



WHO IS THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT SERVICE (NES)?

What is our mandate?

The National Environment Service (NES) is mandated under the Environment Act 2003, which repealed the Rarotonga Environment Act 1994/95 and the Conservation Act 1975 and 1987.

NES is established to protect, conserve and ensure the Cook Islands environment is managed sustainably. Our cultural identity is deeply rooted in our environment and it is a part of our heritage and legacy that must be passed on to future generations of Cook Islanders.

What is our core functions?

To protect, conserve and manage;

- sustainable use of natural resources;
- wildlife, in particular protected species;
- designated areas of the Cook Islands waters;
- pollution of air, water, and land;
- damage to any beach, land, inland waters, inland waters, drain, building, market place and public spaces;
- safe disposal of toxic chemicals and wastes.

To monitor and evaluate activities which significantly affect the environment. This includes reporting and investigating areas relevant to the protection and conservation of the natural resources.



To enforce the Environment Act 2003 and recommend new regulations under the Act.

To implement, coordinate and ratify regional or institutional convention, treaties, protocols or agendas relating to the environment.

To provide secretarial and administrative services to each Island Environment Authority and the National Environment Council. The institutional strengthening of the Service through training and development will provide a strong support system.

What are NES's Departments?





REGULATORY ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

WHAT DO WE ISSUE?

TIER 1 Environmental Approval

An activity that only has minimal environmental impact.

TIER 2 Environmental Consent

An activity that has some but not significant environmental impact.

TIER 3 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Permit

An activity that is likely to cause significant environmental impact.

Monitoring

- Ensure compliance of Permit and Consents issued under the Environment Act 2003.
- Carry out monitoring and evaluation of projects.
- Carry out research and data collection.

Legislation

Key sections of the Environment Act 2003 for monitoring and compliance;

- 36. Environmental Impact Assessment;
- 41. Protected areas;
- 45. Control of litter in public places;
- 48. Offences relating to litter;
- 50. Protection of foreshore and Cook Islands waters;
- 51. Pollution of Cook Islands waters and inland waters;
- 52. Permitting authority may require or take remedial action;
- 55. Protection of species;
- 56. Disposal of toxic chemicals;
- 57. Excavations on sloping;
- 58. Protection of wetlands.



GOVERNANCE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY & PLANNING

- **POLICY & PLANNING** – establish and manage national policies, strategies and international conventions relating to the Environment.
- **HUMAN RESOURCES** – manage all employment agreements, job descriptions, performance management review, training and development for Rarotonga and Pa Enea staff.
- **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT** – manage all receipts & payments, accounting entries, fixed assets, internal controls, financial reporting and audit.
- **COMMUNICATIONS** – manage all central communications through the website, social media, electronic direct mail and media partners.



STEWARDSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

- **BIODIVERSITY** – manage the biological diversity and ecosystems for land and marine environment-related matters.
- **CONSERVATION** – manage of natural resources to prevent exploitation and destruction. Water and wildlife conservation are key focal areas.
- **PA ENUA MANAGEMENT** – co-ordinate environment work in the Pa Enea and liaise with the Island Governments on environmental advocacy, education and monitoring.
- **RESEARCH & DATA COLLECTION** – Develop environment baseline data targets. Collect, analyse and report data for national and international use.



PARTNERSHIPS ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS

- **DONOR PROJECT DESIGN** – Design donor projects or fund to align key objectives and outcomes with the strategic direction of the Service and national priorities identified in the NSDA 2020+.
- **DONOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT** – Manage the delivery of donor projects from inception to implementation, while meeting the objectives of the fund.
- **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT** - Manage communications to the public or key stakeholders the objectives, deliverables and outcomes of the project or fund.
- **SPECIAL PROJECTS** – Manage projects of national interest that have significant impact on the environment.