

NAURU



Country Brief

Scaling up water storage capacity in Nauru in response to climate change

Project Site Description

Water has been identified as the most vulnerable sector to the impacts of climate change in Nauru. Water storage amongst other water technologies has been prioritized to provide water security to the most vulnerable that include (i) those households with no water tanks; (ii) households without access to any water source; (iii) number of people in a household; (iv) number of elderly, children and people with disabilities in a household and (iv) economic situation of a house. i.e. number employed. Following a survey to some 200 vulnerable households, fifty (50) households has been identified through the Secretariat of Pacific Communities (SPC) selection process for Nauru. These selections are being reviewed and waiting for approval from the Government of Nauru.

Progress

Activities	Status
Desktop Review	✓ Completed
Stakeholder Consultation – PNA Report	● Initiated
Outreach and Awareness Raising	✓ On-going
Identification of Change Agents	X Yet to be done
Consultation with Ministries	✓ On-going
Identification of Training Needs	✓ Completed
Training as per the identified need	X Yet to start
Identification of national CC Plan (Discussions with CC Unit)	● Initiated
implementation of CC Plan revisions	X Yet to start

Government Ministry Consultations

The coordinating government Ministry for this project is the Ministry of Climate Change and National Resilience through its Secretary. This is a newly established Ministry with its main functions yet to be developed.

Desktop Review

The RCO facilitated discussions in the local language and gathered all the relevant information that led to the designing of the Nauru Desktop Review. The desktop review is an overview of Nauru's governance structure and indication on its current stance and capacity in its response to the risks to sustainable development posed by the impacts of climate change. The reports analyzed these areas and made recommendations on potential capacity building options to that will enhance community resilience to the posing threats of climate change and disasters. The planned Participatory Needs Assessment (PNA) stakeholder consultation will then facilitate detailed discussions on the recommendations prioritizing training needs of the target audience.

Local Development Plans/ Island Strategic Development Plans

Nauru does not have natural potable sources of water, apart from several lagoons that are used for farming milkfish and underground water that is known to be drinkable. The whole island relies greatly on desalinated water and imported water bottles. However, rainwater harvesting is no longer relied on due to changes in our climate.

Nauru Utilities Corporation (NUC) is the sole producer of desalinated water for the island's approximate population of 11,000 with capacity of 2.815 mega-liters per day. This is equivalent to around 250 liters per capita per day. WHO recommends a minimum of 7.5 liters per capita per day to about 20 liters per capita per day to meet basic hygiene needs and basic food hygiene.

An ADB-funded Urban Development and Sustainability Project which addresses and aims to deliver improved water, supply, sanitation and solid waste services has just commenced. The project will deliver 5 subprojects ready for implementation over the long term in phases. These will cover water supply system, sanitation system, solid waste system, support system and urban services optimization improvements. Consultants engaged in the first phase of the grant are looking to develop a GIS system for water and other infrastructure. It will provide NUC with spatial information about all its assets around the island including roads, poles, boundaries etc.

Challenges and Solutions

To ensure water quality is within the health limits set by WHO and Australian standards, NUC undertakes quarterly water quality tests and ongoing on-site tests that are performed under laboratory conditions. NUC currently has a water storage capacity of 6,280 kilo-liters with the installation of an additional steel water tank; already on island with capacity of 3,000 kilo-liters unfortunately is delayed due to the Corvid-19 pandemic. Water truck delivery capacity is 90 kilo-



liters per delivery. NUC has in its record 1,760 water tanks installed in Nauru ranging in capacity from 4,000 to 20,000 liters. As in the past, the provision of a reliable water storage tank has always been a priority for every household, with access to groundwater regarded as equally important. Groundwater is widely available around the coastal belt of the island and used mainly for toilet flushing, bathing, washing and irrigation thus saving a large amount of potable water for drinking and cooking only.

Lesson Learnt

During the first GCCA project that was implemented from 2012-2015, the water sector was also identified by the stakeholders as most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. However, the prioritized adaptation technology or concept was to pump brackish water from the coastal area up to a reservoir that is located on higher grounds where it is gravity-fed to nearly 100 households that never had access to brackish water hence relying greatly on potable water for non-potable use.

Financial Summary

Item/Activity	Total Budget Allocation (EUR)	Year 1 & 2 Actual (EUR)	Balance (EUR)
(1.2.1) Research & Community Officer	85,641	16,759	68,882
(1.4) Total Office Costs	10,625	-	10,625
(2.1) Mobilisation and outreach on climate and disaster resilience with local area stakeholders in intervention areas	21,000	-	21,000
(2.2) Provision of training in resilient development to local area stakeholders	16,500	-	16,500
(2.3) Mainstream and integrate climate change and disaster risk management in sub-national sustainable development plans e.g. island plans	15,500	-	15,500
(2.4) Enhance the capacity to implement, monitor and evaluate sub-national sustainable development plans e.g. island plans	10,656	-	10,656
Total	159,922	16,759	143,163