SOUTH PACIFIC APPLIED GEOSCIENCE COMMISSION
&
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

WATER SAFETY PLANS
COOK ISLANDS SCOPING MISSION

ROUND TABLE MEETING
9.00am, Thursday 06 April 2006
Dept. of Water Works conference room
**Findings:**

- As Rarotonga system rehabilitation is 70% complete, there is good scope for WSP project
- Focus on ‘quantity’ could shift towards ‘quality’
- Rarotonga water supply will require substantial infrastructure improvements (e.g. storage or source improvement) to produce drinkable water
- DWW operations and reliability could benefit from WSPs
- Strong interest and potential commitment from DWW, NES and MoH
- Consensus among NES and OMIA that MoW should chair the NTF
- Public Health information (water quality data) is not available to the public
Findings:

- Potential for partnerships / synergies exist (e.g. IWP Project)
- IWP – experience is valuable and needs to be captured
  - Catchment management plan (animals, trekking, agriculture, building permits) – model for other catchments incl.
  - Build on (expand) work & findings through IWP esp. community experience and awareness
- ‘Cost of Water Pollution’ study, Socio-economic Study and Legislative Review
- National Task Force role could be extended to serve as WSP National Steering Committee
Findings:

- There is strong public resistance to use of chlorination in drinking water.
- Alternative forms of disinfection were of interest to community leaders; household treatment options should be considered by the WSP Project.
- WSP project should ensure capital works are identified so that donors respond to needed community programmes.
- Community dependence on government suggests that there is need for community based management and awareness programmes.
Findings:

- Avoid use of ‘pilot’ to describe WSP Project as it has undesirable connotation
- Simple, consistent, standard tools and products are needed for use for community and Household awareness (*mainly in English and translated into Cook Is. Maori*)
- **A possible 2 part project**
  - Rarotonga (and outer Islands) reticulated system
  - Community / household drinking water safety tools include emphasis on households country-wide. Replicability to benefit outer islands.
- Past studies and reports should be reviewed as part of a WSP project (IWP, ADB, SOPAC and others)
- Need to have more in-depth consultation with communities esp. in outer islands
  - in the course of planning WSP project activities and tools
## Agencies recap potential role:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Current Programmes</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Interest</th>
<th>Potential Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ministry of Works</strong></td>
<td>Mapping &amp; GIS, Water Resource Management, SOPAC Island Vulnerability project, Water Quality Analysis, Catchment Mngt.</td>
<td>Laboratory, Trained Personnel, GIS</td>
<td>Improve water quantity and quality</td>
<td>Lead implementing agency</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ministry of Health</strong></td>
<td>Water Sampling &amp; Analysis, Public awareness</td>
<td>Hosp. Laboratory Public Health Inspectors</td>
<td>Improve water quality, inter-agency Lab proposed</td>
<td>Implementing agency</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>National Environment Services</strong></td>
<td>Catchment Management Plan, IWP, EIA, CBDAMPIC</td>
<td>Community development &amp; awareness, EIA</td>
<td>Water Conservation &amp; maintain good water quality</td>
<td>Implementing agency</td>
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<td><strong>Island Administration</strong></td>
<td>Supply/ facilitate Water Tanks</td>
<td>First point of contact for outer islands</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Key Partner</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NGOs / CIANGO / Red Cross / WWF / Taporoporo Ipukarea Society / NCW</strong></td>
<td>Red Cross Vulnerability Assessment</td>
<td>Community Development &amp; Awareness, Community Liaison / facilitation</td>
<td>Community Facilitation, Awareness</td>
<td>Key Partners</td>
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Possible products and outputs:

- Risk assessment / management system to ensure water quantity as well as quality
- Laboratory capacity (core functions) improved
- Key staff aware of SOP’s and risk management plan(s)
- Contingency / emergency procedures and/or plans established
- Support zoning of catchment (or catchment protection plan) – possible NGO project $$
- H2S test production / recycling arrangements
- Community awareness package incl. Guidelines for drinking water quality
- incl. School programmes and informal education in WSP activities e.g. in school curriculum
Possible Project Structure: Functional

WHO / SOPAC & NZ Experts

Ministry of Works

Cook Is. WSP National Task Force/Steering Committee

Working Groups

- Catchment Management
  NES/IWP Lessons learnt, future ‘Cloud Park’, Zoning etc

- Water Quality Management
  Water Quality Monitoring, Inter-agency Lab, PH community monitoring

- Water Supply Management
  MoW (DWW)
Possible next steps:

1. Commitment

2. National Task Force Composition

3. Project Description

4. Risk Management Training and Planning Workshop

Experts

Rarotonga Reticulated System WSP

Community & Household WSPs
**Water Safety Plan steps & timetable:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Months</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Forming a Steering Committee</strong></td>
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<td><strong>System description and analysis</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Training/Planning workshop</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Development of Tools &amp; activities</strong></td>
<td>AMJFMAJMJA</td>
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<td><strong>System Risk Assessment</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Water Safety Plan</strong></td>
<td>AMJFMAJMJA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Evaluation &amp; Verification</strong></td>
<td>AMJFMAJMJA</td>
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Water Safety Plan steps:
- Training/Planning workshop
Possible early activities:

- Commitment by Govt. of Cook Islands
- Consider workshop to train and plan for WSP project
- Preparations for workshop on risk assessment / management training and planning (proposed objectives, programme, participants, experts, venue, budget, logistics) by DWW / National Task Force
- Possible water supply system description, assessment and risk analysis by DWW using WSP worksheets
- Possible H2S Test production / recycling arrangements by DWW / MoH
National Task Force:

Possible Composition:

Ministry of Works
Ministry of Health
National Environment Services (IWP)
Office of Minister for Island Administration (OMIA)
SOPAC National Rep (Foreign Affairs)
NGOs & CBOs (CIANGO, IWP, others)
Representative of MPs, traditional & community leaders (Mayors and Vaka Councils, Local Government Reps)

As required:

Ministry of Marine Resources
Ministry of Agriculture
Ministry of Tourism
National Steering Committee:

Possible Terms of Reference:

Role: Guide the implementation of the National WSP activities, make decisions and ensure inter-agency cooperation

- Guide WSP national activities
- Ensure sharing of information among related projects
- Oversight of international and local inputs and resources
Commitment:

- Ministry of Works (time, effort) and players (who?)

- Nature of project support from WHO/SOPAC programme
  - WHO/SOPAC Project Officers & advisors
  - NZ MoH Experts
  - Training & Capacity Building
  - Development of Tools

- Letter requesting Cook Islands’ inclusion in the Programme from Ministry of Works and Foreign Affairs