



**SPC**  
Secretariat  
of the Pacific  
Community

## Augmentation of rainwater capture and storage in Niue



Manufacturing and supplying 5,000 litre water tanks to households throughout the island – climate change adaptation in Niue.

### Project amount

€ 0.5 million (approx. NZD 0.8 million) funded by the European Union

### Project period

24 August 2013 to 30 June 2015

### Implementing agencies

Department of Environment in partnership with the Water Division of the Public Works Department  
Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

### Partners

Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project (PACC) funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF)  
Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project Plus (PACC+) funded by GEF and the Government of Australia

### Project synopsis

The 'Augmentation of rainwater capture and storage in Niue' project is supplying rainwater tanks to 45% of the island's population. It is being delivered in combination with the PACC and PACC+ projects. Together, these three projects will cover the entire resident population of Niue. A polyethylene water tank manufacturing plant has been established in Niue to facilitate the installation of domestic rainwater capture and

storage systems. Training in water catchment monitoring and maintenance is also being provided. The storage tanks will increase community resilience to climate variability and change, including periodic drought, and provide access to safe drinking water when the central supply is disrupted by extreme weather conditions and other events.

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

The water sector is vulnerable to the effects of climate change as (i) air temperatures are projected to rise, affecting evaporation rates and the availability of good quality water; (ii) the sea level will continue to rise, further stressing the availability and quality of the underground water supply; and (iii) the frequency and magnitude of extreme events, such as cyclones, is likely to change, thereby impacting the delivery of pumped underground water. During and after the devastating Cyclone Heta in 2014, for example, there was widespread disruption to water supplies.

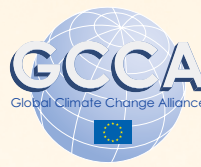
The overall objective of the project is to contribute to building climate change resilience and reducing vulnerability in the water sector for Niuean communities through the provision of rainwater capture and storage systems. This has been identified in the National Integrated Strategic Plan (2009-2013) and the *Joint National Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management for Niue*.

### Key highlights of the project

- Supply 5,000 litre water tanks to 214 households in Tuapa, Alofi North and Alofi South.
- Combining the funding provided by the European Union with the PACC and PACC+ projects has enabled the Government of Niue to construct a fully equipped plastic tank manufacturing facility that opened in December 2013. Locally recruited staff have been trained in the tank moulding process and each tank is registered and quality tested.
- Concrete foundations are provided for each household tank installation.
- There is currently no tariff on water supply in Niue, providing little incentive for households to conserve supplies and maintain their plumbing infrastructure. Water leakage and wastage has become a major concern for water managers, both in terms of cost and resource conservation. Households receiving tanks under the project are required to supply their own fascia boards, guttering and downpipes. This contribution promotes ownership of the new systems and raises awareness of water issues and the need to conserve water.

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





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



*Niue 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 Niue 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, Niue can access specialised technical assistance and training provided through a pooled resource allocation in

the regional GCCA: PSIS umbrella project. This mechanism is providing the following in Niue.

### Training

In-country training in:

- proposal preparation, project design and budgeting, monitoring and evaluation; and
- utilising the Pacific Climate Change Portal, a regional gateway to information about climate change and related activities in the Pacific region.

### 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 include:

- a review of the extent of climate change mainstreaming in national strategic plans, policies and budgets in Niue. This was conducted to inform an assessment of the

country's readiness to receive international climate finance through budget support mechanisms.

- providing technical assistance to Niue in the establishment of the Climate Change Division. This includes assistance in the development of an institutional framework to align the new division with the 2009 Climate Change Policy and embed the division within the wider Niue government public service transformation announced in 2013.

### Documentary

A five-minute documentary has been prepared to illustrate Niue's rainwater capture and storage project. Video is an important means of conveying stories and messages, both in the context of the Pacific and more broadly.