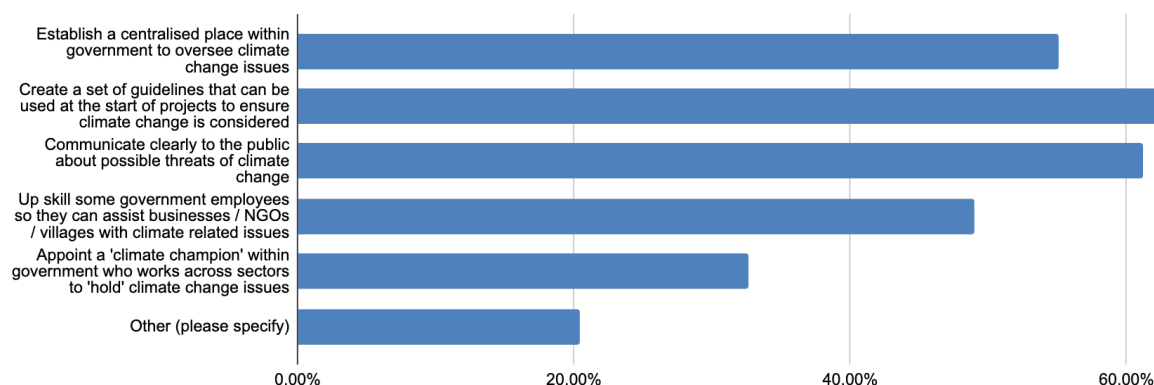
The result is verging on 'all of the above' with the exception, perhaps, of having a 'climate champion'. If we combine this with the free form responses it could be summarised in this way (most important first):

- Stronger **leadership**, political will (requires knowledge of the issue)
- Clearly identify where climate change sits as a **priority** (acknowledgement)
- MPs **communicate** village concerns to Assembly (Quarterly?)
- A strong link is needed between Assembly and department heads (to ensure collective goals actioned)
- A **centralised unit** to coordinate climate change issues (Climate Change Coordination Hub)
- **Guidelines** to ensure climate change considerations are made at the start of projects. One respondent added to this the idea that it could actually be a contract that is signed by collaborators that environmental issues & climate change have been considered in projects.
- **Upskilling / knowledge**. This can be applied at all levels from government to school but it needs funding. Mainstreaming can help with new funding, new funding can help with upskilling / technical assistance.
- Communication - easy **access to information** for community/public use (not just on government shelves).

Some respondents assumed that much of this work had already been done. Perhaps as a result of past strategies calling for things like a climate change unit. This assumption could lead to some people not taking responsibility for climate change in the belief that it's all 'in hand' and that somebody in government is doing the work.

Ways of mainstreaming was reframed in another question deliberately separated in the survey. This question was intended to drill down into what was perceived as the single aspect that would make the biggest difference which could give us insights around priorities.

The respondents still highlighted a **centralised unit, communication and guidelines** but the priority of having sufficient **budget** (and additional human resources) to fund these aspects came to the fore.

One respondent used the term 'Working in silos' in the free-form feedback suggesting that a lack of departmental collaboration is making some work more difficult and could be hampering the ability to build climate resilience. This is in line with stakeholder engagement prior to the survey.

Communication was mentioned in terms of developing a common goal and having that communicated clearly to decision makers. Going organic was also mentioned and certainly has merit in terms of getting away from reliance on imported fertilisers and pest control and increasing self-sufficiency.

What is the single most important action you think will help your business / organisation mainstream / integrate climate change?
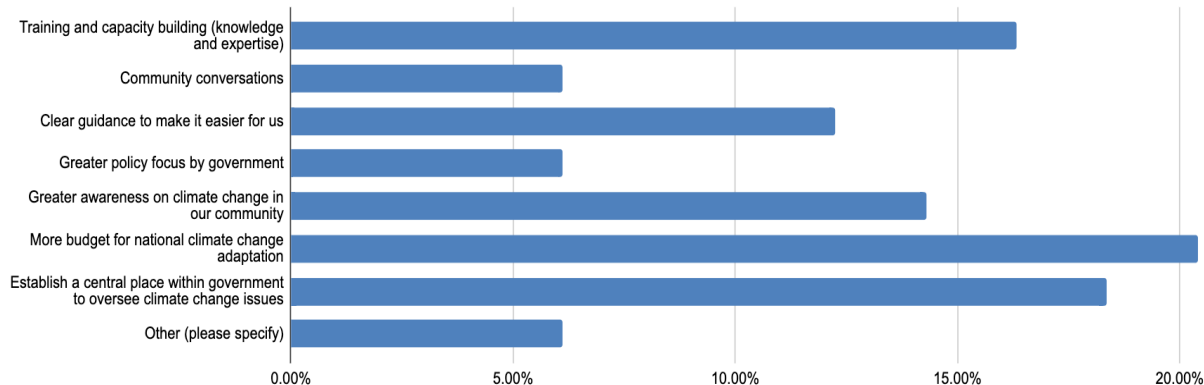
While we have used adaptation as the main thrust of mainstreaming climate change, mitigation can't be ignored. The graph below indicates what are perceived as the best levers to mitigate followed by what can be gathered from free form comments associated with the question.

Climate change mitigation: What are the most important things to do next?
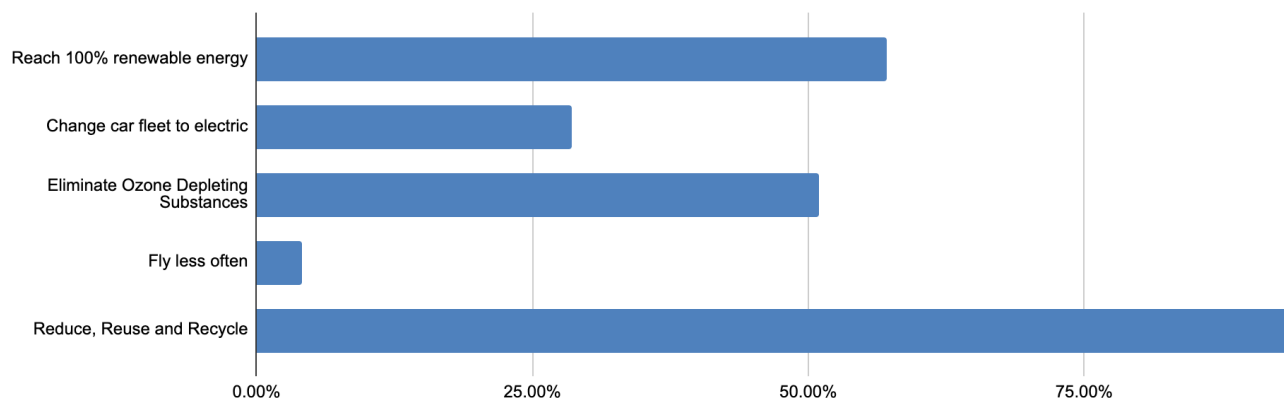
The results are probably skewed somewhat towards (admirable) **reduce, reuse and recycle** social programming in the past. A number of respondents suggested that 100% renewable energy should be number one priority and those that didn't may not be aware that recent advances make it a realistic goal. This is closely linked to other comments supporting self-sufficiency and lowering dependency.

Awareness programmes were mentioned, along with exporting scrap material and toxic substances so they can be dealt with in the right way. This goes hand in hand with waste management and the dangers associated with contaminating the ocean and/or the freshwater lens.

Providing safe-houses to retreat to was mentioned (as an alternative to moving villages to higher ground perhaps) and robust village plans to manage such things. Funding and streamlining of access to the funding was mentioned and finally a comment encouraging meetings between church and government representatives (communication). If we look at mitigation from a purely mainstreaming point of view it seems that communication, particularly regarding up to date knowledge is vital.

Conclusion

There appears to be **widespread awareness of climate change and what some of the consequences are likely to be**. Respondents suggest that the way adaptation is dealt with seems uncoordinated and inconsistent. The proposal in the 2009 Niue National Climate Change Policy to "Establish (and fund) national Climate Change Unit" may solve this problem and the survey shows that there is agreement amongst the majority that this goal should finally be implemented.

Guidelines (preferably ones that anyone can follow) are also desired and they can be created by the unit, or in parallel with the unit being established.

Repeated comments suggest that the two major obstacles to moving forward boldly are finance (resourcing) and political will (leadership). There is solid awareness of the need for funding in this survey. Respondents say that this is necessary for a climate change unit, for guidelines, for richer communication, more human resourcing and technical up-skilling. Political will can unlock the stalemate around the formation of a climate change unit.

In terms of mitigation it appears that some people are lacking current information about how to make the biggest difference. Having them informed and empowered to push for effective actions requires communication; there is a new climate change communication policy that may help in this area.

Mainstreaming Climate Change in Niue

Summary of workshop conducted September 2022

Holdsworth Holistics Ltd

Introduction

The consultants and the SPREP team visited Niue during the week of 20 September and held a community consultation workshop (approximately 50 attendees) and held one on one meetings with key stakeholders including; The Financial Secretary, The Director General of Ministry of Natural Resources, the Disaster Recovery unit, the Ministry for the Environment team, the Acting Director for Environment, The Public Sector Commissioner, the High Commissioner for Australia and the Deputy High Commissioner for New Zealand.

There were two key stakeholder off island for the week of engagement; Director of Environment and Director of Met Services.

The community workshop took place on 22 September 2022 at the Matavai Resort, Niue.

The objectives of the workshop were to:
- Raise understanding of what mainstreaming climate change is and why it is important
- Validate the discussion document
- Feedback on the results of the climate change survey conducted as part of this project
- Contribute to the action plan

The workshop was designed to maximise opportunities for discussion and cross sectoral engagement.

Supporting an informed discussion

To support an informed discussion, the initial focus was defining mainstreaming climate change in a simplified manner, consistent with Niue's small island state status AND raise awareness of the fact that climate change is no longer just an environmental issue.

So mainstreaming climate change was defined as: When climate change is **integrated**:
- Into the highest strategic level of the country and **flows down through to all policies, strategies, plans, projects legislation**.
- **Across all sectors** and government departments.
- Into the **work/business plans** or programmes of organisations (**at the beginning**).

To emphasise the breadth of climate change risks a recent UN communication was discussed, calling climate change: 'The Greatest Threat To Global Security' with emphasis that 'Climate Change Is Not Merely An Environmental Problem' - rather it has implications in many areas such as economic, social, environment, cultural and security. This is more than a whole of government issue, it affects all areas of society.

We also considered there was a risk that stakeholders may find it challenging to separate out mainstreaming climate change from climate change. We tried to make this as clear as possible and anything we heard from stakeholders of value that is outside of mainstreaming climate change will remain on file for future use.

Contributions from participants

Participants were presented with findings from the project to date and were invited to share their ideas and concerns. There was no disagreement about what was presented and all speakers included in their comments support for what was presented . There was a rich discussion which included the following **mainstreaming related** comments:

Resourcing
- Improve funding allocation management (so it gets to all sectors / implementing agencies)
- Put in place budgeting/resourcing for the unit / hub needs to be properly resourced
- Mobilise climate funding (Create capacity to implement, create financing model)
- Address project approaches and move towards long term sustainable solutions instead
- Find funding for phase one (like a project) to establish a hub (who will then be a funding conduit)

Structure / climate change hub
- Create a climate change hub (Who will plan it? Can be small initially)
- Hub to accessible to and communicate to wider community (and have information available)
- Balance hub scope / responsibilities with envisaged capacity
- New structure should help avoid duplication of work (become more efficient)
- Initially one person is needed to drive hub implementation
- Quantify hub (How big? Where? Cost? Cost/benefit analysis?)
- Identify challenges to set up climate change hub
- Climate change champions from all sectors to support and help establish hub

Communication
- Communicate climate change implications to the community
- Create climate education that begins in the homes
- Collaborate to work smarter (overall savings in resources)
- Incorporate climate change into school curriculums
- Traditional knowledge to guard and guide
- Provide further opportunities for consultations with the community
- Communicate where climate related issues are now (to community)
- Create platform for sharing data (available to all including private sector and investors)

Others
- Ensure mental wellbeing is factored in and funded

- Clear prioritisation of what is required to mainstream climate change
- Create a checklist for new projects / policies / programmes relating to climate change
- Explore what can be done locally (without funding). Local initiatives (resilience?)
- Ensure long term (50 years+) view is being taken in addition to short and medium
- Identify laws that need amendment in relation to climate change
- Create ways to implement behaviour change (to help collaboration and cohesion)
- Reinforce how climate change is not just about environment (economic implications)
- Need to consider the social implications of community and climate change

A climate change hub is seen as a key component as it becomes an enabler to achieve the other actions on this list. Resourcing a hub is a significant concern but there is understanding that once in operation it can be used to acquire long term funding both for the hub and other climate change related causes. The 'people' side of resourcing remains unresolved. There is a feeling that appointing someone to the hub will remove that person from valuable work elsewhere. A 'perfect' solution would be to entice staff back to the island who have been working overseas.

Group work: generating actions for mainstreaming within sectors

The next part of the workshop was used to generate actions from the stakeholders to mainstream climate change. Three groups of approximately fifteen people brainstormed what actions would be useful to mainstream climate change in Niue. In order to discover what is perceived as most important the entire room was given an opportunity to prioritise the findings (by way of coloured stickers on the charts). The following is an abbreviated list with the highest priority at the top.

Public Sector
- Mainstream climate change in work plans, policies and proposals
- Create a climate change coordination hub (for funding, coordination, collaboration, traditional knowledge)
- Facilitate open communication between all sectors
- Share information (collaboration between agencies)
- Collate and communicate projections (Eg. Hub collates info from MET for climate, INF for water etc.)
- Source climate change funding
- Improve transparency and accountability
- Strengthen long term planning

Private Sector
- Improve access to information (From Govet sectors, NGOs etc which is seen as fragmented)
- Identify opportunities (to work towards) and challenges (to avoid) in relation to climate change
- Provide resources for planning / developing business plans / how to adapt to climate change
- Help with land development and investments
- Help project the impacts of climate change and business development opportunities

- Identify risks

Village council / NGO
- Create structure to have information trickle down to the 'grassroots'

Group work on mainstreaming for all of Niue

The same groups did a similar exercise focusing on the whole of Niue rather than thinking within sectors. Once again, the findings were priorities and they fell into three main themes: Governance, Resourcing and Communications. Behaviour change was also noted which spans and affects all of these areas.

**Governance** (seen as the highest priority)
- Periodic reviews of core functions and work programmes
- Strong political will (leadership) with mention of having a 'climate champion'
- Local context (not an action but worth noting)
- PPP (Public private partnership)
- M&E frameworks
- Assistance with policy development (Perhaps a hub can add consistency)
- Incorporating climate change in relevant legislation
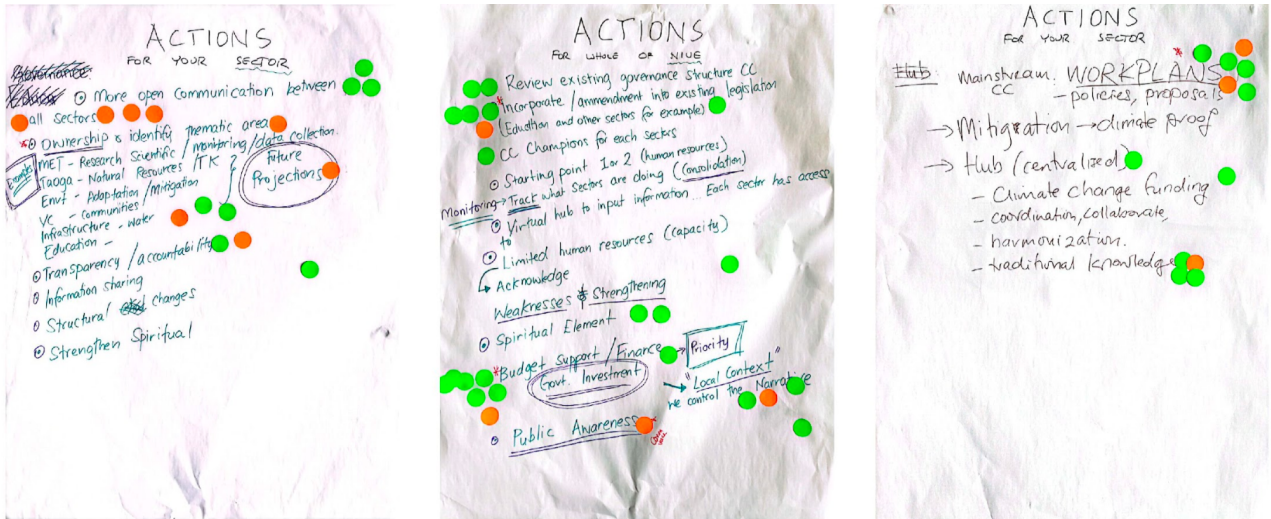
Resourcing
- Sustainable support / investment / finance (reiterated several ways incl. moving beyond 'project based')
- HR (not just funding the role - finding personnel without removing resources from other areas)
- Appoint climate change champions in each sector

Communications
- digitise and centralise information for easy access to all
- Increase public awareness
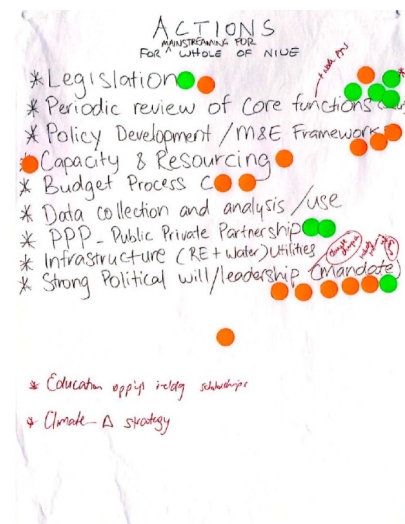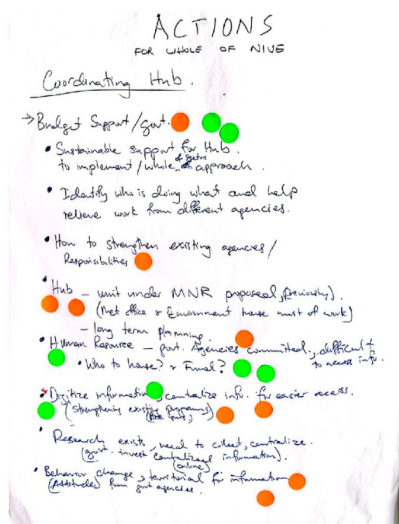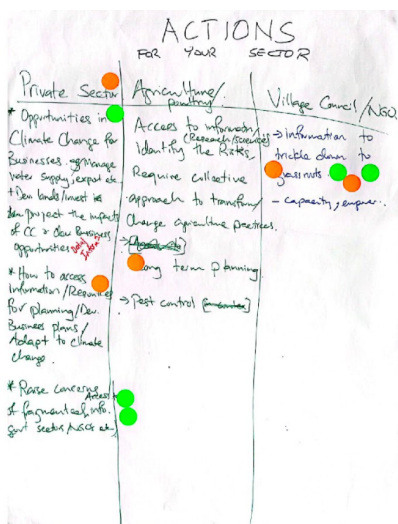
Role of the Climate Change Coordination Hub

The third engagement opportunity for stakeholders was to discuss the role of the Climate Change Coordination Hub (CCCH).

We gathered the following information which will contribute towards a document outlining the proposed role:

- Collate, store, consolidate & disseminate information (digitally)
- Identify synergies of conventions (CBD, NNFCC etc from all agencies)
- M&E framework
- Governance & Policy development
- Education & climate related information distribution (perhaps education scholarships) / public awareness
- Maintaining consistency across government in regards to climate change
- A resource to strengthen existing implementing agencies
- A place to hold long term planning (holistic view)
- Facilitate behaviour change (less territorial attitudes) / collaboration
- When capacity allows one position could be 'communications officer'
- Comment on cabinet submissions
- Become a 'bridge' between community and government
- Resourcing
- Identify who is doing what & help relieve work from different agencies
- Track what sectors are doing (consolidation)

Prior to this community consultation opportunity, there has been concern expressed during the project when the unit has been raised regarding both where and what the unit is and does. Prior to this engagement there was agreement that a hub should exist but disagreement about where it should reside.

After generous communication between parties we observed a significant shift with agreement that it should reside somewhere neutral as it is addressing a 'whole of government' issue. Our observations suggest that this shift came about as a result of effective communication between stakeholders.

It should be noted that there is still a background fear that it could overstep its mandate and start implementing projects. This has been noted and will be taken forward as the role of the CCCH is designed - and the naming of the unit was designed to make the coordination element of the unit (rather than the implementer of projects) role clear.

Conclusion

The workshop demonstrated the value of people coming together. There was a high level of engagement and a great deal of progress was made in terms of mainstreaming climate change and opening the possibility of a collaborative approach. This was partly due to reassurance that agencies can continue to do the valuable implementation work and that this work is more about helping than adding burden to already overstretched resources. While there remains a hangover from previous projects in the form of 'more talk and low expectation of action', there does seem to be momentum and a willingness to move forward. The danger is that without a champion there will be no cohesive energy to establish a hub.

The path to action

Based on stakeholder engagement, the consultants recommend the following:

- Appoint a temporary Climate Change Coordination Hub champion to facilitate the first five of these actions
- Define the role of the unit (A draft is included in appendix 8) by the mainstreaming working group plus a representative of the private and community sectors.
- Sign off on the hub location - verbally there is support for locating it in a central agency and the Ministry of Finance was mentioned. This is critical to formalise as soon as possible. Historically disagreements about location have been obstacles to moving forward with a hub.
- Use a project approach to fund one or two positions to run the hub initially.
- Create a governance framework between the CCCH and the key stakeholders (working group/appoint a champion in each department / sector etc) by the working group plus a representative of the private and community sectors.
- Start to implement the action plan (see page 15 of this strategy) for the CCCH.

Appendix 8 Climate Change Coordination Hub: Context, roles and responsibilities

Content for the responsibilities and roles for the CCCH have been predominantly sourced from the on-island stakeholder engagement undertaken in September 2022. However, these roles and responsibilities should be reviewed with relevant stakeholders again to ensure they have been well represented here.

1 - Why having a coordination hub is important for mainstreaming climate change

Best practice:
The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) suggests the following as best practices for mainstreaming climate change. They believe that cross-sectoral committees or climate change units are important mainstreaming facilitators and that 'experience from different countries suggests that the mandate and strength of these organisational structures are decisive for their success'. Such units can:
- Maintain strong contacts between all sectors, facilitating information sharing, operational learning / training.
- Act as a contact point for similar units in other international organisations.
- Formulate environmental protection requirements.
- Document and share best practice.
- Satisfy climate specific reporting requirements.
- Start to develop institutional memory so behaviours move beyond the individual.
- Provide core competence and expertise.

Historic issues in Niue that may be overcome with a dedicated climate change unit / hub:
A climate change mainstreaming review (February 2022) identified issues that get in the way of mainstreaming climate change in Niue. These include:
- Lack of coherence of policies and strategies.
- No focal point where ideas and actions around climate change are housed.
- Insufficient resources - both human and monetary.
- Inconsistent (and sometimes absent) collaboration between stakeholders.
- Review, monitor and evaluate are aspirational words that do not translate into reality.
- Lack of accountability - no clarity around responsibilities.
- Training gaps.
- Overlaps and duplication.
- Measurement and information availability and sharing.

Needs perceived by stakeholders:
Stakeholder engagement identified the following as being the most important 'needs' that could be met by a dedicated climate change unit / hub in Niue:
- Coordinating and leading the whole of Niue/Govt work on Climate Change
- Gaining access to climate funding
- Periodic reviews of core functions and work programs
- Digitising and collating / centralising climate change related data so anyone can access it
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Wider education around climate change (and public awareness)
- Linking with the international organisations to ensure cohesiveness, targets are achieved, facilitate capacity building

2 - Given that there is a need for a hub, what are its responsibilities?

To ensure that:
- The sustainable development of Niue is undertaken with a climate / disaster resilient approach.
- Niue has the capacity to proactively manage climate / disaster risks rather than react.
- An integrated and coherent policy and planning framework is in place.
- Success of the NNSP goal of 'all sectors to incorporate relevant CC issues into their corporate plans'.
- Success of the NNSP goal of 'becoming 100% carbon neutral'.

3 - Given that there is a need for a hub, what roles would it have?

Climate change activities / projects will continue to be actioned by those who have been doing so in the past (the hub is not an implementing agency). As such, roles could include:

- Resource mobilisation including gaining access to climate related funding.
- Coordinate and inform climate change initiatives and projects across Government.
- Provide guidance on choosing which climate related activities Niue participates in.
- Collate, store, consolidate & disseminate information (digitally).
- Coordinate and provide resources to help with production of reports such as JNAP/NAP, NDC.
- Provide core competence and expertise around CC that can be utilised by stakeholders that need it.
- Monitor and evaluate climate change related activities.
- Document and disseminate best practice (clearly and simply) around how climate change can be dealt with.
- Act as a contact point for similar units in other countries.
- Comment on cabinet submissions.
- Maintain consistency across government in regards to climate change.
- Strengthen governance arrangements for climate change.
- Hold long term planning in terms of climate change (holistic view).
- Bring transparency to what is happening in each ministry around climate change.
- Become a 'bridge' between community and government (and provide public awareness).
- Assist with integration of climate change related activities into government procedures.
- Share climate change related information - possibly via a simple website. (Crossover with comms work)

4 - Graphic representation of how the hub functions
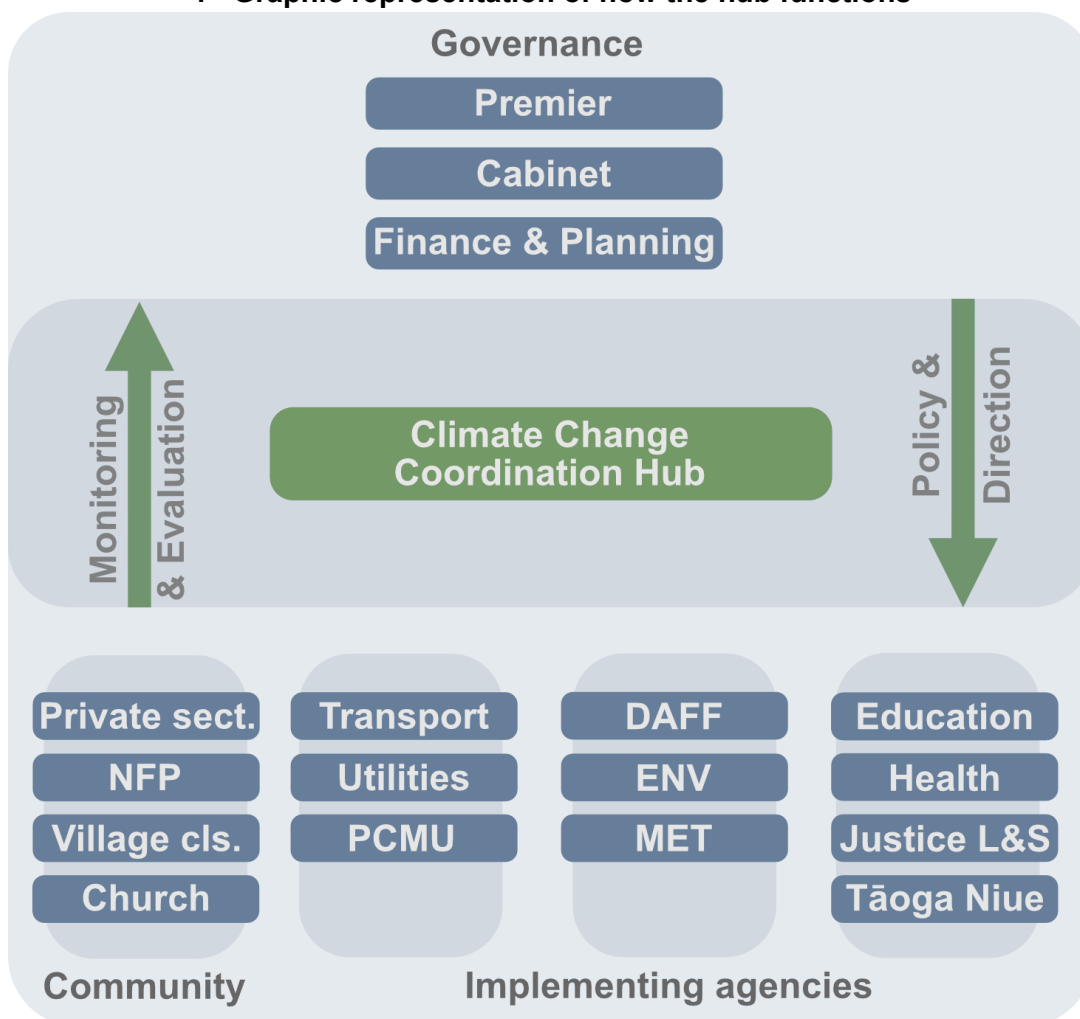
5 - Governance

One of the core benefits of establishing the hub is to increase efficiency and remove burden from some overworked individuals. However, the hub will require a degree of oversight to ensure the agreed mandates are being met and to ensure cross cutting communication remains open and clear. It is

proposed that a group similar to the working group that was engaged during the mainstreaming exploration be established to perform this task on an on-going basis. This means quarterly meetings of representatives from various sectors with the hub director and possibly someone holding a senior position that is completely neutral (in terms of possible priorities).

Appendix 9 Climate Risk Screening Tool investigation

Climate Risk Screening Tools				
Tools vary greatly in terms of approach. By way of example CRiSTAL covers all of the aspects listed below while others target some: Awareness raising, CC pre-screening, Climate Risk assessment, Identify adaptive options, Prioritisation and selection, Implementation, M&E				
Tool	**By**	**Target / ref**	**Approach**	**Observations**
Assessment and **D**esign for **A**daptation to climate change **P**rototype **T**ool (ADAPT)	World Bank	Policy makers, project planners and managers (for projects) https://climatescreeningtools.worldbank.org/	Software based integrating climate databases and expert assessments	Redundant - replaced with separate screening tools for Water, energy, health, transport, Agriculture and National Policy. May be useful if a deeper cut seems necessary - complexity medium. Options for deeper screening available to registered users.
Adaptation Wizard	**UK** **C**limate **I**mpacts **P**rogramme UKCIP	Planners and managers. (organisations) www.ukcip.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id =147&Itemid=297	User-friendly info- and structuring computer based tool following a risk-based approach	Complex suite of tools that may be useful if significant investment is made to become familiar with it.
Climate **F**ramework **I**ntegrating **R**isk **S**creening **T**ool ClimateFIRST	**A**sian **D**evelopment **B**ank ADB	Development project planners/ managers (for projects and programmes)	Risk assessment	Not running or redundant but promoted as 'Aware is an online climate risk screening tool which helps identify potential climate change risks to investments. The three-step process includes: (a) creating a project, (2) selecting geographic locations, and (3) answering questions based on knowledge of the project'
Climate **R**isk **I**mpacts on **S**ectors and **P**rogrammes CRISP	**D**epartment **F**or **I**nternational **D**evelopment DFID	Policy makers, project/ programme managers (for programmes and sectors)	Sector-based climate risk assessment methodology	Due for release in 2023: 'The tool will be freely available, quick and simple to use, interactive and web-based for use by agricultural and rural development project planners and managers.'
Community based **Ri**sk **S**creening tool **A**daptation and **L**ivelihoods CRiSTAL	IUCN IISD Helvetas **S**tockholm **E**nvironment **I**nstitute SEI	Development project planners and managers (for projects) http://www.cristaltool.org/	Participatory and vulnerability based approach , step-by-step, computer based method	CRiSTAL 'targets project planners and managers working at the local and community levels. However, a wide range of other actors may also use the tool (including policy-makers and decision-makers)'. Windows application used mainly in Central America and Africa.
Disaster Risk Reduction Tools	ProVention Consortium	Policy makers, project planners. http://www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=32&projectid=1	Disaster risk reduction (DRR) approach	The guidance notes alone run to 185 pages - likely more complex than necessary for Niue.
NAPAssess	**S**tockholm **E**nvironment **I**nstitute SEI	Stakeholders to the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) process and development practitioners http://www.sei-us.org/napassess/	Participatory, bottom up and consensus based approach drawing on multi-criteria analysis for the assessment and prioritising of adaptation initiatives.	No longer exists on the website. Was used in Sudan (no pre screeing)
Opportunities and **R**isks from **C**limate **C**hange and **D**isasters	**I**nstitute of **D**vmt **S**tudies IDS DFID	Development project planners / managers (for projects)	Portfolio risk assessment method based on pilot studies	Seems to be redundant - links to 2007 references in India and Bangladesh

ORCHID)				
Screening Matrix	Danida	Development project planners/ managers (for programmes and sectors)	Pre-screening of activities	Unable to locate - broken links. Pre-sceening only.
Red Cross Climate Guide	Red Cross	Various		73 pages of text with case studies. It takes a worldview and is not very relevant to Niue.
Climate Check GTZ		Policymakers and practitioners (for local to national projects) www.gtz.de/climate		Used in Asia, Africa and South America. Very simple screening matrix followed by risk analysis and prioritisation.
Norad	Norway			Not reviewed - out of date.
USAID Manual				Not reviewed
Adaptation **P**olicy **F**ramework	UNDP	All sectors - for adaptation measures into policies, economic development.	Used in Kenya, Honduras, Central America	Not reviewed

DRAFT Niue Project Assessment as it applies to Climate Change

Project name:

Brief description:

Proposed commencement: Proposed completion:

When assessing this project consider the following climate projections:
This is an abbreviated summary of multiple studies (such as IPCC, 2022: Summary for Policymakers) - it is for guidance, not reference.
Air temperature: In the year 2050 +1.5 to 2.5ºC, and year 2100 +1.5 - 4.5ºC.
Ocean temperature: In the year 2050 +1ºC, and year 2100 +2ºC.
Ocean acidification: In the year 2050 0.1 drop, and year 2100 0.3 drop in ph. Note that ph is a logarithmic scale which means that the 2050 figure equates to a 30% increase in acidity. The rate of change is now 100 times faster than over the previous 50 million years.
Rainfall: In the year 2050 and 2100 there may be small (5%) overall increases. Unable to estimate due to the variability of rainfall in Niue. While the average is 2,180 mm per year the range is between 839 and 3,226 mm but it's worth noting that in 1983, 1986, 1991 and 1996 less than 400 mm of rainfall was recorded.
Cyclones: Probably more difficult to predict than rainfall but there seems to be consensus that there will be less cyclones in total but a higher proportion of severe ones.
Sea level: In the year 2050 +0.3m, and year 2100 0.5 to 1.0m over 1986-2005 average.

Questions	Yes	No	Reason for your assessment
Could this project be impacted upon by climate change?			
Could the project suffer in the event of a drought?			
Could the project suffer in the event of a moderate or severe cyclone?			
Could the project suffer if fuel is in short supply or increases significantly in price?			
Could the project suffer after significant marine life die-off?			

Could the project suffer if tourists are prevented from visiting for six months or more?			
Could the project suffer if supply shipments are disrupted for more than two months?			

How has this type of work been impacted on by climate change in the past few decades? This may include risks from gradual climate change (e.g., sea level rise) and climate variability or weather-related disasters (e.g., droughts, floods, extreme storms)	
Given projections of increasing climate change, how might this type of work be affected in future? This may include changes in the variability of climate. How severe might those impacts be?	
Do you need more information before proceeding? Describe what you need and where the information could come from.	
Do you need more human resources before proceeding? Describe what you need and where the help could come from.	
Do you need more financial resources before proceeding? Describe what you need and where the funding could come from.	
How could indirect consequences such as institutional capacity or the larger economic and social context influence the level of risk posed to the project?	
Climate Risk Rating Cross out two of these.	Based on what you have written so far is the climate risk: Low (Climate Change is unlikely to impact on the achievement or sustainability of the project) Medium (Climate Change may impact on the achievement or sustainability of the project) High (Climate Change is likely to impact on the achievement or sustainability of the project)
What could be done to protect the project from climate risks and improve the achievement and sustainability of the project? Brainstorm with your team and at least one unrelated person.	
Which of the above suggestions could improve the effectiveness of the project? Ie. Reduce the climate risk to the project, or increase the ability to cope with potential impacts?	

Which of the above suggestions are affordable or could attract targeted climate funding?	
Which of the above suggestions give you flexibility? If things change can the project be adapted? Consider climate, environmental changes, socioeconomic and political conditions.	
Which of the above suggestions are likely to create barriers to advancing the project? ie. Political or stakeholder objections, too much of a stretch on resources.	
If you have identified a potential problem can you factor the cost to address it into the project? ie. Estimate the cost to this project following a category 4 cyclone and divide that by the frequency of such events.	
Bring it all together. Describe how the project could be redesigned to better address climate related issues. Note from Niue Strategic Plan: Keep it simple and clear and achievable.	

Note: There are numerous tools and explanations of screening but:
https://climatescreeningtools.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/guidance_note/ENERGY_Guidance_Note.pdf
is an example of an easy to understand explanation in regard to climate change in the energy sector.

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