



# GEF PACIFIC IWRM PROJECT RESULTS NOTE

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RSC 4 2012

## Managing Honiara City Water Supply and Reducing Pollution via IWRM



### Top 3 Project Results

1. Increasing land-owners, community awareness and project support on the importance of water catchments through dissemination of key findings and results from catchment surveys specifically at the Kovi/Kongulai catchment and public awareness on water resources management through water use and conservation through targeted water consumers and educational campaigns
2. IWRM profile raising and water resources issues by government and cabinet decision to implement IWRM Project and establish the basis by APEX Bodies to endorse the 2011 National Water Outlook in the future
3. Increased collaboration with primary stakeholders through sub-committee establishments to implement water demand management (WDM) and water safety planning (WSP) activities.

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## 1. PROJECT OBJECTIVE

*The objective of the project is to promote best water management strategies and protection measures for Honiara city water resources to ensure there is sustainable reliable water supply and wastewater services in the Honiara City through the following mechanisms: IWRM Management Strategies, Policy and Legislative review and formulation; Water Safety Plan and Demand Management; and Water Catchment Surveys.*

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## 2. RESULTS: PROCESS

*Prior to project implementation was the consent agreement by the landowners of Kovi and later Kongulai to carry out a hydrological assessment of the Kovi stream, some 2 kilometres upstream of Honiara's main water intake. The aim was to monitor the flow over seasons on the water resources there in case the water provider (SIWA) needs to develop it in the future. With the IWRM project realized, the Kovi/Kongulai Community Group (KKCG) was established with 15 members, two of which are with the Project Steering Committee (PSC). The KKCG represents the Kovi/Kongulai water catchment through which the project works with. Up to 2011 most of the Kovi/Kongulai catchment surveys were completed and resulted in data and information about the catchment disseminated through community awareness. The community supported the project by involving them in field surveys and hydrological monitoring activities. Their interest was reinforced by assisting them to look at catchment conservation and in line with an eco-tourism business; to protect the catchment for the sake of water resources and at the same time generating income by promoting nature's beauty to people.*

### **2(a) INDICATOR#1:** Sectors actively engaged in formal multilateral communication on water issues

A target of the project was to increase engagement. This was achieved establishment of the Kov/Kongulai Community Group (KKCG) and active response to workshops and meetings. The project had the opportunity to talk with the KKCG at every gathering commencing from the time of consent to enter their land until the launching of an Eco-tourism Plan for the community. Although men were represented more, women did take part and shared their views and opinion during each meeting. Disagreements were part of the community and the leaders were informed about this especially when it comes to finances.



**Figure 1** Kovi/Kongulai Catchment Group (KKCG)

**2(b) INDICATOR #2:** Awareness information to water consumers was distributed to water provider (SIWA) and during important national and international events. The on-going dissemination of information on importance of water sources, water use efficiency, demand management and water safety were part of mass media project campaigns. Although feedbacks from such distributions are not evident, it was envisaged that water users will make practical steps using the information provided if they were serious about water scarcity and water bills.

### **RESULTS: PROCESS**

The IWRM Pilot Project for Honiara City was endorsed by Cabinet in late 2009 with a cabinet decision to implement over 5 years. This resulted in the approval by government regarding its financial support during this period and the establishment of the Project Steering Committee comprising 15 members from government and civil society, land owners and an NGO. The Project Steering Committee (PSC) during the course of the project further established its sub-committees to oversee specific activities. A catchment assessment sub-committee and a water safety sub-committee were members of the PSC.



Figure 4: Members of the IWRM (Honiara City) Project Steering Committee

**3(a) INDICATOR #1:** Membership is represented by most sectors that are implicated in IWRM while civil society, women and NGO representatives are also represented.

The establishment of the Project Steering Committee can be the foundation of the anticipated National Intersectorial Water Coordinating Committee (NIWCC). Once a cabinet decision is made to establish with budgetary support this year, the IWRM planning process can be supported by an already established steering committee of the current IWRM pilot project; in fact this PSC is an ad-hoc NIWCC that is awaiting endorsement.

**3(b) INDICATOR #2:** Formulation of the National Water Outlook 2011 through an Professional Intern

Given the longevity of Regional Action Plan (RAP) way back in 1999, some countries were piloted to formulate a new Water & Sanitation Outlook; Solomon Islands was one. The NOW 2011 was a result of discussions and endorsement by the interim NIWCC (mostly PSC members) over a three month period's assignment by a IWRM Masters Intern.



**Figure 5:** A meeting of the interim NIWCC

#### **RESULTS: WATER USE EFFICIENCY & WATER SAFETY**

Past projects regarding WUE and WDM were carried out to some extent. The IWRM Project in this case further considers the gaps in past projects and now targets additional zones. Likewise, the project also takes into account water safety as part of the project intervention. In early 2012 the Project worked with the water provider (SIWA) to implement WUE/WDM at one its highest leakage zones in Honiara, namely Mbokonavera 1-4 residential area. Using past reports a leakage detection program was planned and completed. Funds were allocated to SIWA for this activity.

**4(a) INDICATOR #1:** Two night flow step tests confirmed very high leakages in both distribution and service lines within the zones under consideration.

A total of 414 connections were identified and confirmed in the project area. Only 33% of the connections were found to have operational water meters while the remaining 67% are suspicious; 21% buried or unidentified, 22% are direct lines, 15% disconnected, 4% vacant and 4% are illegal connections. It was found that out of 8 zones that were isolated with valves, three priority areas have leakages of more than 100 litres per minute. Most house connections have now valves replaced before each meter prior to the step tests. A pipe replacement activity has just commenced.

**4(b) INDICATOR #2:** Capacity and Training on SIWA new and current staff

SIWA has a staff shortage and new recruits are made over the past year. A Leakage Detection Team is now established and on-going capacity is part of the project's intervention. Upcoming project activities at additional areas are anticipated with qualified and swift work completion in this area.



Figure 7 & 8: SIWA Staff carrying out day & night leak detection tasks