

**FORMAT FOR THE PERIOD REPORT ON THE APPLICATION OF THE  
WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION FOR PACIFIC ISLAND STATES  
PARTIES**

**SECTION 1: APPLICATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION BY THE  
STATE PARTY**

1.1 Introduction

a. State Party

Niue Island

b. Year of ratification or acceptance of the Convention

2001

c. Organization (s) or entity (ies) responsible for the preparation of the report:

The Huanaki Cultural Centre and Museum under the Department of Community  
Affairs.

d. Date of the Report:

**Signature on behalf of State Party**

Minister for the Department of Community Affairs and Culture

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Honourable Fisa Pihigia

## 1.2 Identification of Cultural and Natural heritage Properties

### (a) **National inventories:**

Prior to the signing of the convention Niue had already taken the initiative in conducting a national inventory list of all the historical places and sites. This was undertaken by the Lands and Survey Department in conjunction with the Huanaki Cultural Centre, as part of its surveying responsibilities.

The Huanaki Cultural Center and Museum had record and documentation of sites and areas considered to be significant. This is still an on going activity and it is yet to be completed.

The Environment Section of the Department of Community Affairs also conducted a survey of some of the sites that are considered of natural importance. Some of these sites have both the natural and cultural significance in the history of our people, such as the Huvalu Conservation Area and the Hakupu Heritage Park.

It is felt that the work is yet to completed. There are sites that have not yet been listed.

### (b) **Tentative List**

Niue is still to work on a tentative list of priorities on areas to be included under the World Heritage Convention for both of our natural and cultural importance. I think that with this undertaking we required some training and technical personnel to do this. This will be a major project that we have to work on.

### (c) **Nomination**

We have no sites yet in mind to be nominated and after working on some other important areas in fulfilling the World Heritage Convention maybe then we can have nominated sites that have both the natural and cultural significance.

## 1.3 Protection, Conservation and presentation of Cultural and Natural Heritage.

### (a) **General Policy Development**

At this stage, the World Heritage Convention is considered to be covered by the Cultural Council Act 1986 Act 109 of 1986- 16<sup>th</sup> June 1986. . The act covers all aspects of work connected with the natural history and material culture of Niue.

We have still yet to have a policy specifically for the World Heritage Convention that covers our needs on Niue.

Once we established our national committee for World Heritage then we will be able to bring together people with ideas to work and formulate our national policy on the convention. It is hope that the formulation of the committee will assist the preservation and protection and promotion of our places of natural and cultural significance.

### **(b) Status of service for protection, conservation and presentation**

The Huanaki Cultural Center and Museum under the Niue Cultural Council Act 1986 covers this area.

The Niue Lands and Justice Department also hold records maps and site plans of location of areas of natural and cultural sites as part of its work.

Families and communities are very protective of their inherited traditional artifacts as well as practices and land rights.

The Government Departments that have responsibilities impinging towards the protection, conservation and presentation of sites would be Justice, Lands & Survey, Community Affairs, Education, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Public Works.

The Environment Section of Community Affairs is active in the promotion, conservation of the environment. They cover areas of natural importance and have done research on flora and fauna, encompassing the terrestrial species. All departments and sections need to be fully aware of the greater promotion of the convention is required convention and work together to achieve the world Heritage Convention.

### **( c ) Scientific and technical studies and research**

There has been some scientific and technical research studies done but on a very small scale some years back. Here are some of the publications that I have listed here includes:

Coconut crab survey (see DAFF for

The Archaeology Of Niue Island West Polynesia (2002) by Richard Walter and Atholl Anderson.

Contributions to the Flora of Niue (1970) by W.R. Sykes

Birds of Niue publication or Lupe / Peka

History and Traditions of Niue (1926) by Edwin M Loeb

Trees of Niue book - draft.

Stamps and Post cards have been printed of traditional arts and crafts and some sites. These include interesting tourist attraction spots that also have aspects of past activities and cultural practices of old.

Include the 2 books on arts and crafts (catalogue)

There is still a lot of studies and research to be done in all many areas here on Niue and a great need for documentation and management of these sites

**(d). Measures for identifications, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation**

Niue has done some work in areas that cover our natural and cultural sites. Legislation are in place that cover parts of these sites. As mentioned before, different departments have developed their own policies that relate to some of the objectives in protection and conservation and identifications of sites.

The Environment Bill is being review to ensure that current legislation affecting natural resources are well represented as well as the protection of historical sites. It would be of great value to the World Heritage Convention as the two Convention complement each other..

The Niue Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries Department has the legislation for the Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone Act 1997, Domestic Fishing Act 1995, Domestic Fishing Regulations 1996. These acts and policies have provisions for protection and conservations of fishing practices/areas, breeding areas, harvestings and protected species. A Biosecurity Bill is being drafted to update the Quarantine time Act 1985 and inclusive of biosafety aspects.

Niue is a party to the Pacific Region Multilateral Apia Convention.

The Forestry National Policy is to be completed by the end of the year. This is for the protection of our forest and species and some of the cultural and natural places of importance within the forestry areas.

The Land Ordinance 1969 gives the government rights to protect the places/sites of natural or cultural importance.

The Village Councils Ordinance 1967. This gives the villages responsibilities in protecting the natural and cultural sites. This is also to be review for we hope it will be law before the end of the year.

**(e). Training**

No direct training has been done. This is an area of need. At present there are no trained or technical staff or even extra staff to work in this area.

The only exposure Niue has had so far is in the participation the First World Heritage meeting held in Vanuatu in 1999 and the Capacity Building Workshop for World Heritage on February 2003 in Apia, Western Samoa.

We have identified in the last workshop the need for training of Pacific Island members in order to undertake the work necessary for the World Heritage Convention.

#### 1.4 International co-operation and fund raising

Since the Capacity Building workshop in Apia, Samoa all the Pacific Island Countries have agreed to share information and ideas on the individual efforts of each country with activities geared towards the World Heritage Convention. We also discuss on ideas on how we can have countries apply for funding as partnership or as individual countries to outside donors.

#### 1.5 Education and information and awareness building

Since we have joined the World Heritage Convention we have not really received much information about the Convention and we have not really have anyone trained or have we received much information about it in order to give out information or hold awareness programs for the public but since the capacity building workshop at least we have some ideas now where to go from here.

From networking with other participating countries we have learned from their educational and awareness programs for their government officials and the general public.

There have been some awareness programs that related to the conservations of cultural sites and conservation areas in the files by the Environment Department and also the Tourism Office used in promoting some of our historical sites.

#### 1.6 Conclusions and recommended action

##### **(a). Main conclusions**

This is our first Periodic Report as we are still in the early stages of development. Even though we have signed the convention in 2001 we need to establish our national encompassing committee. We need a lot of work at a national level in promoting the work outlined in the convention in having all other sections of the government that covers the area of conserving, preserving and promoting our cultural and natural heritage.

At this time we need all the assistance we can get in our preparatory stages with our sites and areas that needed to be protected and promoted.

**(b). Proposed future action (s)**

Niue intention to at promote and carrying out the activities under the World Heritage convention will be as follow:

Submitting a proposal to UNESCO for assistance with our education and awareness programs.

Promoting and educating government officials, departments, and non- government organizations who are in the related field about the importance of the World Heritage Convention in preserving and conserving our heritage for our generations to come.

**( c ). Responsible implementing agency (s)**

Huanaki Cultural Center and Museum under the Department of Community Affairs.

**(d). Timeframe for implementing agency(ies)**

We will be working on this as soon as we have set up our national committee in putting together and carrying out the activities for the World Heritage Convention.

**(e). Needs for international assistance.**

Niue will definitely needed assistance with our World Heritage work. As one of our greatest problems is our declining population as people are always moving over to New Zealand. We don't have the funds nor the skilled people to work in this area of the World Heritage Convention yet.