



# Our Cook Islands, Our Legacy

In 2020 the Cook Islands embarks on its journey towards a 100 year future under the Cook Islands National Sustainable Development Agenda 2020+ (NSDA2020+). This follows on from Te Kaveinga Nui, the Cook Islands National Sustainable Development Plan 2016 – 2020. These documents help guide our Cook Islands. They provide our nation with a vision, and the plan for us to work collectively together to achieve this vision.

## What is the Cook Islands National Sustainable Development Agenda2020+?

Known as the NSDA2020+, this is our national blueprint towards our 100-year vision for our well-being in all aspects. The 100 year vision is in place to provide a compass towards sustainable development in our country. Ultimately it will be a legacy for our future generations to help guide the development of our country.

## Is this our first plan?

The Cook Islands have always had national visions and strategies yet it was in 2007 that we named it as the National Sustainable Development Plan and launched the 2007 – 2010 plan. This was then followed by the NSDP 2011 – 2015, NZDP 2016 – 2020. We are now in preparation of the NSDA2020+ plan.

## How will we work towards a 100-year vision?

The key periods here are 100-years, 25-years and 5-years. Our 100-year vision which is set within our NSDA2020+ will be our long-term aspirational goal as a nation. To help achieve this will be generational 25-year frameworks, developed to suit the different generations and their circumstances, but working towards our 100-year vision. These 25-year frameworks will be monitored and tracked by 5-year score-cards, to ensure we are on the right path to achieving our 100-year vision through our 25-year framework.

## What is our vision of well-being?

We are wanting to define Wellbeing in the Cook Islands context through our consultations. However Well-being is generally defined as a state of being comfortable, happy or healthy. Our 100-year vision of well-being for the Cook Islands and her people is to achieve this in all areas – both physically and mentally, for our nation, our village and us individually. We are seeking well-being economically, socially and culturally. We are aiming for well-being of our health, our education systems and the well-being of our environment. Our vision is for the well-being of our governance structures and processes. As stated already – we are working to ensure the well-being of us all, in all areas possible.

## How do we begin?

We are in the first stages of development that being the preparatory and consultation phase for the NSDA2020+, our first 25-year framework and our 5-year plan. An NSDA2020+ committee has been formed consisting of a wide range of members from the different sectors such as government, private sector, and NGO's as an example. This wider NSDA2020+ committee has been broken down into four sub-committees, those being - Communications, Consultation, Development and Research.

The Communications sub-committee is responsible for the communications work surrounding the NSDA2020+, the Consultations sub-committee will work on coordinating and preparing for the consultation stage, the Development sub-committee has the role of leading the development of the actual NSDA2020+ and the Research committee will guide the methodologies of research being used for development of the NSDA2020+.

## What do the first stages involve?

Through the NSDA2020+ committee and sub-committee, the preparation phase has been underway since the start of 2020. The consultation phase, launched on 31 July 2020, will last through to November 2020. Over this period, the research methodology will be in use for gathering input and contributions from our Cook Islands people and using this as the basis for the NSDA2020+.



The timeline for this phase is as the below:



### What is our research methodology and how will it be used as we prepare the NSDA2020+?

To make a good plan, we must have sound evidence. For the NSDA2020+ we have adapted parts of the Horizon Scanning method of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to aid the building of our evidence-base. The method focuses on the different ways our people and policy experts are talking about the future. Through this process we will attempt to identify issues that are only just forming on the horizon, and with our consultations and further research, we will try to understand these issues better.

As we gather this information we will be guided by the importance of 'Akapapa'anga to our people. 'Akapapa'anga is a cornerstone of Māori society. It informs the way our society is built and the collective enterprise of our people. 'Akapapa'anga 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 (genealogies) that drives our preparations, an impetus to build a strong future for our society, our 'enua and the descendants to come. Our research work aims to identify any new issues that might obstruct the wellbeing of our collective papa'anga. With it, we will better shape the frameworks and scorecards in the coming years.

### Why is the ka'a a strong element of the NSDA2020+?

The braided sennit cord, the ka'a will guide the ongoing work of the NSDA2020+. The braiding and knotting of ka'a requires a careful selection of coconut husks and strands, and the evidence-base that informs the NSDA2020+ must also be carefully considered, analysed and braided into the plan through 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 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 towards our objectives and, as through growth, we will all be bound by the single cord that is our Cook Islands heritage.

### How can I make sure my voice counts?

Our NSDA2020+ belongs to us all. It is not a vision or a plan that is 'theirs' but a plan that is all of ours. Right now we have the opportunity to make sure that our thoughts, opinions, ideas and suggestions be heard through the various consultation opportunities that are made available.

There will be ongoing consultations through public gatherings which will be announced through all available communication mediums. We are ensuring that people will be able to contribute and share their thoughts, opinions, ideas and suggestions through our website, as well as our Facebook page. We will be making stations available through which you can write and submit your contributions for us to collect – these stations will also be publicised through a range of communication channels. We are also open to you submitting your contributions to us through email at [cppo@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:cppo@cookislands.gov.ck) if you could please kindly insert NSDA2020+ in the subject line of your email.

This is your opportunity to be heard. Our part is to ensure there are many platforms available to you so you are able to tell us your thoughts, ideas, opinions and suggestions. Our part is also to make sure that you are heard and your collective contributions are reflected in our NSDA2020+ so we own and guide our journey ahead, together. Your role will be to make sure you share these with us to ensure our NSDA2020+ and all the relevant frameworks and plans to achieve this, will be reflective of the thoughts and ideals of our nation.

We look forward to hearing from you.

