



Enhancing water security for Nauru through better water management and reduced groundwater contamination

Progress Snapshot

Project Objective

Sustainable Integrated Water and Wastewater Management in Nauru.



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Process

✓ Proportion of community engaged in water related issues

To increase the understanding and acceptance of the project objectives at community level, the project managing unit, in partnership with the GEF PACC project team, instigated the formation of the Nauru Community Based Organization (NCBO) and facilitated the integration of four NBCO representatives into the Project Steering Committee as members. Community engagement activities are coordinated through NCBO as Community leaders. The project has established an ongoing Community Outreach Program (visiting every community) on awareness raising activities relating to Climate Change, Water and Sanitation issues in partnership with Nauru SNC and the GEF PACC Projects.

This initiative provides direct community access to government water & sanitation services and expertise and has seen a 30% increase in attendance at awareness raising events and active engagement activities.

✓ Multi-sector APEX body established

As part of the community engagement process, community leaders were brought together for the first time nationally for both formal and informal discussions. In partnership with the Nauru GEF PACC project, the GEF IWRM project has initiated a national water APEX body, and a supporting community leader forum. The success of this process has seen the waste and energy sectors tap into the same committees and endorsement of the National Water, Energy and Waste APEX Body by Cabinet.

✓ National IWRM Strategy in place by 2012

As a result of project work and partnerships, the Republic of Nauru National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Policy was endorsed by Cabinet on the 7th of February 2012. This policy and accompanying implementation plan identify ongoing financial needs and a government commitment to core funding.

Nauru Technical Working Group

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- Mr Geoffrey Thoma
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Anetan Infant School celebrating World Water Day 2011



Development of the National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Policy

Nauru IWRM Demonstration
 Project Video
<http://www.pacific-iwrm.org/Nauru-video.html>

Stress Reduction

✓ Reduction in sewage pollution in Ewa and Anetan communities

Nauru is dependent largely upon household septic tanks and cesspits for sanitation. As a result of no central management responsibility and no ongoing investment, a combination of failing septic tanks and cesspits and wastewater discharge have heavily contaminated the shallow groundwater and coastal waters.

This project seeks to provide alternatives to the current systems that provide little in the way of treatment and use significant scarce water resources for flushing.

Upgrading 40 household systems and providing secondary treatment processes and irrigation systems is dramatically reducing groundwater and coastal water pollution and increasing access to safe, improved sanitation for two communities. Studies are currently underway to measure actual pollution reduction.

✓ Reduction in use of freshwater for sanitation purposes due to installation of composting toilets

The reliance on scarce water resources to flush toilets in schools meant that schools were unable to provide sanitation during droughts and power outages.

As schools are located on the coastal strip, septic tank discharges rapidly polluted the coastal lagoon. Installing composting toilets has ensured year-round sustainable sanitation available to schoolchildren, whilst reducing a significant use of limited water resources. Studies are currently underway to measure actual freshwater use reduction.



Contractor positioning the conventional septic tank mould in Ewa



Improved septic tank with sand filter as secondary treatment prior to irrigation

Water Resource and Environmental Status

✓ Increase population with access to improved sanitation

Communities in Nauru are generally reliant on sanitation systems installed 30-40 years ago, many of which are now failing. These systems were often discharging immediately adjacent to shallow, open groundwater wells that provide washing, cooking and even drinking water.

This project has provided 280 people with access to improved sanitation through the installation of household sanitation systems and cluster systems serving several houses from an extended family, as well as protecting precious groundwater resources.

Further, the installation of composting toilets in two schools (Kayser College & Anetan Infant School) has ensured children have year-round access to improved sanitation in their schools. Previously schools had to operate in unsanitary conditions or close.

In a small island developing state, the developmental value of providing safe sustainable sanitation in schools will have long-term benefits beyond the short-term sanitation and health gains.



Composting toilets introduced at Kayser College and Anetan Infant School; addressing community concerns of odor, appearance, water efficiency and easy maintenance