

Pacific - regional seminar on water and energy

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Preface This brief summary report aims within 5 pages to document the outcome of the Pacific seminar on water and energy that too place in Fiji from 11 May to 15 May 2014. This report documents and builds on the seminar and 1 day green economy course with the involvement of some 20 participants including representatives from the Delegations of Fiji,



The disaster management committee at Dratabu

Timor Leste, Papua, New Guinea (PNG); Solomon Islands; national representatives from PNG and Solomon Islands . Guest speakers from the European Investment Bank (EIB); GIZ; World Bank; Pacific Water and Waste Association (PWWA); International Water Centre (IWC); representatives of the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. This summary is complemented by detailed slides presented at the course which can found on the Capacity4Dev web site: <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu>

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Abbreviations

- CC Climate Change
- CLTS Community Led Total Sanitation
- EC European Commission
- EIB European Investment Bank
- ENV Environment
- EU European Union
- EUD European Union Delegation
- GE Green Economy
- GIZ German Technical Cooperation
- IWC International Water Centre
- PRIF Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility
- PWWA Pacific Water and Waste Association
- SIDS Small Island Developing States
- SPC Secretariat of the Pacific Community
- WB World Bank



The early warning siren at Sikituru

1 Introduction

Objectives

The specific objectives of the seminar course were that course participants have a:

- Better understanding of sanitation and wastewater interventions and options;
- Better understanding of the new context of the EU water development policies and programmes (Agenda for change, EU Water regulations and Programmes etc.);
- Improved understanding of economic opportunities, main challenges and constraints linked to transformation towards a greener economy in particular focused on concrete examples in the water and energy sector;
- Consolidation of experience by exchanging with colleagues from other Delegations on specific issues;
- Greater insight on strategies for how development partners in general and staff from Delegations in particular, can support and contribute to the establishment of public policies for water management and sanitation, based on experiences exchange between participants coming from different Delegations.
- Better understanding of the blending mechanism.

In addition, as the event was meant to be interactive, the participants should have:

- Shared their views, knowledge and experiences
- Contributed by providing feedback and insights on integration in practice

Structure

Day 1 Policy briefings and experience exchange

Day 2 Field trip and engagement with PRIF.

Day 3 Experience exchange and blending

Day 4 Green economy course

| | Day 1 | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 |
|--------|--|---|---|---------------|
| A M | Policy briefing | Field trip Five locations in the Nandi catchment | CLTS in the region and Solomon Islands | Green Economy |
| | Budget support briefing & application in Solomon Islands | | WASH in PNG WASH in Solomon Islands | |
| P M | Energy projects – Vanatu | Participation in the PRIF seminar | World Café on capacity / ownership / partnership | Green Economy |
| | Guest Speakers – Climate (GIZ) Data (WB) WASH (IWC&SPC) | | Blending briefing Guest speaker EIB Internal EU Del session | |

Strategy of the seminar

- Explore participants' expectations in order to – where possible – adapt the course to the interests expressed – only a few participants responded in advance
- Invitation of a range of guest speakers to provide insight into regional activities.
- Exchange of experience by using case studies developed by the participants where possible (all countries presented provided case studies, not in advance but during the course).
- A field trip to look at practical applications of sustainable development initiatives within the water and disaster reduction sectors
- Use of the world Café methodology to assemble learning across the different countries and cases presented within 3 selected themes that strongly affect the success of support to SIDS i.e. capacity; ownership and partnerships.

- Use of live real cases for the green economy course - – the field trip formed the basis for 2 of the group works for the green economy course and one of the case studies (Kiribati) formed the basis for one of the group works for the green economy course.
- Participation in the PRIF seminar run in the same hotel and interaction with other donors and stakeholders.
- An internal session between the delegation staff only to discuss the Pacific Investment Facility.

The participants’ expectations which focused around i) experience exchange and ii) learning about the green economy were largely met as shown by the evaluation sheets were largely met.

2 Active learning

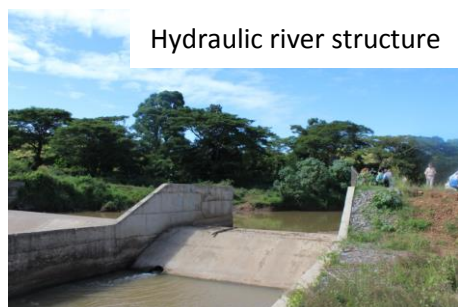
This section focusses on 3 areas of strong interaction:

- The field trip
- The world Café outcomes on capacity, ownership and partnerships
- The group work on green economy

All the other presentations are available on the Capacity4DEV web site.

The field trip

The field trip had 6 locations – i) solar powered flood warning sirens at Sikituru village; ii) water level station at Nadi bridge; iii) Dratabu village disaster management committee; iv) Legalega research station; v) Fiji meteorological services; vi) hydraulic river structures. A snapshot of selected group work notes on what we saw; what we learnt and what we could apply is summarised below.



Hydraulic river structure

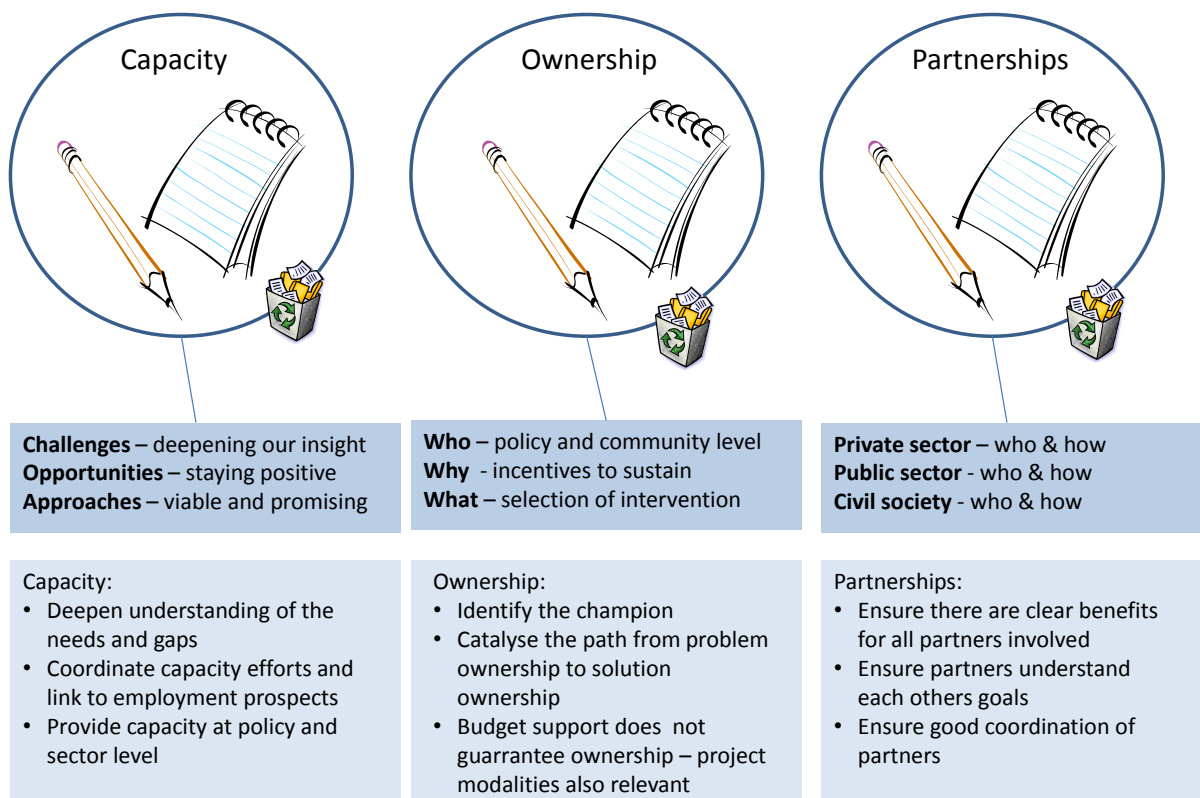
| What we saw | What we learnt | What we could apply |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood early warning siren system • Empowered communities- inclusion of women • Retention dam – dual purpose • in committees • Involved national institutions and clear escalation strategy to respond to flood events - localized standard operating • a bulk texting platform for mobile service providers • Coordination and relationship between project management (pivotal role) and all component agencies is vital. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience is a key objective of climate change adaptation • Individual, community, local authority, government, NGO, regional organisations and donors • Traditional means as drums and cone shells can be used • Chairman has to be vocal, able to negotiate and a “leader” taking fast assertive decisions • Diligent planning and consultation pays off. • Community based committees are crucial • Need to safeguard project triggered partnerships | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate resilience in the programming phase i.e. Inclusion in National Indicative Plans; e in all the proposals, concept notes, studies, investigations, projects and steering committee meetings that the EUD will participate in • Use of integrated communication systems using traditional and modern technology • To put more time and wider effort in pre-project consultation, planning with all stakeholders before formulation; • Involve communities more |

The world Café

The rationale for the selection of world café issues was as follows:

- Capacity – the core constraint in the SIDS of the Pacific is the low capacity of the private sector, organised civil society and government structures. The islands are too scattered and small to be able to develop and retain a threshold of skills.
- Ownership – many projects and interventions in the islands are successful but are not sustained – even budget support does not always lead to the ownership expected.
- Partnerships – anchorage of development cooperation in solid partnerships that can sustain the benefits is crucial especially given the capacity and ownership constraints.

Each table in the café developed between 3 and 5 take home messages. The 3 strongest messages of each table are given in the figure below:



Green Economy case studies

Two green economy case studies were selected: The first from the field trip (which two groups worked on) and the second from one of the presentations made on the water resources challenges in the Kiribati Islands. These cases were selected because specialist in-depth insight was available within the group of participants and because they represented well known cases where a potential for “new” green economy thinking could be explored and this way the insights of the course applied to familiar cases.

Case 1 – Nandi Integrated Water Resources Management

Table Green economy analysis group work

| Kiribati | Macro | Meso | Micro |
|----------|--|---|---|
| Action | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of enabling environment for IWRM – policy coordination – including raising taxes to sustain IWRM activities • Regulation on building codes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upstream re-forestation € • Urban resettlement away from flood areas € • Flood safe buildings € | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change river bank management practices • Sustain disaster management and prevention committees |

| Kiribati | Macro | Meso | Micro |
|------------|--|---|--|
| Actors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central government • Army | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nandi town council • Metrological services • Insurance companies • Vodaphone • Private sector associations • Project structure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers • Families, women • Voters • Private sector • Community structures |
| Challenges | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial resources • Political commitment • Coordination | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability of the project support once the project stops – lack of meso structures in place • Coordination and land use and urban planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champions burn out and change • Coordination • Private sector capacity |
| Thoughts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The social capital that has been built up through project activities is considerable – a large part is self-sustaining but will still most likely require periodic support • The project has filled a gap in the meso level to catalyse community action and make links to government services such as rescue operations and early warning systems • Although the project has been catalytic and worked closely with a variety of partners, a gap will appear when it withdraws as there is no structures in place to maintain and energise the partnerships. The role could fall to local government but has not been passed on to them nor have they stepped up to the challenge yet (given the project is doing it) • How to internalise the externalities of farmers upstream cutting trees • How to prevent free rider problem in payment of eco-systems services • Time horizon for private sector decisions is short compared to the length of time for catchment activities to become effective in reducing floods • The € signs above are indicators where a green economy profit element is being harnessed and can be further harnessed e.g. the scheme where the government pays \$5 and opens an account each children for tree planting with subsequent payment for maintenance; creating jobs in flood safe architecture and construction that benefits the property owner and the construction industry; re-development of urban infrastructure such as shops and businesses to safe areas could be economically advantageous for property owners and create jobs for the construction industry and potentially improve public transport and equity of access to services. | | |

Case 2 – Small island water resources

Problem statement: In Kiribati like many islands there is a thin fresh water lens which is prone to contamination from waste water and saline intrusion with over use. In many island the situation is becoming critical (see figure for the island of Tarawa). Alternative technologies such as rainwater harvesting and small scale solar-powered desalinization need to be scaled up.

Figure Summary of challenges

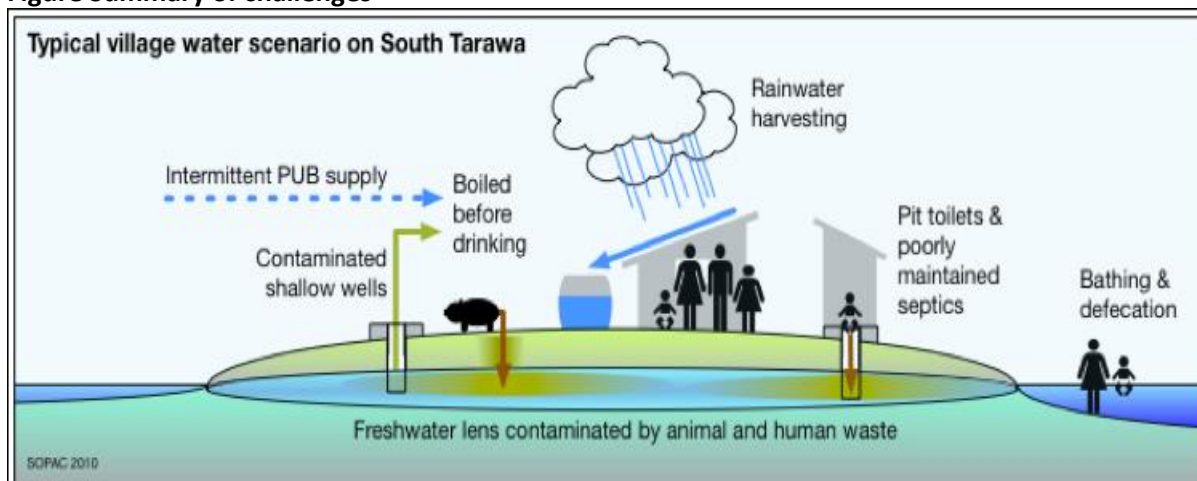


Table Green economy analysis group work – small island water resources

| Kiribati | Macro | Meso | Micro |
|------------|--|--|---|
| Action | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the tax and subsidy signals to encourage rather than discourage new technologies • Create an enabling environment for vocational training for plumbers and fitters | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop skills in supply and fitting alternative technologies • Install sanitation systems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness and change the value system • Improve household storage and adoption of new technologies |
| Actors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government • Donors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SMEs • Water utilities • Health Centers • Local authorities • NGOs/ projects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children, Adults • Disabled and elderly |
| Challenges | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donors are giving tanks free and competing with each other • Water is treated as private good with little regulation • Awareness of aquifer threat is low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills in alternative technologies is low • Affordability of new technologies is low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality deteriorating • Low quantity of water • Water related diseases |
| Thoughts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: Why are water saving devices and alternative technologies not happening already? • Answer: In some cases donors have crowded out the private sector by providing free tanks. The price of water is too low to encourage adoption of new technologies. The government taxes the import of rainwater tanks very heavily. There are few economies of scale to provide viable business. • Some of the actions above could reverse the situation and stimulate the market to function so that small companies promoted adoption of new technologies based on economic self interest and in so doing also created jobs and saved the precious aquifer for future generations. • By not having a proper price for water supply and wastewater disposal, people are unwittingly passing on a much large cost to the next generation. | | |

3 Evaluation, reflections and lessons learnt

Voices – verbatim record of discussions on summing up of the course

"This is what we need the cross fertilisation between the countries - our role is like bees to go from one place to another "

"This seminar was very useful for us the national counterparts - thank you for inviting us - we learned a lot and we able to share our experience"

"But is the green economy not just a re-packaging of sustainable development?"

"- I thought you were attending the other conference?"

- I want come to this seminar, this is where it is happening - I like the vibrancy - WB"

"it was very good but too diverse - it should be focussed on one sector not combine too many things"

"green economy course should have come earlier"

"The take home messages that is key - people remember just 3 key messages so focus on them "