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# Protecting Laura Lens: “The Heart of Majuro”

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RMI Water Summit  
2011  
Moriana Phillip

# The Project

## What is our objective for Laura?

The project aims to introduce sustainable use of the ground water in Laura.

In 2008, the Republic of the Marshall Islands wrote that assistance is required from the GEF to co-finance the RMI Government's plan to demonstrate sustainable water resource and wastewater management in Laura, Majuro atoll.



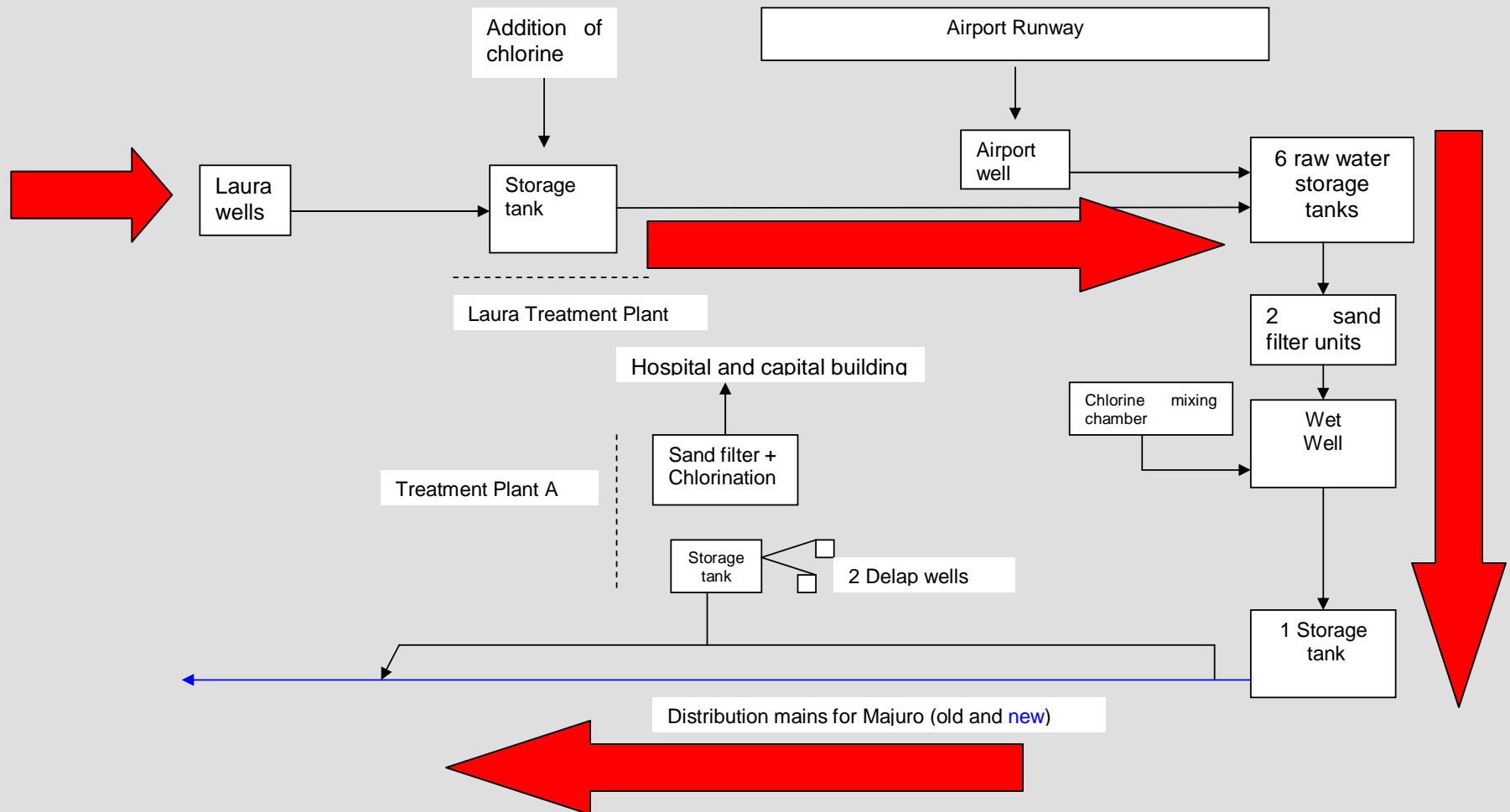
# Majuro Atoll

Laura is located at the most southern tip of Majuro atoll, with a land area of 283 acres, and population of ~2,500.

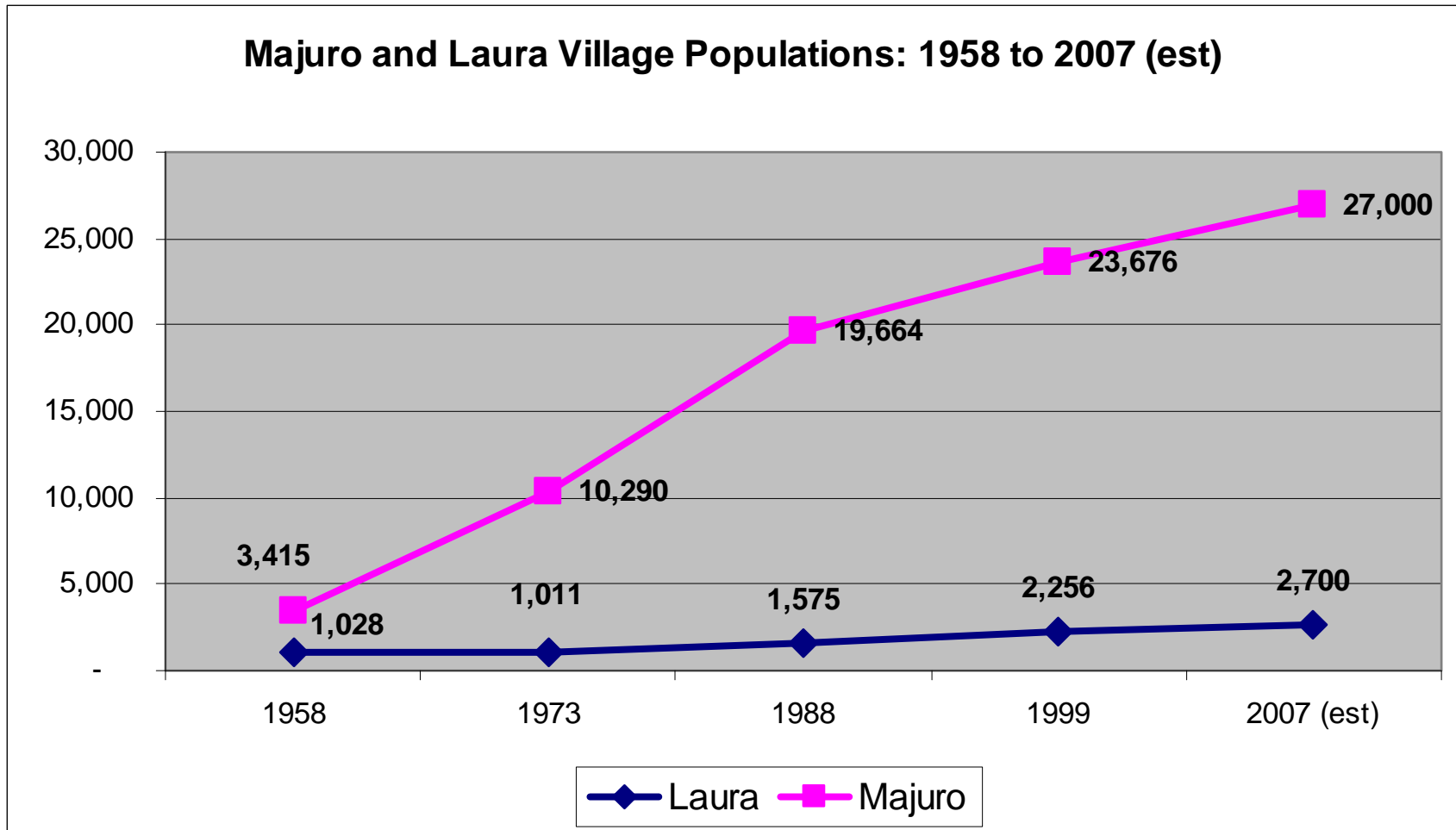


# Laura Groundwater Resource

## Schematic of Majuro Reticulated Water Supply



# Majuro and Laura Populations



Majuro's population is booming and will continue to grow...are we prepared?



# Major Threats to Laura Lens

- Laura groundwater under increasing threat:
  - Fast-growing population
  - More solid waste and no solid waste collection system
  - Pig pens, pigs running around
  - No sewer system, septic tank leakage (?)
  - Increasing use of chemicals for farming
  - Sea level rise
  - Not enough information sharing, awareness
  - Others?

# Current challenges to Project

## NATIONALLY LEVEL:

- National Efforts not coordinated and integrated-Duplication
- Stakeholder Ownership and Participation
- Gaps at the National Level eg. Lack of National Policy

## LOCAL LEVEL:

- Lack of Awareness
- Lack of Interest

# So what did we do ...

## 3 Track Approach

### 1. Project Revision and Logframe Development

- Revised logframe and work plan endorsed by National IWRM Task Force

### 2. Strengthened Coordination and Stakeholder Participation

- Revitalised and enhanced representation of National IWRM Task Force
- Improved community representation of Laura Lens Committee
- Established Laura Water Lens Advisory

### 3. Intensive Awareness Raising of Need for Project and its objectives

- All Churches, schools, women's groups in Laura visited
- Presentation to Parliament on IWRM and demo



# What's Been Done ?

- Finalize Community Committee membership
- Establishment of Advisory group to the Community Committee
- Establishment of National Integrated Water Resource Management Taskforce
- Finalize T.O.Rs for all three groups



# What we *hope* to see in 3 years

1. Functional National IWRM Task Force linked to Laura Water Lens Committee and Advisory Group
2. Implementation of targeted stress reduction measures at Laura
3. An Integrated Water and Land Resources Management Plan
4. Operation of a Laura Water Lens Learning Center

# The Future?

- Majuro population will continue to grow, GUARANTEED, are we prepared for this?
- Laura residents, traditional leaders, elected leaders, EPA, MalGov, MWSC, Ministry of Health... we all have to work together to form a plan for Laura water lens
- EPA has some ideas for ways to help Laura
- Laura should be a National priority, need National Government funding for Laura and need strong support of Majuro Senators