

# SPREP Pacific Network for Environmental Assessment Webinar

## An Introduction to Environmental Auditing

Regional Environmental Auditing Guidelines for Tourism Operations in the Pacific



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## Karakia Tūtawa

Tūtawa mai i runga  
Tūtawa mai i raro  
Tūtawa mai i roto  
Tūtawa mai i waho  
Kia tau ai te mauri tū  
Te mauri ora ki te katoa  
Haumi ē! Hui ē! Taiki ē!

Come forth from above,  
below, within,  
and from the environment  
Vitality and wellbeing for all  
Strengthened in unity.



# Introduction

Benefits of good practices in environmental auditing:

- Good for the health of people
- Good for the health of the environment
- Good for business and the local economy



# Objective of Presentation

- Provide information and tools to complete an audit:
  - ✓ Identifying the objective of an audit
  - ✓ Key processes of an audit
  - ✓ Resources for an audit
  - ✓ Tools and education
- Case studies used are based on hotel accommodation as this is the focus industry of the Regional Environmental Auditing Guidelines for Tourism Operations in the Pacific



# Layout of presentation

1. How an audit can assist to improve environmental management
2. Describe the audit process:
  - Objective of an audit
  - Design of an audit (planning, guidelines, people, resourcing, interviews, record keeping, outcomes).
  - Delivering an audit
  - Audit outcomes
3. Training and education
4. Tools



# Audit benefits and outcomes

An environmental audit can help to improve environmental, safety, social and governance

For example:

- assess status of environmental management systems
- improve compliance with permits
- identify point sources for pollution e.g. stormwater, sewage, burning off/ disposing waste and identify improvement opportunities
- training opportunities for staff
- improve record keeping

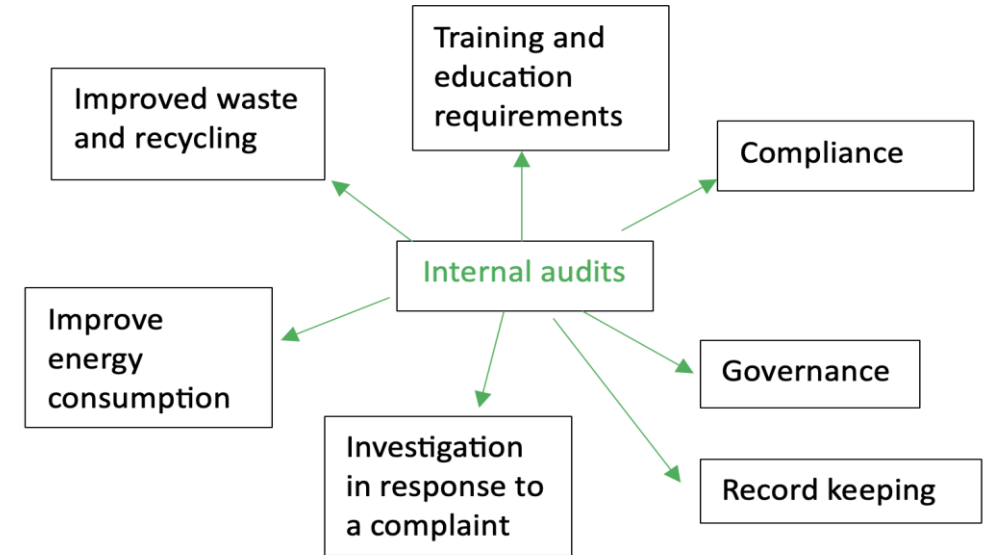
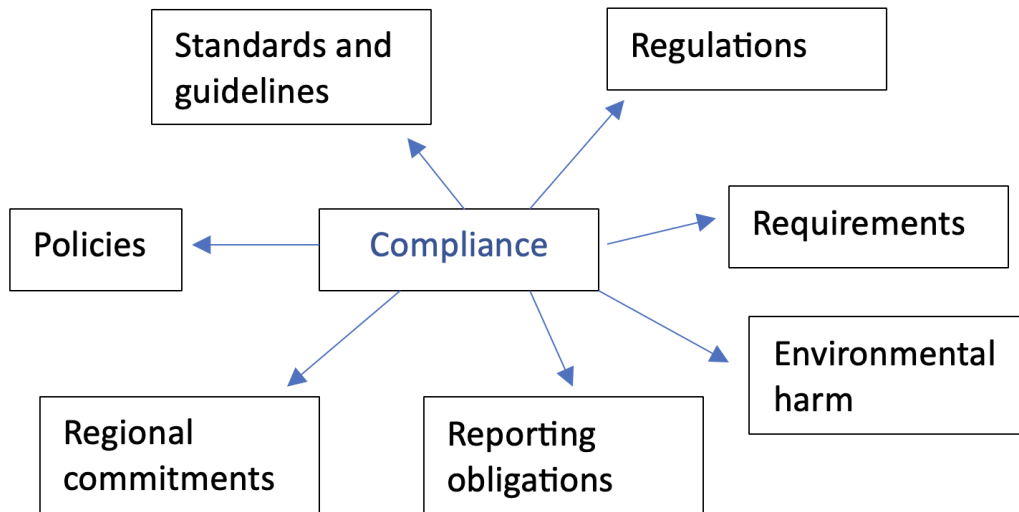


Source: HSE International

# Objective of an audit

Are you a Regulator?

Are you a tourism operator?



Defining the objective of an audit is key. The objective defines the aim of the audit - i.e., what the organisation wants to achieve from the audit.

# Planning and delivery

- Documents and guidelines
- Risk management approach
- People and resource requirements
- Interview considerations
- Audit template / Checklists
- Record keeping requirements



LIKELIHOOD	CONSEQUENCES				
	Insignificant (0)	Minor (2)	Moderate (3)	Major (4)	Critical (5)
Almost certain (5)	Medium	High	High	Very High	Very High
Likely (4)	Medium	Medium	High	High	Very High
Possible (3)	Low	Medium	High	High	High
Unlikely (2)	Low	Low	Medium	High	High
Rare (1)	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High





# Audit outcomes

Audit debrief undertaken with key people

Audit report to communicate outcomes related to the objective of the audit, such as compliance and improvement opportunities

# Case study: Regulatory audit of accommodation facility



Form: EMA/WDR 1

NON-COMPLIANCE NOTICE UNDER SECTION 37(2) OF THE ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT ACT 2005 (Reg. 60)

Facility name

Location

Owner (if known)

Commercial or industrial process

Nature of regulated activity

Type of permit required:

Waste Disposal

- ☐ Solid waste
- ☐ Liquid waste
- ☐ Livestock
- ☐ Air pollution

Category (For solid or liquid waste only)

- ☐ Construction ☐ Operational

Nature of the construction/operation

Type of disposal (Solid or liquid waste only)

- ☐ Standard ☐ Significant

Non-compliance for an activity



Audit of impacts to water quality – relevant to environment and recreation



Audit of wastewater sources



# Case study: Internal audit of accommodation facility



Sustainability e.g., energy and goods consumption



Example of waste disposal at dump site



General housekeeping associated with accommodation utilities





Source: ADB

# Training and education

Training and education is relevant to all levels in an organisation - governance to operational

Types of training and education:

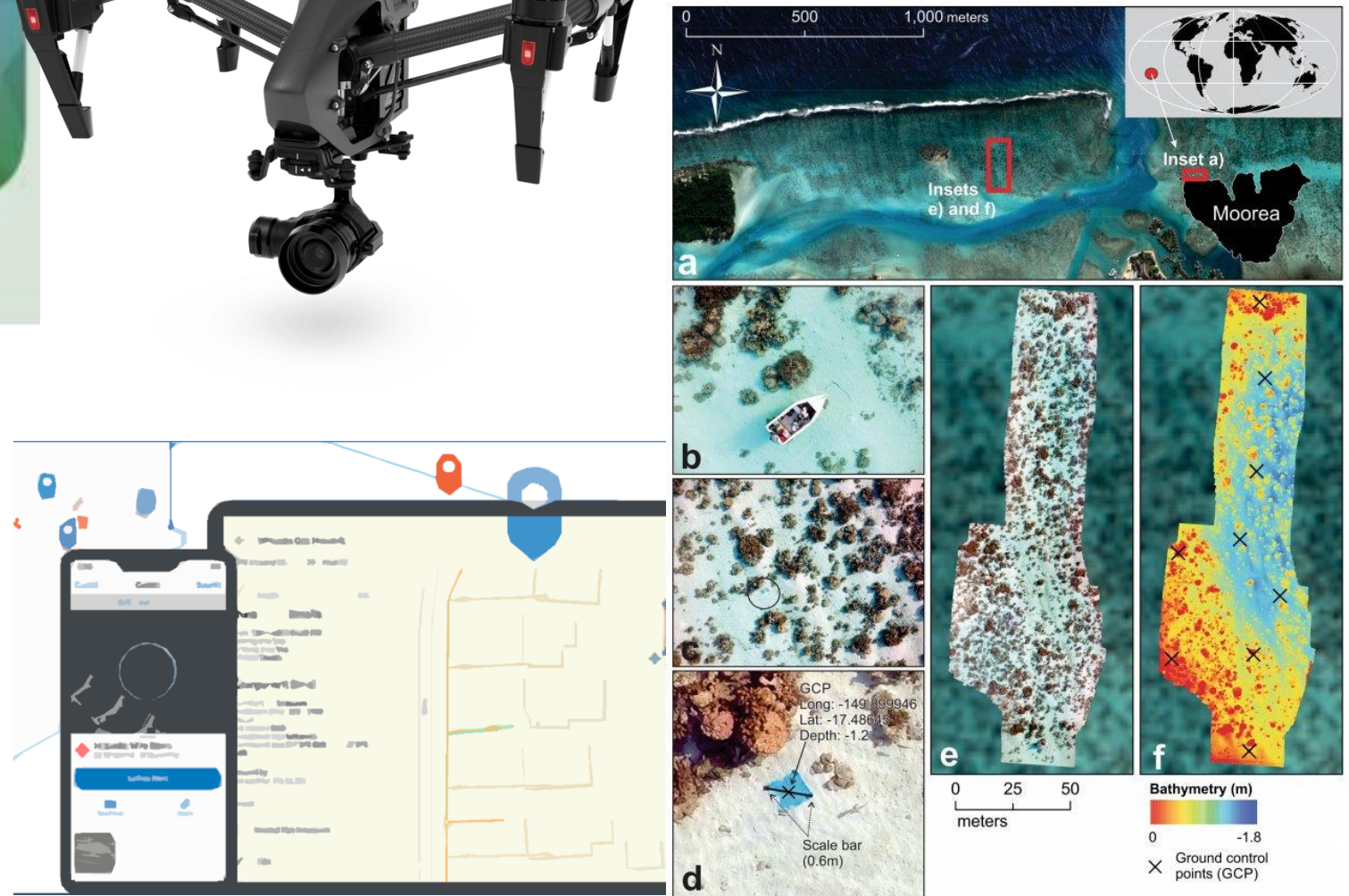
- Further learning – auditing, technical and industry training
- On the job training with suitably experienced supervisors
- Mentorship program



# Audit tools



Digital transformation, and the use of technology - it can help to increase efficiency and accessibility for auditing.





# Audit tools

What happens if the technology isn't affordable, there is no internet access or staff haven't had relevant training?

The paper checklist and pen method is a great option too.

Source: ASQA.gov.au



# Summary of audit process

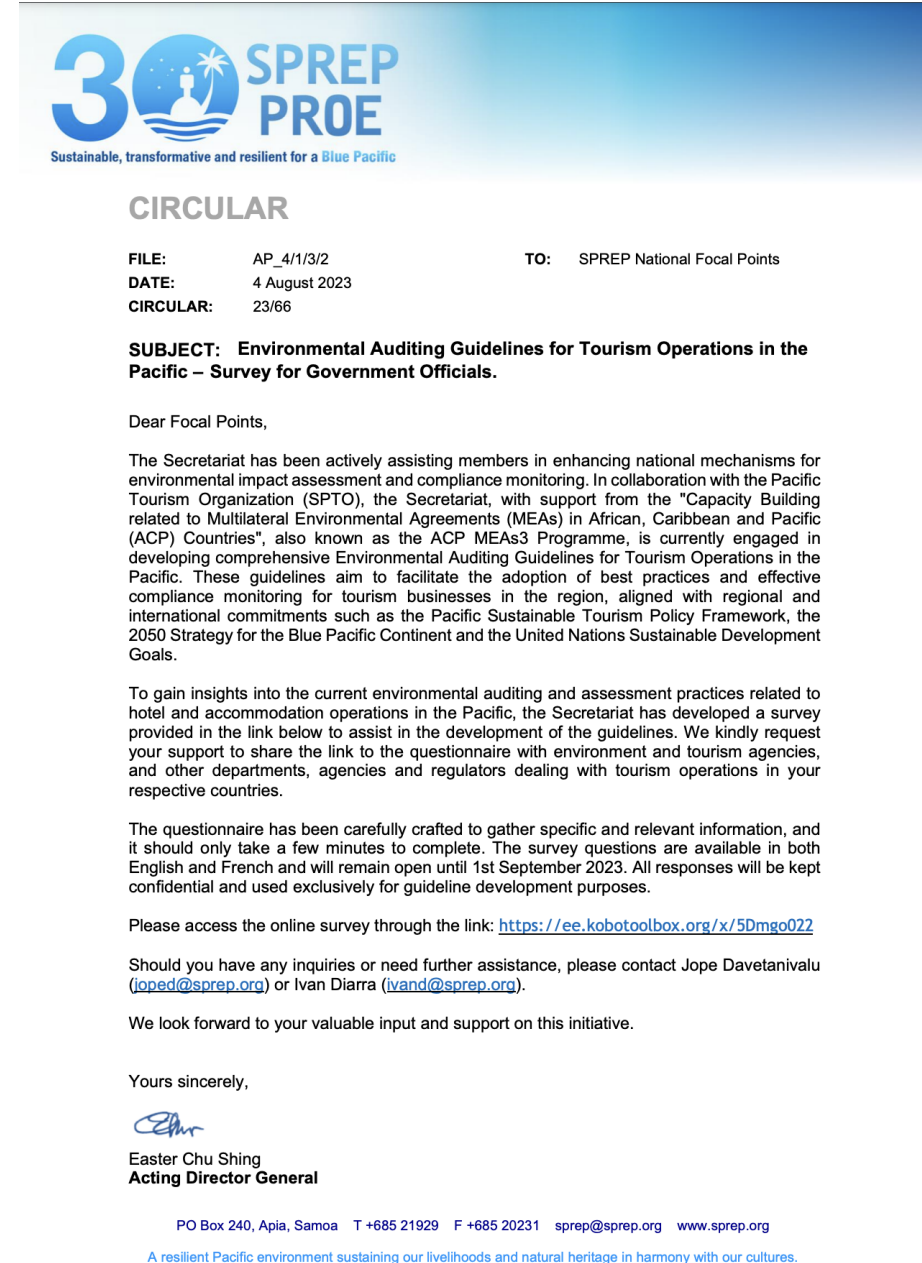
- The audit process:
  - Identify the audit objective
  - Design and plan for the audit:  
Key people, tools, audit template/checklists, program
  - Training opportunities
  - Determine which auditing tools are most effective



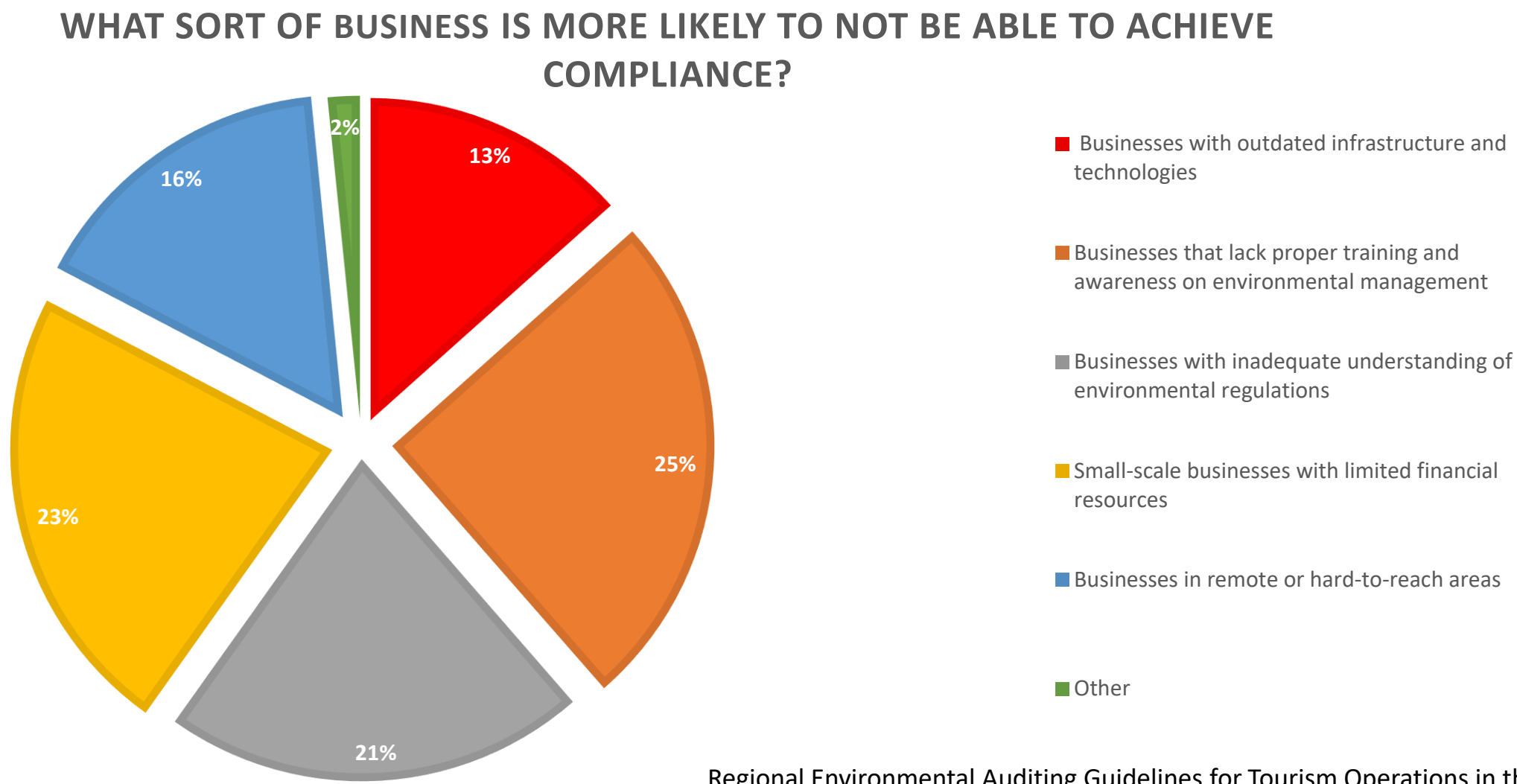
# Environmental Auditing Guidelines for Tourism Operations in the Pacific

Works to date:

- Literature Review
- Consultation:
  - Design
  - Questionnaire results
  - Workshop
- Status of the Guidelines



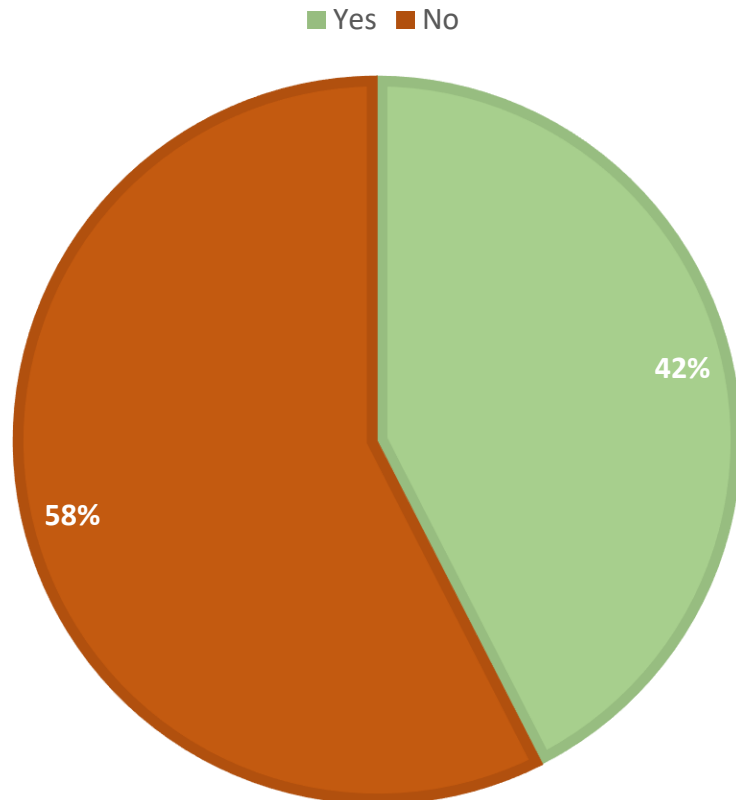
# Questionnaire results





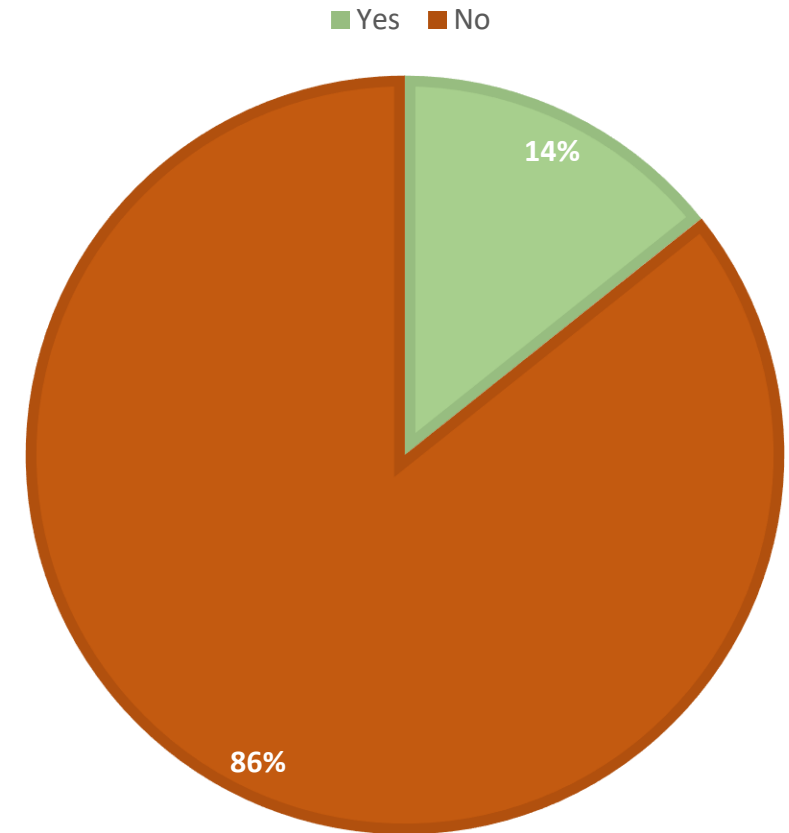
# Regulator

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT ALL BUSINESSES HAVE  
SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT  
MEASURES FOR COMPLIANCE



# Operator

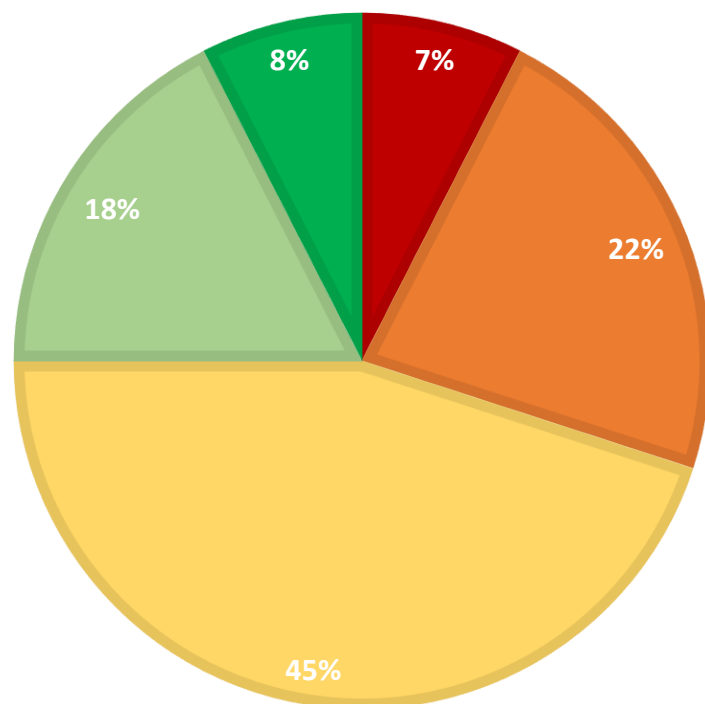
ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY SUPPORT  
RESOURCES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL  
MANAGEMENT?



# Regulator opinion of overall performance and improvement

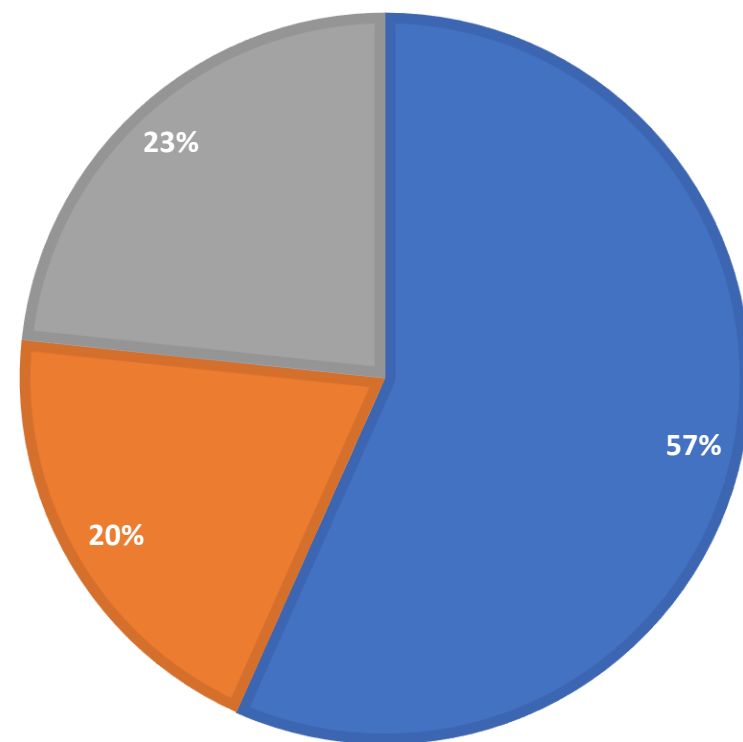
## HOW WELL DO BUSINESSES IN YOUR REGION PERFORM IN COMPLIANCE AUDITS?

■ Poor ■ Fair ■ Satisfactory ■ Good ■ Excellent



## HOW COULD ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE BE IMPROVED?

■ Additional support / resources ■ Improved awareness ■ Improved process





## He Karakia Whakakapi

Kia whakairia te tapu  
Kia wātea ai te ara  
Kia turuki whakataha ai  
Kia turuki whakataha ai  
Haumi e. Hui e. Tāiki e!

Restrictions are moved aside  
So the pathways is clear  
To return to everyday activities