

Pacific Umbrella Initiative: Pacific Strategies for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, and Regional Consultation on Sustainable Water Management

Proposed Partners

Governments

Pacific island countries and territories including: American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

Intergovernmental Organisations

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP).

Potential Major Groups/NGOs

Universities and capacity building institutes:

University of the South Pacific (USP), Fiji Institute of Technology (FIT), Fiji School of Medicine (FSM), United Nations University (UNU), Australia National University (ANU), Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research New Zealand (NIWA), Bureau of Meteorology Australia (BOM), University of Hawaii, Water and Energy Research Institute of the Western Pacific (WERI) at the University of Guam.

NGOs: FSP (Foundation for the People of the South Pacific), Greenpeace, Live & Learn, World Wide Fund for Nature South Pacific (WWF).

Associations: Australia Water Association (AWA), New Zealand Water and Wastewater Association (NZWWA), Pacific Water Association (PWA), American Water Works Association (AWWA).

Possible Donors

Asian Development Bank (ADB), AusAID, CSC (Commonwealth Science Council), Department for International Development (DFID), European Union (EU), Global Environment Facility (GEF), JICA, NZAID, United States Department of the Interior (USDOI), the World Bank.

Global Partners

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), GWP (Global Water Partnership), GPA (Global Programme of Action), International Waters, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), United States Geological Survey (USGS), World Health Organisation (WHO), World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC).

Leading Partner

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Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

The main objective of the Initiative is to achieve sustainable water and wastewater management in Pacific island countries through:

- The establishment of a **regional water network** of persons and organisations, inclusive of country governments, development agencies, professional associations and donors, that work in the different fields of water resources management and service delivery in the region, to improve regional coordination and collaboration;
- The implementation of the **SOPAC Strategies for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene** that aim to build and increase the capacity in Pacific Island Countries to deliver sustainable management of water and wastewater as a means to contributing to poverty alleviation. Sustainability has to be achieved in the technical, institutional, financial, environmental and social-cultural areas. SOPAC Member Countries have endorsed these strategies during the 30th SOPAC Annual Session (Majuro, October 2001), which are complimentary with the efforts towards the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the 3rd World Water Forum;
- Implementation of the **“Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Water Management”**, as agreed upon by Ministers, Heads of Delegation and representatives of civil society groups with responsibilities for water affairs from 16 small island countries in the Pacific, as well as East Timor and the Maldives as part of the regional consultation and preparation for the “Water in Small Island Countries” and “Dialogue on Water & Climate” themes of the 3rd World Water Forum, during the “Pacific Regional Meeting on Water in Small Island Countries”, held in Sigatoka, Fiji from 29 July to 3 August 2002. The consultation process included the identification of national priority actions as determined by the participating countries on the basis of their national water strategies, national assessments and stakeholder consultations undertaken for WSSD and the 3rd World Water Forum, and the development of agreed regional actions through the consultation meeting process of plenary discussion, working group review and delegation approval.

The actions are structured around six thematic areas with the following key messages:

Theme 1 WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (Water Resources Assessment and Monitoring, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation, Integrated Water Resources and Catchment Management)

Key Message 1: Strengthen the capacity of small island countries to conduct water resources assessment and monitoring as a key component of sustainable water resources management.

Key Message 2: Implement strategies to utilise appropriate methods and technologies for water supply and sanitation systems and approaches for rural and peri-urban communities in small islands.

Key Message 3: Implement strategies to improve the management of water resources, and surface and groundwater catchments (watersheds) for the benefit of all sectors including local communities, development interests and the environment.

Theme 2 ISLAND VULNERABILITY (Disaster Preparedness; Dialogue on Water and Climate)

Key Message 1: There is a need for capacity development to enhance the application of climate information to cope with climate variability and change.

Key Message 2: Change the paradigm for dealing with Island Vulnerability from disaster response to hazard assessment and risk management, particularly in Integrated Water Resource Management.

Theme 3 AWARENESS (Advocacy; Political Will; Community Participation; Environmental Understanding; Gender)

Key Message 1: A high quality participatory framework should be adopted at the National level to allow for open participation of communities in sustainable water and wastewater management.

Key Message 2: Access to, and availability of information on sustainable water and wastewater management should be provided to all levels of society.

Key Message 3: Water and sanitation education should be mainstreamed into the formal education system.

Key Message 4: Improve communication and coordination of all stakeholders in sustainable water and wastewater including government, civil society and the private sector.

Theme 4 TECHNOLOGY (Appropriate Technologies; Demand Management and Conservation; Human Resources)

Key Message 1: Utility collaboration and regional partnership to reduce unaccounted for water will significantly improve the sustainability of utilities and reduce the need for developing new water resources.

Key Message 2: Appropriate institutions, infrastructure and information will support sustainable water and wastewater management.

Key Message 3: Island specific regional training programmes should be developed, resulting in sustainable levels of skilled and knowledgeable people and communities within the water and wastewater sector.

Theme 5 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS (Policy, Planning and Legislation; Institutional Strengthening)

Key Message 1: Work together through a comprehensive consultative process, encompassing good governance, to develop a shared National vision for managing water resources in a sustainable manner.

Key Message 2: Develop national instruments including National visions, policies, plans and legislation appropriate to each island country taking into account the particular social, economic, environmental and cultural needs of the citizens of each country.

Key Message 3: Promote and establish appropriate institutional arrangements resourced sufficiently to enable effective management of water resources and the provision of appropriate water services.

Key Message 4: Recognise and share the water resource management knowledge and skills of all stakeholders at a National and regional level in the process of developing and implementing the National Vision.

Key Message 5: National and regional leadership in water resource management should be recognised and encouraged.

Theme 6 FINANCE (Costs and Tariffs, Alternative Models; Role of Donor Organisations and Financing Institutes)

Key Message 1: Create a better and sustainable environment for investment by both the public and private sector, by developing and implementing National, sector and strategic plans that identify the economic, environmental and social costs of different services and develop pricing policies, which ensure the proper allocation of resources for the water sector.

Key Message 2: Establish financially viable enterprises for water and sanitation that result in improved performance by developing appropriate financial and cost recovery policies, tariffs, billing and collection systems, financial and operating systems.

Key Message 3: Reduce costs through improved operational efficiency, using benchmarking, development of leak detection programmes and improved work practices.

Key Message 4: Ensure access for the poor to water and sanitation services by developing pro poor policies that include tariffs with lifeline blocks and transparent and targeted subsidies.

Key Message 5: Achieve sustainable rural water and sanitation services at a community level through developing strategies that incorporate mechanisms for appropriate financing and capacity building.

Ministers, Heads of Delegation and representatives of civil society groups with responsibilities for water affairs from 17 small island countries in the Pacific, including East Timor and the Maldives expressed on 3rd August 2002:

- commitment to the water and sanitation components Agenda 21 agreed to ten years ago in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and the Global Action Plan for Small Island Developing States agreed to in Barbados 1994 and the outcomes of the 5-year reviews undertaken in 1997 and 1999;
- commitment to the outcomes of the meeting on freshwater held in Bonn, Germany, in December 2001 and urge the international community to pursue the achievement of the Millenium Development Goals that target the vital role of water and sanitation in eliminating poverty and securing a livelihood for all people;
- endorsement of the “Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management” to address these key issues for the water sector in the pursuit of sustainable development in our islands;
- support to this Type 2 Partnership/Initiative on water being submitted by the Pacific delegations at the WSSD and urged donors and partners to do likewise.

Specific Targets of the Partnership/Initiative and Timeframe for their Achievement

- Endorsement of a Regional Action Plan during the ADB/SOPAC led consultation by 16 small island countries in the Pacific, as well as East Timor and the Maldives, 3rd August 2002, Fiji.
- Presentation of the outcomes of the regional consultation at the “Water in Small Island Countries” and the “Dialogue on Water and Climate” sessions at the 3rd World Water Forum, 16-23 March 2003, Japan.
- Further development of Capacity Building Programmes on Integrated Water Resources Management, Hydrology, Sanitation, Wastewater, Water Demand Management, Community Participation, Data Collection and Exchange, Institutional Reform and Strategic Planning.
- Projects established to carry out proposed actions.
- National Action Plans established in participating countries for Water and Wastewater.
- National Water Partnerships established in participating countries.

Coordination and Implementation Mechanism

- National level coordination and implementation to be determined through in-country consultation, and the support of national water partnerships (committees/councils).
- Regional level coordination and consultation will be led by SOPAC in close collaboration with its member countries, international agencies, donor organisations, regional organisations, NGOs and the private sector.
- Implementation at the regional level, where appropriate, will be by the relevant organisations and partners.

Arrangements for Funding

- Commitment towards the implementation of priority actions of the Regional Action Plan is dependant on partner and donor organisations.
- National Governments are expected to be responsible for financing or securing financing for their own national water partnership building and implementation of national actions.

Arrangements for Capacity Building and Technology Transfer

Specific requirements for capacity building and technology transfer have been determined in the region by various assessments and needs analysis in the past decades. This resulted in the development of various capacity building programmes which are in need of continued funding and commitment from donor agencies. Coordination of these efforts is needed to avoid duplication and address these issues effectively. Priority areas for capacity building have been identified in the newly completed “Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Water Management”.

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level

The activities under this initiative will be established and integrated into ongoing programmes and projects both nationally and regionally where appropriate. Where the opportunity avails itself at the international level the initiatives will be linked to form partnerships so as to enhance the overall impact of the programme. Specific opportunities exist through:

- 3rd World Water Forum Secretariat and World Water Council (WWC)
- Environmentally Sound Technologies (UNEP)
- Global Water Partnership (GWP)
- International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO)
- Pacific Strategic Programme for International Waters (IW)
- Pacific Wastewater Framework for Action (SOPAC/SPREP/GPA)
- Sanitation and Environmental Health (WHO/SPC)
- Virtual Water Learning Centre (UNU/INWEH)
- Working Group on Hydrology (WMO)
- Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC)

Monitoring Arrangements

Monitoring and reporting on the initiative at the national level is to be determined through national consultation.

At the regional level monitoring will take place through SOPAC's governing council sessions and STAR technical advisory group sessions on water, the Council for the Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) Health & Population Working Group, as well as the Heads of CROP Meetings and the annual meetings of relevant organisations.

Other information

Website: http://www.sopac.org.fj/Secretariat/Units/Wru/3rd_world_water_forum/index.html

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