Press Release

A survey of ark shell aimed at restoring a marine food source for the people of Nonouti

A team from the Research and Monitoring Unit at the Fisheries Division visited Nonouti in late April 2019 for one week to assess the stock of ark shell on the island.

The purpose of the trip is to verify the stock of ark shell “cockled shellfish” locally known as *te bun* and to explore potential sites on the island that are habitable by this type of seashells and to facilitate future translocation program, in order to establish multiple populations to support the marine food sources for the islanders.

The team carried out consultations with seven village communities from Te Nanoraoi to Teuaabu and then the surveyed convened using the SPC Soft Infaunal Quadrant (SIQ) methodology – a survey protocol adopted from SPC to assess burrowed invertebrates status such as *te bun*, *koumwara* and *nikatona* and including their habitat.

The result of the survey shows that *te bun* exists on the island but can only be found in Matang village with a relatively low density.

The team will conduct a translocation of the ark shell to three identified potential sites in the coming month such as in Makauro, Matang and Autukia village. They will also make a visit to Abemama and Maiana the other two pilot islands of LCDF-I Project in the next coming months too.

This activity is supported by the LDCF-I Project.

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Te Kakae iaon te bun i Nonouti ibukin kamaitan te tania ni maeu man te nama.
A tia n mananga kaain ana tiim te Botaaki n Akawa n Eberi 2019 ao n kabanea teuana te wiiki iaon Nonouti ibukin karaoa ai kakaia iaon maitin te bun ibukin boutokaan maeuia te botannaomata man marin taari ni kaitara bibitakin kanoan boong.
N te mananga aio ao ea karaaaki iai te kakaia iaon maitin te bun ao n nori taabo ke a kona n maeu iaibukin ba ana kona n riki bwa oo ni kabwebwe ibukin te bun ibukin kamaitan te mari mai taari ke man te nama nakoia kaain Nonouti.

E karaoaki te maroro nakoia 7 kaawan Nonouti ao kamatebwaian aia nama
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**Photo**

Survey and assessment of "te bun" stock on soft bottom at the inter-tidal (Max Bita, Principal Fisheries Officer)  
Figure 4. g) and h) Photos of "te bun" encountered during the SIQ survey.