



SOPAC/GEF/IWRM/RSC.5/6
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Fifth Meeting of the Regional Project Steering Committee
for the SOPAC/UNDP/UNEP/GEF Project:
*"Implementing Sustainable Water Resource and Wastewater
Management in Pacific Island Countries"*

Nadi, Republic of Fiji Islands, 11th – 15th November 2013

***STATUS OF IWRM POLICIES AND PLANS
FOR INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT***

BACKGROUND

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg in 2002, the international community took an important step towards more sustainable patterns of water management by including, in the WSSD Plan of Implementation (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), a call for all countries to "*develop integrated water resource management and water efficiency plans by 2005, with support to developing countries.*" Water use efficiency is an important component of IWRM and it was envisaged that water efficiency plans or strategies would comprise a component of overall national IWRM plans. Meeting recently in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil at the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Heads of States and Governments reaffirmed their commitment to fully implement the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and committed to *inter alia* "*significantly improve the implementation of integrated water resource management at all levels as appropriate.*"

Giving weight to the commitments made during the Rio+20 meeting is the 28th July 2010 United Nations General Assembly resolution declaring "*the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights*" and which called on States and international organizations to "*to provide financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer, through international assistance and cooperation, in particular to developing countries, in order to scale up efforts to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all*". In September that year, the United Nations Human Rights Council further affirmed by a consensus resolution that water and sanitation are human rights. The HRC called upon States "*to develop appropriate tools and mechanisms, which may encompass legislation, comprehensive plans and strategies for the sector, including financial ones, to achieve progressively the full realization of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation*".

National IWRM Plans – An Anticipated Project Result

IWRM Plans have been promoted in recent decades to provide strategic direction to the design and implementation of investments needed to address, amongst other things, priority water resource infrastructure, water services, and water resource management and governance needs of countries. At the time of project development and inception for the Global Environment Facility supported project entitled "*Implementing Sustainable Water Resources and Wastewater Management in Pacific Island Countries*" (GEF Pacific IWRM Project) no participating country had IWRM plans or water use efficiency strategies in place, hence a significant focus of the project's overarching strategic results framework relates to achievement of the following **outcome**:

"Institutional change and realignment to enact National IWRM plans and WUE strategies, including appropriate financing mechanisms identified and necessary political and legal commitments made to endorse IWRM policies and plans to accelerate Pacific Regional Action Plan actions"

The related project logframe indicator and target are as follows:

Indicator: "*1.1 Nationally endorsed IWRM plans and WUE strategies in place and driving sustainable water governance reform in PICS by end of project*" [**emphasis in bold**]

Target: "*1.1 14 draft National IWRM and Water Use Efficiency Strategies in place, with institutional ownership secured through the national APEX body and institutional mandates adjusted/confirmed as IWRM implementing agencies with appropriate budget allocations ...*"

Defining "IWRM Plan" during the Project Preparatory Phase

The Project Document for the GEF Pacific IWRM Project does not define "*IWRM Plan*" and "*Water Use Efficiency Strategy*". During the preparatory phase of the project, nationally nominated IWRM Focal Points from participating countries participated in a SOPAC IWRM Planning Meeting in Alofi Niue from 21st-22nd July 2008. At that meeting, Dr. Christopher Cox from the GEF supported Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States Project (GEF IWCAM) provide guidance to the region on IWRM Planning. IWRM at that time was

defined as “A strategic statement that details a country’s actions toward to sustainable management of its water resources”.

It was further discussed at that time that IWRM Plans in a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) setting should: have a geographical scope from “*ridge to reef*” which encompasses fresh and coastal waters; define the issues and strategic responses by all actors; and presents the indicative cost outlay required for action over short to medium-term, with identification of national recurrent budget support commitments and areas required donor assistance. A key point made was that an IWRM Plan could also act to guide coordination of other water planning frameworks including *inter alia*: water use efficiency strategies; water demand management; national plans of action (e.g. pollution control); and wastewater management plans. Water Use Efficiency, for example, is a key element of IWRM when appropriate. Hence water use efficiency strategies would form a key component of the strategic direction and costed investment planning contained in an IWRM plan for settings where it is required.

The EU IWRM National Planning Programme – No One Size Fits All

Project activities to strengthen national coordination and IWRM policy and planning were arranged under project Component 3 “*Policy, Legislative, and Institutional Reform*”. This project aims to support countries to develop national IWRM policies and water efficiency strategies, endorsed by both government and civil society stakeholders, and to assist with integration of these into national sustainable development strategies. Similarly it is anticipated that this project component will contribute to institutional change and realignment to enact National IWRM plans and WUE strategies, including appropriate financing mechanisms identified and necessary political and legal commitments. The component was 100 percent co-financed by the European Union and executed regionally by SOPAC as the EU IWRM National Planning Programme from 2008 to June 2012.

The EU IWRM National Planning Programme linked closely to the national IWRM demonstration projects in the participating countries and aimed to assist with strengthening the enabling environment for IWRM. Specific country support was delivered primarily in the form of: technical support; support to consultation and coordination processes; support to knowledge exchange; and recruitment of local staff support such as National Policy Officers. Although as has been the case in many other regions of the world, especially SIDS regions, IWRM needs and processes differ from country to country, and it was apparent to the EU programme that there was no “*one size fits all*” in considering IWRM planning matters in the Pacific. Indeed in some situations, flood management has been the entry point to IWRM policy and planning, whilst in others, political and public interest has been focused on overcoming critical water scarcity and drought resilience challenges. Amongst this are the highly diverse socio-political circumstances of the Pacific Island Countries.

The EU programme provided substantive support to countries in improving management of water resources via development of national frameworks and plans, including: legislation; policy and plans; inter-sectoral water coordination committees; water partnerships; and water use efficiency. This support was delivered on a demand basis and tailored to meet specific national needs in water and sanitation policy and planning as identified by the participating countries. The fourth meeting of the Regional Steering Committee considered the outcomes and achievements of the EU programme which are summarised in the discussion document for that meeting entitled SOPAC/GEF/IWRM/RSC.4/5 “*Status of Closure of the EU IWRM National Programme*”.

IWRM Planning – the Pacific Way

The discussion document entitled SOPAC/GEF/IWRM/RSC.4/7 “*Progressing National Water and Sanitation Policy and IWRM Plan Development in Pacific Island Countries*” was tabled during the fourth meeting of the Regional Steering Committee in 2012. On the basis of that document, the RSC agreed that, IWRM Plans for Pacific Island Countries, should include, as a minimum the following key elements:

- ***Diagnostic Reviews of Water and Sanitation***: compilation of available information on water resource availability, use, and management such as “*National State of Water Resources and Management*” reports.
- ***Overarching Strategic Policy Statements for Water and Sanitation***: including statements of policy, vision, goals, guiding principles, priority areas of action for water resource management

with several giving strategic direction to linkage of IWRM with broader coastal management initiatives

- **Costed Actions Plans (~5 year):** these have typically been action plans with detailed costings for priority actions for strengthening the 3 IWRM pillars, i.e., enabling environment, institutional frameworks, and management instruments.
- **Coordination and Governance Arrangements:** describe features and membership of a national coordinating body for water, e.g. National APEX water body
- **Government Endorsement:** done at various levels, several including traditional leadership

Figure 1 summarises the status of national IWRM policy and planning initiatives for the consideration of the committee.

	IWRM Demo Project	Diagnostic Reviews	Strategic Policy statement	Implementation Plans	Coordination
Niue	Protection of Alofi town groundwater supply and nearshore reef fishery	Diagnostic Report	National IWRM Policy	Draft IWRM Plan (uncosted)	National Water Committee
		National Outlook			
Tuvalu	Integrated Sustainable Wastewater Management for Tuvalu	Diagnostic Report	National Water and Sanitation Policy	Tuvalu's Climate Change Adaptation framework includes water	National Water Coordinating Committee
		National Outlook			
Cook Is	Integrated Freshwater and Coastal Management on Rarotonga	Diagnostic Report	Draft National Water Policy	Commenced development of IWRM Plan	National Water Committee
		National Outlook			
Samoa	Integrated Freshwater and Coastal Management of Apia Catchment	Diagnostic Report	Water Resources Policy	Plan & Framework for Action, WS Investment plan	Water Sector Steering Committee (& working groups)
			Water Services Policy		
Tonga	Sustainable management of Vava'u's Groundwater Resource	Diagnostic Report	Draft Water Policy	Draft Implementation Plan for Water Act in progress	National Water Coordinating Committee
		National Outlook			
RMI	Integrated Water management Plan for Laura lens in Majuro	Diagnostic Report	Draft National Water Policy Framework	Draft IWRM Investment Plan in progress	National Water Coordinating Committee
		National Outlook			
FSM	Protecting Water Quality in Pohnpei and Chuuk State	Diagnostic Report	Draft National Water Policy Framework	Draft IWRM Investment Plan in progress	National Water Coordinating Committee
		National Outlook			
Palau	Ngerikiil watershed resoration for the improvement of water quality	Diagnostic Report	National Water Policy	Draft IWRM Investment Plan in progress	National Water Coordinating Committee
		National Outlook			
Kiribati	Not a participant in GEF IWRM Demo Project	Diagnostic Report	National Water Resources & Sanitation Policies	WR & San Implementation Plan (uncosted)	National Watsan Coord' Committee (low activity)
Nauru	Better water management & reduced contamination of groundwater	Diagnostic Report	National Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Policy	Watsan Implenmentation Plan (with budget line by 2013)	Water Technical Committee
		National Outlook			
Sol Is	Managing Honiara's water supply and reducing pollution	Diagnostic Report	IWRM Plan under development	IWRM Implementation Plan under development	National Intersectoral Water Coordinating Committee
		National Outlook			
Vanuatu	Sustainable management of Sarakata Watershed	Diagnostic Report	National Water Strategy	Costed NWS Implementation Strategy under development	National Water Resources Advisory Committee
		National Outlook			
Fiji	Integrated Flood Risk Management in the Nadi River Basin	Diagnostic Report	Draft National Watsan Policy, Rural Watsan Policy	Fiji has a strong Nadi Watershed coord framework	National Water committee (established, low activity)"
	IWRM Demo Project Theme		Watershed Management		
			Water Resource Assessment & Protection		
			Wastewater management & Sanitation		
			Water Use Efficiency & Water Safety		

Figure 1 Status of IWRM policy and planning initiatives of the Pacific IWRM programme