



SOUTH PACIFIC APPLIED GEOSCIENCE COMMISSION

&

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

WATER SAFETY PLANS

COOK ISLANDS SCOPING MISSION

ROUNDTABLE 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:

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

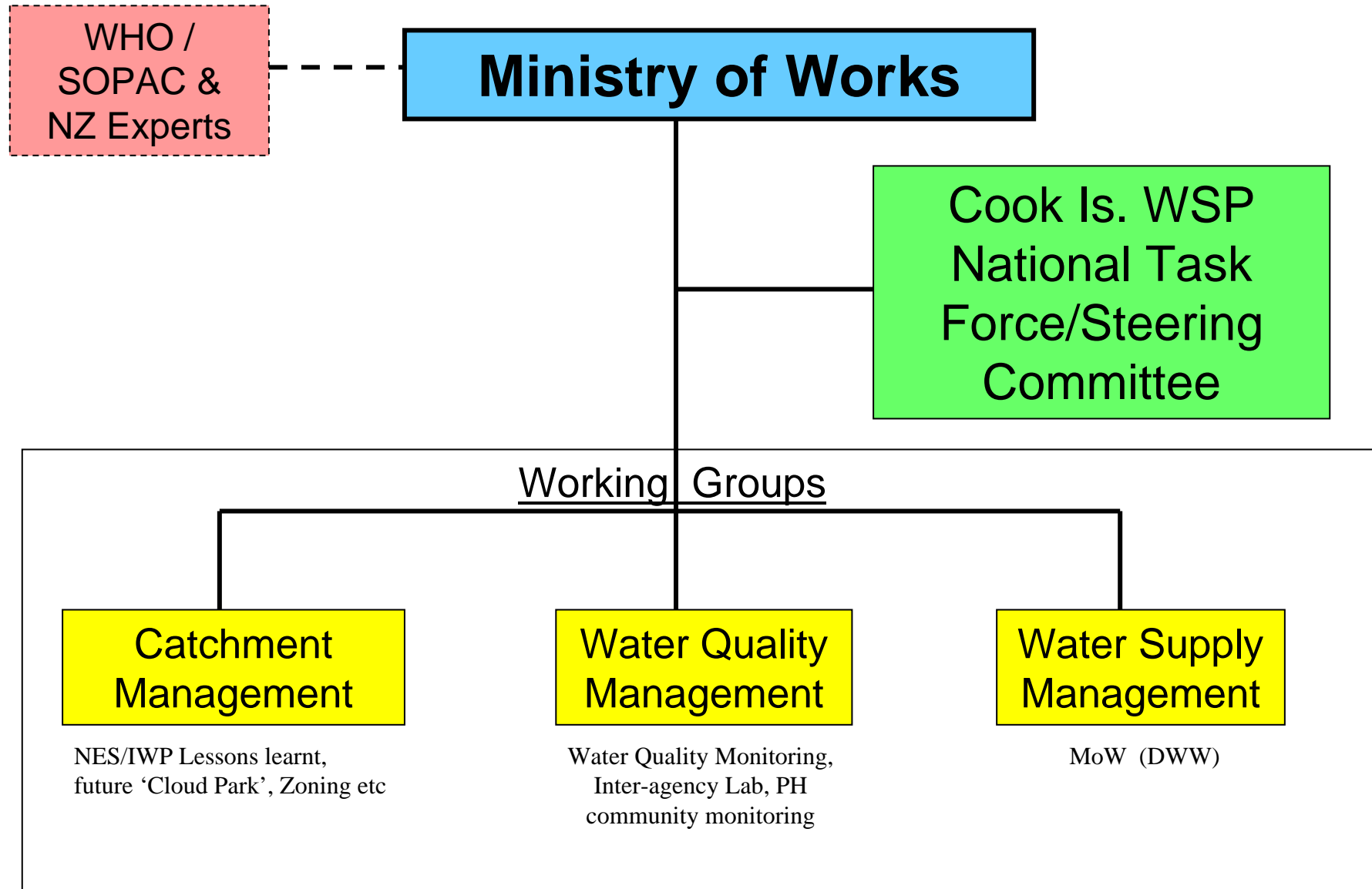
Possible products and outputs:



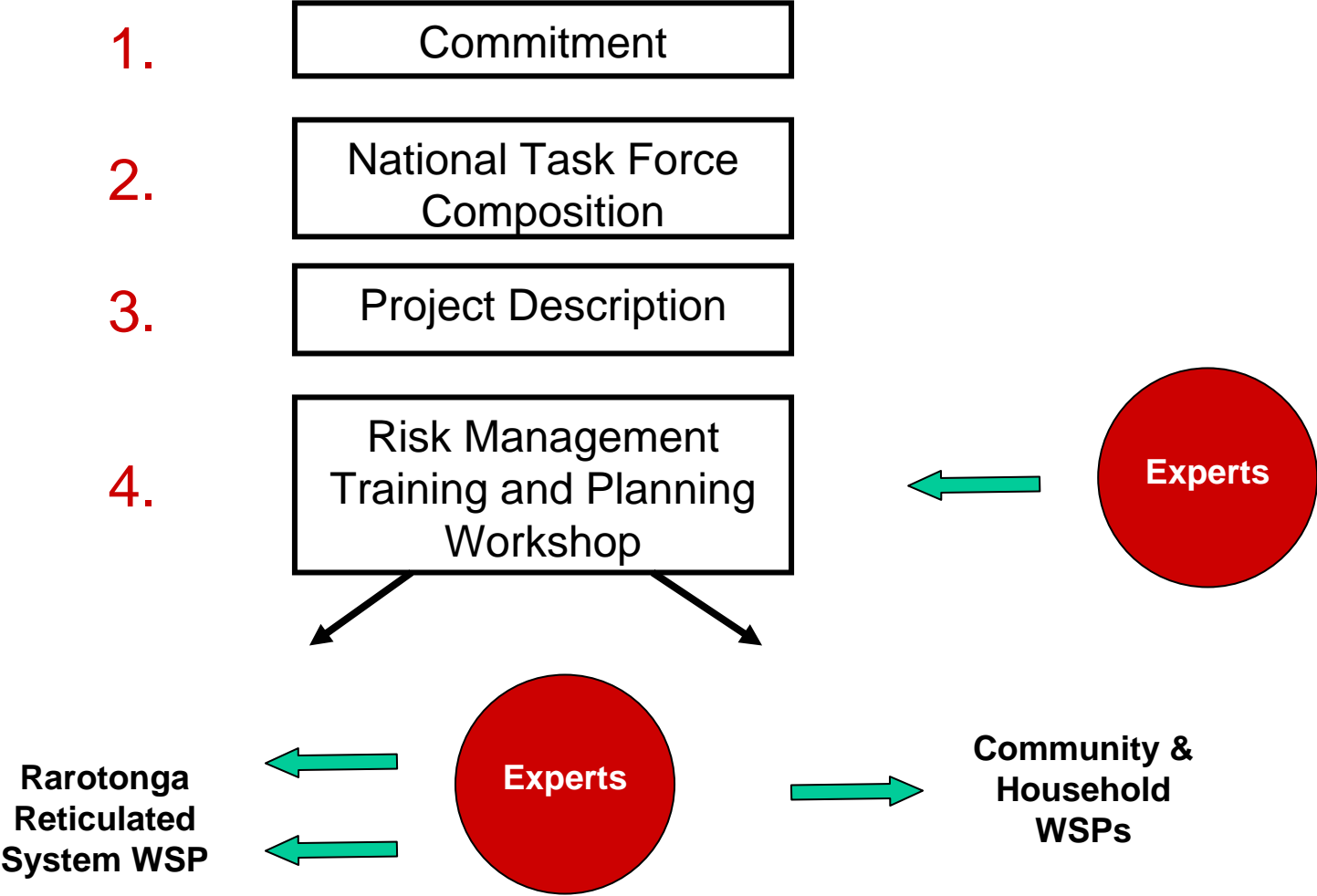
Risk assessment / management system to ensure water quantity as well as quality

- 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



Possible next steps:



Water Safety Plan steps & timetable:

| Activity | Months | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | |
| Forming a Steering Committee | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| System description and analysis | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Training/Planning workshop | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Development of Tools & activities | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| System Risk Assessment | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Water Safety Plan | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Evaluation & Verification | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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**