

Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA)

Strengthening water security in Tuvalu



Mrs Iunipa Teatu, the Acting Secretary for the Ministry of Finance (left) and Mr Sumeo Silu, the Acting Secretary for the Ministry of Infrastructure, with the keys to the two new water tanker trucks.



Project focus: Water sector



Project timeframe: 1 January 2019- 30 June 2023



Project site: Funafuti



National implementing agencies: Climate Change Department, Public Works Department (PWD), Funafuti Kaupule, Ministry of Education



Beneficiaries:
Direct benefit: **6716 persons**
Indirect benefit: **3,929 persons**

Project synopsis

The ‘Strengthening water security in Tuvalu’ project expands on previous water security interventions to establish effective backup water supply and access for households, schools, government facilities and the wider communities of Funafuti. A specialized training on desalination operations and maintenance was provided to the Public Works Department while basic trainings on maintenance of rainwater measures and awareness programmes were provided to communities, schools, and the general public.

How did this project address climate change adaptation in Tuvalu

- Water scarcity is a major issue in Tuvalu with the issue intensifying severely in dry seasons and droughts. This situation is exacerbated as a result of climate change and variability.
- The primary water source is from rainwater catchment systems and groundwater is classified non-potable in most islands due to high salinity levels and pollution.
- In Funafuti, the demand for freshwater is close to reaching the estimated sustainable yields for freshwater supply. Improving water security is a high priority for the Government of Tuvalu and the SUPA project will scale up and support the ongoing efforts by the Government of Tuvalu.

How did this project scale up climate change adaptation in Tuvalu?

- Scaling up previous measures that had elements of sustainability: The project had added to past initiatives by the Government of Tuvalu and Japan to supply desalinated water to Funafuti. The measures will also support outer islands during drought periods.
- Link to national priorities: The measures are linked to the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) 2016 – 2020 and the “Te Kumete” (Sustainable and Integrated Water and Sanitation Policy) 2012-2021.
- Socio-economic benefits for communities and the most vulnerable groups: This has been achieved through improved access to safe drinking water for communities in Funafuti. The needs of the youth have been targeted through the refurbishment of the rainwater harvesting systems at the Fetuvalu Secondary School and Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) Primary School in Funafuti.
- Maintenance of the newly scaled up infrastructure: Training in operation and maintenance of the desalination unit has been provided to the Department of Public Works, and training and tools to maintain the rainwater harvesting systems has been provided to the staff and school management at the high schools.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN TUVALU



Tuvalu Climate Change Department staff with the newly installed rainwater measures at Fetuvalu High School in Funafuti



Rainwater harvesting tanks installed at Fetuvalu High School in Funafuti

Key Project Highlights

Scaling up water supply

- Conducting assessments of existing desalination plants with regards to capacity, operations, maintenance and costs.
- Installing a portable, solar powered 20m³/day desalination plant in Funafuti.
- Delivering a specialized training in desalination plant installation, operations and maintenance to the Public Works Department engineers.
- Refurbishing existing water systems and installing new ones at Fetuvalu Secondary School and SDA Primary School.
- Providing construction and plumbing materials for handwashing facilities for two selected preschools in Funafuti.
- Building capacity in water management and water systems maintenance.
- Improving water supply and delivery through the provision of two 10,000L water trucks to PWD

Building community resilience

- Building the capacity of community and village leaders in climate resilience through the provision of informal trainings and workshops.
- Completing the Funafuti disaster plans to identify priority areas in disaster management and risk reduction.
- Carrying out climate change and water management awareness programmes in Tuvalu.

Activities meet the following SDGs:



About the GCCA+ SUPA project

The Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Scaling up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) project is about scaling up climate change adaptation measures in specific sectors supported by knowledge management and capacity building. The 4.5 -year project (2019- June 2023) is funded with €14.89 million from the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC) in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and The University of the South Pacific (USP), in collaboration with the governments and peoples of Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu.

The **Overall Objective** of the GCCA+ SUPA project is to enhance climate change adaptation and resilience within ten Pacific island countries.

The **Specific Objective** is to strengthen the implementation of sector-based, but integrated, climate change and disaster risk management strategies and plans.