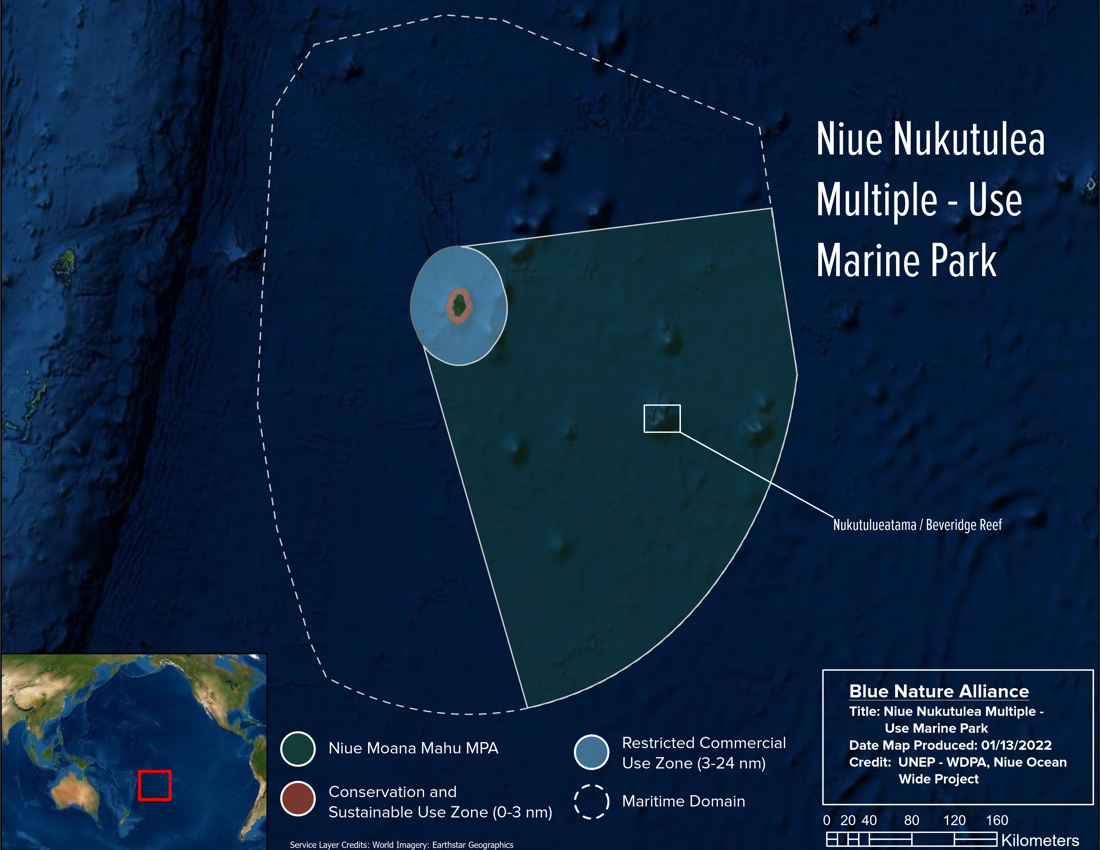
**ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK: Niue -**

**Moana Mahu Marine Protected Area & Nukutulueatama Beveridge Reef Special Management Area**

**Section 1: Opportunity**



***Alliance Site Lead:*** Maël Imirizaldu

***Lead Implementing Partner:*** Niue Ocean Wide (NOW) ***Funding Envelope:*** USD $1,536,000 ***GEF Eligible:***Yes

***Opportunity & Key Interventions***

Partner with Niue Ocean Wide (NOW) and the Government of Niue to improve management of approximately **137,380 km2** (43% of the Niue EEZ) of ocean conservation area, including the highly protected Moana Mahu Marine Protected Area (MPA), the highly protected Nukutulueatama Beveridge Reef Special Management Area (SMA), and the conservation zones within the recently designated Niue Nukutuluea Multiple-Use Marine Park1, through two key interventions:

1. Design, establish, and help source a durable finance model that generates financial revenues in support of Government, NOW, and communities’ efforts to durably implement the sites.
2. Develop the Nukutuluea’s Monitoring and Evaluation framework and build institutional capacity to demonstrate management effectiveness of the site.

***Success Measures***

We will consider management of **127,000 km2** of ocean conservation areas to be measurably improved when *all of the following are achieved*:

* The Niue Trust Fund (NTF) is fully operational and has capitalized at least USD$ 3M in the Endowment by 2025 to generate up to USD$ 130K of interest in support of the NTF operation cost and programmatic investments
* A Monitoring & Evaluation system is established with compiled and incoming data, a dashboard and a formalized plan to ongoing data collection

**Section 2: Criteria Assessment**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Alliance Criteria** | **Rating** | **Summary** |
| Significance | High | The total site area is modest with ~126,000km but this represents 40% of the EEZ under strict protection. Niue is small, isolated, and located in a zone of low productivity with no significant up-welling. Formed from an uplifted reef platform with deep water next to the shore, Niue does not have any lagoon to generate additional habitats and nurseries for reef species. Niue’s EEZ has close to 100 seamounts referenced and ridges that are interconnected, associated with the island and are important oceanic features for biodiversity, resources, and genes spillover as well as pinpoints for migratory species. There are at least three outlying coral reefs, which are at or near the surface (Beveridge, Antipode, and Haran). Of these, Beveridge Reef / Nukutulueatama considered as an ecological jewel of cultural important for Niuean's and Cook Islanders is located 240 km to the southeast of Niue. It is the largest outlying coral reef, and it boosts biomasses of fishes that are 7.5 times larger than in Niue and densities of grey reef sharks much greater than recorded anywhere else in the world at the time of the survey. Currently protected, Nukutuleata is a critical source of spillover for Niue’s reef. The most iconic marine species of Niue are the Katuali or flat-tail sea snake (*Laticauda schistorhynchus*), which is endemic to Niue and is listed as Vulnerable as well as the Blainville’s beaked whales (*Mesoplodon densirostris* - Data Deficient by IUCN), a rarely seen species but known for their site-fidelity that was sighted several times at Beveridge Reef.  As a result of its biogeography, Niue has a rather low biodiversity and relatively low biomasses of reef and pelagic species on which the ~2000 people that live on the island, strongly rely for food security (Niue also has very limited options for food production on land). Still, with a territory made of 99.9% of water, Niuean's have a deep cultural bond and depend on their ocean which provides every day for their livelihood. “*Without the food source they rely on, there is nothing to pass on, Niue heritage would be lost*” - Brendon Pasisi, NOW project. Also, because of its location at 19 degrees south latitude, Niue experiences greater annual temperature variation than most of its Pacific Island neighbors and that has been even more exacerbated in the recent year with climate change amplification. Finally, the increasing Industrial Tuna fisheries in the region put a high pressure on migratory stocks of high nutritional value for inhabitants of Niue and has a big impact on Catch per Unit Efforts of raka fishermen while industrial fishing is almost inexistant in Niue. At the end of the day, Niue’s marine ecosystems provide very limited ecosystem services to Niuean's, and they are highly vulnerable. The careful and sustainable management of Niue’s Moana Mahu, Nukutulueatama and its whole EEZ as a holistic approach is critical and highly significant to preserve nature, people, and culture (Taoga Niue) now and in the future. |
| Catalytic | High | Tokelau is neighbor with the Cook Island’s Marae Moana, and they have established relationships between the two sites. Cook Isl. and Niue participated in each other’s Marine Spatial Planning and shared experience. There has been discussion between the two nations in bridging Niue’s MPA with the Marae moana and engaging regional cooperation for those sites.  NOW is also working hard to put in place sustainable practices in Niue and around the entire pacific. The success of this small island nation with Large-Scale MPA could inspire other nations in the region. And specifically, Tokelau who also has a free association with NZ could follow the way.  The sustainable finance strategy includes some very innovative approach that if proven successful could contribute to change the narrative around ocean conservation for the benefits of other SIDS specifically. Finally, successful efforts at regional level might contribute to significantly increasing the level of ocean protection in the Pacific region with the potential to create new LSMPA. |
| Political Will | High | “Niue is fondly known as the Rock of Polynesia and over the last four years, we have come to realize how true that is. The Rock of Polynesia is a special gem and the formal establishment of the Niue Moana Mahu MPA and the Special Management Area, is signal of our continual commitment to ensure it is protected” – Hon Dalton Tagelagi, Minister for Natural Resources who made the Our Oceans announcement. |
| Local Engagement | High | Niue's parliament is the Fale Fono (General Assembly) and consists of 20 members. (14 constituency or 'village' seats and six 'common roll' seats) elected every three years by universal suffrage.  Each village has an area that they manage, protect, and can collect from. The R2R project under the Ministry of Natural Resource work with all the communities to designate and manage those areas.  There are a few local non-profits that actively drove the ocean conservation such as Tofia Niua (Moana Mahu & Nukutulueatama) or Oma Tafua (Whale sanctuary). |
| Achievable | Medium | Reasonable efforts to support the site could deliver tangible and significant impact but given the Small Island Developing State context of Niue, some challenges remain on implementing the Sustainable finance strategy and securing enough revenues to guaranty full financial autonomy. |
| Leverage | High | Niue’s protected 40% of its EEZ under strong protection in 2020 with the support of Ocean 5, national Geographic, and others. In 2022, Niue further designated its whole EEZ under a holistic approach to ensure sustainable management and further increase protection measures. By doing that, the country raised its conservation profile together with the challenges that are at stake and will likely attract the interest of new partners to support the sites’ efforts. The Alliance commitment to support the site incentivized Ocean 5 to agree on providing another round of support. Together with Government of Niue’s commitment to support its ocean, this represents USD 1.5M of funding prospect to be confirmed in the first quarter of 2022.  Our intervention 1, with support to fundraising effort, the creation of a dedicated financial vehicle (the trust fund) and the development of Ocean Conservation Units as a way for Niue to brand and rationalize their fundraising efforts will likely attract new donors. It is anticipated that at least USD $5 Millions could be raised in the next 3 years. Even though dedicated dialogue has not been engaged with New-Zealand, as an associated territory, partners of the NOW project are highly confident that NZ will also be a contributor to the Niue Trust Fund.  Finally, UNDP and supporting agencies (FAO / UNICEF) have approved a funding envelop (from the UN Joint SDG Fund) of up to USD $120K for Niue to support a Blue Economy strategy and proposal is currently under development. |

**Section 3: Summary Context + Background**

Niue, also called “The Rock,” is an uplifted atoll of 260 km² located approximately 2,400 km northeast of New Zealand. The country has a population of just over 1,600 and is a self-governing parliamentary democracy (Fono Ekupele) in free association with New Zealand. Niue has an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 390,000 km², but with no lagoon there are few locations for easy ocean access. The greater part of its coast is comprised of cliffs which rise to around 60 meters above sea level and the outer reef slope descends precipitously to 1,000 meters within 5 km of the shore. Niue is small, isolated, and located in a zone of low productivity. The EEZ contains ten seamounts and at least three outlying coral reefs, which are at or near the surface. These seamounts and reefs serve as important stopover locations for migratory species such as cetaceans, turtles, birds, and large fishes. Of these critical habitats, Nukutulueatama/ Beveridge reef is the largest and records the highest fish biomass. It constitutes an important source of gene and resource spillover for Niue.

Niue has put its entire Exclusive Economic Zone and Territorial Sea under a holistic management framework, the Nukutuluea Marine Spatial Management Plan (MSMP). Inclusive within the MSMP Niue approved the creation of the Niue Moana Mahu MPA together with the Nukutulueatama Beveridge reef SMA in April 2020 as part of the Niue Ocean Wide (NOW) project largely funded by Oceans 5. The two sites encompass 40% of Niue’s EEZ and are free from extractive activities, while supporting reasonable levels of sustainable use and compatible sustainable development in the remaining EEZ. Support for the two sites is provided by the Niue Ocean Wide (NOW) project, a public-private partnership between the Government of Niue, and a local Non-Profit Organization, Tofia Niue. The partnership includes a Project Advisory Team including key government departments, Niue tourism, private sector, and social entrepreneurs. NOW aims to improve livelihoods and resilience of Niuean communities through conservation and sustainable use of the entire EEZ, including tightly managed resource use zones and a world-class marine reserve. It also seeks to use these efforts to underpin a sustainable development trajectory for Niue increasing benefits to the country and communities of Niue in a variety of ways, building resilience to climate change and other risks. These include amongst others, sustainable tourism (enviro-tourism, eco-tourism etc.), cultural appreciation for the stewardship of the ocean and recognition of the value of ocean conservation as a global environmental benefit.

Niue and NOW have invested significant effort into conservation and sustainable development. The establishment of the Moana Mahu in 2020 exceeded expectations and implemented a whole domain approach to preserve their resources and livelihood from the shore to the open ocean. Yet, because of the country’s small size, limited economy, and high dependence on a limited number of external donors and grants, combined with a number of stakeholders and human resources limited as well, implementation has been challenging to sustain with many start-and-stop interventions.

**Additional detailed socio-environmental context**

*Environmental context*:

* **What are the unique characteristics of the site?**

Niue is an uplifted coralline island with the greater part of its coast comprised of an ancient, raised reef platform forming cliffs which rise to around 60 m above sea level. Niue has no lagoon and the outer reef slope descends precipitously to 1 000 m within 5 km of the shore. Cliffs predominate along much of the coastline and there are relatively few locations for ocean access. Niue is small, isolated, and located in a zone of low productivity, on the cool edge of the warm tropics but with much cooler waters and no significant nutrient-rich up-welling to support large fish stocks and seabird’s population. Consequently, Niue also lacks the thick phosphate rock formed from guano deposition of pre-human seabird rookeries that provides a nutrient source and boost life of coastal areas on other similar Islands (Nauru, Line Isl., Phoenix Isl.). The EEZ contains has close to 100 referenced seamounts, a few ridges and at least three outlying coral reefs, which are at or near the surface (Beveridge, Antipode, and Haran) that constitute important pinpoints marks for migratory species such as cetaceans, turtles, birds, and large fishes. Of these, Nukutulueatama / Beveridge reef, 240 km to the southeast of Niue, is the largest with a total area of 56 km² and constitute an oasis of life with much higher records of fish diversity and biomass that around Niue (See details below). This structure of the EEZ is culturally the most significant and it has an oral history and links with Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

Niuean's have a rich and lively culture and the ocean has played a great influence in the shaping of cultural practices, skills, knowledge, and a detailed vernacular for marine species. The gods (tupua), which presided over all fishing work, were Fakapoloto, Hakumani, Mēle and Lata, and prayers addressed to them were to ensure that the fishermen might be successful (olatia) in fishing. Detailed records describe how Niuean's became acquainted to various fishing practices and tools that were used by the gods. Perhaps the most iconic fishing practice in Niue to date is the Raka (Canoe) fishing which requires skills and experience to navigate and come onto the reef in rough weather.

* **What is the biological context of the site?**

A National Geographic Pristine Seas expedition was conducted in 2016 and performed a comprehensive quantitative survey including the largely unknown Nukutulueatama / Beveridge reef. Records from that expedition showed lower coral diversity and cover compared to the regional average. Fish diversity does not exceed 300 species and fish biomass around Niue was some of the lowest that were observed in the Pacific. This also applies to the pelagic fish assemblage with very few pelagic prey species (scads) for larger predators. The deep-water assemblage of species was however relatively diverse compared with other populated areas in the Pacific. Niue is a breeding ground for Humpback whales and other rare species of cetaceans such as the Blainville’s beaked whales cruise those waters. the Blainville’s beaked whales (*Mesoplodon densirostris* - Data Deficient by IUCN), a rarely seen species but known for their site-fidelity, were sighted several times at Beveridge Reef. Records of fish biomass are more than twice as large at Nukutulueatama / Beveridge reef than Niue and biomass of piscivores was 7.5 times larger. Densities of grey reef sharks in Nukutulueatama were the greatest in the world at the time of the survey by National Geographies’ Pristine seas. Niue’s relatively small size provides a restricted range of habitats (e.g., it lacks a reef lagoon) and limits species numbers and degree of endemism. The most iconic marine species of Niue is the Katuali or flat-tail sea snake (*Laticauda schistorhynchus*), which is endemic to Niue and is listed as Vulnerable.

* **What are the key threats to the site?**

As mentioned above, Niue already displays a lower diversity of life and biomasses than other islands in the region, hence relying on limited ecosystem services to sustain the island and its people. Coral reefs throughout the central and western Pacific are degrading, as a changing climate brings warmer and more acidic waters. Also, because of its location at 19 degrees south latitude, Niue experiences greater annual temperature variation than most of its Pacific Island neighbors and that has been even more exacerbated in the recent year with climate change amplification.

Overfishing in the region has also pummeled open-ocean fish stocks, including wild tuna, and making every season more difficult for commercial fishing and raka fishermen to provide for their family. The island's reefs are also still recovering from Heta, a Category-5 cyclone that dealt massive damage to Niue *in* 2004 and had a hard time recovering with coastal development, tourism, and modern fishing. The history of offshore fisheries by licensed foreign fleets has been sparse and at a very low rate.

*Socio-economic context:*

* **What are the socio-economic conditions of the general population and of nearby communities** **in the site?**

Niue faces significant challenges in achieving sustained social and economic development. It is one of the smallest countries in the world and has experienced the largest population decline of any country in recent history. Niue has a population of 1 600 in 2015 distributed in 14 coastal villages. The population of Niue continues to drop – from 5 200 in 1966 to about 1 499 in mid-2014. Migration has become the main influence on Niuean population dynamics, with population losses usually involving the younger age groups. As a result, Niue currently has the second oldest population in the Pacific, with a median age of 30.7 years and 58.5% of the population between 15-59 years (2006). Only Palau has an older population with a median age of 33. Niue has one of the highest (if not the highest) educational enrolment rates in the Pacific Islands, with every child under the age of 14 enrolled in school, and school enrolment rates only showing a modest decline at ages 15 (94%) and 16 (83%). Over half of the population (53%) claims to have a secondary education as their highest level of education; 33% has a tertiary education, and this has steadily increased from 15% 10 years ago, and 25% in 2001. 85% of all males, and 71% of all females participating in the labor force. On the human development side, Niue has amongst the lowest infant and maternal mortality rates in the Pacific and education enrolment is 100% throughout the island.

The GDP of the country is relatively high due to New-Zealand Aid program, but the economy suﬀers from the typical Pacific Island problems of geographic isolation, few resources, small population, and high emigration rate. Tourism development has been the main driver of economic growth in Niue with the whale sanctuary, diving, sport fishing and culture being the main assets of Niue. Improved flight connectivity, investment in accommodation facilities, and a coordinated marketing campaign have seen visitor arrivals rise from around 2,000 in 2005 to about 11,500 in 2017. At around eight visitors for every resident, this translates into one of the highest tourist-to-population ratios globally. Fiscal discipline, along with large and predictable inflows of overseas development assistance, have helped to ensure macroeconomic stability in Niue. The country’s development has particularly benefited from its close relationship with New Zealand, which provides significant technical and financial assistance.

* **How are the site’s resources currently used and by whom?**

Fisheries in the waters of Niue are primarily oriented to subsistence, but there is some small-scale commercial fishing and sporadic, offshore industrial-scale fishing (longlines). People in Niue go fishing for everyday food provision, non-monetary exchange, sales, but also well-being and community practice. The frequent exchange of seafood on a non-monetary basis further supports the argument that reef fishing in Niue has a traditional value and is part of the Niuean lifestyle: “Without the food source they rely on, there is nothing to pass on, Niue heritage would be lost- Niue Oceanwide Project -”. In 2005, only 1.4% of household relied on fishing as their first source of income and 8.7% as their second. The estimated annual per capita fishery products consumption was about 38 kg in 2013, 93% of which was produced by non-commercial fishers.

A 2011 census estimated that 346 men and 251 women worked in fisheries and that there was a total of 273 small, undecked boats. In 2016, the estimated catches were 38 Tonnes. In 2009, Most of the households were engaged in inshore fishing (62 percent) – 31 percent were involved in both inshore and offshore fishing, with the remaining 7 percent being involved in offshore fishing only. Household participation in fishing activity was very high across the country, ranging between 50-89% across the villages. The main purpose of household fishing activity was for home consumption, accounting for 82 percent of fishing households, with 16 percent selling some of their catches and the remaining 2 percent of households fishing mainly for sale. With respect to coastal fishing, Shore-based fishing techniques include hook and line, occasional gillnetting, reef gleaning, diving, and spearfishing. Fishing from boats close to the island includes shallow-water handlining and the traditional catching of *Decapterus* (ulihega). Further offshore, fishing activity consists mainly of trolling or vertical longlining, with a few other types of hook gear. Fishing effort is predominantly focused on anchored FADs, which are located within 3 nautical miles of the island. Invertebrates are quite important in Niue relative to neighboring countries. Lambeth and Fay-Sauni (2001) carried out research on invertebrates and seaweeds in Niue and recorded Niuean names for a total of 63 Niuean invertebrates and 3 seaweeds, with 41 of these collected for food.

Since 2003 there has been no authorized foreign fishing in Niue’s zone. US purse seine vessels are permitted under a multilateral treaty to fish in Niue’s EEZ, but actual fishing in Niue waters by those vessels has not occurred in many years. At the beginning of 2005, Niue began licensing longline vessels to fish under charter arrangement. Production from those boats reached a maximum in 2006 and early 2007. Fishing operations stopped in December 2007 and there has been no locally based offshore fishing in Niue since that time. A total of five out of eight vessels that were licensed to fish in 2014 engaged in fishing contributing to 4.3% of the GDP. These vessels were flagged to Fiji, Cook Islands, United States and Taiwan. As expected, albacore made up most of the catches, followed by yellowfin and bigeye.

As mentioned in the previous question, the tourism industry is a vital sector in the economy of the country including whale watching, diving, sport fishing and cultural experience being the main assets of Niue. The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted revenue streams derived from tourism. Niue has been named in the top ten fastest growing tourism destinations for 2017 by the United Nations World Tourism Organization

Niue Marine Protected Area encompasses 40% of its EEZ (approx. 127,000 square kilometers). The area is under strict protection and is closed to commercial fishing but allows indigenous, artisanal fishing and tourist sportfishing in some areas. As part of the protection, Niue is also ‘locking-up' a proportion of its fishing effort for conservation, and not just displace commercial effort into other areas. This action ensures that the creation of the protected area contributes to an overall downsizing of fishing effort, critical at a time when many international fish stocks are fully or over-exploited.

* **What (if any) Indigenous or traditional groups live in, depend on, or are connected to the site?**

Niuean's are of Polynesian ancestry. Niue is believed to have been inhabited for over a thousand years. Oral tradition and legends speak of the first settlement by Huanaki and Fao, together with the Fire Gods from Fonuagalo, the Hidden Land. Some authorities believe that the island was settled during two principal migrations, one from Samoa and one from Tonga with a smaller migration from Pukapuka in the Cook Islands. said to have settled from Samoa and Tonga. Their settlement on the island dates back to around 900 AD. Niue chiefs gained British Protectorate status in 1900, and in 1901 Niue was annexed to New Zealand. In 1974 Niue gained self-government in free association with New Zealand. Niue’s population is made up of one main ethnic group, Niuean's (67%) and Part-Niuean's (13%). The small minority of other ethnic groups in Niue include European, Chinese, Indian, Japanese and South Pacific Islanders, who have immigrated (20%).

Niue offers intellectual property protection on the basis of the patent, trademarks, design, and copyright laws of New Zealand.21 In addition to the current intellectual property laws, Niue has its own Archives Act, Niue Cultural Council Act and, at the administrative level, a Language Commission, and a Culture Heritage Unit called Tāoga Niue. Against this background, Niue needs to find its own way to meet the competing interests of traditional knowledge protection and intellectual property protection. There is a government commitment to formalize, by statute, the status of the Language Commission and the Tāoga Niue (Niue Culture), and it is in this context that steps are being considered which will make special provision for the identification, recording, and protection in perpetuity, of important aspects of Niue traditional knowledge.

The Niue Ocean Wide project is fully embedded in the island’s context and the holistic approach to ocean management is designed to support local communities and build-up their resilience in the face of climate change and changes in resources availability.

*Governance context:*

* **What are the legal and governance pathways available to designate new conservation areas and/or make management decisions?**

Niue decided to protect its waters amid concerns that its ecosystem and way of life are at high risk, but also with the willingness to preserve the wealth of its ocean to its visitors and future generations. Since the early 70’s, Niue has crafted a framework of regulations and international agreements that provides for fishing practices & migrating stocks, environment, wildlife and protected areas including a whales sanctuary (See Appendix 1). Customary and traditional practices have been promoted and enforced by the Government through the Niue R2R “Application of the Ridge-to-Reef concept in Niue” project which helps identify and plan for Community Conservation Areas.

In 2020 the country counted seven MPAs (including the 2 coastal and 3 terrestrials small MPA) with the creation, on the 21st of April 2020, of the Moana Mahu Marine Protected Area & Nukutulueatama Special Management Area, the country’s latest and most significant contribution to ocean conservation. “*Niue is fondly known as the Rock of Polynesia and over that last four year, we have come to realize how true that is. The Rock of Polynesia is a special gem and the formal establishment, is signal of our continual commitment to ensure it is protected* – Hon Tagelagi”. By creating tightly managed resource use zones and a world-class marine reserve, Niue’s global profile as a pristine eco-tourism destination is expected to rise, as well as its contribution to global marine conservation.

In 2021, The Government and people of Niue, in collaboration with Tofia Niue through the Niue Ocean Wide (NOW) project, approved new marine regulations that will ensure sustainable use across all of its sovereign waters (317,500 square kilometers). The Niue Nukutuluea Multiple-Use Marine Park builds on last year’s action to fully protect 40 percent of Niue EEZ and further safeguards 60 percent of its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). This is to be announced in 2022. Niue’s EEZ-wide action prioritizes sustainability and optimizing value and benefits to the Niuean people through spatial planning and five tightly managed to highly protected marine resource use zones. The decision also reflects Niue’s ancestral tradition of taking only what is needed from the ocean to sustain life and ensure continued abundance.

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) became effective on March 5, 2014. There are three key departments under the Ministry; Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Department of Environment; and Niue Meteorological Services. The MNR is responsible for the overall sustainable management and development of Niue’s natural resources, protection, and conservation our resources and environment, and climate change. The work of the Ministry is cross-cutting and multi-sectoral. The Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (DAFF) is the largest department working under the Ministry of Natural Resources of Niue. Its mandates traditionally cover a range of priorities associated with natural resources, primary industry, food production, pest. Within the EEZ and the continental shelf, Niue Cabinet has the exclusive right to authorize and regulate the establishment and management of Marine Protected Areas: The regulation of Moana Mahu & Nukutulueatama sites as well as the Nukutuluea Multiple use Marine Park will be administered by the DAFF and the Management plan for Nukutulueatama will be coordinated via the Niue R2R.

* **Characterize pertinent governance laws and policies, agencies and organizations, and decision-making processes related to the opportunity.**

Political System

Since 1974, Niue is a self-governing state in free association with New Zealand. Niue is one of the three states in the Realm of New Zealand. The Constitution of Niue came into force on 19 October 1974. It includes the Niue Constitution Act 1974 and the Niue Constitution. The Constitution of Niue is the supreme law of Niue. The Head of State is Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in right of New Zealand, represented by the Governor‑General of New Zealand in relation to Niue. In practice, the Queen and the Governor-General have little to do with Niue and executive authority is exercised on behalf of Her Majesty by the Niue Cabinet of Ministers. The executive authority of Her Majesty is exercised on her behalf by the Niue Cabinet of Ministers, which comprises the Premier and three other members of the Niue Assembly. Cabinet is constitutionally responsible for exercising the general authority of Niue and has the general direction and control of the executive government of Niue.

The Premier is the leader of the government and the chair of Cabinet. He is elected by the Niue Assembly members at the Assembly’s first meeting after a general election. Election is by an absolute majority of the members present and voting at that Assembly meeting. The Premier nominates three members of the Assembly for appointment as Ministers and allocates portfolios among the members of Cabinet.

The Niue Constitution establishes the Niue Legislative Assembly. Niue's parliament is the Fale Fono (General Assembly) and consists of 20 members (14 constituency or 'village' seats and six 'common roll' seats) elected every three years by universal suffrage. The 20 members elect a Premier, who then selects three cabinet ministers. Assembly members currently all serve as independents. The members appoint a speaker from outside their ranks. A Bill becomes law if it has been discussed in the Assembly and formally approved at three readings at which a minimum of 10 members are present. All Bills introduced into the Assembly and all Acts are in written in both Vagahau Niue and English. The sources of Niuean laws are, in order of priority:

The Constitution; Acts of the Assembly; Regulations; Niuean custom; The common law of Niue.

Government Ministers and Departments.

* **The Ministry of Natural Resources** - Became effective on March 5, 2014, with the appointment of the Director-General. There are three key departments under the Ministry: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Department of Environment; and Niue Meteorological Services. The Ministry of Natural Resources is responsible for the overall sustainable management and development of Niue’s natural resources, protection, and conservation our resources and environment, and climate change. The work of the Ministry is cross-cutting and multi-sectoral. The ministry is open to relationship development with all stakeholders from the community and national level to the regional and international level. **Has the authority to designate protection of marine ecosystems through the Maritime Zones Act 2019**. The following (relevant) departments are under the Ministry of Natural Resources
  + **Department of Environment** **Faahi Gahua Takatakaimotu**- Its mandates encompass all living organisms on land, air, and sea in Niue with stakes at the local, regional level as well as the international arena. The Department is in charge of implementing the Niue National biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015).
  + **The Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (DAFF)** - the largest department working under the Ministry of Natural Resources of Niue. The DAFF traditionally covers a broad range of focal areas associated with natural resource use and management, primary industry development and food production (terrestrial and marine), as well as pest and disease control internally and at borders (plant and animal). It includes security, monitoring, control and surveillance, and compliance roles in relation to regulatory policies across the three primary sectors of, Forestry & Fisheries. The department covers all scales of resource use from commercial through to the maintenance of traditional and subsistence resource use and farming practices. Sustainable natural resource management and development, food security, and import substitution, have, and continue, to be key drivers within the work of the department.
  + **The R2R** - Niue Ridge to Reef project (GEF/UNDP) is a multi-year and multimillion-dollar support to the government of Niue to expand the coverage and improve the management of marine protected areas with a focus on coastal waters and the Beveridge Reef. The GEF Pacific Ridge to Reef Program was developed to provide an opportunity for Pacific SIDS to develop and implement truly integrated approaches for the sustainable development of island economies and communities. The program further focuses on Water, Land, Forest, and Coastal Management to preserve Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services, Carbon Storage, Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods.
* **Niue’s Government Cabinet**: The executive authority of Her Majesty is exercised on her behalf by the Niue Cabinet of Ministers, which comprises the Premier and three other members of the Niue Assembly. Cabinet is constitutionally responsible for exercising the general authority of Niue and has the general direction and control of the executive government of Niue. The Premier is the leader of the government and the chair of Cabinet. He is elected by the Niue Assembly members at the Assembly’s first meeting after a general election. Election is by an absolute majority of the members present and voting at that Assembly meeting. The Premier nominates three members of the Assembly for appointment as Ministers and allocates portfolios among the members of Cabinet.
* **Statistic Niue Office** - The underlying purpose of the Niue Statistics Office is to uphold and administer the Niue Statistics Act 2009 and be a key provider and leader of statistical information and services to Government, Businesses, Non-Government Organizations, the People of Niue, and international organizations. Our activities support the Government development goal of the Niue National Strategic Plan (NNSP). Their mission is to collect, process, analyze, and disseminate accurate and timely statistics in accordance with the Niue Statistics Act 2009, the Niue National Strategic Plan 2016-2026 and to be consistent with international standards and user needs. The Office is also in charge of compiling data and reporting to Niue’s Sustainable Development Goals.

Relevant set of laws and policies

## **Wild species and ecosystems**

* [Environment Act 2015 (No. 333 of 2015).](http://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC181112)
* [Wildlife Act 1972.](http://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC088459)
* [Whale Watching Regulations 2016 (2016/03).](http://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC181115)
* [Whale Sanctuary Regulations 2003.](http://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC088458)
* [Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone (Beveridge Reef) Regulations 1997.](http://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC099564)
* [Wildlife Protected Species Notice 1991.](http://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC099546)

## **Sea**

* [Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone Act 1996 (Act No. 220 of 1997).](http://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC022343)
* [Maritime Zones Act 2013 (No. 323 of 2013).](http://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC136342)
* [Continental Shelf Act.](http://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC074537)
* [Contigus Zone Outer Limits Notice (No. 2013/2C).](http://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC159298)
* [Continental Shelf Outer Limits Notice (No. 2013/2E).](http://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC159299)
* [Territorial Sea Baselines Notice (No. 2A of 2013).](http://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC138479)
* [Territorial Sea Outer Limits Notice (No. 2013/2B).](http://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC159297)
* [Exclusive Economic Zone Outer Limits Notice (No. 2013/2D).](http://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC158866)
* [Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone (Amendment) Act 2006.](http://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC080551)

## **International agreements -**

* Agreement between the Government of the Cook Islands and the Government of Niue concerning the delimitation of the maritime boundary between the Cook Islands and Niue.
* Agreem[ent of the United States of America and the Government of Niue on the Delimitation of a Maritime Boundary.](http://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC021355)
* **Describe current stakeholder engagement processes related to ocean governance and marine conservation in the country or site.**

The NOW - Niue Ocean Wide project – is a Public-Private partnership between the Government of Niue and Tofia Niue. The project envisions a “holistic sustainable development and management of the ocean and its resources to improve livelihoods of Niuean’s now and into the future”. It focuses on the expansion of its protected estate through a combination of community conservation areas (CCA) and government-led protected areas. The project expects to strengthen the partnership between the Government of Niue (Ministry of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Department of Lands and survey, Department of Tourism), civil society (Tofia Niue), and the private sector (Niue tourism, Chamber of Commerce). The Goals are tied to Marine spatial Planning, Compliance strategy and Sustainable financing and it is under the NOW umbrella that Niue designated the Moana Mahu and Nukutulueatama sites. Since 2015, the MSP process has been conducted through the NOW project. The gazettement of the Moana Mahu in 2020 and the Niue marine Spatial Management Plan zoning was grounded in a thorough public consultation that expressed an overwhelming support and was acted by Niue’s Fale Fono, the Parliament that includes one representative of each of the 14 villages.

**Section 4: Strategy**

The site was established only a year ago and relies mainly on efforts from the NOW project and a small group of dedicated stakeholders that depend on grant funding from a few financial partners and limited government support to achieve conservation and sustainable development outcomes. Some of the keys to the Moana Mahu’s success in the long run will include a reasonable level of financial self-sufficiency with increased capacities in finance management and fundraising, additional human resources that are adequately trained, and the establishment of a Monitoring and Evaluation system that will enable the prioritization and planning of management activities as well as the tracking and reporting of management effectiveness to inform decision-making and demonstrate benefits from conservation measures. To maintain the momentum and buy-in from local communities and other government sectors, it is critical for the Moana Mahu to demonstrate measurable progress on key challenges, raise its regional/international profile and generate enough traction in the next few years. The Alliance proposes to support consolidation of Niue’s conservation momentum through two key interventions that should be implemented over two phases.

**1. Design, establish, and help resource a durable finance model that generates financial revenues in support of Government, NOW, and communities’ efforts to durably implement the sites.**

**The Background:**

Niue and NOW have invested significant effort into conservation and sustainable development. The establishment of the Moana Mahu in 2020 exceeded expectations and implemented a whole domain approach to preserve their resources and livelihood from the shore to the open ocean. Yet, because of the country’s small size, limited economy, and high dependence on a limited number of external donors and grants, implementation has been challenging to sustain with many start-and-stop interventions. The funding model currently in place is dependent on project grants and project-funded human capacity with limited term and scope objectives, which has prevented the NOW partners from building more sustainable capacity and laying the groundwork for incremental capability development over time.

To address this challenge, a Sustainable Financing Strategy (SFS) for NOW was developed, outlining opportunities for the establishment of an Operational Trust fund as a key vehicle for consolidating relevant revenue streams as well as an Endowment Fund large enough to generate sufficient annual yield in support of the Government, the NOW partnership, and the communities’ efforts to durably implement the Moana Mahu and associated sustainable development and resilience-building of Niue.

**The Intervention:**

The NOW project team represented by the Government of Niue and the local NGO Tofia Niue amongst the other partners, wishes to start implementing their Sustainable Finance Strategy in 2021. The Blue Nature Alliance wishes to collaborate with the NOW team in Niue to increase the NOW partnership’s capacity to access and generate critical conservation financing through the implementation of NOW’s SFS.

**In a Phase 1** (no-grant) that started in July 2021 and is still ongoing, our teams are collaborating to advance the foundational work of the Sustainable Financing Strategy (SFS) by the establishment of Niue’s first conservation trust fund (NTF), which is a long-term financing mechanism that can manage multiple funding types. The NTF is expected to have a permanent endowment fund, as well as other accounts that can manage other revenue streams (e.g., tourism user fees, project grants, etc). Based on a bottom-up cost analysis, the NOW project has determined that a NZD $20m (USD $13.5m) endowment will ensure long-term sustainable financing for Niue’s Moana Mahu MPA and full EEZ sustainable use commitments.

The NTF will be structured in accordance with international trust fund best practices, and will consolidate and manage sustainable financing to support the collective efforts of the Niue government and local communities to effectively protect the Moana Mahu and ensure implementation of Niue’s EEZ-wide marine spatial plan. This first phase of work includes the development of a detailed legal options assessment to determine the appropriate legal design for the NTF, based on key considerations that include fund governance arrangements, operations and administrative arrangements, investment options, etc.

To ensure the financial durability of the Moana Mahu and Niue’s broader ocean conservation goals, a diversified base of funding sources is necessary. The Alliance Conservation Finance Delivery Team, in partnership with McKinsey & Co., has been working with the Niue Ocean Wide team to help develop a roadmap to help Niue capitalize the NTF. With this foundational work in progress, the Blue Nature Alliance wishes to continue its collaboration with NOW.

**In a Phase 2** that will run until 2025, the NTF capitalization will be done through a three-pronged approach:

1) Design and issuance of ocean conservation units – a ‘credit’ type of mechanism that could be purchased by an interested investor, with the expectation that these units will secure and guarantee the long-term protection of Moana Mahu and sustainable ocean development for Niue’s future resilience

2) Philanthropic fundraising for capital contributions to the endowment as well as grant-based project funding

3) Development of long-term sustainable revenue sources.

It is envisioned that the Alliance will complete its effort to design and formally establish the NTF once the structure is endorsed by the Government of Niue. This will require extensive legal work to legally establish/incorporate the mechanism., This will also require a **consultative process to assess local stakeholder expectations for the fund and integrate these perspectives**. The NTF would enter a ‘start-up’ phase, where it will have to be operationalized, seed-funded and tested over the next 3 years with the objective of becoming fully operational and with sufficient revenues in the Trust and the Endowment to support NTF’s administrative costs and programmatic investment in support of the Moana Mahu, the EEZ Marine Spatial Management Plan (MSMP) and the R2R Community-based program.

The Alliance grant will be critical to kick-start the process of standing-up the NTF and will allow this start-up phase to focus on testing and **fully developing the operational elements and systems of the Trust**, which will include:

· Design and development of key governance and operational documents and systems, including the NTF Operations Manual, recruitment/training of the governing bodies of the NTF, staff recruitment/training, etc.

· Design and development of key strategic and programmatic frameworks for the NTF, including the development of a strategic plan, establishment of monitoring and evaluation systems, etc.

With this grant, **the Alliance will be supporting 2 key NTF staff positions, including a fundraising and partnership manager and a project coordinator over the next three years**. Other key roles (Executive Director, administration and operations assistant) will be initially supported by the Government of Niue. As additional revenue streams are secured and capacity increased, the NTF will gradually reduce any need for external funding, and the Alliance’s support for staff and operations can be expected to phase out within 24 to 36 months.

The Alliance CFDT and McKinsey will partner closely with the NOW team and the new NTF staff to support implementation of the capitalization strategy, with a major focus on the design of an innovative ocean conservation unit, which can potentially be a breakthrough in the way ocean conservation is quantified and financed. Analogous to a carbon credit, which offers environmental attributes attached to an asset (such as a standing forest), the OCU can represent the underlying ocean conservation values that are maintained/improved by Niue’s conservation efforts. Potential demand for these credits could be from Governments making 30x30 commitments, philanthropic, multilateral and bilateral organizations looking to support ocean conservation, private companies with regenerative commitments that are looking to offset their biodiversity footprint.

Given the global momentum for biodiversity protection for global biodiversity conservation in 2021, the Alliance CFDT believes there is potential appetite and interest for this form of credit, and will work with the Niue team an all aspects of design and issuance of the credit.

In addition to this, we will support the NTF efforts to attract new donors and raise more funds. The Alliance will support the NTF to develop a fundraising and partnership strategy and a phased capitalization plan to guide fundraising efforts. We will also help refine the impact narrative / elevator pitch and produce communication materials to approach key potential donors with interest in climate, sustainability, biodiversity, and OCUs. **Pending on successful certification as well as the NTF securing contributions of at least USD $1,000,000, the Alliance would invest USD$ 340,000 match-funding to buy-in C.U as a way to give credits to the C.U and incentivize donors.** Finally, we will also help explore and establish at least one new financial instrument to support durable sourcing of the NTF. Pending of most relevant options as reflected in the McKinsey analysis at the time of this work, our team could explore debt-swap like instruments, tax incentives, tourism fees options or other types of mechanism.

It is expected that at the end of this transitional stage, the trust is efficiently operated and has built-up enough seed funding to support operations and programmatic investment in future years. It is also expected that the funds have met the fiduciary standards as well as the operational history required to meet longer term donors’ requirements and confidence. By 2030, the NOW team expect to meet the capitalization target of approx. NZD$ 20M / USD$ 13.5M in their endowment and The Alliance intervention should help putting the NTF on the right track to achieve that.

**2. Develop the Nukutuluea’s Monitoring and Evaluation framework and demonstrate management effectiveness of the site**

**The Background:**

Evaluating management effectiveness is a prerequisite associated with the management of protected areas. Because some important resources and efforts are usually deployed to achieve management objectives, it is important to be able to demonstrate results and report to decision-makers, stakeholders, as well as donors and regional or international bodies. It is a matter of accountability, making the results of management understandable and meeting commitments wherever they are. Generally speaking, it can be said that a well-managed park is one that can demonstrate it. But beyond the reporting needs and most importantly, it is fundamental that sites’ managers are able to monitor and understand the state and trends of the natural and cultural values they are protecting, to understand and adapt to the associated socio-economic issues, to assess management efforts against impacts and finally, to adjust the management strategies accordingly. This assessment is vital for improving management over time. It is based on the establishment of a monitoring program which should allow managers to collect, regroup and analyze data on a chosen set of indicators and parameters. It is also an opportunity to bring the various stakeholders and partners together toward a shared objective.

With the creation of the Moana Mahu in 2020, most of the initial efforts from the NOW project between 2015 and 2022, have focused on bringing together the baseline knowledge to support the Marine Spatial Planning and designation of the site, developing and implementing a compliance strategy, working on a sustainable finance strategy, and developing partnership as well as strengthening communities and stakeholders' engagement to engage conservation activities. One output from those efforts is the existence of several data sets for both coastal (Reef monitoring, Water quality, Fisheries CPUE, Communities engagement…) and offshore areas (Tuna fisheries CPUE, Vessel tracking, Biodiversity baselines, Whale and shark monitoring ….). However, because of limited capacities and number of qualified professionals, those data set are dispersed across different Government agencies and intergovernmental organization (SPC, FFA, SPREP …), data series are quite variable in both quality and quantity (discontinued, incomplete, standalone), and they are not used to their full potential to help managers take appropriate decisions and inform on Management successes or challenges for Management. Also, there are existing Data management system such as the Environmental Information Management System (EIMS) developed under the GEF/UNDP funded R2R project or the Fisheries data management system but none of them were design to integrate the type of data and produce the outputs that are required to effectively monitor the Nukutuluea marine spatial plan.

**The intervention:**

To help address this and ultimately strengthen and demonstrate the management effectiveness of the site, the Blue Nature Alliance will help the NOW Team and Government of Niue developing their Monitoring and Evaluation framework including an adequate data management system, a first set of limited and robust indicators and a dashboard.

To achieve this, the first step will be to define the purpose of a monitoring program in good alignment with the Management objectives and identify a first set of standardized indicators that will use existing and reliable data, meet the managers requirements, and allow spatial and temporal comparisons. Those indicators should capture biophysics, socioeconomics, and governance parameters. Scientific and technical expertise will be mobilized through consultations and workshops with the relevant stakeholders and partners to specify the most relevant indicators to be used in a dashboard. Those indicators should come with a grid of reading, thresholds and, where needed, methodologies to collect data that inform indicators will be reviewed and standardized.

Those first indicators will be informed using in priority the existing sets of data across agencies and partner organizations. The data should be controlled, formatted, and collated in a dedicated data management system that allows interoperability and integration of multiple datasets. The system will be purposedly developed for this Monitoring and Evaluation framework and should allow data analysis to inform the indicators. In a second time a budgeted action plan will be developed to prioritize the new monitoring programs that will be needed to inform indicators with no existing data yet (The Alliance would not be financing new monitoring surveys). Ideally, the establishment of an effective data collection network should be facilitated by the development of dedicated partnerships (including with key intergovernmental organizations like SPC, SPREP, FFA). The benefits of those partnerships are multiple: mobilization of specific expertise and opportunities for learning, pooling of budgetary resources, collaborative work of stakeholders on joint objectives.

To facilitate decision-making and appropriate reporting, the Alliance will also support the development of a dashboard that will help communicate briefly, synthetically, and visually, the indicator results. We will also support communication and outreach efforts to socialize those results to communities, government leaders and donors.

To support this work, the Alliance will support the hiring of a M&E officer that is experienced and qualified in database and biostatistics. The M&E officer will be hosted by Niue’s office of Statistic but will coordinate among other Government agencies and data providers (including the Niue Trust Fund) to inform the system and strengthen M&E capacities of Government agencies and partner. He will be in charge of setting up and maintaining the data management system, analyzing data, building the indicators, advising on the design of the Dashboard, and mobilizing expertise as needed.

During the third year of this project and to effectively assess management effectiveness, an independent audit will be conducted. The audit should help identify existing gaps and possible improvements.

Finally, to complement the two interventions and really because Niue drastically lacks human resources to support conservation efforts, the Alliance would like to contribute raising the next generation of champions. the Alliance will be supporting a fellowship program and sponsor 6 students (two per year) from the community in Niue or abroad in their last year and in a curriculum relevant to the Moana Mahu and MSM, that would include a sponsored mentorship with the NTF or one of the Government Agency. The students will be participating in the Network activities and discussions and will also report to the Network.

**Section 5: Risks**

*Summary:*

**Sustainable finance -**

The current expectation for the endowment fund’s annual yield by 2030 may be unrealistically high (USD$13.5M of capital in the endowment fund at 5% annual return rate for USD$675,000 of annual return). The NOW team has confirmed that this capitalization target was set as an ‘optimal’ scenario, and e recalibrated based on the amount of capital that Niue can successfully raise for this endowment. As with any fundraising effort, prospects of successes are uncertain, although the remarkably capable and well-connected leadership of the NOW project should serve to mitigate this risk. Another key mitigating factor is that the Niue Trust Fund will have 3 years of operating budget and staff capacity to allow the Niue team to build and test fund operations and fully engage in fundraising and partnership development efforts.

The status of the local economy under COVID-19 – specifically the tourism sector – has diminished the country’s capacity to generate enough revenues for conservation. In 2018, the private sector, through tourism, was the main contributor to GDP and was anticipated to be a major economic driver for the country. The COVID crisis, however, has taken a huge toll on Niue’s tourism economy. The NOW project raised Niue’s international profile as a global destination for sustainable tourism. With Niue Tourism as a member of the NOW partnership, they had increased tour operators’ sustainability and with it the expectation to further drive economic growth. Over the past year, NOW has trained some tourism operators to take on other roles within project implementation.

It is unclear whether there will be a sufficient market for these conservation units to attract the needed conservation funding. NOW has assessed their ecosystem service values and maximum sustainable yield from their Ocean estate and seeks to package these values into ‘ocean conservation units.’ They have the buy-in from the local private sector which is a member of the NOW partnership and sees the benefit of a sustainable finance strategy, and they have support from the New-Zealand High commissioner for some of their conservation finance concepts, who has indicated that New Zealand may purchase ocean conservation units to contribute to meeting New Zealand’s Sustainable Development Goal commitments. The Alliance team has planned a sequential development and careful rollout of the OCU concept, with several risk assessment steps integrated to ensure that reputational and other risks are fully considered (with controls in place) before any public-facing launch of the concept. Moreover, the planned phasing is designed such that even if the Alliance determines that the OCU concept will not be pursued further, the conceptual, financial and conservation impacts analysis supported by the Alliance will benefit Niue’s broader conservation, development, and fundraising goals. Overall, the capitalization strategy is not only betting on the OCU’s and will implement a three-pronged approach to secure seed-funding in the Endowment fund.

**Additional risk information**

* **What are the biggest political and governance risks to achieving the anticipated Alliance outcome?**

When initiated, the NOW project was supported by Niue’s former Premier, Hon. Toke Talagi. Niue's most recent general election was held on 30 May 2020. The Fale Fono elected the Hon Dalton Tagelagi as Premier for three years with the possibility of re-election. He formerly served as Minister for Natural Resources in the late government and coordinated the work toward the creation of Moana Mahu. Hon. Tagelagi is also Niue's Minister for Foreign Affairs.

On 6th July 2020, the new Minister of Natural Resources Hon. Esa Sharon Mona Faitala Ainu'u was appointed for the next three years. She is the only female parliamentarian in the current Cabinet Ministers of the Government of Niue. She is no stranger to the Ministry as for the previous Government, she was the Member Assisting Minister (MAM) for Hon. Dalton Tagelagi who was Minister for Ministry of Natural Resources. With this political landscape, the joint commitments to SDGs with New-Zealand and the ongoing support of external partners, the implementation and strengthening of Moana Mahu & Nukutulueatama is much likely to remain a strong priority for the country in the coming years and over the length of the Alliance intervention.

In addition, the New-Zealand Government is a strong ally to Niue, and this is reflected in the 2019-2023 Statement of Partnerships which one of the common priorities listed is “resilience, environment and climate change”. The dialogue between Niue and New-Zealand is established through the role of the high Commissioner to Niue which is assumed by Helen Tunnah since July 2020. New Zealand also works regionally and internationally towards a healthy Pacific Ocean and good management of its resources through the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner, Dame Meg Taylor.

**The highest political and governance risk foreseen could come from disengagement or critics from other Government Ministries** which could affect the level of Government’s resources attributed to conservation or to some extent the engagement of stakeholders from other sectors. In small islands context with a relatively low population, this shouldn’t be underestimated. However, the NOW is a multi-partner public-private partnership that is established to optimize consultation and transparency in the decision-making process to ensure that ongoing communication helps prevent and address potential issues. The project is also tailored to generate resources and increase capacities to the benefit of Government, the socio-professional sector, and communities. Measurable progress early in the project and in the longer term should ensure the momentum is sustained and political risk mitigated.

* **What are the biggest social and community risks to achieving the anticipated Alliance outcome?**

**Support for Nukutuluea Park and the Moana Mahu from the Niuean People**: A risk to the sustainability of the Moana Mahu and the whole Nukutuluea marine park is having sufficient support from the people of Niue and engagement from the economic sector. Since the Moana Mahu and Nukutulueatama sites are located on offshore marine areas, which the majority of the Niuean people do not interact with, the lake of tangible benefits to people in coastal waters could mean overtime a lost in interest and overall support.

In order to prevent this, the NOW project was designed and is being implemented with the aims of improving the livelihoods and resilience of Niuean communities through conservation and sustainable use of the entire EEZ. It also seeks to use these efforts to underpin a sustainable development trajectory for Niue increasing benefits to the country and communities of Niue in a variety of ways, building resilience to climate change and other risks. These include, amongst others, sustainable tourism, cultural appreciation for the stewardship of the ocean and recognition of the value of ocean conservation as a global environmental benefit. The NOW project also works in conjunction with the R2R - Niue Ridge to Reef project (GEF/UNDP) - a multi-year and multimillion-dollar support to the government of Niue to expand the coverage and improve the management of marine protected areas with a focus on coastal areas and in support to the 14 villages spread around the coastline. For that matter, it will be critically important to align the Alliance interventions with the NOW project’s global vision and with the Niue National Strategic Plan (2016-2026) that provides relevant frameworks for alignment on conservation, fisheries, and development.

To help ensure that the Niuean public continues to support the Nukutuluea marine park including the Moana Mahu and encourages its long-term implementation, it is important to raise awareness of the ways that the initiative benefits the people of Palau. There are numerous benefits from the Nukutulueata marine park including: helping to maintain the ecological integrity of Niue’s critical marine ecosystems, contributing to food security through the downscaling of tuna industrial fishing effort in the rest of the EEZ and tight control for strong protection areas to the benefit of adjacent artisanal fisheries, and promoting of additional tourism arrivals by individuals that are interested in conservation, cultural preservation and education of Niue’s culture regarding the Nukutulueata. In that sense and as mentioned in the question above, the Alliance investment is also tailored to generate resources to the benefit of Government, the socio-professional sector, and communities but also to increase capacities in Monitoring and Evaluation so management effectiveness can be demonstrated and communicated to keep decision-makers, stakeholders and communities engaged.

**Section 6: Projected Timeframe and Cost Estimate**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Key Intervention** | **Phase 1**  **(Previously Approved)** | **Phase 2** |
|  | **2021** | **Mar 2022-Mar 2025** |
| Durable finance model | $0 | $723,000 |
| Monitoring & Evaluation Framework | $0 | $378,000 |
| *Alliance technical input across all interventions* | *$67,640* | *$179,000* |
| *Flexible funds to respond to emerging needs* | *$0* | *$256,000* |
| **Alliance Funding Envelope** | **$ 67,640** | **$1,536,000** |
| **$1,603,640** | |
| Estimated value of McKinsey in-kind technical inputs | $144,000 | $216,000 |
| Likely leverage (Oceans 5, Government of Niue, UNDP) | $80,000 | $1,712,000 |
| Target Niue Trust Fund Capitalization by 2025 (likely donors include New Zealand Government) |  | $3,000,000 |
| **Engagement Total2** | **$291,640** | **$6,464,000** |
| **$6,755,640** | |

**Section 7: Partner Assessment**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Implementation*** | ***Leverage*** |  |  |
| ***Partner Name*** | ***Partner Type*** | | ***Key Roles*** | ***Capacity Considerations*** |
| Government of Niue – Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) | X | X | In charge of implementing the Nukutuluea management plan and transitioning out the NOW project to the Niue Trust Fund.  Also, in charge of Monitoring and evaluating progress toward the management plan and ultimately report on Management effectiveness. Will support core staff for the NTF in initial “Transition phase” and co-fund operational needs of the NTF. | Need to secure financial resources for a more programmatic approach of management. Will require capacities development in M&E including data management, Indicator's definitions, and dashboard development. |
| Niue Ocean Wide / Tofia Niue | X |  | In charge of implementing management activities on behalf of the MNR and coordinating work among stakeholders and communities. Will progressively transit out to the Niue Trust Fund. | Capacities needs reflected under the Niue Trust Fund below. |
| Niue Trust Fund | X | X |  | Will require initial staffing as well as start-up admin costs. Will need on-boarding training and ongoing support + Staff mentoring on finance analytics. Will also require fundraising support to leverage target funding requirement for operational costs in future. Will require CDL support on M&E and reporting impact of investments. Communication training is also to be anticipated. |
| Niue Office of Statistics | x | x | Mission is to collect, process, analyze, and disseminate accurate and timely statistics. | Will require one dedicated staff to support dedicated M&E of the Nukutulueata park and coordinate stakeholders. Staff may require specific training and travel exchange with regional crop agencies. |

**Section 7: Scoping Methodology**

*Summary:*

Our team was introduced to the NOW team (Brendon Pasisi and Coral Pasisi) as well as the Government of Niue – Ministry of Natural Resources (Josie Tamate) at the end of 2020 by the Alliance’s partner GLISPA (Kate Brown) as the NOW project is a member of GLISPA.

Our team conducted the initial desktop assessment and scoping through online document review and interviews with GLISPA and Conservation International Pacific Island who have formerly worked in Niue and engaged with those stakeholders. A discussion was also held with Ocean 5 (Seth Horstmeier) to gather feedback from O5 as the funder of the Moana Mahu designation (2015-2021).

The first introduction call with the NOW team was held in January 2021 and a series of meetings helped identify immediate needs from the NOW team that the Alliance could support with technical assistance and with no need to disburse any grant. An MoU was signed in August 2021 and Phase 1 of this partnership was launched immediately (with the Support of the McKinsey group) and is still ongoing (January 2022). This phase 1 clearly helped build and strengthen the relationship and trust between the Alliance and the NOW team.

Between June 2021 and January 2022, a series of 43 meetings (At least) both technical and for scoping purpose were held with the NOW team and the Alliance + McKinsey to progress on activity of Phase 1 but also scope and draft interventions for a Phase 2 implementation with a Grant this time.

*Insights and Barriers***:**

With limited staff and people involved in the implementation of Niue’s Marine Spatial Planning, our scoping process has stretched a lot the engagement capacity of three people (Coral, Brendon, Josie) which are already much busy with their own daily obligations. Also, given the nature of Sustainable finance and the complexity of these particular issues, the workflow and planning had to be constantly adjusted to the capacities of the team (NOW/Alliance) to progress and plan forward. As a result, it has been challenging to develop the Engagement framework the “classic” way and our team had to mix between direct interviews, shared drafting, and work session on detailed workplan to gather the full collective thinking and elaborate interventions that are achievable and relevant. A lot of time has been dedicated to the Intervention 1 on Sustainable Finance which has come quite solid. Though for the second intervention on Capacity Development, and although gaps in human resources and stakeholders' engagement were identified, the intentions and details behind the intervention have remained quite vague until late in the process. It is only in the last series of calls that the team decided to switch gear and bring the focus to Monitoring & Evaluation and capacities to assess management effectiveness. The Alliance lead and team in Niue believe that this process could have been fast-tracked with a trip in-country, but this was not permitted due to the Covid-19 global crisis and flights limitation.

*Partner/stakeholder engagement log*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Type of Engagement** | **Purpose/Topic:** | **Participants:** |
| *1/15/21* | *Introduction call* | *Introduce the Alliance, learn more about the NOW project* | *Coral Pasisi, Brendon Pasisi, Carmen Fuhiniu, Naia Lewis, Aulani Wilhelm* |
| *3/5/21* | *Engagement framework – Phase 1* | *Develop partnership Phase 1* | NOW (Brendon Pasisi, Coral PAsisi, Josie Tamate), Alliance (Mael Imirizaldu, Scott Atkinson, Naia Lewis, Christopher Stone) |
| *3/10/21* | *Engagement framework – Phase 1* | *Develop partnership Phase 1* | NOW (Brendon Pasisi, Coral PAsisi, Josie Tamate), Alliance (Mael Imirizaldu, Scott Atkinson, Naia Lewis, Christopher Stone) |
| *4/8/21* | *Engagement framework – Phase 1* | *Develop partnership Phase 1* | NOW (Brendon Pasisi, Coral PAsisi, Josie Tamate), Alliance (Mael Imirizaldu, Scott Atkinson, Naia Lewis), GLISPA (Kate Brown) |
| *4/20/21* | *Engagement framework – Phase 1* | *Develop partnership Phase 1* | NOW (Brendon Pasisi, Coral PAsisi, Josie Tamate), Alliance (Mael Imirizaldu, Scott Atkinson, Naia Lewis), GLISPA (Kate Brown) |
| *4/23/21* | *Engagement framework – Phase 1* | *Develop partnership Phase 1* | NOW (Brendon Pasisi, Coral PAsisi, Josie Tamate, Carmen Fuhiniu), Alliance (Mael Imirizaldu, Christopher Stone) |
| *5/5/21* | *Engagement framework – Phase 1* | *Develop partnership Phase 1* | Mael Imirizaldu, Brendon Pasisi, Coral Pasisi, Josie Tamate |
| *5/28/21* | *Work Session* | *Kick off call on NOW Trust fund* | NOW (Coral Pasisi, Brendon Pasisi, Josie Tamate/Alliance (Andrew Shatz, Diego Garrison, Christopher Stone, Michael McGreevey, Mael Imirizaldu) |
| *6/10/21* | *Work Session* | *Trust Fund design and development* | NOW (Coral Pasisi, Brendon Pasisi, Josie Tamate/Alliance (Andrew Shatz, Diego Garrison, Christopher Stone, Michael McGreevey, Mael Imirizaldu) |
| *6/11/21* | *Work Session* | *Financial Assessment* | Mc Kinsey / NOW (Coral Pasisi, Brendon Pasisi, Josie Tamate |
| *6/18/21* | *Work Session* | *Financial Assessment* | Mc Kinsey / NOW (Coral Pasisi, Brendon Pasisi, Josie Tamate |
| *6/25/21* | *Work Session* | *Financial Assessment* | Mc Kinsey / NOW (Coral Pasisi, Brendon Pasisi, Josie Tamate |
| *7/1/21* | *Work Session* | *Trust Fund design and development* | NOW (Coral Pasisi, Brendon Pasisi, Josie Tamate/Alliance (Andrew Shatz, Diego Garrison, Christopher Stone, Michael McGreevey, Mael Imirizaldu) |
| *7/2/21* | *Work Session* | *Financial Assessment* | Mc Kinsey |
| *7/8/21* | *Work Session* | *Trust Fund design and development* | NOW (Coral Pasisi, Brendon Pasisi, Josie Tamate/Alliance (Andrew Shatz, Diego Garrison, Christopher Stone, Michael McGreevey, Mael Imirizaldu) |
| *7/22/21* | *Work Session* | *Trust Fund design and development* | NOW (Coral Pasisi, Brendon Pasisi, Josie Tamate/Alliance (Andrew Shatz, Diego Garrison, Christopher Stone, Michael McGreevey, Mael Imirizaldu) |
| *7/23/21* | *Engagement framework – Phase 2* | *Kick-off call* | Mael Imirizaldu, Brendon Pasisi, Coral Pasisi, Josie Tamate |
| *7/29/21* | *Work Session* | *Trust Fund design and development* | NOW (Coral Pasisi, Brendon Pasisi, Josie Tamate/Alliance (Andrew Shatz, Diego Garrison, Christopher Stone, Michael McGreevey, Mael Imirizaldu) |
| *7/30/21* | *Engagement framework – Phase 2* | *Develop partnership Phase 2* | Mael Imirizaldu, Brendon Pasisi, Coral Pasisi, Josie Tamate |
| *8/19/21* | *Work Session* | *Trust Fund design and development* | NOW (Coral Pasisi, Brendon Pasisi, Josie Tamate/Alliance (Andrew Shatz, Diego Garrison, Christopher Stone, Michael McGreevey, Mael Imirizaldu) |
| *9/2/21* | *Work Session* | *Trust Fund design and development* | NOW (Coral Pasisi, Brendon Pasisi, Josie Tamate/Alliance (Andrew Shatz, Diego Garrison, Christopher Stone, Michael McGreevey, Mael Imirizaldu) |
| *9/16/21* | *Work Session* | *Trust Fund design and development* | NOW (Coral Pasisi, Brendon Pasisi, Josie Tamate/Alliance (Andrew Shatz, Diego Garrison, Christopher Stone, Michael McGreevey, Mael Imirizaldu) |
| *9/30/21* | *Engagement framework – Phase 2* | *Develop partnership Phase 2* | Mael Imirizaldu, Brendon Pasisi, Coral Pasisi, Josie Tamate |
| *10/7/21* | *Work Session* | *Trust Fund design and development* | NOW (Coral Pasisi, Brendon Pasisi, Josie Tamate/Alliance (Andrew Shatz, Diego Garrison, Christopher Stone, Michael McGreevey, Mael Imirizaldu) |
| *10/8/21* | *Work Session* | *Trust Fund design and development* | NOW (Coral Pasisi, Brendon Pasisi, Josie Tamate/Alliance (Andrew Shatz, Diego Garrison, Christopher Stone, Michael McGreevey, Mael Imirizaldu) |
| *10/13/21* | *Engagement framework – Phase 2* | *Develop partnership Phase 2* | Mael Imirizaldu, Brendon Pasisi, Coral Pasisi, Josie Tamate |
| *10/22/21* | *Engagement framework – Phase 2* | *Develop partnership Phase 2* | Mael Imirizaldu, Brendon Pasisi, Coral Pasisi, Josie Tamate |
| *10/28/21* | *Work Session* | *Trust Fund design and development* | NOW (Coral Pasisi, Brendon Pasisi, Josie Tamate/Alliance (Andrew Shatz, Diego Garrison, Christopher Stone, Michael McGreevey, Mael Imirizaldu) |
| *11/4/21* | *Engagement framework – Phase 2* | *Develop partnership Phase 2* | Mael Imirizaldu, Brendon Pasisi, Coral Pasisi, Josie Tamate |
| *11/11/21* | *Work Session* | *Trust Fund design and development* | NOW (Coral Pasisi, Brendon Pasisi, Josie Tamate/Alliance (Andrew Shatz, Diego Garrison, Christopher Stone, Michael McGreevey, Mael Imirizaldu) |
| *11/18/21* | *Communication Sync* | *Niue Announcement* | NOW (Coral Pasisi, Brendon Pasisi, Josie Tamate/Alliance (Mael Imirizaldu, Ashleigh McGovern, Annette Raveneau, Jenny Parker, Jessica Brown, Anastasia Khoo, Ken Willis) |
| *11/24/21* | *Communication Sync* | *Niue Announcement* | Mael Imirizaldu, Brendon Pasisi |
| *11/25/21* | *Engagement framework – Phase 2* | *Develop partnership Phase 2* | Mael Imirizaldu, Brendon Pasisi, Coral Pasisi, Josie Tamate |
| *12/1/21* | *Engagement framework – Phase 2* | *Develop partnership Phase 2* | Mael Imirizaldu, Brendon Pasisi, Coral Pasisi, Josie Tamate |
| *12/8/21* | *Engagement framework – Phase 2* | *Develop partnership Phase 2* | Mael Imirizaldu, Brendon Pasisi, Coral Pasisi, Josie Tamate |
| *12/9/21* | *Work Session* | *Trust Fund design and development* | NOW (Coral Pasisi, Brendon Pasisi, Josie Tamate/Alliance (Andrew Shatz, Diego Garrison, Christopher Stone, Michael McGreevey, Mael Imirizaldu) |
| *12/15/21* | *Engagement framework – Phase 2* | *Develop partnership Phase 2* | Mael Imirizaldu, Brendon Pasisi, Coral Pasisi, Josie Tamate |
| *12/16/21* | *Engagement framework – Phase 2* | *Develop partnership Phase 2* | Mael Imirizaldu, Brendon Pasisi, Coral Pasisi, Josie Tamate |
| *12/22/21* | *Engagement framework – Phase 2* | *Develop partnership Phase 2* | Mael Imirizaldu, Brendon Pasisi, Coral Pasisi, Josie Tamate |
| *12/23/21* | *Work Session* | *Trust Fund design and development* | NOW (Coral Pasisi, Brendon Pasisi, Josie Tamate/Alliance (Andrew Shatz, Diego Garrison, Christopher Stone, Michael McGreevey, Mael Imirizaldu) |
| *12/29/21* | *Engagement framework – Phase 2* | *Develop partnership Phase 2* | Mael Imirizaldu, Brendon Pasisi, Coral Pasisi, Josie Tamate |
| *1/5/22* | *Engagement framework – Phase 2* | *Develop partnership Phase 2* | Mael Imirizaldu, Brendon Pasisi, Coral Pasisi, Josie Tamate |
| *1/8/22* | *Engagement framework – Phase 2* | *Develop partnership Phase 2* | Mael Imirizaldu, Brendon Pasisi, Coral Pasisi, Josie Tamate |

**Section 8: Impacts of Alliance Engagement on Social and Gender dynamics**

* **Characterize how women and men use, access, and depend on resources in the site.**

In a survey of 2009, Of the 564 people who engaged in fishing the week before the census night, 201 were females and 363 were males. Both men and women are involved in food production activities, and this is reflected in the Niue National Policy on Gender Equality and Plan of Action 2014-2018 as one of its key outcomes is economic development and food security. Traditionally, reef resources are more valued than pelagic fishes. If everybody fish on the reef, gleaning is mostly a women activity while outrigger fishing is mostly done by men. Both men and women practice the seasonal rod-fishing of the atule (*Selar crumenophthalmus*). Most of seafoods are for family consumption or share within the community, but when there is a surplus, seafood is sold either raw or cooked more predominantly by women at the Alofi market, from home, or to restaurants, hotels, and shops.

Overall, 85% of all males, and 71% of all females participate in the labor force. There is a slightly higher proportion of women (86.1%) than men (85.7%) working in paid employment, with most men (83%) and women (76%) working for pay or running a business. The Niuean government is the main employer (56%), followed by the private sector (22%), self-employment (17%) and non-governmental organizations (5%). The most striking features of Niue’s occupational profile are the absence of any dominant occupation, and the fact that most occupational categories are dominated by either a male or female work force. Apart from there being a near gender parity in the technical/associated professional category and among service/ shop/market sales workers, clerical office work is the domain of women (89%), with women (62%) also outnumbering men at a ratio of 2:1 among professionals. All other occupations appear as more predominantly male domains. The dominance of the public sector providing employment in Niue is also clearly illustrated when examining labor force activities across sectors, with public administration (24%) and (public) health and education services (16%) emerging as the largest employers, alongside primary industries (16%), and wholesale/retail trade and hotel and restaurant sectors (11%). The G20 tourism ministers have committed to focusing on the promotion of jobs in the tourism sector, particularly for women and youth (UNWTO, 2016). As small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) are acknowledged as key components of tourism, the UNWTO also seeks to promote the role of SMEs in the global economy (UNWTO, 2016).

* **Describe how women and men participate in decision-making processes and management actions, as well as opportunities for or barriers to women’s full participation.**

A stocktake of the Government’s gender mainstreaming capacity, undertaken by the Pacific Community (SPC) in 2015, indicated that the objective of increasing women’s participation in decision-making in Niue was in line with the national strategic plan’s good governance pillar to ensure participation and inclusiveness in Niue. But the report also found that while the Government had a draft national policy on gender equality, there was a lack of awareness on gender quality challenges and that there was limited resources and technical capacity to address these challenges. Less than 2 per cent of the national budget allocated was to the Department of Women.

There is currently only a limited representation of women in the National Parliament with five women out of the 20 members since 2017 and a drop to only three women in 2020. With a quarter of parliamentarians being women between 2017-2020, Niue used to have the highest percentage of women in a national parliament in the Pacific (excluding Australia and New Zealand). Former Premier Young Vivian in his last term in Parliament from 2014 – 2017 proposed legal reforms to provide for reserved seats for women MPs. However, there is reluctance in the population to accept the concept of reserving seats in the House for women. According to research by BCN senior journalist for the University of the South Pacific in completing her Post-graduate Diploma in Governance, 66 percent of the respondents do not agree that Niue should adopt temporary special measures such as a quota system or reserving seats for women. Even during the campaign period for the 2020 general election, there were no mentions of or consideration for reserving seats for women but there was one candidate who campaigned to reserve 2 seats in the House for the youth. In the public service, women are underrepresented in senior management positions. Niue’s women MPs have formed a women’s parliamentary group named Matakau He Tau Ekepule Fifine Ha Niue / Niue Women’s Parliamentary Alliance, with the vision: To be a responsive and committed women’s parliamentary group that works together for the betterment of the communities they represent, through active involvement on issues affecting women and communities. Its members are current and former women MPs, with an Associate Member category for women business, community and public-sector leaders who share the vision. Women’s parliamentary caucuses is a way of ensuring that gender equality and the SDGs are on the agenda of Parliaments and encourage Niue women to claim the decision-making space.

Strong gender stereotypes as to what constitutes women’s and men’s roles have created an inequitable participation in the labour force and food production. Niue has one of the smallest populations in the world, with around 1,600 people living on the island. While no time-use surveys have been undertaken for Niue, anecdotal reports highlight that in most families, women spend more time than men caring for children, the sick and the elderly, and that they also spend more hours cooking and cleaning than men do. This is the case whether or not both partners work outside the home and/or in unpaid agricultural work. As a result, women have less free time to enjoy leisure activities, engage in community and national decision-making processes and look after their own health.

Three inter-related factors that affect the enabling environment for gender mainstreaming are: a) the small size of civil society and the limited civil society focus on social change and human rights advocacy; b) the dominance of one church denomination; and c) a widely held perception in the public and private sectors that gender inequality does not exist in Niue. These combine with traditions of custom and respect – especially those that inhibit younger people from challenging older people and women from challenging men in decision-making contexts – to maintain a status quo and prevent examination of evidence about gender equality and gendered power dynamics. The dynamics noted in this paragraph also undermine support for women standing for election and for women who do get elected to take non-traditional portfolios in government.

An additional factor that inhibits gender mainstreaming is related to accountability of donors and development partners to their own gender policies. All major donors and regional agencies have comprehensive gender policies and gender is required to be a consideration in their work.

However, this is not always initiated, explained, or followed up in meetings with government, nor in programme and technical assistance. Also, if the Niue government asks development partners to support increased gender responsiveness in sectoral initiatives – for example in fisheries, agriculture, or health – donors should be able to carry out an analysis and identify indicators to measure change on gender issues related to a specific sector or cross-cutting area of work. This is an area where donor's coordination can improve gender mainstreaming across the whole of government, but it needs to be driven by Niue. The Alliance will ensure that gender safeguards are applied in accordance with its code of conduct to all partners and donors associated to this partnership. Gender training will be included in the activities and held as much as necessary throughout the project.

* **What are the anticipated positive and negative impacts of achieving the Alliance outcome on gender dynamics between men and women and gender-based violence?**

Our intervention will partner with the Niue-Ocean Wide project that established the MPA system with objectives to protect and enhance biodiversity together with building-up resilience of livelihoods and economy in face of Climate Change. By boosting the system, we expect to reach the associated environmental and social outcomes, including but not limited to, increased resource availability transposable to revenues & incomes, direct employment opportunities, including some high-level positions with the directly tied to the NOW project. Working under best ESIA guidance and relevant M&E tracking, we will help bridge the gap in gender equity with positive impacts on dynamic and balance between men and women.

The Alliance support will mostly focus on sustainable finance and increased capacities to help implement the Marine Spatial Planning of the Site. To stimulate greater economic development, the government is promoting tourism with an annual target of 15-20,000 visitors as well as private sector development. These are necessary development strategies and the Niue Ocean Wide team, with the support of the Alliance will explore financing mechanism that will build on the tourism sector growth to generate new revenue streams for the management and implementation of the site. However, we must be aware that increasing the number of visitors to the island can put undue pressure on an already fragile food supply system, infrastructure that supports the food systems and natural environment to meet increasing demands. That development may affect gender dynamics as well. To promote food security and import substitution, and to ensure that families can afford to stay in Niue, the Niue Government’s draft gender equality policy stresses the importance of both men and women participating in all aspects of subsistence food production. As an example, encouraging niche markets for food and aquaculture products – linked to tourism and trade – as well as development of entrepreneurial skills for women will support economic empowerment.

* **What are the anticipated positive and negative impacts of achieving the Alliance outcome on cultural heritage?**

The Niue Ocean Wide project that the Alliance is looking at supporting is an initiative lead both by the Government and the civil society that includes various partners representative of Niue’s network of stakeholders. It was grounded in a thorough public consultation that expressed an overwhelming support and was acted by Niue’s Fale Fono, the Parliament that includes one representative of each village. Working under the Niue Ocean Wide framework should ensure Cultural appropriateness of the Alliance interventions and should support community empowerment as a positive impact.

As noted, in the previous question, the Alliance will help the implementation of a sustainable finance strategy and part of Niue’s strategy to capture revenue streams for conservation will focus on increasing tourism on the island. The government has a Responsible Tourism Plan that should guarantee ethical tourism and preservation / enhancement of cultural integrity. But it should be noted that increased tourism pressure and monetary value in traditional system can also have some adverse effect on cultural heritage.

* **What are the anticipated positive and negative impacts of achieving the Alliance outcome on community health, safety, and security?**

The Alliance will work with the NOW project team to increase resources and capacities to implement the NOW project which aim at a holistic sustainable development and management of the ocean and its resources to improve livelihoods of Niuean’s now and into the future. By strengthening the NOW project, the Alliance outcome should indirectly serve the implementation of community-led activities (14 villages) to preserve a healthy environment from ridge to reef and increase food security with nutrition being a critical component of community health.

We don’t foresee any negative outcome on community health, safety, and security.

*Impacts of Alliance Engagement on Environment:*

* **Identify the potential impacts on biodiversity – both positive and negative – of achieving the Alliance outcome. Provide any available scientific evidence and references to support.**

Our project will aim at improving the management effectiveness of the site. Through increased financial human capacities, the Alliance investment will strengthen the ongoing efforts led by the NOW project team (public-private partnership btw the Government of Niue, local NGO Tofia Niue, and the Private sector) within and outside the site boundaries. The Moana Mahu and Nukutulueatama sites were designed under strong protection level excluding any extractive activities and allowing sustainable activities aligned with international standards and best practices and operating under strict control. The next priorities identified by the NOW project team will concentrate efforts to implement both sites’ Management, increase sustainable development and conservation efforts with communities and the private sector in the coastal areas that are off the sites’ limits, ultimately creating a ridge to reef to ocean model that catalyze joint efforts at scale and will help secure ecosystem and social benefits in the long term and build resilience overtime. The application of the ridge to reef concept is a holistic and integrated approach that is a considerable departure from the standard sectorial approaches. It enhances Niue’s capacity to effectively create and manage protected areas, focusing on the expansion of its Protected Area estate on land and marine areas through a combination of community conservation areas and government-led Protected Areas.

* **Identify the potential impacts on climate change – both positive and negative – of achieving the Alliance outcome. Provide any available scientific evidence and references to support.**

By reducing human impacts in 40% of Niue’s EEZ and encouraging sustainable practices for the whole domain, entire systems that are interconnected will be able build-up biomass, diversity, gene stocks and ultimately increase their resilience against other pressures such as the ever-present climate change. The Moana Mahu and Nukutulueatama sites were designed to increase connectivity and spillover effects for the benefit of the people living on Niue. Because pelagic resources are already scarce and communities highly dependent of coastal resources, the enforcement of the Management system envisioned for the site should contribute to secure resources for the people of Niue and help them build resilience. The Alliance will also help Niue to further engage in a regional dialogue about Ocean connectivity and transboundary conservation approach. If successful, this could lead to the creation of new LSMPA or expansion of existing ones in the region, further reducing human impact on large pieces of oceans and contributing to mitigate the impacts of climate change.