



TE IPUKAREA SOCIETY

*Caring for our Environment
Tāporoporo i to tātou Ao Rangi*



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Who is Te Ipukarea Society?

Te Ipukarea literally translates to “our heritage”. Te Ipukarea Society (TIS) is a proactive Cook Islands non-government environment organisation (NGO) formed to help look after our heritage. We were registered as an Incorporated Society on 12th June 1996, the very first Cook Islands environmental NGO.

Our Philosophy

We do not own our land and marine resources but borrow them from our children and need to return them in good condition. We desire a healthy and beautiful environment.

Our Mission

Promote ecological balance and harmony in the relationship between Cook Islands people and the natural world around us.

Our Objectives

- To disseminate information and raise awareness amongst members and the community regarding environmental issues.
- Promote conservation and sustainable development by demonstrating sound practices through carefully selected field projects that draw on traditional knowledge and methods.
- To collaborate with organisations both local and throughout the world to advance the course of conservation and sustainable development.



How we operate

Te Ipukarea Society is managed by a voluntary executive committee, elected annually by members at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) as per our constitution. A small core of paid staff, supported by volunteers, attend to the day-to-day running of the Society. Our staff and membership include well-respected scientists and active campaigners for environmental sustainability.

We are members of IUCN and BirdLife International.

What does Te Ipukarea Society do?

Te Ipukarea Society encourages innovative, proactive and positive outcomes to environmental problems, by working with individuals, schools, community organisations, private sector and government.

- We provide leadership on key environmental issues and a voice for our community.
- We plan and implement projects that will bring positive environmental outcomes to our Nation. We must understand where development stops and destruction starts.
- We believe individuals must avoid actions that negatively impact our natural environment and potentially humanity, both now and in the future.

We coordinate important local and nation-wide campaigns on a broad range of environmental issues in the Cook Islands.

We are guided by our strategic plan and focus our projects in five main areas:



BIODIVERSITY

For example: Invasive species, predator control and rat eradication, seabird monitoring, and advocating conservation efforts for both terrestrial and marine ecosystems.



CLIMATE CHANGE

For example: Coastal protection, promoting nature-based and hybrid solutions, geo-textile sandbags, and the planting of native coastal trees along vulnerable coastlines.



ECO-SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

For example: Raising awareness on the environmental impacts of deep seabed mining, overfishing from industrial fishing, advising on Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) which threaten wetlands and coastal areas, and promoting a regenerative tourism industry.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

For example: Promoting positive behavioral change among local communities to minimise waste from single-use plastics, repurposing organic waste through composting, and educating on and promoting reusable menstrual products.



YOUTH

For example: School presentations on various environmental issues, youth science camps, internship opportunities to work at TIS through the Dame Margaret Karika Award, and we host a stand/exhibit at the annual Careers Expo.

You can join Te Ipukarea Society as an individual or corporate member - email te.ipukarea.society.inc@gmail.com

or support us through Givealittle:
givealittle.co.nz/cause/protecting-a-little-paradise

What can we do for our environment's sake?

Simply think before you act!

- Practice 'Refuse, Reuse, Reduce, Recycle'.
- Use cloth bags, cardboard cartons or other containers for shopping and takeaways. Use refillable water bottles.
- Purchase fruit and vegetables that are not pre-packaged in containers/plastics. Also consider buying in bulk.
- Buy sustainably caught fish – look for low impact catch methods like hook & line and not purse seine or bottom trawling.
- Support local fishers and growers.
- Use coral reef friendly sunscreens without Oxybenzone and Octinoxate.
- Avoid filling in wetlands and if you need to clear land then seek advice on preventing soil erosion, and save useful trees first.
- Conduct an EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) as you plan a project—to assess physical and social impacts.
- Support and participate in local and worldwide campaigns and voice your concerns.

***Together we can
be the change
we wish to see
in the world***