

GOAL 7. Ensure environmental sustainability

National-level monitoring

Indicators	1991	1997	2001	2006	Where Niue would like to be in 2015	2015 Will the indicators be met?	Source	
Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources								
Indicator 25 Proportion of land area covered by forest	na	na	58.1	54.2		Potentially	Environment Dept.	
Indicator 26 Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area	na	na	23.28 (2003)	na		Potentially	Conservation International, July 2003	
Indicator 27 Energy use (kg oil equivalent) per \$1 GDP (PPP)						< ? >		
Indicator 28a Carbon Dioxide emissions (metric tons) per capita	1.57	1.57	1.49	na		Potentially	Energy Information Administration, International Energy Annual 2002	
Indicator 28b Consumption of ozone depleting CFCs (ODP tons)	na	0.1	0.0	0.0	0	Already met	Ozone Annual Report, 2005	
Indicator 29 Proportion of population using solid fuels	50%	na	17%	12%	5%	Potentially	Census	
Target 10: Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation								
Indicator 30	Proportion of population with sustainable access to improved water source							
	Urban	99.4	100	100	100	100	Already met	Census
	Rural	98.8	100	100	100	100	Already met	Census
Indicator 31	Proportion of population with access to improved sanitation							

	Urban	na	na	100	100	100	Already met	Census
	Rural	na	na	99.4	100	100	Already met	Census
Target 10A: By 2015 Paper, Plastic (All Forms), Aluminum, Copper, Tin, Glass and Rubber shall be recycled/ reuse.								
Indicator 31A	Import quantity of:							
	Paper						< ? >	
	Plastic						< ? >	
	Aluminum						< ? >	
	Copper						< ? >	
	Tin						< ? >	
	Glass						< ? >	
	Rubber						< ? >	
Indicator 31A (i)	Recycle/ Reuse quantity of:							
	Plastic						< ? >	
	Aluminum						< ? >	
	Copper						< ? >	
	Tin						< ? >	
	Glass						< ? >	
	Rubber						< ? >	
Target 10B: By 2015, Domestic Waste will be collected as Organic and Inorganic Waste Materials								
Indicator 31B Total households in each village where rubbish is collected.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	Already met	Environment
Indicator 31B (i) Quantity of organic waste collected per village	na	na	69% (2002)	100%	100%	100%	Already Met	Waste Management Plan
Indicator 31B(ii) Quantity of inorganic waste collected per village	na	na	32% (2002)	na	50%	50%	Potentially	Waste Management Plan
Target 10C: By 2015 Commercial and Industrial Waste is reduced.								
Indicator 31C Total Commercial and Industrial Business	na	na	48*	48*				Environment Dept.

Indicator 31C(i) Total quantity of commercial and industrial waste.						< ? >	
Indicator 31C(ii) Total Quantity of commercial and Industrial waste returned to country of origin.						< ? >	
Target 10D: By 2015, all houses shall have flush toilets and a fully enclosed (proper) septic tank with all sides' concrete.							
Indicator 31D Total occupied houses on Niue	521	543	508	474	500	Potentially	Census
Indicator 31D(i) Percentage of households without flush toilets	na	33%	27.4 %	24%	0	Potentially	Census
Indicator 31D(ii) Percentage of Households without proper septic systems	na	34%	25.4 %	18.8%	0	Potentially	Census
Indicator 31D(iii) Percentage of households with flush toilets	na	79%	82.1 %	90%	100%	Potentially	Census
Indicator 31D(vi) Percentage of Households with proper septic systems	na	30%	71.5 %	67.1%	100%	Potentially	Census
Indicator 31D(v) Loads/liters of septic tanks pumped	na	na	152ltr	na	100%	Potentially	Health Dept
Target 11: By 2020, to have achieved significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers							
Indicator 32 Proportion of households with access to secure tenure	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	Already met	DJLS

* estimate



Above photo by Christine Ioane

Status and Trends

Niue's commitment to sound environmental management of its natural resources is reflected in its National Development Plan. Niue's commitment to fulfilling this commitment has also ratified a large number of Conventions, nationally, regionally and internationally.

There is an engagement with Greenpeace with a view to develop and use clean energy in Niue such as renewable energy. A feasibility study was conducted and a pilot project is proposed, where 7 households were provided with solar panels and if this proves successful Niue will have another source of power.

Niue Island Organic Farming Association (NIOFA) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the GON with its vision to eventually stop the importation and usage of all toxic chemicals used in farming by 2015 and to develop and increase the use of environmental friendly chemicals. This encouragement also focused on efforts to develop compost for the soil with the promotion of compost bins.

Waste management in Niue is relatively new but a plan has been drawn up and is already in progress. The Health Department pumps septic tanks and with new facilities they are able to collect and refine human waste. They also collect vehicle batteries, which are shipped, back to their country of origin (NZ).

The recycling of aluminum cans has been a successful project and has assisted immensely with the way Niue is litter free, however due to financial constraints it is currently difficult to predict the future of this project. No recycling prospects has yet developed for paper usage in each department, however there has been some talk of implementing a paper collection into bins for the usage of schools.

Niue's Ozone Protection Project is in progress, with an attempt to remove all Ozone Depleting Gases. As Niue is under New Zealand who has successfully removed gases that deplete the ozone, Niue was obliged to achieve the same results and have successfully done so.

Niue's Water Division constantly monitors the salinity, temperature and level of the water where they collect data relative to the tide, barometric pressure and rainfall. Several analytical methods are used to determine or evaluate the quality of the water such as testing the coastal waters for nutrients and land based activities (how they affect the coast water) and freshwater testing for bacterial, pesticides and major ions.

Niue's land tenure system, which ensures land is customary owned and passed on through family bloodlines means that Niueans will always have their own land to farm and dwell on without fear of eviction. The abundance of unoccupied homes can always be fixed or rented at ridiculously minimal cost complete fundamentals such as free and unlimited access to good quality water and electricity.

Key Challenges

- Increased deforestation, environmental degradation, threat to water lens from semi-commercial agricultural practice.
- Improved sanitation to a handful of houses in the outer villages through awareness of the threats it bears on the water lenses and construction of proper septic tanks.
- Use of Renewable and Recyclable Energy in all sectors of the economy.
- Improved Waste Management Strategies.
- Natural Disaster Management

Proposed Actions

Action	Implementing Local Agency	Implementing International Agency	Resource/ Source	Timeframe
Completion of National Sustainable Development Strategy and integrate into NISP	EPDS, Environment Department.		Recurrent/ External	On-going
Continue to maintain the quality of Niue's water resources.	Health and Water Division	WHO / SPC / SPREP / UNESCO	Recurrent / External	On – going
Improve national capacity to undertake quality test and assurance of water quality.	Health and Water Division	UNESCO / SOPAC	Recurrent / External	On – going
Complete and implement the POPs strategy, bio-safety strategy, and conventions on Soil Degradation, IWP Strategy and support the NIOFA vision and strategy.	DAFF	WMO / UNDP/ UNESCO	Recurrent / External	On - going
Implement the EU Renewable energy projects and other projects that promote and explore other clean energy projects.	EPDS, NPS and PWD	EU	External	On – going
Undertake Environment Impact Assessments (EIA) for all large-scale projects.	Environment Department		Recurrent / External	On – going
Promote awareness of recycling, organic and inorganic waste materials and of all the possible alternatives of industrial oils as well as impacts of all types of waste on the underground water lens.	Health, Environment, Education	UNESCO / UNDP	Recurrent / External	On – going
Establish legislation to export what is imported and revise the Environment Act to include recycling emphasize the enforcement of the Act.	Environment, Health and AG's Office		Recurrent / External	On – going
Integrate recycling, organic waste materials into existing Government policies and programs	Environment, EPDSU NIOFA, DAFF		Recurrent / External	On – going

Action	Implementing Local Agency	Implementing International Agency	Resource/ Source	Timeframe
Continuous monitoring of progress – report and document results	Environment, Health		Recurrent / External	On – going
Address the positive and negative aspects of each program	Environment, Health		Recurrent / External	On – going
Proper disposal of commercial, industrial and human waste.	Health		Recurrent / External	On – going
Improve household lavatories as well as other water leakages within households.	Health / Community Affairs		Recurrent / External	On – going
Promote preventative measures for diseases caused by any waste material	Health	WHO / SPC	Recurrent / External	On – going
Complete the National Capacity Self Assessment Action Plan to guide implementation of appropriate environmental capacity development programs in Niue	Environment	UNDP	External	On – going
Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management Practices into the NISP and NSDS	DAFF	UNDP	External	On – going
Review National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	Environment	UNESCO / UNDP	External	On – going
Implement community based environment programs through UNDP – GEF Small Grants Program	Environment	UNDP	External	On – going

