National Implementing Entity Process
Cook Islands Experience

Ms Lavinia Tama
Ministry of Finance and Economic Management
Cook Islands background

- Cook Islands is made up of 15 small islands scattered over 2 million km’s of the Pacific Ocean.
- In 1965 the CI became self-governing, in free association with New Zealand.
- About 70% of the population of 17,791 lives on the largest island of Rarotonga (Capital), which has a land area of 67 km².
Our Accreditation Process
COMPLETED
✓ Endorsement from Delegated Authority – completed in 2012 (MFAI)
✓ Ministry of Finance & Economic Management confirmed as nominated NIE
✓ UNDP Initial Assessment of NIE capability to understand gaps – early 2012
✓ Funds received to employ TA (EU-SPC-GCCA-PSIS and UNEP)
✓ Successfully recruited TA to complete application to the AF panel (Frankfurt School of Finance and Management)
✓ Final Inception and Analysis Report Completed
✓ Roadmap to build systems and capability where required
Our Accreditation Process

IN PROGRESS (September– December 2014)

- Submit formal application in to the accreditation panel who makes recommendations and submits to the AF board
- 2-3 month interactive application process (application due 2 months prior to Board meeting)
- Conditional accreditation – possible outcome
- Building of our systems and capability (short and long term)
- Accreditation to the Green Climate Fund
Roadmap to build systems and capability

• Based on our initial review a draft capacity building plan was developed (Jan-Nov 14)
• Gaps were identified in the documentation and/or capacity
• Included training to familiarise our role of a NIE if accredited
• To build long-term climate finance readiness of the Cook Islands to secure domestically and international additional sources of finance for carrying out climate adaptation activities and projects
• Funding was secured for TA support in areas of Activity Management Cycle and to review of the Personnel Policy Manual.
Challenges

• Resource/Capacity constraints – realistic timeframes
• Capability – Utilise Finance Ministries and TA resource
• Timing – a lot of processes underway, but not fully implemented or have evidence of “history”
• Complexity of the process
• Difficulty of others in attaining RIE/NIE
Challenges continue.....

Fiduciary Standards

- Backlog in Audit reports
- The adoption of a centralized accounting system will be a long term goal
- Capacity building is required for procurement
- Lack of systematic approach for the management of projects
- Lack of environmental and social risks management
Way Forward.....

• Will be developing our application in November 2014
• Encourage more training and capacity building in the Pacific on the accreditation process
• The accreditation process has provided an opportunity in strengthening our country systems to ensure development partners have confidence in our systems
• Challenges can be overcome, and NIE is worth the pursuit as we continue to build on our systems and capability in the process leading to a stronger Cook Islands