



**SPC**  
Secretariat  
of the Pacific  
Community

## Increasing rainwater harvesting capacity and improving water security in Nauru



*Improving rainwater catchment systems in Nauru. One of the ways in which Nauru is adapting to climate change*

### Project amount

€ 0.5 million (approx. AUD 0.7 million) funded by the European Union

### Project period

May 2014 to 30 June 2015

### Implementing agencies

Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment  
Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

### Project synopsis

The 'Increasing rainwater harvesting capacity and improving water security in Nauru' project is addressing water supply, a critical challenge in Nauru. Rainwater storage tanks have previously been supplied to many households in Nauru, but in many cases the catchment structures, including roofing and guttering, are substandard and inadequate. This project focuses on vulnerable households across all of Nauru's fourteen communities and the repair and replacement of damaged roofs, guttering and downpipes, and installing them where they are absent. Improving domestic rainwater catchments will significantly improve the effectiveness and reliability of water supply systems, thereby increasing water security.

### How does this project assist climate change adaptation?

Nauru has placed a high priority on addressing water security in its *National Sustainable Development Strategy 2005–2025* and its *National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Policy 2012*. The country regularly experiences dry periods and occasionally droughts of up to three years. At present, the island's water supply comes from three sources: desalination plants, groundwater and rainwater.

Nauru uses desalination plants to convert water from the ocean into freshwater, but this method is energy-intensive and currently relies on fossil fuels, which has a negative impact on energy security and expenditure.

Groundwater is available in some locations, but these supplies are contaminated and not suitable for drinking.

Rainwater is, therefore, a critical resource. The project is focusing on improving the effectiveness and reliability of domestic catchments where houses have a functioning water storage tank.

Other components of the project aim to build community awareness and skills about water conservation, testing drinking water quality, and maintaining rainwater harvesting systems.

### Key highlights of the project

- An estimated 200 households will benefit from improved performance and reliability of domestic rainwater catchment systems.
- The project is prioritising households that have been identified as most vulnerable. Key criteria used to determine vulnerability include the number of occupants in the household, the gender ratio, disability, and the number of water sources to which the household has access.
- Monetary contributions from each participating household, calculated as a percentage of the overall costs for the work on their house, will be used to purchase water testing kits for the households. The monetary contribution will encourage householders to take ownership and responsibility for maintaining the improved system.
- The project specifically aims to advance the key priorities identified in the *National Sustainable Development Strategy 2005–2025*, the *National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Policy 2012* and the forthcoming *Republic of Nauru Framework for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (RONAdapt)*.

The project's focus was determined by the Government of the Republic of Nauru and included widespread consultation. Nauru is responsible for the project's implementation.





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## The Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States project in Nauru



*Nauru is vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. Together with eight other countries it is part of the GCCA: PSIS project.*

The Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project is a four year € 11.4 million initiative funded by the European Union. It is implemented regionally by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and involves national climate change adaptation projects in nine Pacific Island countries – Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu.

The overall objective of the GCCA: PSIS project is to support the governments of the nine Pacific small island states in their efforts to tackle the adverse effects of climate change.

The Government of Nauru is implementing a national climate change adaptation project (see reverse side for more information) with € 0.5 million provided by the European Union.

In addition to this project funding, Nauru can access specialised technical assistance and

training through a pooled resource allocation in the regional GCCA: PSIS umbrella project. This mechanism is providing the following in Nauru.

### Training

Training activities include:

- proposal preparation, project design and budgeting, monitoring and evaluation;
- climate change and the media; and
- utilising the Pacific Climate Change Portal to store and access relevant information for decision making.

### National climate change mainstreaming

Mainstreaming refers to the process of embedding climate change planning in the spectrum of government ministries, sectoral plans and activities. Relevant GCCA: PSIS activities in Nauru include:

- a review of the extent of climate change mainstreaming in national strategic plans,

policies and budgets in Nauru. This was conducted to inform an assessment of the country's readiness to receive international climate finance through budget support mechanisms.

- supporting the completion of the *Republic of Nauru Framework for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction* (RONAdapt), which will outline important principles for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction planning, and describe Nauru's immediate priorities to reduce risk and vulnerability and increase its capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change.