

GWP Experience in Small Islands Water Governance

Reference: CS-29

GWP Consultants has more than 20 years' experience in assessing, evaluating, consulting, identifying, facilitating and strengthening water governance reforms in small island developing states (SIDS) and other small island environments.

GWP Consultants has worked across the Pacific, Caribbean, Atlantic and Indian Oceans in more than 20 SIDS on integrated water resources management and climate adaptation governance reforms, ranging from the atoll islands of the Maldives, Kiribati and Tuvalu, to the karstic limestone terrains of Tonga and Antigua, from the volcanic slopes of Samoa, Comoros, Cape Verde and Mauritius, to the diverse environs of Trinidad, Fiji and the Seychelles. Wherever possible we use integrated water resources management approaches, focussing on critical country prioritised issues such as drought planning, extreme flood alleviation, and watershed degradation.

Mindful of the limited national human and financial capacities in many SIDS, GWP works closely with national departments, NGOs and regional inter-governmental organisations to strengthen local partnership and management frameworks, tailoring approaches to maximise sustainability, whilst recognising the specific threat of climate change to these countries.

Recent Projects:

National and Local Tsunami Recovery Strategies for the Maldives

Review and assessment of development agency post-tsunami redevelopment strategies for the Maldives focussing on available water resources, water supply provider institutional arrangements, appropriate technology selection, technical capacity limitations, sustainable financing and cost-recovery mechanisms, and integrated approaches to wastewater and water management. Recommendations were made to improve and realign development agency programmes, which were failing to adequately consider groundwater resources, in terms of available water resources for supply and impacts of waste water useage.



National Drought Resilience Planning in Marshall Islands, Nauru and Tuvalu

Assessment of existing drought vulnerability to the main islands capitals and outer islands in each country, including assessing existing water resources, water supply and wastewater infrastructure, and water demands. Identification of infrastructure upgrades, including rainwater harvesting improvements, water conservation measures, water and wastewater demand reduction approaches, augmented by institutional reforms, partnership strengthening, and stakeholder capacity building were developed into programmes for later implementation.



Urban Water Security Improvements in Tonga

Evaluation of water safety plans for the Nuku'alofa water supply for implementation. Multi-agency stakeholder consultations on plan implementation led to design of work programmes, budgets, and stakeholder inputs. Finalising of engineering designs for improvements to: groundwater resources assessment and monitoring networks; production borehole head works protection; water supply transmission and treatment upgrades, and long term asset management institutional strengthening.



Integrated Water Resources Management Policy and Road Map for Antigua and Barbuda

Two year governance facilitation support to the national government and civil society stakeholders. Inputs included structured national diagnostic assessment consultation, visioning process, developing an agreed IWRM national policy framework, supporting policy component wording, and steering design of endorsement process. The Policy was endorsed by 6 Permanent Secretaries and recommended for Cabinet approval. A 2 year IWRM Policy implementation plan was also prepared.



IWRM Diagnostic Assessment and Planning for the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS

Technical advice and multi-country stakeholder consultation in 2 separate 2 year regional consultation processes, covering 14 countries in the Pacific and 6 in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. Design of consultation process, management of national consultants, development of country IWRM diagnostic assessment templates, issue prioritisation criteria and selection procedures. Support to IWRM demonstration project design and national IWRM governance strengthening initiatives, and design of regional IWRM partnerships and knowledge hubs. Drafting of required project documentation, to subsequent approval of both programmes for funding.



Sustainable Community Water Management in Kiribati

Assessment, characterisation and strengthening of governmental-non-governmental linkages to improve outer island water resources and water supply infrastructure management. Project included national water sector forums, village levels consultations, identifying institutional and legislative frameworks, advocating approaches, raising awareness and capacity, developing formal agreements, and strengthening existing and forming new community-government partnerships.



Climate Change Adaptation Responses in the Pacific Region

Evaluation of the water components of a regional climate change adaptation programme in 13 countries. The review included original project design, regional and national project management structures, available technical support modalities, appropriateness of national governance reforms, relevance of demonstration project focus, and adequacy of capacity building and awareness raising initiatives. Recommendations were made for programme improvements and re-alignment. Specific focus was provided to Marshalls, Tonga, Tuvalu, Tokelau and Nauru on drought resilience and Niue on cyclone preparedness, with additional support to PNG, Solomons, FSM, Fiji and Palau on watershed management improvements.



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