



LäjeRotuma Initiative (LRI)
“Mobilizing community to manage well their natural resources”

Draft Strategy and Action Plan

LäjeRotuma Initiative (LRI) is a community based environmental education and awareness development programme in Rotuma. It is a voluntary initiative and is part of a diverse network of the island communities, the Rotuma Council, government departments and Ministries, donor agencies, institutions and conservation non-governmental organizations.

Vision

The vision of the Initiative is to maximize the future environmental and sustainable options for the island of Rotuma and its people.

Goal

To strengthen natural resource management and conservation, with particular emphasis on marine life, of communities on Rotuma.

Objectives

- a) To raise awareness and understanding of the importance of environment conservation and provide access to information for the island community.
- b) To encourage the creation of sustainable livelihood options for the improvement of standards of living
- c) To promote and/or maintain the health of Rotuma’s marine biodiversity
- d) To build the capacity of communities in management and conservation of their resources
- e) To facilitate research activities to better understand Rotuma’s biodiversity

Programmatic Themes

To achieve these objectives, LRI has focused its activities under five thematic areas:

- a) Community Outreach
- b) Building community resilience to climate change
- c) **Integrated Fisheries Management**
- d) **Sustainable livelihoods**
- e) **Research and Capacity Building**



LäjeRotuma Initiative (LRI)
“Mobilizing community to manage well their natural resources”

Focus	Objectives	Expected Outcomes	Actions
Community Outreach	Promote community support for biodiversity conservation and ecologically sustainable development through improved understanding, awareness and appropriate action	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 level of awareness in communities raised 2 Community conservation strategies developed 3 Importance of traditional conservation methods and ethnobiological knowledge raised 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initiate a coordinated awareness, educational and training programme for communities emphasising the benefits of biodiversity conservation and its links with sustainable management of natural resources. 2. Encourage and assist landowning communities to document their traditional knowledge of biodiversity and its uses and develop their own local strategies. 3. Coordinate clean up campaigns for communities 4. Produce simple but comprehensive biodiversity manuals for use in the primary and secondary school system. 5. Collate, develop and promote information on the benefits of biodiversity conservation for distribution to communities and other stakeholders



LäjeRotuma Initiative (LRI)

“Mobilizing community to manage well their natural resources”

	Improve biodiversity studies in formal educational curricula	Information on Rotuma’s biodiversity and research is accessible to all communities	<p>6. Advocate to incorporate current knowledge of Rotuman biodiversity and the value of traditional ethnobiological knowledge into appropriate learning areas of secondary school curricula</p> <p>7. Document and publish ethnobiological knowledge in Rotuman and in a form(s) appropriate for formal educational curricula;</p>
Integrated Fisheries Management	Minimise the loss of marine resources of importance to local communities	<p>1. Destructive fishing practices reduced or phased out.</p> <p>2. Community awareness of effects of land based activities on marine environment raised</p>	<p>8. Document ‘tabu’ and other traditional conservation and protection measures of marine resources;</p> <p>9. Promote community awareness of the destructive influences on marine biodiversity of land-based activities and unsustainable harvesting practices;</p> <p>10. Encourage and assist communities to actively manage their marine areas through appropriate traditional conservation measures</p>
	Promote sustainable fishing methods	1. People reverting to traditional fishing practices	11. Revive traditional value of canoes



LäjeRotuma Initiative (LRI)
“Mobilizing community to manage well their natural resources”

	Effectively manage threatened species and culturally significant species	1. Threats to these species are minimized and monitored	12. Review the status of threatened marine species and prioritise species for conservation initiatives; 13. Identify species of cultural significance whose status is declining and prioritise species for active management. 14. Enable communities to take the lead in the conservation of culturally significant species 15. Encourage conservation management-oriented research on threatened species to identify causes of decline; 16. Develop a threatened species and cultural significant species database; 17. Prepare threatened species management plans, to include where appropriate linkages with best international expertise; 18. Establish captive breeding programmes for important species and forms for which <i>in situ</i> conservation is problematic
--	--	---	---



LäjeRotuma Initiative (LRI)
“Mobilizing community to manage well their natural resources”

<p>Sustainable Livelihoods</p>	<p>Ensure that Rotuma and, in particular, Rotuma’s natural resource-owning communities receive fair, just and economic remuneration from the use of genetic material and products.</p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and adopt guidelines or legislation for bioprospecting and economic use of genetic material and products which incorporate fair provision for traditional knowledge and ownership; 2. Encourage collaborative research and exploration for economic uses of genetic material and products; 3. Develop and adopt guidelines for all research activities which, amongst other requirements, ensure that the community owners have an understanding of and approve of the research; 4. Institute joint collaboration between the business community, government resource owners and researchers to establish economic values of the resources used by the business community.
	<p>Develop communities’</p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and implement appropriate



LäjeRotuma Initiative (LRI)
“Mobilizing community to manage well their natural resources”

	capabilities to manage and utilise forest and marine resources in a sustainable manner and as an alternative livelihood		<p>appropriate partnerships with communities to enable them to attain sustainable community level resource management;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Establish a funding mechanism to enable wide adoption of successful community-based sustainable resource-management initiatives. 3. Through appropriate training enhance the resource management capacities of land-owning communities
Building community resilience to climate change	Develop communities capabilities in dealing with climate change	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Awareness of adverse impacts of climate change created 2. Adaptive measures to build community resilience created 3. Effects of climate change on the status of reefs, fisheries and marine biodiversity monitored 4. Measures developed to minimize coastal erosion 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create awareness of the adverse impacts of CC and build community resilience for adaptive measures 2. Monitor impacts on the health status of reefs and its adverse impacts to community fisheries and Rotuma’s biodiversity 3. Engage communities in developing adaptive measures to increased coastal erosion and protection of land
Capacity	Enhance biodiversity	1. Opportunities for	1. Integrate appropriate



LäjeRotuma Initiative (LRI)
“Mobilizing community to manage well their natural resources”

Building	biodiversity management skills and capabilities	local training programs created in biodiversity research, monitoring and management	<p>traditional knowledge and skills into training courses;</p> <p>2. Ensure opportunities for local training programs are encouraged, to develop community level expertise in ethnobiological knowledge, biodiversity research, monitoring and management;</p>
Research	Implement a programme of ethnobiological and traditional conservation practices enquiry.	<p>1. Ethnobiological and traditional conservation practices documented.</p> <p>NB: This documentation is seen as one solution to curb biopiracy</p>	<p>1. Review current published ethnobiological knowledge and undertake a co-ordinated nationwide programme of collection of oral knowledge;</p> <p>2. In a collaborative project with selected communities research traditional conservation practices with a view to clarifying their applicability and/or evolutionary potential in the modern context;</p>
	Clarify the causes of and the rehabilitation needs of	1. 80% of Rotuma’s degraded ecosystems are rehabilitated	3. Undertake a survey of current status of biological resources, specifically those of



LäjeRotuma Initiative (LRI)
“Mobilizing community to manage well their natural resources”

	community-owned degraded biological resources.		<p>subsistence and economic importance and those that are threatened or in need of some form of protection.</p> <p>4. Encourage and support initiatives to restore degraded ecosystems, in particular, those that are community-based.</p>
	Achieve a detailed knowledge of the occurrence and status over time of Rotuma’s biodiversity resources, in particular the threatened, endemic forms	<p>4. Inventory of Rotuma’s resources are completed and its status monitored</p>	<p>5. Undertake a comprehensive marine biodiversity resource inventory;</p> <p>6. Draw up an appropriate framework and mechanism for monitoring the status of rare and endangered species;</p>
	Establish mechanisms which encourage and facilitate biodiversity research and enable Rotuma to access relevant international findings and developments.	<p>5. A process for providing consent to research proposals developed</p> <p>6. Researchers respect and conform to local protocol</p>	<p>7. Identify priority research requirements for biodiversity management and opportunities for developing national expertise;</p> <p>8. Adopt a National Protocol drawing on the current USP Guidelines for Biodiversity Research and Bioprospecting regarding conduct and publication of research, and the export, buying and</p>



LäjeRotuma Initiative (LRI)
“Mobilizing community to manage well their natural resources”

			<p>selling of biodiversity materials and findings;</p> <p>9. Establish a central professionally administered facility to house and manage the various existing biodiversity collections and to actively encourage the collection and deposition of new materials;</p>
--	--	--	---