



Te Ara Akapapa'anga Nui NSDA 2020+ Te Kaveinga Iti 5 Year Score Card





WANT TO KNOW ABOUT OUR LOGO?

Designed by Fave Designs Inc, a local business in the Cook Islands, the logo reflects three key elements: 1) **Our land and ocean**, 2) **Our people**, and 3) **Our bond**.



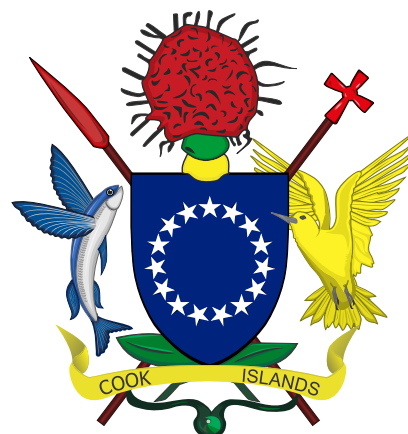
Our land and ocean: The green and blue patterns symbolise our land and our ocean. They are reflected in a weave - our ka'a



Our people: The lines of our land and ocean are symbolic of a fingerprint, an imprint of our identity - unique like our our Cook Islands people and culture



Our bond: The tikitikitangata surrounds our logo, represents our people in unity, as we work towards a single goal





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Executive Summary – 5 Year Scorecard 2021–2025

This 5 year Strategy links to the notion of the Uki (generations) and the Cook Islands Māori world view of planning for the future. One generation through the research is set at 25 years and will encapsulate outcomes that we want– including certain agreed targets. Te Ara Akapapa’anga Nui will encapsulate four (4) Uki – four generations over 100 years.

The formulation of Te Ara Akapapa’anga Nui – NSDA 2020+ takes an extended outlook over 100 years and privileges a generational scale. This period will be dispersed with short to medium-term plans that will be adjusted as our nation and our people continue to evolve. This is tentatively planned at 5, 10 and 25 year intervals. These planning periods align with the philosophy and practice of ‘Akapapa’anga: the use and importance of genealogical legacies to and for the Cook Islands and its people.

‘Akapapa’anga is a cornerstone of Cook Islands Māori society. It informs the way our society is built and the collective enterprise of our people. For example, it underpins our connection, rights and management of land, records the interrelation of our islands over generations, and informs the relationships we have with our people and kin in the Ipukarea and further abroad. It is the relationships inherent in papa’anga that drives our preparations, an impetus to build a strong future for our society, our ‘enua and the descendants to come.¹

Central to Te Ara Akapapa’anga Nui – NSDA 2020+ will be Turanga Memeitaki – Wellbeing for all. A vision where each person attains, at its most basic-a state of being comfortable, healthy, and happy. There is general agreement that at minimum, wellbeing includes the presence of positive emotions and moods (e.g., contentment, happiness), the absence of negative emotions (e.g., depression, anxiety), and satisfaction with life, fulfillment and positive functioning. In simple terms, wellbeing can be described as judging life positively and feeling good. Albeit wellbeing may seem more subjective it is our job to measure the best way possible so that we can track attainment of wellbeing for all across the nation.




In order to measure progress we must ensure that 5 year scorecards are issued to update us as appropriate. The next five years will work towards setting the foundation of planning towards our vision and Te Ara Akapapa’anga Uki – Koua. It will involve much investment in research and finding the best way to achieve our outcomes.

¹ Aspects of Akapapa’anga were brought together with the help of Emma Emily Ngakuravaru Powell and her thesis on ‘AKAPAPA’ANGA ARA TANGATA: Genealogising the (Cook Islands) Māori imaginary, Victoria University, 2021.






Te Ara Akapapa'anga Nui 2021–2121 Snapshot

Tupa'upa'u Tuatau – Kaveinga Nui 100 year legacy

-  **To tatou Orama: Turanga Meitaki** – an empowered, dignified and innovative people with the highest quality of wellbeing in life.
-  **To tatou Vaerua Kia Orana e to tatou pirianga mou** – our shared understandings between our people and nation. It underlines who we are and what we stand for.
-  **To tatou aka'atinga mou** – 15 star pledge which delves into the areas of importance that we will focus on into the future.


Te Ara Akapapa'anga uki – 25 mataiti

-  Named the kōua generation after the first stage of growth for a Nu tree.
-  Includes expected outcomes and the target areas of importance.
-  Include special projects to be implemented over the kōua generation.

There are six (6) targets that have been set for the kōua generation (first generation):

- **Golden standard of wellbeing achieved**
- **Food import free** – getting to below 5% of 2020 imports of the following products (vegetables, fruits, root crops, livestock or crops and meat.
- **NCD reduction** – reducing the 2020 NCD rates by 25% of 2020 levels.
- **Zero waste**–is a set of principles focused on waste prevention that encourages the redesign of resource life cycles so that all products are reused. The ultimate goal is for no solid waste to be sent to landfills, incinerators or the ocean.
- **Reo Maori vitality** – Reo Maori as a language in daily use for (50%) of our tamariki
- **Net zero** – means a nation that is removing as much anthropogenic emissions from the atmosphere as it's putting in.

Te Kaveinga iti – 5 years

-  **Short term targets on wellbeing** – which include Indicators to measure progress over that time period.



Introduction: Our Vision of Holistic Wellbeing

Research and consulting with our people has told us that Turanga Memeitaki is anything but simple. It encapsulates feelings and physical manifestations of a certain standard of what people want in their lives. In a nutshell it means the following to the people of our nation. Through research and consulting our people have told us that Turanga Memeitaki is when a person is in a state of being comfortable, healthy, and happy:

1. Comfortable

- **Educated and knowledgeable people** – where we have made the formal and informal knowledge bases accessible and celebrated by all.
- **Having a home** – ensuring access to a good home.
- **No debt** – having the power or knowledge to manage debt through our lifetime – the definition includes reducing debt or being debt free.
- **Liveable income** – an income that is more than the minimum income and is in line with equipping one to their personal goals.
- **Secure at retirement** – safety and economic security are key to ensuring a secure retirement.
- **Safe communities to live in** – communities where crime is kept to the bare minimum and communities help raise our future generations to be responsible and accountable individuals.

2. Healthy

- **Psychological wellbeing** – consists of positive relationships with others, personal mastery, autonomy, a feeling of purpose and meaning in life, and personal growth and development.
- **Physical wellbeing** – is not just the absence of disease. It includes lifestyle behavior choices to ensure health, avoid preventable diseases and conditions, and to live in a balanced state of body, mind, and spirit.

3. Happy

- **To protect the pristine environment** – our people want to see (too much pressure on the natural environment and carrying capacities) and reduce development an environment that is rich in biodiversity and where our future generations can be proud'
- **Our vibrant living languages and culture** – the evolution and maintenance of our language and cultural heritage (heritage sites, events, institutions, archives, record of our history and a culture of writing and recording). Access to this knowledge base through, libraries, archives, museums, Arts Centres is key to achieving our aspirations
- **Our spirituality** – the quality of being concerned with the human spirit or soul as opposed to material or physical things– spirituality is connected to our environment, land, Papa'anga.
- **Work life balance** – child care and flexible working situations (hours and location). Volunteering is a part of our lives and will continue into the future for the benefit of our people.
- **Community vitality** –the community's collective capacity to respond to change with an enhanced level of participation (process or pursuit of) with aspirations for a healthy and productive community (an outcome or shared vision of success). These are manifested in national events and community collaboration.
- **Freedoms** – people felt that having fundamental human rights and freedoms were important to wellbeing and that although these areas may be included in the Constitution of the Cook Islands implementation of it was needed.

Over the next five years we have decided to focus on the following indicators as we research and plan how best to approach wellbeing through our lifetime in our nation.



Te Ka'a tei itiki ripiri ia tatou – Research Methodology

The methodological approach of the research programme privileges the place of genealogy in Māori society and its foundational role in the way Māori view their commitment to building *all* of their relationships. As such, the research work and broader NSDA 2020+ is guided by the importance of cordage or ka'a – the braided sennit cord and the primary symbol and embodiment of genealogical lines of connection. The ka'a represents the linking together of peoples and enua that make up the ever growing papa'anga of the Cook Islands nation.

For our purposes, the ka'a guides the ongoing work of the NSDA 2020+. The braiding and knotting of ka'a requires a careful selection of coconut husks and strands, and the evidence-base that informs this project must also be carefully considered, analysed and braided into the wider agenda by way of robust research and policy-making expertise. The ongoing gathering of data, information and analyses in the ever-changing climate of geopolitics, economy, society, culture and indeed the environment, will be woven together and knotted at the relevant intervals across our 100 year legacy. In this work, the ka'a will be strengthened as we work toward sectoral objectives and, as it grows, it will simultaneously remind us that all sectors and peoples are bound by the single cord that is our Heritage.

The presentation of indicators from the Kaveinga Iti is linked to Te Ara Akapapa'anga Nui. Each goal in the Kaveinga Iti is based on average progress in the associated indicators over a prescribed period of time. Each indicator is measured from a defined target and is assessed on two dimensions: Status and Trend. A traffic light system is used to show the different levels of concern/urgency (e.g., on track, off track and of concern). Trends are represented using arrows (positive/progression, negative/regression) and a circle (indicating no change). Relevant indicators listed under each Goal are assessed using relevant information from available datasets. For each indicator information is provided on how the status of the indicator is determined, i.e. progress 'on track' (green), 'of concern' (yellow), or 'off track' (red). The data trends and sources for each indicator are also presented.

Caveats

The data to assess the progress to date for indicators representing each theme in the Cook Island and Framework and Goals is drawn from available datasets. Where current data does not exist this is highlighted.



Our Goals and Indicators



Goal 1. Wellbeing for all

Over the next 100 years our vision of attaining Turanga Memeitaki will be the impetus of our sustainable development as a nation. Through research and consulting our people have told us that Turanga Memeitaki is when a person is in a state of being comfortable, healthy, and happy.

Looking after our employed people

Indicator 1.1 *Employee wellbeing index.*

This indicator assesses the wellbeing of employees as a measure of the fairness of the labour market and adequacy of working conditions.

Looking after our youth

Indicator 1.2 *Youth wellbeing index.*

This indicator assesses the relative wellbeing of young people and assesses the following:

- Optimism about future opportunity
- Current self-perception of individual wellbeing
- Engagement in Community

Looking after our families

Indicator 1.3 *Family wellbeing index.*

This indicator assesses the relative wellbeing of our families through a series of questions that will be monitored through rapid assessments carried out.

Looking after our elderly

Indicator 1.4 *Elderly wellbeing.*

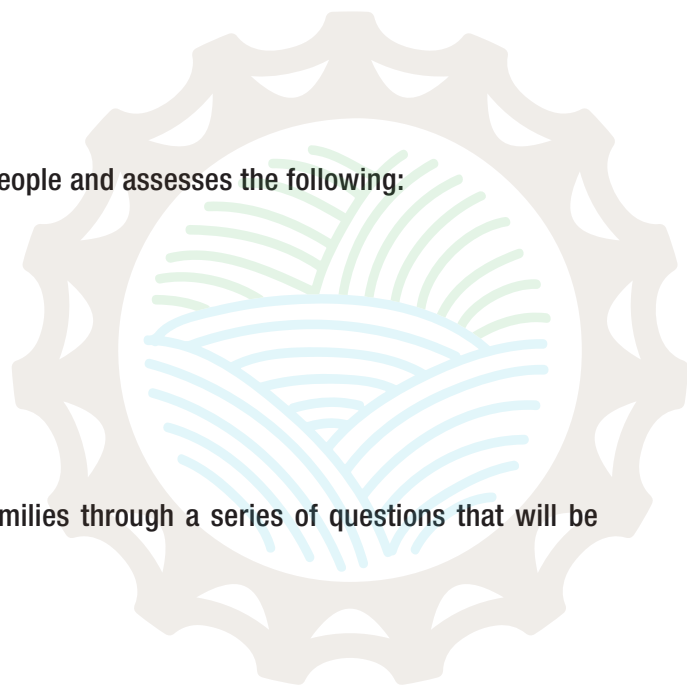
This indicator assesses the wellbeing of our elderly by assessing what type of support they need in their home to be comfortable. This will be done through a rapid assessment.

Looking after our parents and children

Indicator 1.5 *Parents and infants wellbeing.*

This indicator assesses the wellbeing of our infants and their caregivers. A strong foundation is needed to protect and support our tamariki at this age and their caregivers. The target is to review and gradually adjust support as per our evidence base. Note that for comparison reasons NZ has paid parental leave for 26 weeks.

- Parental (maternity /paternity) leave mandate:
 - Government funded paid maternity leave is paid at the minimum wage rate for 40 hours per week for a total of 6 weeks.
- Social support for our babies and families
- Child care affordability and support





Goal 2. Welfare and Equity

Alleviate economic hardship

Indicator 2.1 *Percentage of people under “minimum liveable income”.*

This indicator looks at the proportion of people in our country that are “struggling to pay for basic needs”. This indicator is based on a Cook Islands specific definition of economic hardship and the basic cost of living for people and households. We can use this information to improve our welfare system, and inform decision makers on how best to help the most economically vulnerable. We will disaggregate the data to take into account gender and migrant demographics.

Improve the distribution of wealth

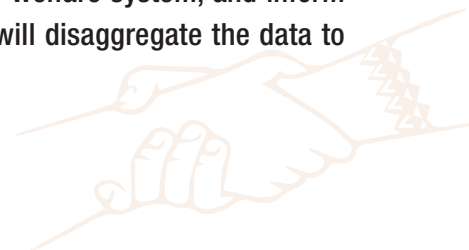
Indicator 2.2 *The Gini Coefficient – measure of income inequality.*

This indicator looks at the distribution of income in an economy and specifically highlights income inequality. Having a Gini Coefficient for the Cook Islands would help give a holistic picture of income distribution. Though perfect equality is not necessarily desirable, increases in the coefficient (inequality) are often correlated with higher “structural inequity” i.e. the laws and policies of society do not promote equal opportunity and fairness. It is the equality of opportunity that we strive for as a country.

Promote economic equity

Indicator 2.3 *Real growth in the lowest 20% of incomes.*

Cook Islanders have benefitted from steady increases to average incomes, but this does not necessarily reflect whether the benefits are being equitably shared to all members of our society. This measure evaluates the impact of economic growth on the incomes of lowest 20% of our society to monitor whether the benefits of our economic development are being shared equitably once we control for cost of living adjustments. We will disaggregate the data to take into account gender and migrant demographics.



Goal 3. Economy, Employment, Trade and Enterprise

Increase individual incomes

Indicator 3.1 *Real median income.*

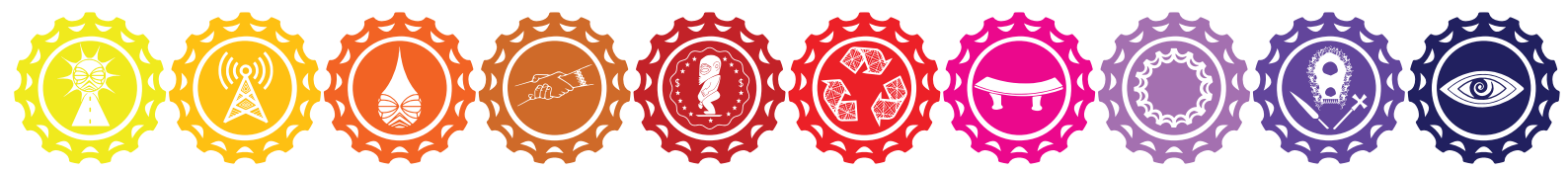
Median income looks at the annual earnings of people living and working in the Cook Islands. To best assess this, we use median income (as opposed to average income or GDP per capita) which divides the income distribution into two equal groups, half having income above that amount, and half having income below that amount. This removes the impacts of very high (or very low) income earners, by measuring the income of the average person.

Improve national economic growth

Indicator 3.3 *Real GDP (aggregate).*

This indicator looks at aggregate economic activity and the size of the economy. ‘Real’ GDP takes into account inflation so allows a more accurate measure of economic growth over time (as opposed to ‘nominal GDP’).





Increase economic diversity

Indicator 3.4 *Growth in non-tourist related industries.*

This indicator looks at the proportion of economic growth that is not directly derived from tourism but comes from other industries such as finance and fisheries. Strengthening these other industries and diversifying our economic base will reduce our economic vulnerability and reliance on a single industry.

Increase tourism growth

Indicator 3.5 *Visitor yield.*

This indicator looks at visitor spend per person per day on Rarotonga and the Pa Enua. The target is a sustained yield increase of 3–4%.

Promote economic stability

Indicator 3.6 *Total Debt to GDP ratio.*

This indicator looks at the ability of the country to absorb economic shocks by assessing its GDP as an indicator of its ability to meet its debt obligations. As a country, we want to ensure personal and national economic aspirations can be met without jeopardizing our financial stability.

Minimizing the barriers to doing business

Indicator 3.7 *Cost of doing business and trade.*

The high cost of finance to build a house or carry on business in the Cook Islands is one of the barriers to development, attracting Cook Islanders living abroad back home and investments. Reducing this cost is imperative to stimulating economic activity and growth. A review of the Banking Regulations and systems must be carried out as a matter of priority.

To reduce the cost of doing business in the Pa Enua, renewable and sustainable sources for sea transportation must be considered as a cost reduction strategy. This means changing our vessels to more greener and energy efficient which is environmentally and economically friendlier.

The following are areas to monitor:

- Access to Finance – retail bank interest rates
- Transportation and (freight) costs
- Regulatory barriers to doing business



Goal 4. Manage Solid and Hazardous Waste

Increase recycling

Indicator 4.1 *Recycling rate (percentage of total waste diverted to recycling).*

Recycling is a key component of our strategy to achieve the aspiration of 'zero waste'. In order to protect our environment and improve the sustainability of society and culture as a whole. We must promote and support responsible recycling initiatives; therefore this indicator looks at the amount of the waste that is recycled annually.

Manage hazardous waste effectively

Indicator 4.2 *Percentage of hazardous waste that is accounted for and managed.*

Hazardous waste represents an extreme risk to our health and the environment, as currently there are few facilities or mechanisms that address this issue. This indicator will ensure that we closely monitor, effectively manage, and safely dispose of hazardous waste.

Target: 100% disposal of all ODS (HCFC) off island by 2031.



Goal 5. Water and Sanitation

Improve access to sufficient and safe water

Indicator 5.1 *Percentage of population with access to sufficient and safe water in their homes.*

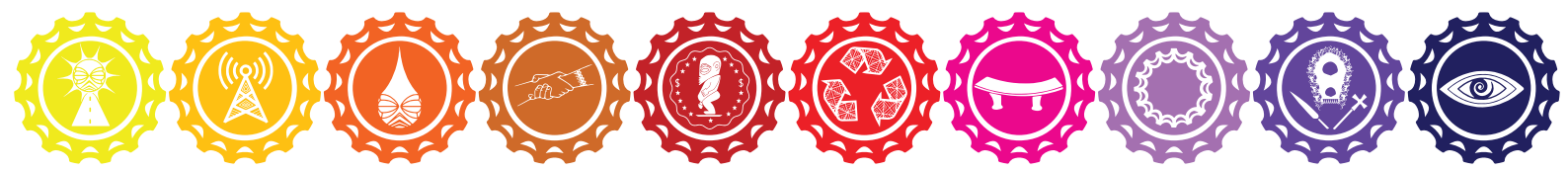
This indicator looks at Cook Islanders' access to sufficient and safe water in their homes. We consider this a fundamental right and basic human need that is of the highest priority, reflected in the country's recent significant investment in water infrastructure. In the absence of reticulated water systems we will measure water tanks for rainwater harvesting.

Improve management of sanitation

Indicator 5.2 *Percentage of properties using sanitation systems that meet approved standards.*

This indicator looks at the proportion of the properties (both commercial and residential) that are using approved sanitation systems. With the increased density of development, inadequate sanitation systems are posing a significant threat to our environment, the economy and public health. Monitoring of this issue is crucial to track efficacy of our efforts across the country to ensure sanitation systems meet approved standards.





Goal 6. Connecting our Nation through Infrastructure, Transport and ICT

Connecting our nation and people

Indicator 6.1 *Connectivity index.*

- Broadband connectivity – % of average monthly income spent on broadband
- Mobile connectivity
- Radio access
- Television access
- Satellite/emergency phone access



Build reliable and appropriate infrastructure

Indicator 6.2 *Percentage of national infrastructure that are fit for purpose. Target of 75%.*

This indicator aims to measure the delivery of basic acceptable infrastructure and public buildings to all our people. After fifty years of self-governance, we have improved much of our public infrastructure including airports, ports, roads, water, sanitation, and buildings. However, with our diverse and ambitious development aspirations, we must ensure that our infrastructure is fit for purpose meaning resilient and built to meet our environmental, economic, and social needs.

Promote regular and reliable transport

Indicator 6.3 *Transport connectivity index.*

This indicator assesses the frequency and affordability of domestic air and shipping services against benchmarked standards. We aspire to improve transport services between our islands to ensure that all people in the Cook Islands have adequate and reliable transport via shipping and air links. These links are crucial to enhance the economic viability of the Pa Enua and connect our Cook Islands community.

Access to information

Indicator 6.4 *Access to official government data and information*

This indicator looks at access to published information across government. An e-portal has been mooted and progression on this will need to be monitored. Access to information by people is important in ensuring an informed public and also access to justice.

Target: 100% official publications accessible digitally.

A physically connected nation

Indicator 6.5 *National infrastructure completed and maintained – air and sea ports, roads, bridges and drainage, telecommunications cable.*

This indicator looks at physical access through infrastructure. This access enables people to access different services which is crucial to development. Completed means that it was finished within the project timeframe.



Goal 7. Health and Healthy Lifestyles

Reduce non-communicable diseases – *Note that health impacts require longer periods to see change*

Indicator 7.1 *Rate of premature deaths from non-communicable diseases.*

This indicator measures the rate of premature deaths from non-communicable diseases, with the intent to reduce this rate over time. Non-communicable diseases or NCD's are our largest health challenge with high rates of heart disease, diabetes and other lifestyle diseases affecting the lives of many Cook Islanders every year and putting a strain on our health system.

Increase investment in health care

Indicator 7.2 *Health spending as a percentage of government expenditure.*

This indicator looks at how much Government spends on health. As our health system is almost exclusively publicly funded, the amount of the Government spend is crucial for improving the health of our people.

Promote sexual health

Indicator 7.3 *Prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STI's).*

Sexually transmitted infections have become a significant health issue in the Cook Islands. A reduction in STI's is a key priority for the Ministry of Health and serves as a key indicator of safer sexual practices and better sexual health and increased fertility rates.

Promote healthier lifestyles through exercise and sports

Indicator 7.4 *Youth engagement in physical activity and sports.*

Exercise, sports and other physical activities are crucial for a healthy lifestyle. Lifestyle habits are usually engrained at an early age which is why it is crucial that we measure the extent to which children, young people, and adults engage in physical activities on a daily and weekly basis (the Ministry of Health recommends at least half an hour per day for adults and an hour per day for young people).

Achieve healthier longer lives

Indicator 7.5 *Average life expectancy.*

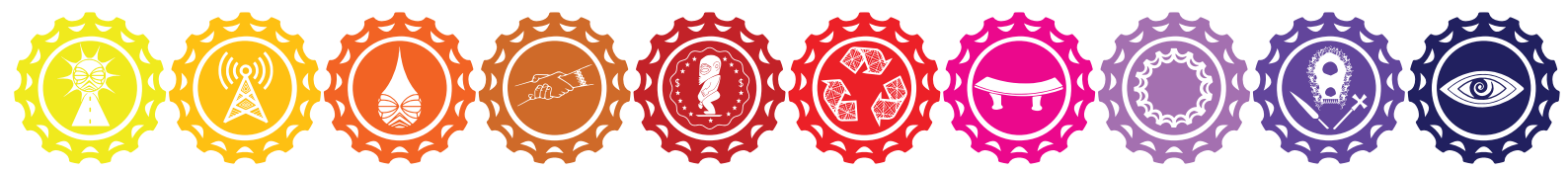
Life expectancy is the most widely used measure of the general health of a society. Health care spending, standards of living, environmental improvements, lifestyle changes, public health, disease prevention, and education all contribute to improved life expectancy and quality of life.

Improve mental health care

Indicator 7.6 *Mental health index.*

This indicator looks at diagnosis, access to services and suspected suicide as a measure towards improving mental health care.

- Number of people with mental health diagnosis in the past 12months (moderate–severe mental illness)
- Percentage of people accessing mental health services
- Suspected suicide or completed suicide per year.



Goal 8. Education and Innovation

Improve Reo Maori Literacy

Indicator 8.1 *Cook Islands Maori literacy rates.*

Strengthening involvement and awareness of Reo Maori and Akono'anga Maori

Indicator 8.2 *Number and participation rates of students in programmes available to school aged children to strengthen Maori language, culture and understanding.*

Literacy and Numeracy

Indicator 8.3 *Literacy and numeracy rates of selected age groups at Grade 4 (primary), NCEA Level 1 and 2(secondary) achievement rates.*

Student Wellbeing

Indicator 8.4 *Number and participation rates of students in programmes available to support inclusive education and student wellbeing.*

Inclusive education include vulnerable groups and dropout rates.

Contribution to National Research – Policy contribution

Indicator 8.5 *Total National Research funding and contribution to goal priorities.*

This indicator looks at research funding allocated by government and the contribution it has to the NSDA 2020+ goal priorities.

Tertiary and Vocational rates

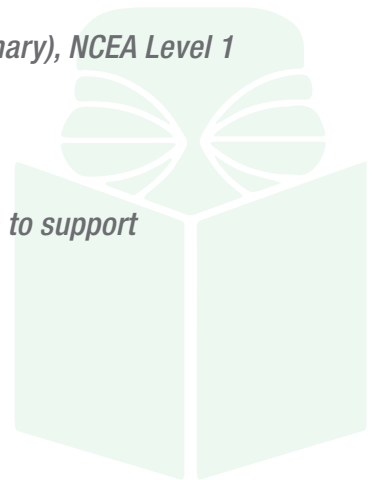
Indicator 8.6 *Tertiary and vocational level completion data.*

This looks at the completion rates of our tertiary and vocational students. This is important to understanding the labour market skill sets available.

Towards a culture of innovation

Indicator 8.7 *Total expenditure on Innovation and technology.*

Investing in the research, development and uptake of new products, processes and labour force skills is necessary.





Goal 9. Our Inclusiveness (Gender, Equity and Social Inclusion)

This goal looks at our inclusiveness through gender, equity and social inclusion. A more inclusive society is a stronger one.

Representation in politics

Indicator 9.1 *Percentage of political representatives from different demographic groups.*

Since the Cook Islands became self-governing, various groups have been greatly under-represented in politics. The inequality of representation in parliament and local politics is still a challenge.

Demographic groups include:

- Female
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and others
- LGBTQ+
- Youth 15–25 years
- Persons with disabilities



Advance gender equality in the workplace

Indicator 9.2 *Income disparity between men and other genders.*

One of the places where gender inequality still occurs across almost all countries is in the workplace where men earn disproportionately more than other genders. This indicator examines the relative pay gap between men and other genders. This information will allow us to develop appropriate policy interventions to address this important issue.

Improve care of the infirm, elderly and disabled

Indicator 9.3 *Number of fit for purpose facilities and services for the infirm, elderly and disabled on each island.*

This indicator looks at the standard of facilities and services for people who are infirm, elderly or disabled. Fit for purpose means resilient and built to meet our environmental, economic, and social needs. These groups are amongst the most vulnerable in our society. It is our responsibility as a Government and as a nation to ensure that they are cared for properly, engaged and enjoy the highest quality of life possible.

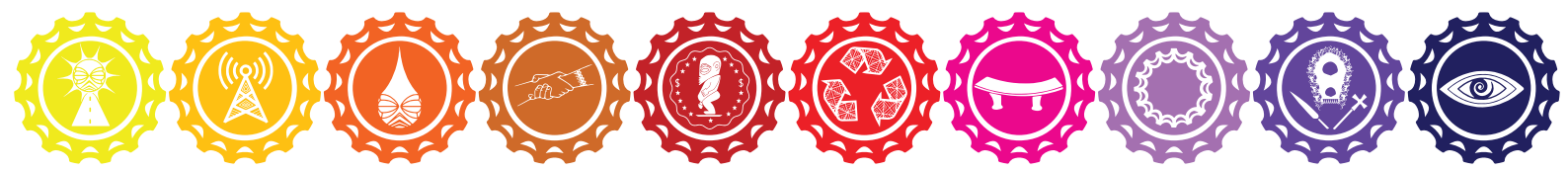
Increasing the support to our local partners – non-government organisations.

Indicator 9.4 *Government support to non-government organisations and their support.*

This indicator looks at the support that the government gives to Non-government organisations to support our communities. Government support comes through the annual budget appropriation and also Government Ministry bi-lateral agreements with agencies.

Non-government organisations include:

- Social care sector
- Environment sector
- Auxiliary



Goal 10. Agriculture and Food Security

This goal looks at our Agriculture sector and the role it plays in ensuring food security into the future.

Increase import substitution

Indicator 10.1 *Percentage of food produced locally (vegetables, fruits, root crops, livestock or crops and meat).*

Retain arable land

Indicator 10.2 *Total land used for agriculture.*

The rise in tourism and consumerism has coincided with the decline of agriculture as an industry. One consequence of this, especially on Rarotonga, is that land once used for agricultural production has been converted to residential or commercial (usually tourist) use. The less land that is available for agriculture, the greater the limitations on our ability to produce food. We need to ensure that there is land available to increase and improve food production and security.

Improve biosecurity

Indicator 10.3 *Minimise the impact of a biosecurity outbreaks in the country*

One of the major risks to agriculture is biosecurity threats that come from abroad. Biosecurity breaches such as outbreaks of fruit fly, have threatened entire species of crops and severely impacted harvests and livelihoods. Having adequate biosecurity measures in place is crucial for the survival and growth of our agricultural industry. Biosecurity threats need to be monitored and appropriate policy interventions need to be developed.

Reduce products that are affecting soil health

Indicator 10.4 *Reduction of imported herbicide by 2% (our baseline is 4,787kg per annum)*

This indicator looks at herbicide importation as a measure to protect soil health. Protecting soil health has been seen to increase yield and protect biodiversity.



Goal 11. Our Biodiversity and Natural Environment

This goal will look towards protecting the natural environment for life on land and below water.

Support healthy coral reefs

Indicator 11.1 *State of the reef – includes bleaching and crown of thorns.*

Prevalence of disease will be developed over the next 5 years and start reporting in next iteration.

This indicator looks at coral coverage and other variables, relating to the health of our reefs. We monitor this as reefs play an important role in protecting islands and communities from the impacts of climate change.

Protect Areas

Indicator 11.2 *Percentage of protected areas*

This indicator will look at protected areas on land and the ocean.

The Cook Islands has made good progress in establishing protected areas as part of its national commitment under the Convention for Biological Diversity (SPREP 2018). The country has established a large number of areas that have been managed for natural and cultural conservation and other related purposes.

A protected area is a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.

The Cook Islands have made an international commitment to conserve and sustainably manage areas of the Cook Islands Ocean under the Marae Moana Act 2017. This will be monitored for any changes under this indicator.

The target is to Increase land protected areas by 25% by 2031.

Support sustainable fisheries

Indicator 11.3 *Percentage of yield against sustainable benchmarks*

This indicator looks at the sustainability of our commercial fishing practices within our waters. While we look to protect the ocean and its resources, we also acknowledge that we use its resources for economic benefit, in particular fisheries. We will manage our fisheries in a sustainable manner using tools such as scientifically determined sustainable quotas.

Improve water quality

Indicator 11.4 *Lagoon water quality*

The health of lagoons has come under threat due to unsustainable land use practices as well as poor management of lagoon areas. We need to regularly test lagoon waters to identify potential environmental or health risks, and make timely interventions to address the situation. This indicator assesses the lagoon water quality on three islands Rarotonga, Aitutaki and Manihiki.

What is important to understand is the land use practices which lead to poor lagoon water quality and the interventions that need to be made to address this.



Achieve sustainable benefits from marine resources

Indicator 11.5 *Economic returns from oceanic and lagoon resources.*

The Cook Islands has invested money in marine related activities including fisheries, black pearl farming and deep seabed mineral mining. This indicator measures the returns on these investments. One of the main challenges is in balancing sustainable economic returns on resources with protecting and preserving the overall health of the Cook Islands' ocean and lagoon areas.

Protecting our Biodiversity

Indicator 11.6 *Biodiversity Index.*

This index tries to understand and track Biodiversity in the Cook Islands. Though not exhaustive it captures a snapshot of this important sector. Biodiversity refers to the variety of life at all its levels.

- No net-loss of critical ecosystems coverage.
 - Critical ecosystems include native forest, wetlands and coral reefs.
 - Wetlands means areas of marsh, swamp or water, whether:
 - natural or artificial;
 - permanent, seasonally flooded or temporary;
 - with water that is static or flowing, or fresh brackish or salty; and
 - includes water storage reservoirs, taro swamps and fish ponds;
- Scientific and traditional knowledge related to biodiversity recorded and maintained
- Reduction of the adverse impacts of invasive species on indigenous and agricultural species and ecosystems.

Note: Mauke, Palmerston and Suvarrow target of no rats by 2121.



Goal 12. Climate Change, Resilience, Renewable Energy and Energy efficiency

Promote resilient communities

Indicator 12.1 *Resilience index.*

The main aim of disaster risk mitigation efforts is to reduce the overall vulnerability of our island communities. We have developed a resilience index which assesses efforts to reduce the relative vulnerability of each island.

Enhance protection from cyclones

Indicator 12.2 *Percentage of population that have access to protection from category 3 or higher cyclones.*

The greatest risk that cyclones present to us is the loss of life. Never was this more apparent than in 1997 when cyclone Martin hit Manihiki taking twenty lives. We must mitigate against this risk ensuring all communities have access to designated cyclone shelters built to cyclone standards.



Increase use of renewable sources and energy efficiency

Indicator 12.3 *Percentage of electrical generation from renewable energy and maintenance of these sites.*

Target: 100% renewable electricity generation by 2025.

This indicator looks at the percentage of all electrical generation from renewable sources and the maintenance of these sites. Over the last five years the Cook Islands have made huge strides to reach its national electricity target of 50% of islands converted to renewable energy sources by 2015, with the remaining 50% to be achieved by 2020. The electricity needs of all islands of the Northern Group are now met by renewable sources. Efforts to transform the Southern Group as of early 2016 are well underway. This indicator follows up on the commitment made to complete these efforts by 2020 with the most significant area of conversion expected on Rarotonga where most of our population and businesses are based. Maintenance of sites will be monitored according to maintenance plans.

It must also be noted that there are also conversations around working towards a government electric fleet. However the conversation around Electric vehicles is evolving. The Cook Islands Road Safety Strategy 2016–2020 looks at aspects of an appropriate composition of motor vehicle fleet but this needs to be further developed.

Reduce reliance on fossil fuels

Indicator 12.4 *Annual amount of fossil fuels imported.*

Efforts to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency are designed to eventually decouple the country from its reliance on fossil fuels and provide a buffer to the external shocks in global oil prices. This will have both economic and environmental benefits. Reducing the use of fossil fuels should indicate not only greater use of renewable resources, but also more efficient energy use and conservation.

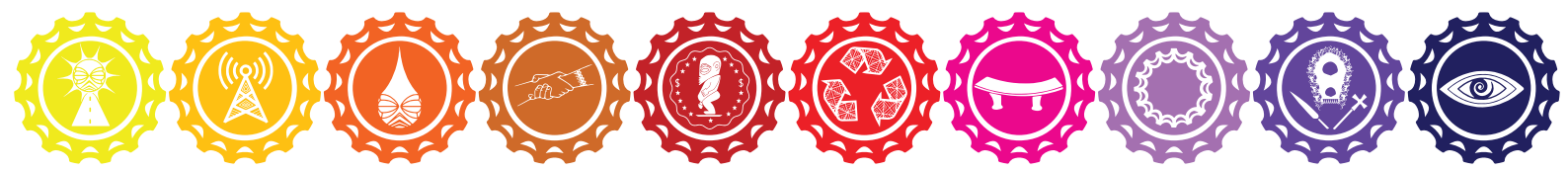
Achieve affordable electricity

Indicator 12.5 *Percentage of median income spent on electricity and cost recovery.*

This indicator looks at the proportion of income that is spent on electricity needs at the household level. While we look to convert energy generation from fossil fuels to renewable energy, we also want to ensure that electricity is affordable to all given the challenge of maintaining and replacing renewable systems in the future.

This measure also includes the per capita amount of Government subsidisation of energy production, distribution and consumption. It also looks at Pa Enua Electricity tariffs and its effectiveness for cost recovery.





Goal 13. Cultural Heritage, History, Identity and language

Our living languages and dialects

Indicator 13.1 *Vitality of the Cook Islands Maori languages and dialects.*

This indicator looks at the Cook Islands Maori language as a living language that will be passed to the next generations. All measures will be broken down by each island where possible.

- Cook Islands Maori literacy
- Cook Islands Maori spoken daily
- Percentage of Cook Islands Maori content in the media, public published documents and signage. The target is to have 50% in Cook Islands Maori over the next 25 years.

Archive to protect our cultural heritage

Indicator 13.2 *Percentage of Cook Islands articles, artefacts, media that are catalogued or developed and digitally archived for public access.*

The Cook Islands has a vibrant history, with the richness of our past embedded in our arts, crafts, documents, sounds and films. We have an obligation to curate these stories, preserve our history, and promote the development of our culture. This is an indicator of our efforts to preserve our heritage, and make it accessible to future generations.

A culturally aware and engaged population

Indicator 13.3 *Average engagement in cultural activities.*

This indicator measures the average engagement of the population in cultural activities to measure cultural awareness through involvement and pride for culture.

Protecting national cultural heritage places

Indicator 13.4 *Percentage of national cultural heritage places secured, registered and preserved.*

National cultural heritage places include – marae, landmarks, and institutions.



Goal 14. A Sustainable Population

Maintain a resident population that is consistent with our economic, social and cultural aspirations

Indicator 14.1 *Resident population of Cook Islanders.*

This indicator looks at the number of Cook Islanders that reside in the Cook Islands. Any population is reliant on the economy to provide a market, services and support to each other. The decline in population has affected the cultural and social fabric of our society, and may further threaten our ability to effectively lead the development of our nation.

Target: The resident population should be not less than 15,000 and the population distribution should be not less than 30% in the Pa Enua. This data will be disaggregated for geographic distribution for both residents and Cook Islanders.

Increase economic engagement of Cook Islanders

Indicator 14.2 *Percentage of Cook Islands investment versus foreign investment in the Cook Islands.*

While we are self-governing, true self-determination and ability to decide our own future is also inherent in the ownership of our country's assets and equity in our economy. Understanding the level of investment in our economy can help us make better decisions about how we manage our economy to benefit Cook Islands people. It is important that we monitor ownership and control of existing capital.

Towards empowerment through local ownership

Indicator 14.3 *Foreign Direct Investment as a percentage of GDP annually.*

Foreign investment occurs when entities based abroad make an investment that they also control, which normally includes the right to repatriate profits as well as the right to bring in their own management.

Target: to have the balance shift away from foreign ownership towards local ownership as far as practical.

Increase political engagement

Indicator 14.4 *Voter turnout for the general elections and the island government elections.*

Voting in elections is the most direct way that most Cook Islanders can be involved in the political system of our country. Voter turnout will be used as an indicator of public engagement, and confidence in the political system.

Reduced incentives to emigrate or out-migrate from the Pa Enua and Rarotonga

Indicator 14.5 *Population index.*

This look at the areas that affect the population drain and the factors that contribute to it.

- **Health** – Ratio of health personnel to population
- **Education** – highest grade of education available on each island and/or the availability of higher education services in-country
- **Working opportunity**-employment creation. This is the equivalent of the middle-class professionals who would return to the Cook Islands if offered a job and salary similar to what they already have abroad, or seek that type of job with all its rewards and so have to migrate in order to get it.

Increased incentives to remain in place include: lifestyle opportunity pull factors of a pristine environment, safety, education and health highly subsidized and family/cultural connection.



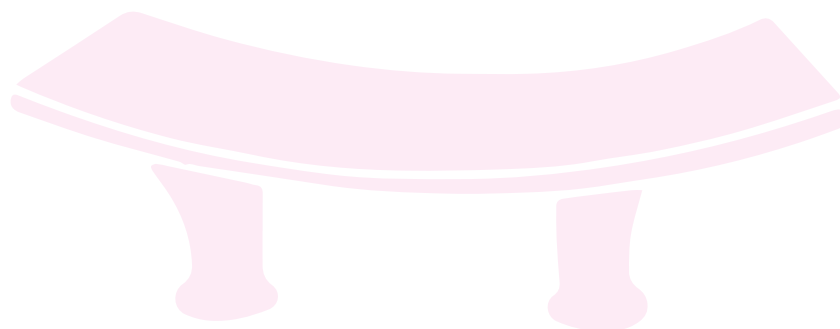
Goal 15. Our Security, a Peaceful and Just Society

Improve access to justice

Indicator 15.1 *Justice accessibility index.*

This indicator looks at a number of variables which represent the accessibility and effectiveness of our justice system. The outcome we aspire to is to ensure all people have access to justice institutions in a fair and timely manner.

- Criminal – number of cases
- Civil cases relating to:
 - Family and protection
 - Monetary claims
- Land – Cases from start to finish and related to:
 - Judge related; or
 - Justice of the Peace (JP) related
- Court and legal process (complaints) related to:
 - Lawyers
 - Land agents
 - MOJ Staff
 - Judges
 - JPs
 - Process



Reduce domestic violence

Indicator 15.2 *Rates of domestic violence.*

This indicator looks at the annual incidence of (reported) domestic violence. This has significant impacts on our society that go well beyond the direct injuries that occur

Reduce motor vehicle accidents

Indicator 15.3 *Motor vehicle accidents.*

This indicator looks at the annual incidence of Motor vehicle accidents and the demographics most affected.

Support effective corrective services

Indicator 15.4 *Reoffending rate.*

The Target is to reduce the rate by 2% annually. This will relate to supervision and custodial related reoffending rates and is broken down to alcohol related and violence related and also high risk and youth reoffenders.



Improve public service performance

Indicator 15.5 *Average performance of government ministries (OPSC Annual Report to parliament).*

This indicator looks at the annual performance of Government ministries as assessed by the Office of the Public Service Commissioner (OPSC). Government ministries must effectively work with civil society organisations, traditional leaders, and communities to achieve our national development goals.

Improve sustainable public financial management

Indicator 15.6 *Financial responsibility index.*

This index encompasses eight variables which include the financial responsibility ratios government uses as a financial management benchmark. This indicator ensures government manages public funds in a prudent and financially sustainable manner.

A parliament that serves the nation

Indicator 15.7 *Parliamentary index.*

There is a need to provide the public with more confidence in the following mechanisms:

- Number for parliamentary sitting days – the regularity with which elected members congregate to debate matters of public importance. Target at 40 sitting days
- Legislative pipeline from cabinet approval to legislative enactment
- Select Committee effectiveness on decisions in terms of process and timeliness

Civic Rights

Indicator 15.8 *Ratification and implementation of international Human rights conventions.*

This indicator will look at International Conventions that The Cook Islands has signed up to and whether they have been incorporated into domestic laws.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This Kaveinga Iti December 2021–December 2026 will be monitored through the annual indicator reports produced by OPM-CPP0. A final evaluation will be carried out at the end of year 4 (2025) so that the development of the next Kaveinga Iti 2026–2031 can take place.

Areas of concern picked up through our evidence base report

- **Economic sustainability** – the need for diversification and increased self-sustainability;
- **Health and wellbeing** – the need to better support the most vulnerable communities;
- **Environmental sustainability** – addressing policy, monitoring and resourcing gaps and developing more ecologically beneficial agricultural practices;
- **Education** – further embedding of Māori language and traditional skills and knowledge in schools, and more opportunities for school-leavers; and
- **Governance** – improved governance needed in a range of areas, including land-related matters.



Our Linkages

In this section, the 15 national sustainable development goals have been linked to the international global Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 2030) and regional agenda Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA pathway) as below.



SAMOA Pathway priority areas²



Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Economic Growth



Food Security / Nutrition



Health and NCDs



Social Development: Education

² United Nations Small Island Development States (SIDS) priority area. Monitored through the SIDS Partnership Framework



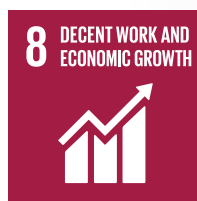
**Gender Equality and
Women's Empowerment**



Water and Sanitation



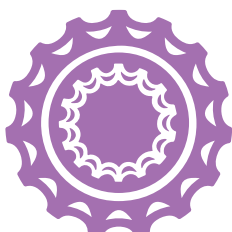
Sustainable Energy



**Sustainable, Inclusive and
Equitable Economic Growth**



**Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable
Economic Growth / Sustainable Transport**



Social Development



**Social Development: Culture and Sport /
Disaster Risk Reduction**



SAMOA Pathway priority areas



**Sustainable Consumption and Production /
Management of chemicals and waste,
including hazardous waste**



Climate Change



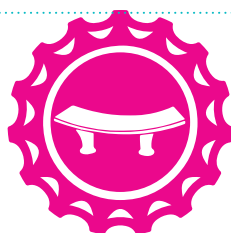
Oceans and Seas



**Biodiversity (Desertification, land
degradation and drought; Forests) /
Invasive Alien Species**



**Social Development: Promoting peaceful
societies and safe communities**



**Means of Implementation / Partnerships,
Financing, Trade, Capacity Building,
Data – Statistics, Technology**



