

Cook Islands

<p>A. National Policies</p>	<p>The Ministry of Culture has a guiding strategic document for the safeguarding, development and promotion of our culture. This document does not specify gender in relation to any particular activity.</p> <p>There are areas of traditional practice, eg carving, natural medicine that tend to be gender specific but there are no societal boundaries and a number of role-models from the non-traditional gender do participate.</p> <p>Traditional leaders are dependent on family lineage but a number of women hold prominent roles within communities. Traditional leadership is addressed at the National Biannual conference on Gender.</p>
<p>B. National implementation strategies of UNESCO Culture Conventions</p>	<p><u>Safeguard intangible cultural heritage</u>: Oral history and practices are showcased through short documentaries. The production team has been predominantly female and has included stories from both men and women.</p> <p><u>Protect cultural and natural heritage</u>: Cultural heritage protection is supported through government museums and archives as well as a particularly active NGO group in this area. A WHC workshop was held in 2013.</p> <p><u>Protect underwater cultural heritage</u>: The Cook Islands recently legislated its first marine park to be run under the auspices of an NGO. A number of women sit on the board of this organization. The Cook Islands is also a whale and shark sanctuary. The Cook Islands practises rauī, a community based system of lagoon protection.</p> <p><u>Promote cultural industries</u>: Actively promoted by both the Ministry of Culture and Cook Islands Tourism, a calendar of regular events promotes cultural industries. These include Te Maeva Nui, Dancer of the Year Competitions, Art and Photography exhibitions, annual craft days for each of the Outer Islands to promote their products and singing and composition competitions. In general, these tend to involve a higher level of female participants than male. The National Biannual conference on gender considers progress in terms of cultural revival and craft.</p>
<p>C. Access to decision-making</p>	<p>At the level of the government, 50% of management and overall staff of the Ministry of Culture are female.</p> <p>The World Heritage workshop held in 2013 was open to government and non-governmental agencies, performers, writers, traditional leaders constituting a wide range of participants, with women making up at least 50% of those in attendance.</p> <p>The Public Service Act ensures no discrimination in the recruitment process of any staff. Whilst the current Secretary of Culture is male, many other Ministries are led by women. The Gender and Development Division (GAD) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs have established a nomination service which profiles women in their area of expertise to Cabinet for nomination to Statutory Boards. There is a special measure in the statutes of the Maori Language Commission that requires female representation in the Commission. The National Council of Women also works with GAD to hold workshops to promote women’s representation in governance.</p>
<p>D. Education, Capacity-Building and Training</p>	<p>All curriculum responses in Cook Islands schools are based on inclusiveness.</p>
<p>E. Access to credit and financial</p>	<p>The Business Trade and Investment Board provides small business loans for people to start small businesses. Many of these are based on crafts or other local products such as oils, jams, ...</p>

resources allocation	<p>A business mentoring programme is available to help people in developing their markets and building their businesses.</p> <p>The Business and Professional Women’s Association (NGO) support these further through specific workshops for women. The sub-sectors have been traditionally dance, music and crafts although tattoo, photography and film are establishing markets.</p>
F. Visibility and awareness-raising	<p>Among the actions organised: exhibitions to promote cultural life; regular media coverage of cultural events, art exhibitions... and annual commemoration of international events such as IWD.</p>
G. Statistics and Indicators	<p>There are cultural statistics but they are not disaggregated by gender.</p>