



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF TONGA

# Data Use for Decision Making

## Department of Environment (DoE) perspective as data users



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# OUTLINE

- INTRODUCTION
- CHALLENGES
- ADVANTAGES
- Good Biodiversity DATA in support of decision-making
- RECOMMENDATION and WAY FORWARD



# Introduction

- About GBIF and BID Programme in Tonga
  - Department of Environment:
    - Lead Agency
    - Is the National Focal Point and Point of Contact
    - Source of data (Biodiversity Division – Marine, Terrestrial)
  - On a National level, DoE has the mandate to implement and manage Biodiversity initiatives
    - By Laws and International Agreements



- Available biodiversity data in country

- Government

1. Department of Environment
2. Ministries of Fisheries
3. Ministries of Lands
4. Ministry of Tourism
5. Ministry of AFF (Forestry & Quarantine)

- NGOs

6. Civil Society
7. Tonga Trust
8. MORDI



# Challenges

- No Database, in time GBIF was introduced to Tonga
- Retrieving data was not in a format easy for publishing
- Quality of data – due to source no involvement in uploading (publishing) to GBIF
- Time – collection, mobilizing, publishing of data
- No centralized Biological database in country, but Individual Institute hold its own data separately
- Lack of Awareness – even institutions with data



# Advantages in implementing BID Programme

- Good Data available
- Extracting data from stakeholder is not impossible but matter of time and resources
- Since no law restricting data mobilization, DoE has support of other Stakeholder to published available biodiversity data





# Apply Biodiversity data in support of decision-making



## 1. IAS Rat Eradication – BIORAP data

Implementation of a rat eradication program by **IAS** was based on a data available from **BIORAP** funded by SPREP



## 2. Restoration of **Toloa Rainforest**

- Data mobilizing  
by BID  
Programme  
enable the  
implementation  
to prioritisation of  
invasive plants  
for management  
in the forest







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# Recommendation

- Awareness at National level
- Establish and incorporated GBIF to the Department mandate
- Strengthening the LINK between the Lead Agency and the Participant Node
- Keep up with the original source of data for publishing otherwise we faces same problem of mobilizing data in bad format
- Train the trainers



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**THANK YOU**