Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the collective efforts of all the people involved in the development of this document, including government officials, non-government organisations, and the Religious Advisory Council, all who provided valuable input during the consultation process.

Cook Islands artist Katarina Katoa was commissioned to develop the icons used to represent our national goals. The use of these images are for communicative purposes only, using an artistic style that is unique to the Cook Islands. This document is guided by our Christian values as enshrined in our laws and Constitution, and it is on this premise and with divine guidance that we can take our nation to higher levels of sustainable development.

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Central Policy and Planning Office, Office of the Prime Minister
Government of the Cook Islands
January 2016

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NSDP Icons developed by Katarina Katoa.
Graphic Layout design by Mimetua Nimerota
Acronyms and Abbreviations

3G  Third Generation (telecommunication networks)
4G  Fourth Generation (telecommunication networks)
BTIB  Business Trade Investment Board
BPS  Budget Policy Statement
BSG  Budget Support Group
CI  Cook Islands
CICC  Cook Islands Climate Change
CIEC  Cook Islands Investment Corporation
CPI  Consumer Price Index
CPPPO  Central Policy and Planning Office
DCD  Development Coordination Division (MFEM)
EMCI  Emergency Management Cook Islands (OPM)
FSDA  Financial Services Development Authority
GDP  Gross Domestic Product
GIS  Geographic Information System
HIES  Household Income and Expenditure Survey
ICI  Infrastructure Cook Islands
ICT  Information and Communication Technology
INTAFF  (Ministry of) Internal Affairs
IP  Internet Protocol (IP Address)
Mbps  Megabits per second
MFAI  Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration
MFEM  Ministry of Finance and Economic Management
MMR  Ministry of Marine Resources
MOA  Ministry of Agriculture
MOCD  Ministry of Cultural Development
MOE  Ministry of Education
MOH  Ministry of Health
MOJ  Ministry of Justice
MOT  Ministry of Transport
NCD  Non-Communicable Disease
NCEA  National Certificate of Educational Achievement
NES  National Environment Service
NSDC  National Sustainable Development Council (Committee)
NSDP  National Sustainable Development Plan
NSO  National Statistics Office
OPM  Office of the Prime Minister
OPSC  Office of the Public Service Commissioner
REDD  Renewable Energy Development Division (OPM)
RMD  Revenue Management Division (MFEM)
SPC  Secretariat of the South Pacific
STI  Sexually Transmitted Infections
TAU  Te Aponga Uira
WATSAN  Water, Waste and Sanitation Division
WHO  World Health Organisation

Table of Contents

Acronyms and Abbreviations ................................................................. ii
List of Figures .................................................................................. iv
Message from the Prime Minister ....................................................... iv
Te Kaveinga Nui .............................................................................. vi
The National Sustainable Development Plan 2016 – 2020 ...................... 15
The National Development Goals ....................................................... 19
  Goal 1 Improve welfare, reduce inequity and economic hardship .......... 20
  Goal 2 Expand economic opportunities, improve economic resilience and productive employment to ensure decent work for all .......................................................... 22
  Goal 3 Promote sustainable practices and effectively manage solid and hazardous waste .......................................................... 24
  Goal 4 Sustainable management of water and sanitation ................. 26
  Goal 5 Build resilient infrastructure and ICT to improve our standard of living .......................................................... 28
  Goal 6 Improve access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, modern energy and transport .......................................................... 30
  Goal 7 Improve health and promote healthy lifestyles ...................... 32
  Goal 8 Inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities .......................................................... 34
  Goal 9 Accelerate gender equality, empower all women and girls, and advance the rights of youth, the elderly and disabled .......................................................... 36
  Goal 10 Achieve food security and improved nutrition, and increase sustainable agriculture .......................................................... 38
  Goal 11 Promote sustainable land use, management of terrestrial ecosystems, and protect biodiversity .......................................................... 40
  Goal 12 Sustainable management of oceans, lagoons and marine resources .......................................................... 42
  Goal 13 Strengthen resilience to combat the impacts of climate change and natural disasters .......................................................... 44
  Goal 14 Preserve our heritage and history, protect our traditional knowledge, and develop our language, creative and cultural endeavours .......................................................... 46
  Goal 15 Ensure a sustainable population, engaged in development for Cook Islanders by Cook Islanders .......................................................... 48
  Goal 16 Promote a peaceful and just society and practice good governance with transparency and accountability .......................................................... 50

Appendix 1: Methodology for Indicators ........................................... 52
Appendix 2: Collection of Data ............................................................ 66
Appendix 3: Analysis of Indicators ......................................................... 68
Photo Credits .................................................................................. 69
List of Figures

Figure 1 Te Kaveinga Nui pathway .................................................................8
Figure 2 Map of the Cook Islands .................................................................10
Figure 3 Linking the NSDP 2011-2015 plan to the 2016-2020 national development goals ..........13
Figure 4 The interdependence of the NSDP goals ......................................15
Figure 5 The NSDP and the policy and planning framework .....................16
Figure 6 How the NSDP goals and indicators translate into actions and outcomes ........17
Figure 7 Assessing our progress using a traffic light system; status and trend ..........18
Figure 8 Lorenz curve ..................................................................................53
2015 was a historic year for the Cook Islands as it marked our 50th anniversary of the beginning of self-governance. As we undertake the next leg of our Te Kaveinga Nui journey, it is fitting that the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) has also evolved and adapted as our nation has over the last half century. This NSDP is the result of widespread consultations with the diversity of stakeholders, and the lessons learned from the two prior NSDPs (2007 - 2010 & 2011 - 2015).

We as Cook Islanders value more than just money. We are custodians of our islands, and oceans, we are stewards of our culture and heritage, and we are Christian, generous and selfless people who look after each other to ensure our prosperity is shared and those who are most vulnerable are cared for.

This is why in this NSDP we have a renewed focus on measuring our progress in a holistic manner. In doing so we have defined sixteen specific goals that represent our aspirations across the different dimensions of Cook Islands society and development.

With a focus on monitoring these specific goals, we have made a commitment to improve transparency and accountability for the development of our nation. We must recognise that in achieving these targets we are all responsible and we are all accountable. In shaping this NSDP we have created a scorecard for our development that is innovative and easy to understand. This document is a pledge to better engage Cook Islanders in the sustainable development of our nation.

I would like to thank the many people who contributed to the creation of this new NSDP including those non-government organisations, businesses, the church, traditional leaders, development partners and our public service.

Through this NSDP I invite all Cook Islanders to take the next step by working together in the achievement of the goals and targets laid out in this document. As people of ambition and courage, it is a challenge we welcome and that we must meet collectively, creating sustainable and durable partnerships with mutual accountability, ensuring a better future for all.

Na te Atua tatou e arataki ma te tauturu i te akatupuanga i tatou i moemoea.

Kia Manuia,

The Honorable Henry Puna. MP
Prime Minister
Te Kaveinga Nui

In 2007 the Cook Islands launched our country’s 2020 visionary framework: Te Kaveinga Nui. The first National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) articulated the national vision, and development outcomes desired by Cook Islanders which would be realised through a three phase medium term (5 yearly) planning approach. This document marks the third and final phase of this journey.

Figure 1: Te Kaveinga Nui Pathway

2020 National Vision

“To enjoy the highest quality of life consistent with the aspirations of our people, and in harmony with our culture and environment”

“Te oraanga tu rangatira kia tau ki te anoano o te iti tangata, a kia tau ki ta tatou pea Maori e te aotini taporoporoia o te basileia”

Our Cook Islands values and principles

Our culture is our way of life. Our values are reflected in the culture we practice, the choices we make, and ultimately determine who we are as a nation. The goals we set are a reflection of these values.

Honesty: In achieving the NSDP goals and reporting against them we will be honest, truthful, and behave with integrity while upholding our moral and Christian values.

Impartiality: Reporting on the NSDP will be impartial with every effort made to report in an objective manner, reflecting the actual status of progress. In achieving the stated goals of the NSDP, decisions and actions will be made without fear or favour of any particular group of people and decisions made will be based on merits for the benefit of the Cook Islands.

Respect and custodianship: We will encourage our people and the Government of the Cook Islands to treat the following with courtesy and respect:
- the land, sea and all living things
- the people living in our homes and our community
- our ancestry, heritage, culture and identity
- our traditional knowledge and practices

Transparency: We will ensure that the process by which decisions are made and actions implemented is transparent and open to public scrutiny.

Accountability: Through monitoring and evaluating our development, we will explain the reasons for actions taken, and take responsibility for those actions.

Efficiency and effectiveness: We will achieve national goals, in the most efficient and economic manner possible. In implementing and working towards these goals, we will endeavour to efficiently use resources to maximise the effectiveness of our actions.

Collaboration: We will work collaboratively as a Cook Islands community to achieve our national goals. Government will work with island communities, businesses, non-government organisations and other development partners in genuine and durable partnerships to achieve development goals.

Family of love: We, as a country, are also family. We look out for one another. We commit to protect and care for each other. In our efforts to encourage excellence in our Cook Islands family, we will ensure that the most vulnerable are cared for.

Sustainability: We look to achieve our development goals in a manner that is sustainable; balancing our social, economic and environmental goals, to ensure that the pillars of sustainable development are balanced for the benefit of future generations.

Innovation: We will use innovative approaches to achieve national goals and adapt to the challenges of our fast changing world, embrace positive change, leveraging opportunities to progress our development.

Equity and equal opportunity: We strive to have a Cook Islands where all people will from childhood have equal opportunity to succeed regardless of socio-economic background or geographic isolation. We will ensure people living in the Cook Islands have access to a minimum standard of living. This will be defined through the different facets of life, including food, water, housing, electricity, education, health services, security and resilience from climate change and natural disasters.
Context for the NSDP – A snapshot of the Cook Islands

Geography and politics

The Cook Islands is an ocean state which consists of 15 small islands scattered over approximately two million square kilometres of the Pacific Ocean. They lie in the centre of the Polynesian Triangle, flanked by Fiji 2,300 km to the west, Tahiti 1,140 km to the east, Hawaii 4,730 km north and New Zealand 3,010 km southwest. The climate of the Cook Islands is sub-tropical and tropical oceanic moderated by trade winds.

The Cook Islands became a British protectorate in 1888. By 1900 administrative control was transferred to New Zealand. In August 1965 the Cook Islands became self-governing in free association with New Zealand. Rarotonga, being the capital and main commerce centre is home to 70% of the resident population. The main driver of the economy is tourism, much of which is centred on Rarotonga (about 80%) with Aitutaki being the other significant tourist destination. Around 20% of the population live in the other eight islands of the Southern Group. Five are elevated fertile volcanic islands while the rest are atolls, except Mitiaro, which is raised coral. These Southern Pa Enua are within 300 km of Rarotonga.

The remote Northern Group of Pa Enua, more than 1,250 km from the capital, is made up of seven low lying, sparsely populated, coral atolls and sand cays, with little arable land. The number of Cook Islanders living in the diaspora is approximately nine times the resident population. Continuing depopulation is a significant threat to the development of the Cook Islands by Cook Islanders.

Economic development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic activity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominal GDP ($’000)</td>
<td>370,909</td>
<td>363,226</td>
<td>372,848</td>
<td>374,286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real GDP (at constant 2006 Prices, $’000)</td>
<td>319,728</td>
<td>272,429</td>
<td>276,352</td>
<td>271,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumer Price Index (base Dec 2006=100)</td>
<td>121.7</td>
<td>130.5</td>
<td>133.4</td>
<td>137.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Change</td>
<td>2.80%</td>
<td>2.90%</td>
<td>2.20%</td>
<td>3.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction/Capital investment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Building Approvals ($’000)</td>
<td>2,975</td>
<td>2,961</td>
<td>2,961</td>
<td>2,961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential Building Approvals ($’000)</td>
<td>5,887</td>
<td>6,550</td>
<td>6,605</td>
<td>6,661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Works ($’000) (includes Development Partners)</td>
<td>34,011</td>
<td>21,295</td>
<td>26,309</td>
<td>19,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor Arrivals</td>
<td>116,639</td>
<td>121,000</td>
<td>121,100</td>
<td>121,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearl Exports ($’000)</td>
<td>639</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish Exports ($’000)</td>
<td>3,105</td>
<td>20,816</td>
<td>20,816</td>
<td>20,816</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Social development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social indicators (2011 Census)</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resident Population</td>
<td>14,974</td>
<td>7,490</td>
<td>7,484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarotonga - Resident Population</td>
<td>10,572</td>
<td>5,278</td>
<td>5,294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy (2001-2012)</td>
<td>74.7</td>
<td>71.5</td>
<td>78.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>733</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>1,101</td>
<td>578</td>
<td>523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home duties</td>
<td>1,254</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour force participation rate (%)</td>
<td>71.00%</td>
<td>76.60%</td>
<td>65.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment-population ratio</td>
<td>64.0</td>
<td>68.9</td>
<td>59.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate (%)</td>
<td>8.20%</td>
<td>8.20%</td>
<td>8.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education (National enrolments 2014)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early childhood education</td>
<td>517</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary level</td>
<td>1861</td>
<td>954</td>
<td>907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary level</td>
<td>1804</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4182</td>
<td>2094</td>
<td>2088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of population with trade and vocational qualifications</td>
<td>22.70%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>21.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Source: From 2015/2016 Budget estimates, and (for 2011-12) from 2014/15 Budget Policy Statement and 2013/2014 Half Year Economic and Fiscal Update</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
An evolution in national planning

The National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) is an ambitious undertaking which looks to encapsulate the aspirations and ambitions of our entire country over a 5 year period into a single document. This document is the third iteration and builds upon the successes of the previous plans, but also marks an evolution in how we plan for our future.

In this plan we have further defined the national goals from the NSDP 2011-2015 into the sixteen readily identifiable, sector based development goals (refer to Figure 3 Linking the NSDP 2011-2015 plan to the 2016-2020 national development goals).

This NSDP reflects improvements in the policy and planning of Government with the recent development of more sector based policies and plans. This iteration is a scorecard for development rather than an explicit plan which enable us to have more in-depth research and consultation than would have been possible in a single centralised plan.

This NSDP also articulates key performance indicators from our broader national policy suite to represent national development. These indicators underpin the sixteen development goals which are aligned to commonly identifiable sectors. Together they represent a holistic, objective scorecard for the development of our country. Furthermore, they are closely aligned to our regional and international commitments such as the Pacific Regional Framework and the Global Sustainable Development Goals.

Figure 3: Linking the NSDP 2011-2015 plan to the 2016-2020 national development goals
The National Sustainable Development Plan 2016 – 2020
A scorecard for development

How the goals work together
It is important to note that these goals are not mutually exclusive. Each goal is related to the others in some way or form. Each goal, like each sector of our society is woven together, and the success of a single goal is often dependent on the achievement of others. The diagram below emphasises the interdependence of these development goals, and illustrates the importance of effective collaboration between agencies and partners across all sectors to successfully achieve our vision.

Figure 4: The interdependance of the NSDP Goals

“Our culture is our way of life. Our values are reflected in the culture we practice, the choices we make, and ultimately determine who we are as a nation. The goals we set are a reflection of these values.”

How we use the NSDP to implement positive change
The NSDP, as the national scorecard for development will help identify issues where indicators show no progress, or regression. This information allows us to be responsive and take action to get back on track. The NSDP results will be reported to parliament and the public on an annual basis. The Government will select a few national development goals to be the policy priorities in the Budget Policy Statement for the upcoming financial year.
The diagram above illustrates the process of how the NSDP drives change through Government planning processes. The NSDP is comprised of key indicators across the sixteen national goals. Each year the Budget Policy Statement selects which goals will be the priorities for new and additional expenditure for that respective financial year. Policy outcomes are implemented through strategies and business plans. Public Policies inform the goals and objectives of the strategies. National Strategies set out “how” we will achieve the various policy outcomes. Strategies include the different programmes and initiatives over a fixed, period, (either four, five or ten years) and their costs. National Strategies are reflected in the strategic plans of Government agencies which then filters down to their annual business plans and the annual budget.

Translating development goals into actions
The development goals and the indicators that underpin them are triggers for action and change. This rationale is based on the understanding that “what can be measured, can be changed”. The specific actions to positively influence these national outcomes will be derived from sector based policies and strategies. These policies and strategies will be based on rigorous consultation and research to ensure that we make the best decision consistent with the aspirations of our people. For example, the indicators for goals 7 and 8 are taken directly from the Health Strategy and Education Master Plans respectively. Other sector based policies and strategies will continue to be developed through 2016 to 2018, as part of the strategy for strengthening the public service.

The following is an example of how the NSDP goals and indicators are used to drive policy and guide actions to create positive change.
Monitoring our progress

Annual reporting against the NSDP goals will be based on the average of the progress on the associated indicators. Each indicator will be measured against predefined targets (outlined in Appendix 1). Indicators will be assessed in two dimensions: Status and Trend.

Status will be assessed using a traffic light system to illustrate the different level of concern or urgency, and Trends will be illustrated using arrows (positive/progression, negative/regression) and a circle (indicating no change).

The matrix below illustrates nine scenarios that will be used to assess each indicator:

Figure 7: Assessing our progress using a traffic light system; status and trend

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The indicator is...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. on track and continues to improve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. on track, however there are signs of regression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. on track, and no changes since the previous year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. of concern, however there are signs of improvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. of concern, and regressing. Requires attention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. of concern, and no change since the previous year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. off track, data suggests an improvement. However the situation is still critical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. off track and continues to regress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. off track and there has been no change since the previous year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following section provides more detail on each national development goal and their indicators. It is important to note that these goals are not numbered in order of priority, rather just to provide numerical identification.

The National Development Goals

A scorecard for national development

1. Improve welfare, reduce inequity and economic hardship
2. Expand economic opportunities, improve economic resilience and productive employment to ensure decent work for all
3. Promote sustainable practices and effectively manage solid and hazardous waste
4. Sustainable management of water and sanitation
5. Build resilient infrastructure and Information Communication Technologies to improve our standard of living
6. Improve access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, modern energy and transport
7. Improve health and promote healthy lifestyles
8. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities
9. Accelerate gender equality, empower all women and girls, and advance the rights of youth, the elderly and disabled
10. Achieve food security and improved nutrition, and increase sustainable agriculture
11. Promote sustainable land use, management of terrestrial ecosystems, and protect biodiversity
12. Sustainable management of oceans, lagoons and marine resources
13. Strengthen resilience to combat the impacts of climate change and natural disasters
14. Preserve our heritage and history, protect our traditional knowledge, and develop our language, creative and cultural endeavours
15. Ensure a sustainable population engaged in development by Cook Islanders for Cook Islanders
16. Promote a peaceful and just society and practice good governance with transparency and accountability
1 Improve welfare, reduce inequity and economic hardship

**Alleviate economic hardship**

**Indicator 1.1 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.

**Improve the distribution of wealth**

**Indicator 1.2 The Gini Coefficient**
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 1.3 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.

This goal focuses on economic inequity, poverty and welfare. We have a welfare system that ensures all of our people are adequately cared for, especially our most economically vulnerable. Though by some measures, we are considered one the most prosperous countries in the region with little visible poverty, we must be vigilant to ensure that the fast pace of economic change does not leave anyone behind.
Increase individual incomes
Indicator 2.1 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 2.2 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 tourism growth
Indicator 2.3 Total bed nights
Tourism is the primary revenue earner for our economy. Total bed nights allows us to estimate the relative economic impact of tourism and compare the relative success and growth of the industry over time. Bed nights are preferred to tourist arrivals as an indicator, as arrivals do not take into account the length of stay of tourists which can vary greatly over time and by traveller type.

Promote economic stability
Indicator 2.4 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 jeopardising our financial stability.

Promote fair employment
Indicator 2.5 Employee Wellbeing Index
This indicator looks at the state of the labour market, its fairness and conditions, by assessing the wellbeing of employees in relation to their work conditions. Measuring this is crucial as the stability of the economy and society is reliant on a sustainable labour force to support business, Government and society.

Increase economic diversity
Indicator 2.6 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.

This goal looks at the growth and health of our economy, as well as the people (labour) that drive it. While it is important for the economy to grow, we want to ensure that we do so in a fair and sustainable manner, where the benefits from growth are equitably distributed.
Increase recycling
Indicator 3.1 Total waste recycled
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 3.2 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.

Unsustainable development practices, such as those which increase solid and hazardous waste, represent a significant environmental, economic and health risk. This goal aims to minimise the negative environmental impacts of human activity. We will promote responsible, sustainable waste management practices and behaviours to business, organisations and individuals.
Water and sanitation are basic necessities for our health, economy and environment. With the impacts of climate change and the inherent limited fresh water reserves, preserving and managing fresh water is a key development issue. Sanitation has become a major national issue, particularly with increased development in Rarotonga and Aitutaki. The inadequate management of human and animal waste and other wastewater poses a significant environmental, economic and health risk to the country.

4 Sustainable management of water and sanitation

**Improve access to sufficient and safe water**
**Indicator 4.1** 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.

**Improve management of sanitation**
**Indicator 4.2** 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.
5 Build resilient infrastructure and ICT to improve our standard of living

This goal looks at how infrastructure and ICT (Information and Communications Technology) can improve the standard of living for all. We recognise that infrastructure and ICT should serve to:

1) Improve or secure the lives of people by providing utilities and improving access to services; and
2) Provide, stimulate or facilitate economic growth and activity.

Improve ICT connectivity
Indicator 5.1 Broadband Connectivity Index
This indicator looks at broadband connectivity through two variables - speed and penetration. Broadband speed is used to measure how advanced our national telecommunications system is. This is also used internationally as an indicator of economic development (or potential for growth). ‘Penetration’ relates to how many people have access to broadband internet’. Improved connectivity represents educational and economic opportunities which will spur continued investment in ICT infrastructure.

Improve broadband affordability
Indicator 5.2 Percentage of median income spent on broadband
This indicator looks at how much the average person spends on ICT as a percentage of their income. Affordability is a key consideration in improving access to ICT with access being determined not only by geographic proximity, but the financial means available to effectively use ICT.

Improved mobile connectivity
Indicator 5.3 Mobile Connectivity Index
This indicator assesses the connectivity of Cook Islanders using mobile technologies (such as smartphones and tablets) based on three variables - data speed, penetration and average data usage. Global trends indicate that mobile technology will become increasingly important in connecting people to the internet.

Build reliable and appropriate infrastructure
Indicator 5.4 Percentage of national infrastructure and public buildings that are fit for purpose
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 resilient and built to meet our environmental, economic, and social needs.
This goal is focused on measuring progress on the accessibility, use and composition of energy and transport. Our country has been at the forefront of international efforts to harness renewable energy to meet its electricity needs, and have set electricity targets to be 100% renewable energy by 2020. There is still much work that needs to be done to ensure that our people have affordable, reliable and sustainable energy to power our future. Transport is a crucial issue in our remote and widely dispersed island nation. There is a need for frequent and reliable linkages between islands. This is central to the concept of nationhood and impacts the livelihoods of our people.

Increase use of renewable sources
Indicator 6.1 Percentage of electrical generation from renewable energy
This indicator looks at the percentage of all electrical generation from renewable sources. 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.

Reduce reliance on fossil fuels
Indicator 6.2 Annual amount of fossil fuels imported
Efforts to promote renewable energy 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 6.3 Percentage of median income spent on electricity
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 future. This measure also includes the per capita amount of Government subsidisation of energy production, distribution and consumption.

Promote regular and reliable transport
Indicator 6.4 Transport Connectivity Index
This indicator assesses the frequency 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.
Health is important to our society and plays a key role in defining our overall standard of living and quality of life. This goal will promote healthy lifestyles by examining health care services, the general health of Cook Islanders and their lifestyles, including engagement in vigorous physical activity, exercise and sports.

Reduce non-communicable diseases
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.

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 Percentage of mental health cases actively being treated
This indicator looks at the number of diagnosed mental health cases that have been treated in the last year. Though not a new issue, efforts to address mental health in the Cook Islands are relatively new as we look to draw attention to the issue, and moreover, tackle the stigma that has kept those suffering from mental health conditions from getting the attention and treatment required.
Increase literacy and numeracy

Indicator 8.1 Literacy and numeracy rates
This indicator looks at the rates of numeracy and literacy of young people in our school system. The ability to read and write are basic skills that all members of society require to participate and interact with the world around them. We must ensure that all who leave the education system have these essential skills.

Increase Early Childhood Education (ECE) enrolments

Indicator 8.2 Early childhood education enrolment rate
This indicator assesses the proportion of children of eligible age that are enrolled in formal early childhood education programmes (preschool). Research has shown that early childhood education is crucial in the development of a child. We therefore aspire to maximise the number of children entering the education system from the age of eligibility (3 years) so as to optimise their educational experience and improve education outcomes in the long term.

Improve secondary school achievement

Indicator 8.3 NCEA Level 1 pass rates
NCEA Level 1 (National Certificate of Educational Achievement) is an important academic milestone for young people as it is the first recognized qualification at school. This is a relevant measure as NCEAs are recognised by employers, and used for selection by universities and polytechnics, both in New Zealand and overseas.

Develop a skilled workforce

Indicator 8.4 Percentage of the population with vocational or tertiary qualifications
We want to have the most productive society and labour force possible. We measure this because research has shown that a better qualified population is more productive. We aspire to increase the proportion of the population that has formal tertiary or vocational qualifications. We do this by providing educational opportunities including scholarships, university extension courses, and programmes provided through the Cook Islands Tertiary Training Institute.

Increase investment in education

Indicator 8.5 Education spend as a percentage of Government expenditure
This indicator looks at the share of Government expenditure that is spent on education. Education is a cornerstone and indicator of future development. To secure our country’s successful participation in an increasingly competitive world we must invest in our children and our education system.
Increase representation of women in politics

**Indicator 9.1** Percentage of political representatives that are women
Since the Cook Islands became self-governing, women have been greatly under-represented in politics. The inequality of female representation in parliament and local politics is still an issue (currently only 14 percent of elected officials are women), but we will continue to monitor and improve women’s representation.

Promote youth wellbeing

**Indicator 9.2** Youth Wellbeing Index
This indicator looks at the relative wellbeing of young people in our society. The youth are the future leaders of our country. We want to create a nurturing and enabling environment that provides opportunity and hope.

Advance gender equality in the workplace

**Indicator 9.3** Income disparity between men and women
One of the places where gender inequality still occurs across almost all countries is in the workplace where men earn disproportionately more than women. This indicator examines the relative pay gap between men and women. This information will allow us to develop appropriate policy interventions to address this important issue.

Improve care of the infirm, elderly and disabled

**Indicator 9.4** 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. 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.

This goal focuses on structural and societal barriers that inhibit gender equality. It also ensures we continue promoting and protecting the rights of people that are vulnerable i.e. the youth, the elderly and those who live with disabilities. While the Cook Islands is a relatively modern and progressive society, there still exist inequities and inequality with respect to gender. The Cook Islands also faces new challenges of the breakdown of the traditional extended family system and social networks.
Agriculture was once the cornerstone of our economy and despite our current dependence on the tourism, agriculture will continue to be an important part of the future sustainability of our country. We must take advantage of sustainable opportunities for food security and guard against the many threats including biosecurity risks and the loss of arable land.

10 Achieve food security and improved nutrition, and increase sustainable agriculture

Increase import substitution
Indicator 10.1 Percentage of all food purchased that is produced locally
The greatest immediate potential for our agricultural industry is in import substitution. Therefore this indicator measures how much of the food we buy is produced locally. Successfully producing more of the food we consume will help grow the industry, reduce economic leakages and improve food security.

Increase food production
Indicator 10.2 Total food production
With the impacts of climate change, such as increased drought conditions and desertification, global food prices are expected to continue rising in the foreseeable future. As our country is currently heavily reliant on imported foods, there is a real need to increase local food production. This indicator is closely linked to the Indicator 10.1, but also offers an insight into potential food exports.

Retain arable land
Indicator 10.3 Total land used and reserved 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 10.4 Number of reported biosecurity outbreaks
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.
Protect wetlands
Indicator 11.1 Changes in wetland areas
Wetland areas (these includes estuaries, swamps, and marshes) are key parts of the ecosystem. They act as natural filters between the land and lagoon and regulate water runoff. However, they have recently come under threat as people look to build on these areas, particularly on Rarotonga where available land is becoming increasingly scarce. Monitoring is essential to ensure that action can be taken if there is additional deterioration.

Increase protected land
Indicator 11.2 Areas of land protected
This indicator looks at the area of protected land we have designated. There are some areas of land that are crucial in protecting the biodiversity of the country or the general health of the ecosystem (wetlands and cloud forest areas). There are also areas that should be protected for cultural reasons, such as marae and other tapu areas.

Protect biodiversity
Indicator 11.3 Biodiversity loss
The Cook Islands is an isolated country that has approximately two million square kilometres of ocean. As a result we are home to some unique and diverse species, both terrestrial and marine. We look to monitor key endangered species to ensure their continued survival and proliferation as an indicator of biodiversity preservation across the country.
The Cook Islands is a large ocean state with approximately two million square kilometres of open ocean. As our largest natural resource, we have made a commitment to ensure our oceans, lagoons and marine resources are protected, managed effectively, and sustainably used for generations to come.

12 Sustainable management of oceans, lagoons and marine resources

Support healthy coral reefs
Indicator 12.1 State of the reef
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 marine areas
Indicator 12.2 Area of protected exclusive economic zone
The Cook Islands have made an international commitment to conserve and sustainably manage areas of ocean under Marae Moana. We look to track this commitment as Marae Moana is developed and implemented over the next few years.

Support sustainable fisheries
Indicator 12.3 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 12.4 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.

Achieve sustainable benefits from marine resources
Indicator 12.5 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.
Promote resilient communities

Indicator 13.1 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 13.2 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.

Build resilient infrastructure

Indicator 13.3 Percentage of public buildings and infrastructure built to hurricane strength standards
This indicator measures the resilience of a community and the infrastructure which it is built upon. As a nation, we must be proactive in future-proofing our infrastructure and public building against the impacts of climate change and natural disasters.

13 Strengthen resilience to combat the impacts of climate change and natural disasters

The effects of climate change impact on all facets of Cook Islands life, from public infrastructure to food security. In the next five years we must continue to take appropriate actions to prepare our country for the current and future challenges of climate change and natural disasters.
Promote Cook Islands languages
Indicator 14.1 Cook Islands Maori literacy rates
Language is a cornerstone of Cook Islands culture and identity. This indicator looks at improving Cook Islands Maori literacy rates among children in our schools. With influences of modernity and globalisation (such as television and the internet) Cook Islands Maori languages have come under threat with less use of Maori in homes, in the community and especially among younger people.

Promote cultural engagement
Indicator 14.2 Average engagement in cultural activities
Cook Islands traditions and customs are central to perpetuating Cook Islands culture. With this indicator we are interested in the involvement of people with these customs as a measure of connection with their heritage, village and church groups.

Archive and protect our cultural heritage
Indicator 14.3 Number of Cook Islands articles, artefacts, media and other cultural resources that are catalogued or developed and digitally archived
The Cook Islands has a rich history, with the annals 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.

This goal brings attention to Cook Islands culture and its prevalence in our lives, history and economy. Indicators in this section will include targets about engagement and participation. We must also consider progress in preserving, protecting and promoting cultural artefacts, traditional knowledge and heritage.

14 Preserve our heritage and history, protect our traditional knowledge, and develop our language, creative and cultural endeavours
15 Ensure a sustainable population, engaged in development for Cook Islanders by Cook Islanders

Support a sustainable population

Indicator 15.1 Resident population of Cook Islanders

This indicator looks at the number of Cook Islanders that reside in the Cook Islands. Any economy or community is reliant on its population to provide a market, services and support to each other. The decline in population has reduced our capacity to support economic growth, and further threatens our ability to effectively lead the development of our nation.

Increase economic engagement of Cook Islanders

Indicator 15.2 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.

Improve wellbeing of Cook Islanders

Indicator 15.3 Quality of Life Index

Cook Islanders are not driven by purely financial or economic motives. We are motivated by the need to not only provide and prosper, but also to engage socially, to give and care for our community, our environment. These are the things that matter to us. Thus, it is important that we measure this in order to preserve and protect what is most valuable and meaningful. The Cook Islands Quality of Life Index includes measures of: 1) job satisfaction; 2) disposable income; 3) youth wellbeing; 4) leisure time; and 4) cultural engagement.

Increase political engagement

Indicator 15.4 Voter turnout

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.

Improve research on the Cook Islands

Indicator 15.5 Number of applications received for research and scholarship on the Cook Islands

This indicator looks at the amount of research and scholarship that is being done in-country on the Cook Islands. This will help us develop a culture of learning and a society that shares knowledge for the purpose of enhancing our social and economic development, and safeguarding our natural assets.

After fifty years of self-governance, we are still defining ourselves as a nation. Continued outward migration calls into question the very viability of many of our island communities. Economic pressures have forced many Cook Islanders to sell land, businesses and properties to foreign interests. It is important to consider these issues of economic self-determination and migration in our central planning, so as to inform policy interventions for the future.
16 Promote a peaceful and just society and practice good governance with transparency and accountability

After fifty years of self-governance, we are still defining ourselves as a nation. Continued outward migration calls into question the very viability of many of our island communities. Economic pressures have forced many Cook Islanders to sell land, businesses and properties to foreign interests. It is important to consider these issues of economic self-determination and migration in our central planning, so as to inform policy interventions for the future.

**Improve access to justice**

*Indicator 16.1 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.

**Reduce domestic violence**

*Indicator 16.2 Rate of domestic violence*

This indicator looks at the annual incidence of (reported) domestic violence. Domestic violence (i.e. violence in the home against women and children) is one of the most serious and unfortunately prevalent crimes that has plagued our country for a long time. We must be vigilant in continuing to draw attention to this issue, and make efforts as a Government and community to ensure that there is zero tolerance.

**Reduce motor vehicle accidents**

*Indicator 16.3 Rate of motor vehicle accidents (from reckless behaviour)*

Serious motor vehicle accidents have significant impacts on our society that go well beyond the direct injuries or deaths that occur. They include the impact on the families of those involved, the loss of productivity from injuries, and the significant financial burden on the health system. The long standing societal issue of alcohol, drug or speed related accidents needs to be addressed and monitored.

**Support effective corrective services**

*Indicator 16.4 Reoffending rates*

Our prison system is built upon the premise of changing the behaviour of those who have been convicted of crimes – hence the term “correctional facility”. Thus it is crucial that we track reoffending rates to monitor the effectiveness of our system in rehabilitating convicted people into productive law-abiding citizens.

**Improve public service performance**

*Indicator 16.5 Average performance of Government ministries (as per the PSC 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 16.6 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.

**Parliament serving the people**

*Indicator 16.7 Number of Parliamentary sitting days*

This indicator measures the regularity with which elected members congregate to debate matters of public importance. There is a need to provide the public with more confidence in the mechanisms of good governance and democracy that are a significant part of our constitution and healthy democratic debate.
Appendices

Appendix 1: Methodology for Indicators

This appendix further explains the methodology for the indicators used to measure progress towards the 16 national goals. This includes how the status of the indicator will be determined i.e. is progress ‘on track’ (green), ‘of concern’ (yellow), or ‘off track’ (red). The data sources for each indicator are also identified.

Where possible and relevant, data will be disaggregated by gender, age, and region. Data will be collected annually or biennially.

The methodologies for calculating the indicators are made explicit here for the purposes of allowing readers to understand how they are developed as well as to be transparent about the limitations of the indicators. We recognise that these indicators are mostly based on samples and may be subject to various biases resulting from the limitations of the data set or collection methods. However we have made every effort to ensure that these indicators will be reported on as fairly and frequently as possible with the limited resources available, to provide a holistic measure of our development. Also note that some indicators and methodologies may be adjusted to improve accuracy (while recognising compromises that may result when try to compare data sets over time).

Goal 1: Improve welfare, reduce inequity and economic hardship

Indicator 1.1: Percentage of people under “minimum liveable income”

We will use annual income tax data to ascertain how many Cook Island residents earn under the “minimum liveable income level”. The minimum liveable income will be determined through the household income and expenditure survey, and will be adjusted annually to account for inflation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of population under minimum liveable income level</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;15%</td>
<td>On Track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-30%</td>
<td>Off concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;30%</td>
<td>Off track</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sources of data: Income tax data (RMD – MFEM), HIES (NSO – MFEM), CPI - National Accounts (NSO - MFEM).

Goal 2: Expand economic opportunities, improve economic resilience and productive employment to ensure decent work for all

Indicator 2.3: Total debt to GDP ratio

The figures for this will be taken from the National Accounts. This ratio simply compares the total of public and private sector debt to the (nominal) GDP of that year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total debt to GDP ratio</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 1</td>
<td>Of concern</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.1 - 1.5:1</td>
<td>On Track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 1.5:1</td>
<td>Off track</td>
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</table>

Sources of data: National Accounts (NSO - MFEM).

Indicator 2.4: Employee Wellbeing Index

This index is determined using an average score from questions about job satisfaction in the Labour Market Survey. Questions will look at: 1) general satisfaction with the current role; 2) opportunities in current role; 3) inherent (perceived) importance/making of the job; 4) likelihood of staying with the organisation; and 5) workplace environment. These questions will be scored out of 5, with 5 the most positive response and one the most negative.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Annual change</th>
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<td>0 to 0.5%</td>
<td>Off concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;0%</td>
<td>Off Track</td>
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Sources of data: National Accounts (NSO - MFEM).

Indicator 1.3: Real growth in the lowest 20% of incomes

This indicator is assessed through annual income tax data. It is important to note that it does NOT include people who do not have an income and do not submit annual tax returns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt;37%</td>
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<tr>
<td>37% -40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt;40%</td>
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</table>

Sources of data: Income tax data (RMD - MFEM).

Indicator 1.2: The Gini Coefficient

This will be calculated using annual income tax data. The Gini Coefficient is calculated as the ratio (between 0 and 1) of Area ‘W’ in the chart below, divided by the total area under the line of perfect equality (45 degree line), which is equal to Areas ‘A’ and ‘B’. That is, Gini = A/(A+B). The dividing line between ‘A’ and ‘B’, the Lorenz Curve, is representative of the share of total income attributed to that particular proportion of the population (in cumulative terms).

Figure 8 Lorenz Curve

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gini value</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<td>On Track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 0.55</td>
<td>Off track</td>
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Sources of data: Income tax data (RMD - MFEM), National Accounts (NSO - MFEM).

Indicator 1.2.1: The Poverty Line

This is progress ‘on track’ (green), ‘of concern’ (yellow), or ‘off track’ (red). The data sources for each indicator are also identified.

Goal 1: Improve welfare, reduce inequity and economic hardship

Indicator 1.1: Percentage of people under “minimum liveable income”

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Sources of data: Income tax data (RMD – MFEM), HIES (NSO – MFEM), CPI - National Accounts (NSO - MFEM).

Goal 2: Expand economic opportunities, improve economic resilience and productive employment to ensure decent work for all

Indicator 2.3: Total debt to GDP ratio

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Sources of data: National Accounts (NSO - MFEM).

Indicator 2.4: Employee Wellbeing Index

This index is determined using an average score from questions about job satisfaction in the Labour Market Survey. Questions will look at: 1) general satisfaction with the current role; 2) opportunities in current role; 3) inherent (perceived) importance/making of the job; 4) likelihood of staying with the organisation; and 5) workplace environment. These questions will be scored out of 5, with 5 the most positive response and one the most negative.
Goal 4: Sustainable management of water and sanitation
Indicator 4.1: Percentage of population with access to sufficient and safe water in their homes
This indicator measures against quantity, quality and accessibility. These criteria are stated below:

- The minimum standard for quantity (sufficient) is based on 80 litres per person per day.
- The minimum standard for access is having a running water within a household.
- The minimum standard for water quality will be formally established in April 2016.

Table: Access to Sufficient Water

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sources of data: Statistics New Zealand (2015), International Organization for Standardization.

Penetration looks at the percentage of households that have broadband connectivity.

Table: Broadband Penetration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-15%</td>
<td>Off track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-30%</td>
<td>Of concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;30%</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Goal 5: Build resilient infrastructure and Information Communication Technology (ICT) to improve our standard of living
Indicator 5.1: Broadband Connectivity Index
This indicator is made up of two variables, speed and penetration. Speed will be determined by taking a weighted average of the connection speeds calculated from the unique IP (Internet protocol) addresses across the country. The weighting of this figure will be based on location of sample speed tests to reflect the population density of the different islands. Average speed (Mbps) Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Speed</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4 (minimum 4G)</td>
<td>Off track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5-3 (minimum 3G)</td>
<td>Of concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;3.5</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources of data: Statistics New Zealand (2015), Internet Service Provider Survey Provider: 2015.

Public buildings and infrastructure found to be sound and of good repair

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>75%</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-75%</td>
<td>Of concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;60%</td>
<td>Off track</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources of data: Public Asset Register (ORC).

Indicator 5.4: Percentage of national infrastructure and public buildings that are fit for purpose
This will be derived from the government asset register, which catalogues and documents the states of all public assets from roads, to airports to public buildings. On the register there is a stocktake of the fitness of the assets to identify when assets are due for repair and maintenance (not including extraordinary damage such as cyclones or fires).
Goal 6: Improve access to affordable, reliable, sustainable modern energy and transport

Indicator 6.1: Percentage of electrical generation from renewable energy sources
This statistic looks at how much of the total electrical generation in the country is from renewable sources (which in the Cook Islands means almost exclusively solar). This will be determined through the metering across the country and the assessment of kWh that is generated through the different systems. Data will be collected by the Ministry of Energy, Tourism, and Environment.

Indicator 6.2: Annual amount of fossil fuels imported
There are several types of fossil fuels that can be imported into the country and a large part of these is aviation fuel.

Goal 7: Improve health and promote healthy lifestyles

Indicator 7.1: Rate of premature deaths from non-communicable diseases
This indicator assesses the rate of premature deaths from NCDs.

Indicator 7.2: Health spending as a percentage of Government expenditure
We used World Health Organisation (WHO) measures to look at global trends for Government expenditure on health care. This data shows New Zealand’s spending at 17.6%, Australia at 17.7% and Samoa at 17.8%, which is lower than the Cook Islands at only 15% in 2013. While there is no prescribed rate of spending, WHO’s international comparisons clearly delineate between third world countries and developed, more progressive countries using a threshold of 11%.

Indicator 7.3: Prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
This indicator looks at the percentage of tests annually that come back positive for STIs. Ministry of Health test for gonorrhoea, chlamydia, HIV/AIDS, syphilis, trichomonas and candidiasis.

Indicator 7.4: Youth engagement in physical activity and sports
This indicator will assess the weekly participation levels of young people (between ages 13-16) in vigorous physical activity through a survey questionnaire.

Indicator 7.5: Average life expectancy
Life expectancy is computed using a life table, which converts observed population based mortality rates into risk of dying at each age. It is conventionally calculated separately for males and females. This measure can be calculated at any age with the most common being the life expectancy at birth (LEB), which is the average number of years a person could be expected to live in total.

Indicator 7.6: Percentage of mental health cases actively being treated
Caution must be exercised in the assessment of this indicator as in the first instance it is important to adequately diagnose mental health illness and disorders and encourage people to seek treatment. To this end a positive outcome may be achieved inversely, especially at this early stage of the Cook Islands mental health strategy.

Goal 8: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities

Indicator 8.1: Literacy and numeracy rates
Literacy and numeracy is assessed throughout the school years but this indicator measures literacy and numeracy specifically at year 12. This is done through annual summative assessment using Ministry of Education and NZQA (New Zealand Qualifications Authority) assessment tools. This indicator is measured against annual benchmarks as set out by the Ministry of Education. The indicator itself will be an average of literacy and numeracy results.

Indicator 8.2: Early childhood education enrolment rate
This indicator assesses early childhood education enrolment against annual targets set by the Ministry of Education.
Goal 9: Accelerate gender equality, empower all women and girls, and advance the rights of young, the elderly and disabled

Indicator 9.1: Percentage of political representatives that are women

This indicator assesses the number of female representatives in parliament and local government (municiplities) against the total number of representatives (denominators).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt;10%</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 – 10%</td>
<td>Of concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;5%</td>
<td>Off track</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources of data: Westminster Results, Electoral Role (NGO - MFDM, MOJ), Parliamentary Records (Parliamentary Services).

Goal 10: Achieve food security and improved nutrition, and increase sustainable agriculture

Indicator 10.1: Percentage of all food purchased that is produced locally

This indicator looks at total food imported and sold, versus local food produced and sold. Records for imports can be obtained from Customs. Records of local agricultural produce can be obtained through supermarkets, hotels, restaurants and surveys of growers’ sales.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average score</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt;0.5</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 - 0.3</td>
<td>Of concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;0</td>
<td>Off track</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources of data: School Health Survey (MOH).

Indicator 10.2: Total food production

Total food production will be assessed through surveys of farmers and growers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual change in local food production</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥0.5%, or consecutive years of increase</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-0.2% to non-consecutive years</td>
<td>Of concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-2% or consecutive years of decrease</td>
<td>Off track</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources of data: National Accounts (MOE - MFDM, Agriculture Statistics (MOA)).

Indicator 10.3: Total land used and reserved for agriculture

The total food produced will be assessed through surveys of farmers and growers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual change in land used</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥0.5% in consecutive years</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-0.2% to non-consecutive years</td>
<td>Of concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-2% or consecutive years of decrease</td>
<td>Off track</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources of data: GIS Data (MOA, MFDM, RSA).

Goal 11: Promote sustainable land use, management of terrestrial ecosystems, and protect biodiversity

Indicator 11.1: Change in wetland areas

This indicator aims to determine whether there has been any reduction or increase in natural wetland areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual change in wetland areas</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥0.5% in consecutive years</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-0.2% to non-consecutive years</td>
<td>Of concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-2% or consecutive years of decrease</td>
<td>Off track</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources of data: GIS Data (IC, MOA, RSA).

Indicator 11.2: Areas of land protected

This indicator assesses whether there has been any reduction or increase in areas of land protected.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual change in areas of land protected</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥0.5% in consecutive years of increase</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-0.5% to +0.5% following a year of increase or decrease</td>
<td>Of concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-2% or consecutive years of decrease</td>
<td>Off track</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources of data: Reports of Protected Lands (Kareao Island, RSA, Island Administrations).

Indicator 11.3: Biodiversity loss

We will assess the biodiversity looking at the prevalence of key endangered species in specific areas identified as key biodiversity areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prevalence of endangered species</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No change, or increase</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease within expected limits (as determined by NES)</td>
<td>Of concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further decrease</td>
<td>Off track</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources of data: Biodiversity Reports (NKB, Ministry of Heritage Trust).

Goal 12: Sustainable management of oceans, lagoons and marine resources

Indicator 12.1: State of the Reef

This indicator looks at the state of reef including coral coverage and other indicators of reef health. Monitoring of biophysical parameters focuses on a host of organisms to assess the extent of damage to coral reefs from natural and human induced disturbances. Monitoring is the means by which the information about environmental changes in our near-shore marine ecosystems are collected. Change refers to statistically significant increases or decreases with high (95%) statistical power. When changes occur, biologists work multiple datasets together to understand how, what, when, where, and why the change has occurred. The data management component of the marine monitoring programme involves data entry, storage and analysis. A regular reporting scheme will provide opportunities for government agencies and the public to use the data to make informed decisions concerning development practices and resource use.

The most frequently measured ecological parameters include:

- Percentage cover of corals (both live and dead), algae and non-living material.
- Species or genus composition and size structure of coral communities;
- Presence of newly settled corals and juveniles;
- Numbers, species composition, size (biomass) and structure of fish populations;
- Crown-of-Thorns Starfish, sea urchins etc.;
- Extent and nature of coral bleaching; and
- Extent and type of coral disease.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statistically significant improvement; or consecutive years of non-significant improvements</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistically significant change</td>
<td>Of concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistically significant deterioration</td>
<td>Off track</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources of data: Marine Monitoring Reports (MMR, NES, CLG - LMG).

Indicator 12.2: Area of protected exclusive economic zone

This is assessed by the extent of the areas established around each island by law. This will be finalised later in 2015. This area will be benchmarked against an Environmental Performance Index.

Indicator 12.3: Percentage of yield against sustainable benchmarks

This indicator will look at the reported catch of licensed vessels against “sustainable limits” established by SPC (Secretariat of the Pacific Community) (based on scientific research and updated every two years).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Catch</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Below Minimum Economic Yield (MEY)</td>
<td>Off track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between Sustainable Yield (WSY) and MEY</td>
<td>Off track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At or above MSY</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources of data: Fishing Monitoring Reports (MMR), Fisheries Management Reports (SPC, MMR).

Indicator 12.4: Lagoon water quality

This is assessed against predetermined criteria by the Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR). Lagoon water quality is measured on three islands: Rarotonga, Aitutaki and Manihiki. In assessing water quality, MMR looks at three main variables: bacteria levels, water clarity and nutrient levels. In assessing bacterial levels, the count per 100 ml as shown below is the grading scale from MMR that has been customised for the MMR. We note that the MDP uses a generic three colour scale, whereas MMR grade water quality using a six level scale with “A”, the best score and best outcome, and “F” the worst.

Sources of data: http://www.gpi.yale.edu/our-methods/biodiversity-and-habitat2#3.
Goal 14: Preserve our heritage and history, protect our traditional knowledge, and develop our language, creativity and cultural endowments

Indicator 14.1: Cook Islands Maori literacy rates

This indicator looks at Maori literacy rates for children in our school system at year 9. This is done through formal assessment.

Indicator 14.2: Percentage of Cook Islands investment (versus foreign investment) in the Cook Islands

A study is planned to be commissioned in the 2016-2017 financial year to ascertain the level of direct foreign investment in the country. This indicator will look to estimate our equity in the economy, i.e. what percentage of the Cook Islands’ assets and businesses are owned by non-Cook Islanders.

Parameters for the progress on these goals will be established upon completion of this report. This data will be updated annually using data from the Business Trade and Investment Board and the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment.

Sources of data: Barriers will be established by 2016/17 study of FD in the Cook Islands. This data will be updated with company records from MO and BIT.

Indicator 15.2: Quality of life index

This index will be rated on a scale of 1-5 placing an equal emphasis on the following dimensions: disposable income, leisure time, cultural engagement, youth wellbeing, and job satisfaction.

Disposable income (median) is determined by median income, less minimum cost of living.

Indicator 14.3: Number of Cook Islands articles, artefacts, media and other cultural resources that are catalogued or developed and digitally archived

Modern archives have predominantly digital platforms that allow easy classification and access to artefacts and knowledge. The Ministry of Cultural Development have an ongoing programme to increase and improve the digital archiving of our history. This indicator is based on a simple count of the items digitally archived by the Ministry of Cultural Development. We are at the early stages of this programme so we expect there will be significant growth in digital archives.

Source of data: National Accounts (NSO - MFEM), Marine Monitoring Reports (MMR, NES, CCCI - OPM).

Goal 15: Ensure a sustainable population engaged in development for Cook Islanders by Cook Islanders

Indicator 15.1: Resident population of Cook Islands

This indicator assesses the number of Cook Islanders that are resident in the Cook Islands. We will assess this using the census as a baseline and using data from the automated border management system to update these figures. The border management system can assess the number of passport resident in the Cook Islands, holding different passports, but the system itself cannot distinguish between Cook Islanders and New Zealanders. To determine this, we subtract the number of foreign workers with New Zealand passports.

Sources of data: Census (NIG - MFEM).

Sources of data: Labour Market Survey (NSO - MFEM, INTAFF), Marine Monitoring Reports (MMR, NES, CCCI - OPM).

Goal 13: Strengthen resilience to combat the impacts of climate change and natural disasters

Indicator 13.1: Resilience index

This looks at variables that influence the resilience of the islands. The variables include economic resilience, environmental resilience (such as the state of the reef), infrastructure resilience and social resilience. This index will look to integrate these four factors.

• Economic Resilience: Net Debt Servicing to Revenue (benchmark = 1%)

• Environmental Resilience: State of the Reef (see Indicator 12.1 for guidelines on benchmarking)

• Infrastructure Resilience: Percentage of public buildings and infrastructure built to hurricane standard strengths (see Indicator 12.2)

• Social Resilience: Maori literacy rates for children in our school system at year 9.

This index will be rated on a scale of 1-5 placing an equal emphasis on the following dimensions: disposable income, leisure time, cultural engagement, youth wellbeing, and job satisfaction.

Disposable income (median) is determined by median income, less minimum cost of living.

Goal 15: Ensure a sustainable population engaged in development for Cook Islanders by Cook Islanders

Indicator 15.1: Resident population of Cook Islands

This indicator assesses the number of Cook Islanders that are resident in the Cook Islands. We will assess this using the census as a baseline and using data from the automated border management system to update these figures. The border management system can assess the number of passport resident in the Cook Islands, holding different passports, but the system itself cannot distinguish between Cook Islanders and New Zealanders. To determine this, we subtract the number of foreign workers with New Zealand passports.

Sources of data: Census (NIG - MFEM).

Sources of data: Labour Market Survey (NSO - MFEM, INTAFF), Marine Monitoring Reports (MMR, NES, CCCI - OPM).

Goal 13: Strengthen resilience to combat the impacts of climate change and natural disasters

Indicator 13.1: Resilience index

This looks at variables that influence the resilience of the islands. The variables include economic resilience, environmental resilience (such as the state of the reef), infrastructure resilience and social resilience. This index will look to integrate these four factors.

• Economic Resilience: Net Debt Servicing to Revenue (benchmark = 1%)

• Environmental Resilience: State of the Reef (see Indicator 12.1 for guidelines on benchmarking)

• Infrastructure Resilience: Percentage of public buildings and infrastructure built to hurricane standard strengths (see Indicator 12.2)

• Social Resilience: Maori literacy rates for children in our school system at year 9.

This index will be rated on a scale of 1-5 placing an equal emphasis on the following dimensions: disposable income, leisure time, cultural engagement, youth wellbeing, and job satisfaction.

Disposable income (median) is determined by median income, less minimum cost of living.

Goal 15: Ensure a sustainable population engaged in development for Cook Islanders by Cook Islanders

Indicator 15.1: Resident population of Cook Islands

This indicator assesses the number of Cook Islanders that are resident in the Cook Islands. We will assess this using the census as a baseline and using data from the automated border management system to update these figures. The border management system can assess the number of passport resident in the Cook Islands, holding different passports, but the system itself cannot distinguish between Cook Islanders and New Zealanders. To determine this, we subtract the number of foreign workers with New Zealand passports.

Sources of data: Census (NIG - MFEM).

Sources of data: Labour Market Survey (NSO - MFEM, INTAFF), Marine Monitoring Reports (MMR, NES, CCCI - OPM).

Goal 13: Strengthen resilience to combat the impacts of climate change and natural disasters

Indicator 13.1: Resilience index

This looks at variables that influence the resilience of the islands. The variables include economic resilience, environmental resilience (such as the state of the reef), infrastructure resilience and social resilience. This index will look to integrate these four factors.

• Economic Resilience: Net Debt Servicing to Revenue (benchmark = 1%)

• Environmental Resilience: State of the Reef (see Indicator 12.1 for guidelines on benchmarking)

• Infrastructure Resilience: Percentage of public buildings and infrastructure built to hurricane standard strengths (see Indicator 12.2)

• Social Resilience: Maori literacy rates for children in our school system at year 9.

This index will be rated on a scale of 1-5 placing an equal emphasis on the following dimensions: disposable income, leisure time, cultural engagement, youth wellbeing, and job satisfaction.

Disposable income (median) is determined by median income, less minimum cost of living.

Goal 15: Ensure a sustainable population engaged in development for Cook Islanders by Cook Islanders

Indicator 15.1: Resident population of Cook Islands

This indicator assesses the number of Cook Islanders that are resident in the Cook Islands. We will assess this using the census as a baseline and using data from the automated border management system to update these figures. The border management system can assess the number of passport resident in the Cook Islands, holding different passports, but the system itself cannot distinguish between Cook Islanders and New Zealanders. To determine this, we subtract the number of foreign workers with New Zealand passports.

Sources of data: Census (NIG - MFEM).

Sources of data: Labour Market Survey (NSO - MFEM, INTAFF), Marine Monitoring Reports (MMR, NES, CCCI - OPM).

Goal 13: Strengthen resilience to combat the impacts of climate change and natural disasters

Indicator 13.1: Resilience index

This looks at variables that influence the resilience of the islands. The variables include economic resilience, environmental resilience (such as the state of the reef), infrastructure resilience and social resilience. This index will look to integrate these four factors.

• Economic Resilience: Net Debt Servicing to Revenue (benchmark = 1%)

• Environmental Resilience: State of the Reef (see Indicator 12.1 for guidelines on benchmarking)

• Infrastructure Resilience: Percentage of public buildings and infrastructure built to hurricane standard strengths (see Indicator 12.2)

• Social Resilience: Maori literacy rates for children in our school system at year 9.

This index will be rated on a scale of 1-5 placing an equal emphasis on the following dimensions: disposable income, leisure time, cultural engagement, youth wellbeing, and job satisfaction.

Disposable income (median) is determined by median income, less minimum cost of living.

Goal 15: Ensure a sustainable population engaged in development for Cook Islanders by Cook Islanders

Indicator 15.1: Resident population of Cook Islands

This indicator assesses the number of Cook Islanders that are resident in the Cook Islands. We will assess this using the census as a baseline and using data from the automated border management system to update these figures. The border management system can assess the number of passport resident in the Cook Islands, holding different passports, but the system itself cannot distinguish between Cook Islanders and New Zealanders. To determine this, we subtract the number of foreign workers with New Zealand passports.

Sources of data: Census (NIG - MFEM).

Sources of data: Labour Market Survey (NSO - MFEM, INTAFF), Marine Monitoring Reports (MMR, NES, CCCI - OPM).
Goal 16: Promote a peaceful and just society and practice good governance with transparency and accountability

Indicator 16.1: Justice Accessibility Index

This indicator looks at different measures to create an index that reflects components of accessibility to the justice system.

1. Criminal — "Median" time to resolve cases
   - Median time to resolve criminal cases
     - <6 months: On track
     - 6-7 months: Of concern
     - >7 months: Off track

2. Civil — "Median" time to resolve civil cases
   - Median time to resolve civil cases
     - <6 months: On track
     - 6-7 months: Of concern
     - >7 months: Off track

3. Median time to resolve land cases
   - Median time to resolve land cases
     - <6 months: On track
     - 6-7 months: Of concern
     - >7 months: Off track

4. Accessibility of the court and legal processes — Percentage of complaints that were received and how many went into the criminal justice system and into court. Index will average these results.

Indicator 16.2: Rates of domestic violence

This indicator looks at reported domestic violence cases on an annual basis from police reports.

- Annual change in rates of domestic violence
  - Status
  - Annual change in rates of domestic violence
    - +2% or consecutive years of decrease: Off track
    - 0%: On track
    - -2%, or consecutive years of increase: Of concern

Source of data: Police Reports (Police).

Indicator 16.3: Rate of motor vehicle accidents (from reckless behavior)

This indicator looks at motor vehicle accidents caused by reckless behavior, i.e. driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or speeding.

- Annual change in rate of motor vehicle accidents
  - Status
  - Annual change in rate of motor vehicle accidents
    - +2% or consecutive years of decrease: Off track
    - 0%: On track
    - -2%, or consecutive years of increase: Of concern

Source of data: Police Reports (Police).

Indicator 16.4: Reoffending rates

This indicator looks at the rate of reoffending of previously convicted criminals.

- Source of data: Ministry of Justice Annual Report (MOJ), Police Reports (Police).

Indicator 16.5: Average performance of Government ministries (as per the PSC Annual Report to parliament)

This indicator is based on the average performance of the Government as determined by the Office of the Public Service Commissioner (OPSC). It will be an averaged result of the traffic light result framework used by OPSC in its report.

Source of data: Annual PSC Report to Parliament (OPSC).

Indicator 16.6: Financial Responsibility Index

The Ministry of Finance and Immigration use the following ratios and figures for annual financial statements and PSC report.

- Tax Revenue to GDP
- Personal Expenditure to Revenue
- Personal Expenditure to Structural Revenue
- Tax Revenue to GDP (benchmark = 25%)
- Net Debt Servicing to Revenue (benchmark = 5%)

The result for this indicator will be an average of the traffic lights for each component of the index. The components of the Financial Responsibility Index are:

a) Tax Revenue to GDP (benchmark = 25%)
   - Status
   - Net Debt Servicing to Revenue
     - ≤37%: On track
     - >37%: Of concern

b) Personal Expenditure to Revenue (benchmark = 40%)
   - Status
   - Net Debt Servicing to Structural Revenue
     - ≤10%: On track
     - >10%: Of concern

c) Personal Expenditure to Structural Revenue (exclude grants, withholding tax, seabed and fishing revenue)
   - Status
   - Net Debt Servicing to Structural Revenue
     - ≤10%: On track
     - >10%: Of concern

The result of this is a reasonable straightforward indicator, the burden of taxes also depends on the structure of the tax system, and ease of compliance, which may need to be mentioned in any narrative.
g) Overall Budget Balance to GDP (Fiscal Balance) (Benchmark = -2%)

If the government is running a fiscal deficit to fund high-return capital projects it is less of an issue than a fiscal deficit through an operating deficit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall Budget Balance to GDP</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt;0%</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 - -3%</td>
<td>Of concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; -3%</td>
<td>Off track</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

h) Net Debt to GDP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net Debt to GDP</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;30%</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.1 -35%</td>
<td>Of concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;35%</td>
<td>Off track</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources of data: National Accounts (NSO - MFEM), National Budget (MFEM).

Indicator 16.7: Number of Parliamentary sitting days

This indicator looks at the number of days that parliament sits annually. It is benchmarked against New Zealand and Australian sittings. If Parliament sits for more than 80 days per year, this is "on track" (green – based on New Zealand benchmark of a minimum of 90 days annually). Between 40 and 80 days is "of concern" (yellow). Below 40 days is "off track" (red) – this is based on the least number of days (40) that the Australian parliament has sat in the last quarter century.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual number of parliamentary sitting days</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt;80 days</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-80 days</td>
<td>Of concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;40 days</td>
<td>Off track</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources of data: Parliamentary Records (Parliament).
Appendix 3: Analysis of indicators

This appendix identifies which agencies are responsible for analysing the data, for the various indicators.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency responsible</th>
<th>Indicator analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BTIB</td>
<td>15.2</td>
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<td>CiIC</td>
<td>5.4, 13.2</td>
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<td>ICI</td>
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<td>INTAFF</td>
<td>2.5, 8.4</td>
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<td>INTAFF - Disability Division</td>
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<td>MOJ</td>
<td>15.4, 16.1, 16.3, 16.4</td>
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<td>MFEM - NGO</td>
<td>1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 6.2, 7.5, 9.3, 15.1</td>
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<td>MFEM - Treasury</td>
<td>1.2, 1.3, 2.4, 2.6, 12.5, 16.6</td>
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<td>12.3, 12.4</td>
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<td>MOA</td>
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<td>14.1, 14.2, 14.3</td>
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<td>OPM - CPPO</td>
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<td>OPM - Marae Moana</td>
<td>12.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPM - REDD</td>
<td>6.1, 6.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPSC</td>
<td>16.5</td>
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<td>Parliamentary Services</td>
<td>16.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>16.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism</td>
<td>2.3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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**Cook Islands News** ([www.cookislandsnews.com](http://www.cookislandsnews.com)) pages
20 - Local woman selling handcrafts at the Punanganui Markets.  
25 - School students at a Recycling Center.  
27 - Students at water sanitation facility.  
28 - O3b Satellite dish (Telecom/Bluesky).  
45 - Red Cross volunteer. Workers assisting community after cyclone.  
47 - Local girls and women.  
48 - Rarotonga school children with former All Blacks Jonah Lomu.

**Infratec Renewables Limited** ([www.infratec.co.nz/renewables](http://www.infratec.co.nz/renewables)) page iv - Solar panel farm at the Rarotonga Airport, Nikao.

**Havey Allison Photography** ([www.harvpix.com](http://www.harvpix.com)) pages  
vi- assorted images
10 - Aitutaki Airport  
12 - Fishermen at Avatiu Harbour, Rarotonga.  
21 - Cook Island dancers.  
22 - Punanga Nui market.  
24 - Aitutaki.  
26 - Wigmore waterfall, Vaimaanga.  
30 - Maoke.  
32 - Making smoothies at the market.  
35 - School students in Mitiaro.  
37 - Local woman weaving a kete (basket).  
38 - Local planter in a taro patch  
40 - Overview of land and sea.  
41 - Fish. Whale breaching. White tern.  
42 - Paua (giant clam).  
45 - Avatiu harbour.  
46- Cook Islanders performing at Te Maeva Nui celebrations.  
47 - Weaving a kete (basket). Rito hats.  
50 - Fireworks display at the Cook Islands 50th Celebrations closing ceremony.  
Back page - Oe vaka paddlers, Rarotonga.

**Melanie Cooper Photography** ([www.melaniecooper.photography](http://www.melaniecooper.photography)) page 44 - Trader Jacks, Avarua, Rarotonga.