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Community

Expanding national water storage capacity and improving water security in Nauru



Expanding national water storage capacity and supporting the completion of the RONAdapt planning document, some of the activities carried out by the project in Nauru.

Project amount

€ 111,000 (approx. AUD 165,000) funded by the European Union

Project period

May 2014 to 30 June 2015

Implementing agencies

Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment
Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

Project synopsis

The 'Expanding national water storage capacity and improving water security in Nauru' project is addressing water supply, a critical challenge in Nauru. Nauru lacks the national capacity to store potable water. Presently Nauru relies on desalinated water, rainwater harvesting, and (poor quality) groundwater for its water needs. There is no reticulated distribution system. Desalinated water is trucked to households on request.

The project focuses on expanding national water storage capacity. An existing obsolete 4000kl water storage tank will be demolished as part of the project thereby paving the way for a new storage tank to be built in the future.

How does this project assist climate change adaptation in Nauru?

Nauru uses desalination plants to convert water from the ocean into fresh water, but this method is energy-intensive and currently relies on fossil fuels, which has a negative impact on energy security and expenditure.

Climate change is exacerbating problems in the water sector due to increased air temperature, changes in precipitation and extreme weather events, and rising sea level.

Groundwater is available in some locations, but these supplies are contaminated and not suitable for drinking.

Rainwater is significantly reduced during droughts or dry seasons, thus people cannot rely on rainwater to meet their water needs.

Creating the enabling conditions for additional water storage in the future is therefore critical.

Key highlights of the project

- An estimated 10,000 people will benefit from improved national water storage capacity.

- The wide consultation and planning process involving key stakeholders from Nauru in conceptualizing the focus of this project; and the ownership of the infrastructure by the Nauru Utilities Corporation (a state owned enterprise) will encourage the Nauru government to take responsibility for maintaining the improved system.
- The project specifically aims to advance the key priorities identified in the *National Sustainable Development Strategy 2005–2025*, the *National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Policy 2012* and the *2014 Republic of Nauru Framework for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (RONAdapt)*.
- Components of the project build community awareness about water conservation e.g training of trainers in water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) issues as well as skills in maintaining rainwater harvesting systems.

The project's focus was determined by the Government of the Republic of Nauru and included widespread consultation. Nauru is responsible for the project's implementation.



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The Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States project in Nauru



Nauru is vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. Together with eight other countries it is part of the GCCA: PSIS project.

The Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project is a four-year € 11.4 million initiative funded by the European Union. It is implemented regionally by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and involves national climate change adaptation projects in nine Pacific Island countries – Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu.

The overall objective of the GCCA: PSIS project is to support the governments of the nine Pacific small island states in their efforts to tackle the adverse effects of climate change.

The Government of Nauru is implementing a national climate change adaptation project (see reverse side for more information) with € 111,000 provided by the European Union.

In addition to this project funding, Nauru can access specialised technical assistance and

training through a pooled resource allocation in the regional GCCA: PSIS umbrella project. This mechanism is providing the following in Nauru.

Training

Training activities include:

- proposal preparation, project design and budgeting, monitoring and evaluation; and
- utilising the Pacific Climate Change Portal to store and access relevant information for decision making.

National climate change mainstreaming

Mainstreaming refers to the process of embedding climate change planning in the spectrum of government ministries, sectoral plans and activities. Relevant GCCA: PSIS activities in Nauru are given below.

- A review of the extent of climate change mainstreaming in national strategic plans, policies and budgets in Nauru. This was conducted

to inform an assessment of the country's readiness to receive international climate finance through budget support mechanisms.

- Supporting the completion of the *Republic of Nauru Framework for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (RONAdapt)*, which describes Nauru's immediate priorities to reduce risk and vulnerability and increase its capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- Supporting the preparation of the *Nauru 20-Year Water and Sanitation Master Plan*. The Plan sets out investment priorities and maintenance needs over the period 2015 – 2035. It will be used by Nauru to undertake national planning and budgeting, and to engage development partners.

Documentary

A short video on the lessons learnt about climate change adaptation in Nauru will be available in 2015.