

Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA)

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



Resident fills a bucket from the tank supplied by the project in Nauru



Project focus: Water sector



Project timeframe: 1 January 2019- 30 June 2023



Project site: 14 districts in Nauru



National implementing agencies: Department of Climate Change and National Resilience, Department of Infrastructure, Department of Public Health and Department of Finance.



Beneficiaries
Direct benefit: **500 persons**
Indirect benefit: **8,584 persons**

Project synopsis

The 'Scaling up water storage capacity in Nauru in response to climate change' project has expanded a previous initiative that provided dedicated water storage for desalinated water to selected households. The project's focus has been to increase water storage specifically for desalinated water for 96 vulnerable households in the 14 districts of Nauru.

How did this project address climate change adaptation in Nauru?

- The Republic of Nauru lies approximately 0.5°S and 167°E. It is a raised atoll with an area of 21km² with a maximum elevation of 71m. With a small land area and very limited groundwater resources, access to potable water is a major concern. Presently Nauru does not have a reticulated water distribution system and relies on desalinated water, rainwater harvesting and groundwater – all of which require storage at the household level – to meet water needs. Desalinated water accounts for 70-80% of water needs in Nauru.
- Focusing on households with limited water storage, the project adopted a people-centred approach that addressed the vulnerabilities and the rights of the most vulnerable people. Criteria were developed to identify the most vulnerable households and tools were provided for maintenance of the water storage system.

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

- **Scaling up previous measures that had elements of sustainability:** The project analysed the results of an impact assessment of a previous water project that was completed in 2019. The results were then applied to the design of the GCCA+SUPA activities in Nauru.
- **Link to national priorities:** The project was linked to the Nauru Water and Sanitation Master Plan, 2015-2035, which identified desalination as an important part of meeting Nauru's future water security needs.
- **Socio-economic benefits for communities and the most vulnerable groups:** The project improved access to potable water, increased water storage, improved sanitation, and hygiene. The selection of the beneficiary households prioritized the most vulnerable groups especially people with disabilities, elderly and children.
- **Maintenance of the newly scaled up infrastructure:** The GCCA+ SUPA project provided maintenance tools to the beneficiary households to carry out repair of their respective tanks as and when needed.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN NAURU



A tank provided by the GCCA+SUPA Project sits on a completed concrete slab at one of the selected households in Nauru



Nibok infant school students, teachers and the project national coordinator with at their garden that uses a water irrigation system

Key Project Highlights

Development of the criteria for selection of households for increased water storage capacity

The selection criteria were designed to identify:

- Occupied houses with no tank (A tank is defined as a water container having a capacity of more than 5,000L).
- There are occupants older than 50 years.
- There are occupants with disabilities.
- The total number of occupants in the house.
- There are occupants under 18 years of age.
- The number of occupants earning a regular income (regular is defined as weekly, fortnightly, or monthly).
- The type of water storage used (ground water, desalinated water & rainwater).

The recipient list of the household plastic water storage tanks was approved by the Cabinet of the Republic of Nauru and the National Steering Committee.

Providing training in maintenance

- A three-day training for recipient households was planned and scheduled for June 2023. However this was cancelled due to a State of Emergency when an unexploded World War 2 ordinance was uncovered.
- Basic maintenance tools were provided for the recipient households to maintain their respective tanks and carry out repair as and when needed.
- A video and a manual on maintenance of plastic storage tanks were prepared.

Construction of the water storage systems

- Construction of concrete slabs and installation of water tanks (10,200L & 5,300L) was completed for a total of 96 recipient households.
- Pumps and fittings to connect water tanks to the houses were supplied to the Department of Climate Change & National Resilience for onward distribution and installation.
- Recipient household have signed agreement forms that they will take ownership of the water tanks, pumps, pipes and fittings and will be responsible for the maintenance of the water systems.
- Installation works complies with the Rescue & Fire Safety Act 2019.
- A vehicle was supplied to the Department of Climate Change & National Resilience to support the project team in monitoring and oversight of all project activities including the final assessment of on the ground scaling - up measures.

Community Awareness

- World Water Day was celebrated on the 22nd of March 2021 with the aim to create awareness of water and its resources which are crucial for the survival of all living things on earth.
- The awareness activities focused on youth with the theme "Valuing water" and included a water efficient house competition, a vegetable irrigation competition, quizzes and other activities.
- A video on "Securing Nauru's water lifeline for the most vulnerable people" was prepared

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.