



Tuesday, 3 May 2016

Climate Change Workshop for schools in the Southern Cook Islands brief

This year the National Environment Service (NES) and Climate Change Cook Islands (CCCI) hosted a week long climate change and biodiversity workshop for schools in the southern Cook Islands. The objective of this workshop was to give students the opportunity to build their awareness of climate change, protected areas management, biodiversity and other environmental issues.

The workshop ran from April 22nd- 29th 2016 and focused on five schools, years 9-11 in the outer islands from Mangaia, Mitiaro, Atiu, Mauke, and Aitutaki. As this is likely to be the last workshop of its kind, following last year's successful northern group workshop, NES sought SBMA assistance with the GIS program and other related technical matters.

Summary of Day events;

Friday 22nd April

- Welcome address to students and workshop participants.
- Student presentation of projects for their islands and expected outcomes from the workshop. This was useful for identifying where GIS mapping could be used to enhance the proposed project scopes and presentation, as well as an opportunity to incorporate different GIS techniques.

Tuesday 26th April

- Student field trip to a composting and organic farming. Students were exposed to the different methods used for composting and their uses.
- Students underwent a Reef monitoring/ data input exercise. Learning monitoring survey techniques, students used quadrates to determine a baseline survey of the lagoon biological state as well as data input for analysis.

- Students also underwent a GIS practical session with NES and SBMA staff. This included an introduction to GIS, the different uses of GIS with Cook Islands context as well as basic GPS collection techniques and digitization activity on home islands.

Wednesday 27th April

- Field trip to Muri Lagoon/ water quality assessment
- Introduction to Geo-Portal project was given by ICI. Students were provided an overview and uses of the portal to island government and communities.
- Groups were given the opportunity to work on group projects. NES and SBMA staff on hand to provide assistance with map creation.

Thursday 28th April

- SBMA assisted with closing ceremony tasks.
- Students had a site visit to the weather monitoring office as well as coastal protection structures

Friday 29th April

- Closing ceremony



Marino Wichman
GIS Specialist

Seabed Minerals Authority
Runanga Takere Moana

Phone (682) 29193
Mobile (682) 57285
Email marino.wichman@cookislands.gov.ck
Web www.seabedmineralsauthority.gov.ck
Address PO Box 733 | Rarotonga | Cook Islands



Traditional Leaders at opening



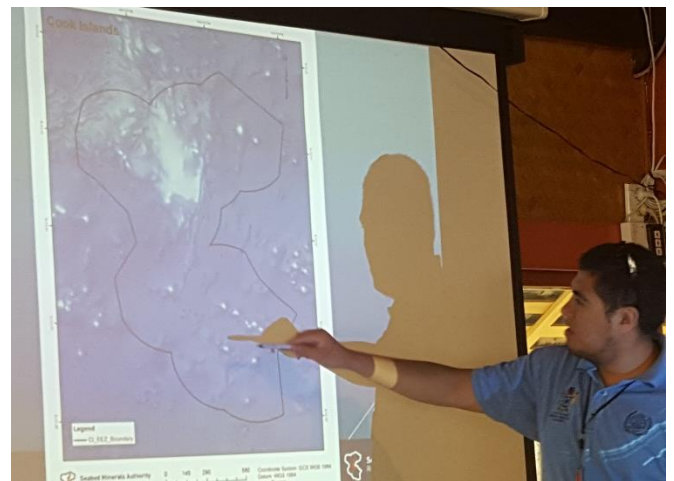
NES Staff assisting with GIS activity



Outer Island Students



SBMA Staff assisting with GPS activity



SBMA Staff presenting on GIS