**GEF SGP - MURI ENVIRONMENT CARE (MEC)**

**STREAMS WATERWAYS & LAGOON ECOLOGY PROJECT**

**PROGRESS REPORT 31ST JANUARY 2023**

***These docs plus pics are available on our MEC website.***

1. **Invite to attend this presentation.**
2. **The UNDP GEF partners**
3. **The MEC Executive Committee & Project team**
4. **The Biodiversity Progress Report to 31 December 2022**
5. **The 2024 Second Round**

Invitation to attend this presentation

**On behalf of the Executive committee of Muri Environment Care Group Society we invite our landowners and Muri Community members and village friends to attend this presentation of our progress report to the UNDP GEF Project team**

**This presentation event is being held at two physical locations in Muri as follows**

* **1pm to 2pm at the MEC Takitumu Nursery. The nursery is located on the beachside, behind the Pa Ariki Palace in Turangi.**
* **2pm to 3pm at Parengaru Stream. The project site is located behind Keta Williams homestead adjacent to the walking bridge.**

**This is an open invitation to join the MEC Executive Committee and our visiting GEF Project team as we brief our UNDP GEF visitors on our Biodiversity environmental projects progress to-date**

**Mii Ķauvai**

**President**

**MURI ENVIRONMEN CARE GROUP SOCIETY**

**UNDP PARTNERS**

**Names and position of the GEF team to be supplied by Red Cross, Patience Maoate**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Director, Samoa**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_UNDP Representative**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Red Cross Coordinator**

**MEC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & BIODIVERSITY PROJECT TEAM**

**MEC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

President - Mii Kauvai

Vice President – Willie Kauvai

Vice President – Keta Williams

Secretary – Mata Hetland

Assistant Secretary- Jaime Short

Treasurer - John Tierney

Committee – Sisi Short, Mann Short, Anne Tierney

**MEC BIODIVERSITY PROJECT TEAM**

\*Project Ecologist - Brennan Panzarella

\*Project Manager – Anne Tierney

\*MMR Co-Partners - Fiona

\*Landowners – Willie Kauvai

\*Pu Tapere / Village Mayor – Keta Williams

\*Project Coordinator – John Tierney

\*Information, Technology & Media - Byron Brown, Jo Holley, Bengamin Raela,

\*Project Volunteers

Lani Tansley,

Hinano McMurchy

Hugo & Jane

Sonya Kamana

\*Muri Commercial Businesses

**BIODIVERSITY PROGRESS REPORT TO 31 JANUARY 2023**

**As attached.**

**View on MEC website**

**THE 2024 SECOND ROUND**

* **Improving the efficiency, survival, and growth rates of our restoration plantings.**

Growing and supplying our own woodchip. We will require a woodchipper to process fast growing.

* **Ensuring appropriate supply of root trainers, components for soil mix, - (sand, compost, and soil)**

Preparing our own supply of root trainers & components for soil mix

* **Improving visitor/volunteer experiences even further**

Addressing the resources required and delivering these via grant funds to mobilise these visitor and volunteer resources.

* **Bringing Coastal Species and coastal restoration sites into the fold**

For the next round, we would like to expand our focus in incorporating the mouths of the streams and adjacent coasts into our ecological restoration goals.

* **Pa Enua plant translocations**

Given the species National Environment Service and Traditional leaders of all areas involved, there are species that are not present on Rarotonga that likely once were present before significant coastal development. Over time, we hope to use the nursery to grow threatened and even endangered species for out planting.

* **Ecological effects of mammalian predators and ungulates**

Mammalian predators have wreaked havoc on Pacific Islands, and the Cook Islands is no exception. Success in increasing Kakerori (*Pomarea dimidiata*) numbers have coincided with continued rat control in the Takitumu Conservation area. Our local success story combined with the numerous successes of the predator-free islands and mainland islands especially in New Zealand, it is a fair bet that efforts to limit mammalian influences in new locations will contribute to more favourable conditions for further native species successes.

* **Mammal Exclusion & Predator Control**

Muri Environment Care is keen to include mammal exclusion and predator control in conjunction with the biodiversity corridor goals of our riparian restoration efforts. Our riparian plantings have struggled due to stray livestock as wild chickens - we would be interested in planting inside fencing to determine how much of a factor livestock and wild animals are having on restoration plantings. We also will place several rat traps to start monitoring and developing methodology for achieving predator free riparian habitat.

* **Predator Free Project**

MEC will include predator free deliverables in our future GEF SGF Environmental Ecology projects. Local businessman and philanthropist, John Dunn, has initiated a trial with Good Nature A24 traps. These are self-clearing, self-resetting automatic rat/mouse traps. So far it appears that Rarotongan rats have different lure preferences. Run experiments to determine the lure preferences for rats to help set groundwork for future predator-free projects in the Cook Islands.