



NIUE PUBLIC SERVICE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3 • NOVEMBER 2021

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Niue Ke Monnina



MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

IKIPULE HE POTOAGA HE TAU FAAHI GAHUA KE HE TAU KOLOA HE TUFUGATIA



Honourable Esa S. Faitala AINU'U
MINISTER



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Fakaalofa Lahi Atu ke he higoa he ha tautolu a Iki ko Iesu Keriso.

Lahi e fiafia haaku e Ikipule he Potoaga he tau Faahi Gahua ke he tau Koloa he Tufugatia, ke tuku atu e tau manatu fakafeleveia ke he Motu ko Niue.

As the Minister for the Ministry of Natural Resources, I am privileged to be extended this opportunity to provide a brief insight into some of the goals and work undertaken within the Ministry. As people of the bluest ocean and the most vibrant biodiversity, we need to continue to strategize and implement robust and correct programs in order to achieve our goals.

I wish to convey my sincere appreciation to my Team MNR for their commitment and support to drive our objectives. Director General of MNR - Dr Josie Tamate, Director of DAFF - Poi Okesene, Director of Niue Meteorological Services - Rossylynn Mitiepo, Director of Environment - Haden Talagi and all the staff under the MNR umbrella, as well as their families.

We need to set realistic targets to ensure there are frameworks for the sustainable management of our natural resources and it is relevant to our situation, as we move forward on our path towards developing sustainability. Parallel to this goal is the need to identify sustainable financial strategies to support the work.

I am pleased with the development of the Sustainable Finance Strategy through the NOW project as a platform for the Ocean Space, and we need to also develop these for our land management actions.

Central to this is building resilience into our natural systems and communities so we are able to tackle the challenges we face now and into the future. We need to build a foundation that is conducive to our needs.

Taking an integrated approach to the management of our natural resources is fundamental if we are to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Being remote, we are vulnerable to severe weather patterns and natural disasters, and we need to ensure our mitigation actions are established and this must be a cross-sectoral effort, coupled with our adaptation goals.

Niue is greatly blessed with an abundance of natural resources and a real opportunity to be the foundation for our long-term prosperity, providing us with the essentials to drive ecological and economic growth and support resilient communities.

Through the introduction of good planning and following proper management, I am confident we can find solutions that can accommodate our unique construction. The Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries has worked tirelessly with growers and the Niue Growers Association to promote this sector. The fisheries with the fishermen and women as well, participating at regional discussions via zoom to ensure we are relevant in the conversation and our goals are reached, especially in the value of our natural resources. As well as the forestry sector, and the importance to continue the sustainable harvesting of our trees whilst introducing more growth. These are all important work that is needed for our people.

I am encouraged, that with these challenging times, we are able to reflect on what is important to us and to prioritize our needs to ensure all our citizens understand the value of our Natural Resources. They are our number one resource.

The security, welfare and safety of our people is our highest priority.

Kia Fakamonuina he Atua e Motu ko Niue.

Hon Esa S. Mona Faitala AINU'U
Minister for MNR



NIUE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Mrs. Ida Talagi-Hekesi
CHAIRPERSON

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ULU KOMISINA HEKESI

Koe levekiaga moe mokoina kehe Fonua he Lalolagi moe takatakaimotu ha tautolu, kua leva mai i tuai tighau, mae TAU TAGATA OTI.

Fakaaue lahi mahaki kehe matapatu Potoaga he tau Faahi Gahua ke he Tau Koloa he Tufugatia kehe tatanakiaga kehe tau koloa he tufugatia ha Niue mai ia he tumuakifonua ke hoko atu kehe uluulu ne fakaaoga e tautolu ke lagomatai a tautolu ke moua e moui olaola kehe tau aho oti.

Kia mailoga e mahuiga he Tau Koloa he Tufugatia he Fonua he Lalolagi, ke tumau e ha tautolu a tau momoui. Hanei ma Niue, kia fakaaoga e puhala nei ne tolu: 'Tukutukuhifo', 'Liu fakaaoga' moe 'Liu tavili ke maeke ke liu fakaaoga', ke maeke ai ia tautolu ke leveki kehe ha tautolu a Tau Koloa he Tufugatia mai ia he tumuakifonua ke hoko atu kehe uluulu.



Commissioner - Chairperson HEKESI

Caring for the Earth and our environment is a responsibility since the dawn of time for EVERYONE.

Fakaaue lahi mahaki Ministry of Natural Resources for your stewardship of Niue's natural resources that we use to survive and help us live comfortably on a daily basis.

Since Earth's Natural Resources are precious and vital for our survival, Niue lets take measures to conserve our natural resources using the 3 R's: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

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POTOAGA HE TAU FAAHI GAHUA KEHE TAU KOLOA HE TUFUGATIA MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Dr Josie Tamate

DIRECTOR GENERAL



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Message from the Director General, Ministry of Natural Resources

Fakaalofa lahi atu. Thank you for the opportunity to showcase the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) through this newsletter, especially the people who consistently work behind the scene to deliver the services for the people of Niue. Our thanks and appreciation to the Chair of NPSC, Mrs Ida Talagi-Hekesi and the Team for this initiative.

The Ministry of Natural Resources is responsible for a number of key areas that can be broadly categorized as environmental protection, safety and food security. These areas all link to our livelihoods and our survival. Therefore, the key role of the Ministry is to ensure our resources are sustainable to meet our current requirements and the future generations of Niue.

There are three Departments under the Ministry's umbrella:

- Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Department of Environment
- Niue Meteorological Services (Niue Met Office)

The Ministry is also the technical focal point for the various international conventions and multilateral agreements that Niue has signed up to over the years. The Ministry works closely with regional organisations such as the Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to access financial and technical support so we can meet our obligations and the opportunities to enhance our resilience amidst the increasing pressures resulting from globalization. The support through regional organisations has enabled us to work with other Pacific island states as we tackle the challenges such as Climate Change, Sustainable Development, Management of transboundary resources such as tuna fisheries, Food Security and many more.

Over the years, our work has contributed towards securing funds for projects such as the Ridge to Reef Project, the AREAN Project that is being implemented by the Ministry of Infrastructure with support from the Project Management and Coordination Unit (PCMU), the Niue Waste Management Project, Invasive Species, Fruit Trees and promotion of local foods project, Sustainable Land Management, Niue Ocean Wide (NOW) Project implemented under a Private-Public Partnership with Tofia Niue, Climate Services and Information project funded by the Green Climate Funds (GCF), Ozone Project, Organic farming and certification, Vanilla, Nonu, Water management, and a number of climate change adaptation projects.

At the national level, we have and will continue to work with communities through village councils, growers, fisherfolks, non-government organisations (NIOFA, NIFA, NGA), non-project organisations (Tofia Niue), private sector through the Chamber of Commerce, and various departments under the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Ministry of Social Services. We also work closely with the Central Agencies such as the Niue Public Service Commission, Project Management and Coordination Unit, Crown Law Office, Treasury, Police and Disaster Management Office, and the Office of the Secretary to Government.

The responsibilities are immense but we strive to do our best always. Thus, our focus will continue to ensure that:

- Niue people are safe through the provision of reliable and timely information on the weather;
- Household wastes are collected;
- Our fisherfolks catch fish every time they go out on their canoes and boats;
- Access roads to the plantations are mowed;
- Nursery at the Vaipapahi Government Research Farm have seedlings;
- Growers are supported and opportunities are available for their produce whether they are being sold at the local marketplace or for export;
- Feral pigs and invasive species are managed; and that
- Niue is climate-resilient.

Our key challenge continues to be the capacity or the number of people available to meet all our responsibilities. Often, we have a situation where we have only one staff responsible for a number of key areas that are ideally should be addressed by a team of at least five people. We will continue to be innovative in our approach, and work with our various partners and stakeholders, to meet the expectations of our future generation. At this juncture, I would like to thank our Minister, Hon Esa S. Mona Faitala Ainu'u for her continuous support and dedication, Cabinet, our partners and our stakeholders. I would also like to thank my Directors - Poi Okesene, Haden Talagi and Rossylynn Mitiepo – and all the staff of MNR for all their excellent work.

Often, our focus is to ensure we meet our responsibilities and to let our results speak for themselves. But we also recognised that we have a responsibility to keep people informed as a form of accountability and in promoting awareness of the work we do under the Ministry. This is one area that we will endeavor to improve as we move forward.

Fakaaue lahi,

Dr Josie M M M Tamate

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES RETIREES

DAFF Staff Retirement for former DAFF Director Mr Brendon Pasisi:

The auspicious occasion to mark the former Director of DAFF Mr Brendon Pasisi's contribution to Government eventuated at the Matavai Scenic Resort in September 2020. We acknowledge Brendons valuable contribution to DAFF and Niue Government and to be recognized in the history books as the longest-serving DAFF Director. Brendon Pasisi still continues to support DAFF Fisheries through his current work with the Niue Ocean Wide (NOW) project under a Public-Private Partnership Arrangement. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours.



L-R: Natasha Tohovaka, Josie Tamate, Poi Okesene and former DAFF Director Brendon Pasisi

Vanilla Project Supervisor – Tukitau Matagiaga sadly passed away in November 2020. It was a very despairing moment for the DAFF family as he was one of the long-serving members of the Department for over 20 years. We acknowledge his valuable contribution to DAFF and to the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Sectors of Niue. RIP – Tuki Matagiaga.



L-R: The late Mr Tukitau Matagiaga, at Ane Heaki's retirement send off.



L-R: Mr & Mrs Tom & Ligimanogi Misikea



Niutaha Tahega



Pekapeka Viliamu



Sione Belle Togiavalu



Front row center: Ane Heaki with DAFF Team mates

*YOU CAN'T RETIRE
FROM BEING GREAT!*

KIA FAKAMONUINA MAI HE ATUA E TAU
OKIOKIAGA HA MUTOLU MAI HE TAU
FEKAFEKAUAGA MAE HA NIUE MA TAU LILIFUI!

NIUE SALUTES YOU AND IS SINCERELY
GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SERVICES AND
CONTRIBUTION OVER THE YEARS. FAKAAUE
LAHI MAHAKI! OUE TULUTULUTULOU! GOD
BLESS

A special tribute and acknowledgment to the DAFF Officers who have retired and also to those that have left the service:

1. Brendon Pasisi - Director DAFF and Principal Fisheries Officer: 1994 - 2016 (22 years of service)
2. Ane Heaki - Nursery Supervisor at Vaipapahi Government Research Farm: 1980 - 2020 (40 years of service)
3. Tom Misikea - Livestock Officer: 1976 - 2013 (37 years of service)
4. Niutaha Tahega - Vanilla Extension Officer : 01 Jan 2021 - 05 Mar 2021 (9 years of service)
5. Pekapeka Viliamu - Contract Cleaner for DAFF: Approx. 18 years
6. Tukitau Matagiaga - Vanilla Project Supervisor: 06 April 1998 and passed away 08 Nov 2020 (22 years of service)
7. Sione Belle Togiavalu - Plant Operation & Maintenance Officer: 20 January 1986 - 29 April 2020 (34 years of service).



RIDGE TO REEF

TUMUAKIFONUA KE HE ULUULU



Mr. Shane Tohovaka
PROJECT MANAGER



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Brief Description

This project will enhance Niue's capacity to effectively create and manage protected areas for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of natural resources, and safeguarding of ecosystem services. It focuses on the expansion of its protected estate on land and its marine areas through a combination of community conservation areas and government-led protected areas. In Community Conservation Areas, both strict protection and sustainable use zones will be identified and planned carefully, using innovative protection tools recognizing that tenure over most land areas is vested in local communities.

Project Objective & Outcomes

OBJECTIVE:

To strengthen conservation and sustainable use of land, water, and marine areas and their biodiversity by building on their cultural heritage values through integrated national and community actions

OUTCOME 1:

New community conservation and national protected areas were established at different levels, thus reducing threats and improving the biodiversity status of conservation areas through effective community management

OUTCOME 2:

Strengthened community and cross-sectoral involvement of relevant national government departments to promote effective Ridge to Reef management by mainstreaming biodiversity and environmental concerns into plans and actions.

Project Director: Dr. Josie Tamate

Project Manager: Shane Tohovaka

Finance/Administration Officer: Peter Fetaui

Community Liaison Officer: Mrs. Georgina Tukiuha

Communications Officer: Thomas Tahafa Talagi



Ms Lydia Sioneloto
Ridge to Reef Assistant Accountant

By Thomas Talagi



Left to Right: Peter Fetaui, Mrs Gina Tukiuha, Thomas Tahafa Talagi, Shane Tohovaka

DAY-TO-DAY FUNCTIONS OF RIDGE TO REEF



Book launch at Matavai - Huvalu Conservation Area Management Plan



Alofi South Village R2R consultations



Hikutavake Village consultations



Ecological survey at Pala sea track in Hakupu



Supporting a community touch rugby tournament



Liku Village consultations



Niue High School Careers Pathway at Alofi South Village Consultation



Village Land Use Plan map of Alofi North



Historical site of significance - Fafagu look-out fortress in Vaiea



Marine In-Situ Learning Center in Tuapa



RIDGE TO REEF



NIOFA

NIUE ISLAND ORGANIC FARMERS ASSOCIATION



Jama'l Talagi-Veidreyaki
MANAGER & PROJECTS COORDINATOR

CONTACT

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**L - R: Mrs. Gina Tukiuha - Co-Founder of NIOFA and current committee member;
 Mrs. Maryanne Talagi - Chairperson;
 Peter Andrew Funaki - Committee Member.**



The core purpose of the Niue Organic Farmers Association (NIOFA) is to promote and support organic farming concepts and practices in Niue. The association continues to be supported by the Government of Niue and regional organisations such as the Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom) of SPC in past twenty years. Based at the Department of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (DAFF), the association receives technical and financial support to ensure organic farming remains an important part of agricultural development for Niue.

Aligned with Niue's National Strategic Plan – “Kau fakalataha ke leveki moe puipui e tau tagata moe takatakai motu”, Organic farming is sustainable and is an identified solution to mitigating climate change. It plays an integral part in Niue's food systems, particularly to care for the soil to provide safe, wholesome, and nutritious food that is very important to the people's health, as well as ensuring no harmful chemicals impact our valuable water resource.

NIOFA's primary focus is to help organic farmers with their farming needs to produce organic produce. We also recognize the need to support farmers to generate returns, hence the establishment of the Niue Organic Exporters Association (NOEA) for organic vanilla exports and in recent years, the monthly Niue Organic Market. NIOFA maintains its vision statement “For Niue to be a certified Organic Island” and hopes to achieve this soon.

By Jama'l Talagi-Veidreyaki





Back row Left to Right: Terrence Lakatani-Environment Trainee (Ozone Project), Director Haden Talagi, Huggard Tongatule-Biodiversity & Environment Officer, Fernando Patumaka (former student attachment), Taveli Pavihi-National Coordinator (GCCA+SUPA), Ireenah Mautama-Project Admin Clerk, Dan Makaia-Technical Operations Advisor (Niue Waste Management Project), Tofimua Vilitama-Environment Field Trainee, Front row L - R: Rosalia Solo-Environment Field Trainee, Adorra Misikea-Third National Communication Project, Trinya Viliia-Waste Management Officer, Noah Paka-Field Agent, Emeline Laufoli-Admin Officer.

FAAHI GAHUA TAKATAKAIMOTU DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT



Mr. Haden Talagi
DIRECTOR



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Q & A with Haden Talagi - Director, Department of Environment

What is the Department of Environment responsible for?

The Department of Environment is responsible for matters regarding Environmental Governance, Biodiversity, Climate Change, and Waste Management including other areas. Under these key thematic areas, are more defined sectors that are linked directly and indirectly. We play a crucial role alongside our partner agencies across government, private sector and NGOs including all communities on the island. We work with other Government agencies example Customs, PMCU, Health Department, MOI, DAFF, etc through linked legislation and regulations. Everyone has a part to play in protecting our Environment and Natural Resources in Niue.

How do you work with international organisations?

We have fostered relationships with International and regional organizations over many years since being a Unit under Community Affairs. As Focal Point for many Organisations, we have to maintain that relationship to ensure a great working relationship and to ensure all our Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) obligations are addressed. Since the pandemic, this has been difficult as face-to-face meetings are no longer possible so we have had to rely on virtual online platforms like Zoom and MS Teams. Previously we traveled extensively to different international and regional meetings, workshops, conferences and meeting directly with these Organisations. With the covid-19 pandemic, we meet virtually which has been difficult at times with the different global time zones and requests for different meetings throughout the day, evenings, and often after midnight.

How would you sum up the Department of Environment's day-to-day functions?

Challenging, but as management, we have to adapt and adjust how we work and operate on a daily basis. Whether it's climate change projects, developing projects, invasive species operations, or septic discharges, we still need to progress our work, safety and health. This puts emphasis on developing senior staff to take on a more leading hands-on role in operations and management matters, looking at solutions and working with different stakeholders. Looking after the Environment is everybody's responsibility as everybody will benefit from it including future generations. As we lack capacity, we will be relying more on technology.

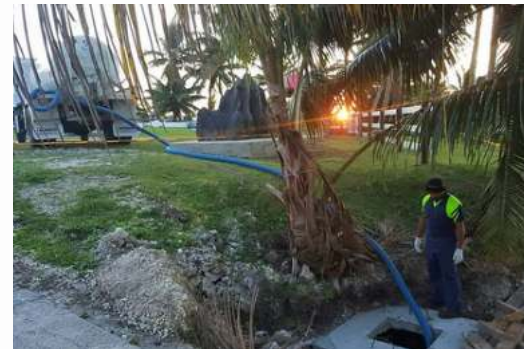
What will happen if the public ignores the Department of Environment's guidelines?

Environment Legislation, Regulations and guidelines are to benefit everybody including future generations. By ignoring such safeguards, we won't reap the benefits the Environment provides through its natural resources. We need to work together to ensure we look after our environment and ensure our systems are inclusive.

What is an important Department of Environment fact that the community should know about?

Consultations with Agencies, Department and Project consultations are important to attend. These are where ideas are developed into activities and where opportunities are developed further into something tangible. Without feedback from Community Groups, Agencies and the private sector, we cannot develop projects that can tap into global resources. Whether Climate Change, waste management or Invasive Species, we have a lot of people with experience and know-how that can often provide solutions or ideas that can be developed further. Projects don't happen overnight but take months and up to a year to develop and fit into donor criteria or conditions. We just need to fulfill these obligations and follow through to the end and not give up when it gets hard.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, DAY-TO-DAY FUNCTIONS



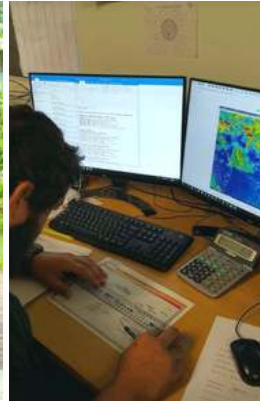


Sean Tukutama

Fakaalofa lahi atu. My name is Sean Tukutama. I started working at the Department of Post and Telecommunication and later transferred to Niue Meteorological Services towards the end of 1999. I have worked with the Department of Meteorological Services for more than 20 years. Currently, working as a Scientific Officer. Responsible for maintaining and arranging calibration of Meteorological equipment and maintaining observation network according to WMO standards. I'm very happy to work along with the young and energetic Team. Looking forward to another 20 years working for Niue Meteorological Services. Fakaau lahi.



Left to Right: Sean Tukutama, Higano Laufoli - Meteorology Trainee, Roslyllynn Mitiepo, Raquel Tanaki New, Floyd Viliamu, Clemencia Sioneholo - Meteorology Trainee, Lenita Togiamana, Robert Togiamana.



FAAHI GAHUA FUAFUA MATAGI

DEPARTMENT OF NIUE

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES



Mrs. Roslyllynn Mitiepo
DIRECTOR

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Q & A with Roslyllynn Arney Pulehetoa-Mitiepo - Director, Department of Niue Meteorological Services.

Fakaalofa Lahi Atu. It has been 25 years since the Niue Meteorological Services was established in 1996. We acknowledge the leadership of Mr. Sionetasi Pulehetoa who was the first Director until 2015. We are now in 2021 with an increased number of staff and work has expanded.

What is the Department of Niue Meteorological Services responsible for?

Our vision is to be the prime driver of weather and climate services. Our Mission is to provide credible and timely weather and climate services for all stakeholders. The three key sections are Meteorology, Climate Services and Climate Change, and Weather Warnings, Climate and Disaster Communication.

How would you sum up Niue Meteorological Services' day-to-day functions?

Weather is always changing and our work is ruled by time. We ensure that information is updated and delivered hourly, 3-hourly and ensure daily climate data is recorded for quality, credibility and longevity. We cannot underestimate the power of nature and being prepared against natural disasters is essential at all times.

What will happen if the public ignores Niue Meteorological Services guidelines?

We continue to raise the importance of applying weather and climate information to peoples' lives for better planning and decision-making. Weather and disaster warnings are required to ensure the safety of lives and properties.

How do you work with other international weather organisations?

We have a strong connection aligning with the Pacific Meteorological Services, and we are a member of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). We have online training opportunities hosted by regional partners for upskilling staff and including online meetings. This is our new norm as we are currently challenged by COVID 19, but our work continues to ensure weather information is updated, climate services applied and our knowledge on climate change is enhanced.



Robert Togiamana

My name is Robert Murray Togiamana and I am a Meteorology Communication Officer. I joined the Niue Met Service Team in 2009 when I got transferred from the Niue Police Department after serving the law and order for 25 years of service. Here are some of my responsibilities within the Met Service Department: Monitor disaster warnings, promote weather & climate change information, develop and strengthen communities and the school education awareness program including announcing traditional knowledge on Niue Radio. This helps our people and communities with decision-making at all levels.

Hi there! My name is Lenita Togiamana.

I've spent the last 3 years learning everything there is to know about Weather and Climate - from a Trainee Officer to a Meteorology Officer working under the Forecasting Division and performing other duties. I'm currently applying this knowledge in my role as a Met Officer for Niue Met Service, where I'm responsible for Aviation Routine Weather Reports (METAR) which is an international standard code format issued every hour & the Surface Synoptic Observations (SYNOP) a numerical code used for reporting weather observations every 3 hours to the Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre, Nadi Fiji (RMSC) and Wellington, New Zealand, prepare and disseminate weather forecast for Niue and maintain the cleanliness of the climate site and other tools.

For most people, weather and climate don't sound very interesting. For me, is a growing passion I've been denying for 3 years. Most recently, my performances have gained me a position where I'm focused on carrying out all duties effectively and efficiently. I guess you could say I'm slowly trying to improve myself to be better!



Lenita Togiamana



Floyd Viliamu

Fakaalofa lahi atu, my name is Floyd Viliamu, I am a Meteorology Technician. I've worked for Niue Meteorological Services for almost five years. I have worked at different sections of Meteorological Services, including communication maintenance and forecasting. My role within Niue Met Service is to assist with operational work from carrying out daily climate observations, hourly Meteorological Aviation weather reports, Synoptic observations and forecasting including other tasks such as project work and workshops. I also assist with the communication side of Meteorology, progressing with an ongoing radio program about the weather, maintaining climate stations and office resources such as newly installed equipment, including helping to upgrade resources to the latest standards.



Raquel Tanaki New

Fakaalofa lahi atu, ko e higoa haaku ko Raquel. Ko au ko e Ofisa (Climate Officer), gahua ai kehe faahi Fuafua Matagi mo e Kalaemete. Tolu e tau a nei he gahua ai au kamata mai he tau 2019. Falu he haaku a tau gahua ko e fakamaoopo e tau fakamauaga ne kua moua mai he tau fuafuaaga matagi mo e tau fuafuaaga kalaemete, mai he taha tau kehe taha tau. Lagomatai atu foki kehe kumikumiaga he tau pulotu mo e lotomatala tuai kehe tau tutuaga matagi mo e kalaemete kehe vaha fakamua. Maeke ai foki ke fakaputu mo e fakamau e tau fakamauaga fakakatoatoa he tau mahina takitaha ki loto he tohi tala (Niue Climate Outlook) mae iloaga fakalaulahi he tau tagata he ha tautolu a motu.



DAFF

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & FISHERIES



Mr. Poi Okesene

DIRECTOR

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ADMINISTRATION and CORPORATE SERVICES



CORE FUNCTIONS: ADMINISTRATION

- Prepare Annual Budget
- Manage & Administer Financial Resources
- Information, awareness & data collection
- Manage external funded projects
- Manage staff and human resource development.



Tanya Frost -
Agro Processing Facility Manager

L - R: Priscilla Kapaga - Office Manager,
Natasha Toeono-Tohovaka - Senior Project Manager - 2IC,
Breana Pasisi - Marketing & Product Development Officer,
Poimatagi Okesene - Director,
Tamuta Utalo - Administrative Clerk,
Acknowledging Office Cleaner - Mrs. Lee (unavailable for photo).

DIVISION: CROP DEVELOPMENT



Mr. Brandon Tauati - Head Crop Research Officer



L-R: Apikolo Taulima - Crops/Livestock Field Officer,
Brandon Tauati,
Vaughn Misileki - Nursery Supervisor



Nephi Poulmale
Crops Research Officer



DIVISION: CROPS EXTENSION & VANILLA

CORE FUNCTIONS: CROPS RESEARCH & EXTENSION

- Improve and enhance crop Development
- Manage Soils & improve Sustainable Land Management Practices
- Provide Technical Services to farmers.



Mr Melekitama Tauefasi
Head Vanilla Crop Extension Officer



Ms Soline Matagiaga
Vanilla Field Officer





DAFF

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & FISHERIES



Mrs. Natasha Toono-Tohovaka

SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER

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The staff of Ministry Of Natural Resources with Honourable Premier Dalton Tagelagi - (center of front row), Minister of MNR Hon Esa S. Mona Faitala AINU'u - (far left of front row), Director General Dr Josie Tamate and Director Poi Okesene - (middle of 3rd row)

MISSION

Economically viable and sustainable industry development in the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries sectors of Niue, while ensuring food and nutritional security, resource management, environmental sustainability, and support to subsistence level activities and traditional practice

The Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Sectors within the Ministry of Natural Resources play a key role towards economic development, improved livelihoods, food and nutritional security for the people of Niue and the Government. The following overview provides a brief summary of the sectors and divisions within the Department including key partners in highlighting the key areas of work and achievements within the time frame of the 2020-2021 Financial Year.

Administration and Corporate Services Division - This is the key engine that drives the overall work of all Divisions of DAFF. One of its primary roles is to monitor and implement all budget matters and to ensure that the delivery of DAFF core services by all Divisions are implemented well and are effective at all times. This also takes into account key projects that are implemented within the Department.

The Crops Division at Vaipapahi Government Farm - Continues to expand further on fruit tree development, paying more emphasis on the multiplication of fruit tree seedlings at the Nursery. The Division experienced a high demand from the general public for local fruits with passion fruit, dragon fruits and limes as the top 3 most preferred fruits on demand. There is also a high demand from local growers for fruit tree seedlings which is a positive sign going forward.

Vanilla Unit - At Vaipapahi farm plays a key role in showcasing demonstration plots, maintaining its organic certification status and also acting as a vanilla vine gene bank for other growers when in need of planting materials. The Vanilla team continues to assist with the extension services from time to time with other growers on an ad hoc request basis only.

The Biosecurity Division - Continues to be one of the key revenue-generating arms of DAFF from services rendered at both border entry points and export through facilitation of quarantine documentation of sanitary and phytosanitary certification, including inspection fees. Biosecurity plays a key role in relation to compliance, surveillance and monitoring of Niue's borders in accordance with the Biosecurity Act 2016. This Division continues with the aim of keeping harmful exotic pests and diseases out of Niue that can be detrimental to the Agriculture Sector as the main source of Food Security for all Niuean Residents. The management of pests and diseases at the national level is also of high importance. The Biosecurity Team is still embarking on work in progress for procuring a Heat Treatment facility.

The Livestock and Animal Health Division - Continues to focus its efforts on the pig breeding program at Vaipapahi piggery including the servicing of sows from other farmers. The Rockvets Team played a crucial role in maintaining a good animal health status for Niue in the past 5 years. However, they are unable to be physically present over the last 2 years due to Covid 19 and border closures in place. The Rockvets Team continued to provide the DAFF Animal Health Division with animal health medications/drugs to be further disseminated to animal caregivers and farmers

The Forestry Division - Continues its focus on several key priority areas such as promoting the coconut replanting program starting at Vaipapahi farm of local varieties, promotion of non-timber tree species such as sandalwood production and the overall maintenance program for DAFF's mahogany plantations. The Division also conducts mowing of all registered secondary bush roads in Niue.

Fisheries Division - The Fisheries sector alone contributed an overall amount of \$1.6 million dollars which accounts for 95% of DAFF's overall revenue. This is achieved primarily from the US Treaty agreement currently in place including other revenue streams such as licensing fees for foreign fishing vessels (3 x licenses valid till the end of 2020 but revenue reflected in the 2019-2020 FY report) and local boat fishing fleets plus other fees that the Fisheries division collects on an annual basis. The regional work with WCPFC Tuna Commission and Forum Fisheries (FFA) remains vital to DAFF Fisheries in ensuring that we maximize our benefits from all our marine resources. Equally important is the need to remain engaged with key regional organizations to ensure we increase our efforts towards generating more revenue from all our fisheries and marine resources.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & FISHERIES





Mr. New Testament Aue - Head of Quarantine

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CORE FUNCTIONS:
BIOSECURITY & PLANT PROTECTION

- Strict Quarantine & Border Control Services
- Maintain strict imports and export protocols
- Improve Pest control and Plant Protection
- Provide Technical services to the public.



Mr. James Poihega - Senior Management Role

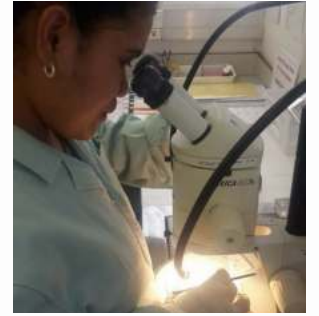
CORE FUNCTIONS:
FORESTRY

- Improve management of forestry resources
- Improve and enhance the production of potential timber and non-timber tree species
- Provide advice to the public.



DIVISION: BIOSECURITY & QUARANTINE

L-R: Whydean Misikea - Former Biosecurity Officer, John Hetutu - Senior Biosecurity Officer, Brittany Leomotu - Biosecurity Officer, New Aue - Head of Biosecurity, Chervonne Villila - Quarantine Officer



DIVISION: FORESTRY



L-R: Lesley Gataua - Technical Support Officer, Christian Poumale - Forestry Officer

Morre Tukuniu - Forestry Field Officer (seconded to MOI as a Bulldozer Trainee for the Plantation Clearing Program)

DIVISION: LIVESTOCK & ANIMAL HEALTH

CORE FUNCTIONS:
LIVESTOCK & ANIMAL HEALTH

- Improve & Increase Livestock Production
- Enhance Animal Health programs
- Maintain Feral Pig Control program
- Provide advice to the public



(R) Tom Vaha - Livestock Officer, (L) Whydean Misikea - former Biosecurity Officer, Animal Health Program with Rock Vets

DIVISION: FISHERIES



Lainoa Gataua - Principal Fisheries Officer

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CORE FUNCTIONS: FISHERIES

- SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FISHERY RESOURCES
- ENHANCE MONITORING CONTROL & SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM
- COMPLIANCE LICENSING & DATA COLLECTION
- PROVIDE ADVICE TO THE PUBLIC.



L-R: Ioane Mamaia-Fisheries Officer, Gregory Harding-Fisheries MCS Officer, Lainoa Gataua-Principal Fisheries Officer, Cherrish Tokimua-Fisheries Trainee Officer, Daryn Magatogia-Fisheries Maintenance Officer, Simi Savou-Fisheries Development Officer (unavailable for pic)



ACKNOWLEDGING KEY DAFF STAKEHOLDERS & PARTNERS

- 1 Niue Growers Association Inc Est 2019
- 2 Niue Island Organic Farmers Association (NIOFA)
- 3 Niue Island Food Processors Association (NFPA)
- 4 Niue Island Fishermen's Association (NIFA)
- 5 Niue Island Vaka Association
- 6 Niue Ridge to Reef Project
- 7 Niue Ocean Wide Project