

NEWSLETTER II

Pacific Type II Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Water Management

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December 2003

Dear Colleagues,

This is the second official mail-out of the **Pacific Type II Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Water Management**. As mentioned in the first mail-out (released on 24 June 2003) we would appreciate it if you could forward this to colleagues who may also be interested in this initiative so that it reaches the widest possible audience.

NEWS UPDATE

[Heads of State Endorse Water Type II](#)

During the 34th Pacific Islands Forum held in New Zealand in July 2003, the Pacific Heads of State recognized the critical importance of water to the sustainable development of Pacific island countries and endorsed the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management, Communiqué and Ministerial Declaration, and its associated Type II Partnership Initiative. Leaders welcomed and endorsed the outcomes of the 'Water in Small Island Countries' theme at the 3rd World Water Forum including the Joint Caribbean-Pacific Program for Action on Water and Climate Session Statement and priority actions. Post Forum Dialogue Partners were encouraged to consider assisting in the implementation of the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management. Leaders welcomed the support offered through the Okinawa Initiative by Japan, Australia and New Zealand, and the European Union's offer to host a side event on water at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD12).

[NZ Aid Support Water Type II](#)

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, New Zealand identified partnership initiatives that they would like to support to which NZ Aid allocated \$1.6 million. As one of the first initiatives to be supported, NZ Aid funded components of the Water and Sanitation Initiative, which includes a one-year programme to address hydrological training needs and the exchange of climate information as specified in Theme 1 and 2 of the Regional Action Plan. Furthermore, NZ Aid is currently considering making a longer-term commitment to support these components of the Type II.

[European Union Launch "Water for Life" Initiative and EU Water Fund](#)

The Pacific Regional Action Plan has been officially submitted for consideration for funding through a European Union Water Fund. The European Commission proposed the establishment of the Fund, with a budget of 1 billion EURO, to help people in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) signatory countries to the Cotonou Agreement access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. The Fund builds on the "Water for Life Initiative" that was launched during the WSSD that confirmed the target, set by the Millennium Development Goals, of halving, by 2015, the number of people across the world without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

In addition to this, a Programme for Water Governance is currently being developed for the Pacific Island Countries in collaboration with SOPAC, addressing the key messages identified under Theme 5 of the Regional Action Plan on Institutional Arrangements.

[Asian Development Bank Assists Implementation of the Regional Action Plan](#)

The Asian Development Bank has expressed its intent to help in the implementation of the Regional Action Plan by continuing support to its Pacific Member States in improving sector policy frameworks; carrying out water resource assessments; developing water services and; supporting the activities of key sector institutions, such as SOPAC and the Pacific Water Association.

In 2002, prior to the World Water Forum, ADB introduced pilot and demonstration activities (PDAs) designed to:

- support new approaches to processing and implementing ADB technical assistance and loan-financed investment projects, and new approaches to water sector policy development and sector reform
- improve or promote innovative local initiatives implemented by NGOs, development partners and local communities.

Live & Learn, an NGO in the Pacific, secured funding under this programme for the development of an education/learning process to increase community/youth participation in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu addressing the key messages of Theme 3 on Awareness.

The Samoa Water Authority also received financial assistance under this programme to develop a wastewater utility using the concept of private sector participation thus addressing the key messages of Theme 6 on Finance.

PDAs are being financed under the Cooperation Fund for the Water Sector, a multi-agency umbrella facility that promotes effective water management policies and practices in Asia and the Pacific.

More information can be found on: <http://www.adb.org/Water/PDA>

[Pacific Island Countries join UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme](#)

Following a two-day UNESCO/SOPAC organised conference on Water Resources Management under Climatic Extremes and Natural Disasters with attendance of hydrologists from 22 mainly Asian, and Pacific countries, the IHP Regional Steering Committee for Southeast Asia and the Pacific convened in Sigatoka on 30 and 31 October.

Pacific island countries were welcomed as new members of the Regional Steering Committee of UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP). The current 14 Asian country members opened the door for further collaboration between water resources managers from Pacific small island countries and hydrological scientists from Southeast Asia under the programmes of UNESCO, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC).

Actions that will be supported under the International Hydrological Programme include a Pacific Training Programme on Hydrology, studies on floods and droughts in the region and a programme that involves communities in catchment management and monitoring.

[ESCAP Showpieces Water Type II Partnership at Asia-Pacific CSD12 Meeting](#)

The Asia-Pacific preparatory consultation meeting for the CSD12 was organised by UN ESCAP and held in Bangkok in late October 2003. Asian and Pacific countries were invited to attend and develop the regional report submission for input to the UN CSD annual review to be held in April 2004. CSD12 and 13 focus on Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements. Pacific countries in attendance at the Regional Implementation Meeting included Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Fiji.

SOPAC were specifically invited to present the Pacific Water Type II Partnership to the delegates as well as the strategic regional approach articulated within the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management, and share the experiences of our partnership with regional representatives from Asia and the Pacific.

Pacific Island Countries agreed upon a Pacific position on water, sanitation and human settlements, based primarily upon the outcomes of the Pacific Regional Water Meeting on Water In Small Island Countries held in 2002 and the SIDS global position agreed at the 3rd World Water Forum in 2003.

Both the Type II and Pacific Regional Action Plan were incorporated into the Asia-Pacific text submission to be forwarded to CSD12.

[GWP Welcomes Pacific Region IWRM Review](#)

The Global Water Partnership (GWP) requested the Pacific to provide details of the status of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) implementation in the region, as part of establishing the global priority areas for their support in their future 5-year work programme. The internationally agreed target for IWRM national plans to be in place is 2005.

A regional overview has been submitted by SOPAC and included by GWP in their future programme assessment review. The next stage will be for individual country IWRM reviews to be carried out. SOPAC will be seeking national assistance with these national status reports in the near future. IWRM as a sustainable water resources management approach is referred to in Themes 1 and 5 of the Pacific Regional Action Plan.

GWP also welcomed the SOPAC Director, Mr Alf Simpson, to the GWP Steering Committee in 2003, as the global SIDS representative,

[PWA Secure USDOl commitment to Water Demand Management](#)

The Pacific Water Association has secured funding from the United States Department of the Interior for a regional water demand management capacity building programme in the US affiliated states.

The one year programme is expected to roll out in some of the following: FSM, Marshalls, Palau, CNMI, Guam and American Samoa. Water demand management (including leakage reduction) was one of the six priority actions agreed by SIDS at Kyoto, and is the priority action within Theme 4 of the Pacific Regional Action Plan.

[Climate Tri-Lateral Arrangements formalise pan-Pacific co-operation](#)

The signing of the US-NZ Climate Accord in July 2003 formalised the third and final bi-lateral Pacific Rim climate action agreement, resulting in climate agreements now existing between the US, New Zealand and Australia. The so called tri-lateral climate action partnership programme, is expected to result in much closer working relationships between the water and climate resource and forecasting centres in Hawaii (NOAA/PEAC), Australia (BoM) and New Zealand (NIWA), especially on such issues as ENSO observations and El Nino predictions, and applied climate information provision to the Pacific Islands.

The recent US-NZ announcement was preceded by technical planning meetings for the finalisation of a Climate Action Programme, including such Water Type II partners as NIWA, BoM, NOAA, East-West Centre/PEAC and SOPAC. The focus of these included the support potentially available to address water resources and climate vulnerability actions identified within Themes 1 and 2 of the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management, and particularly on increasing climate adaptation capacity through improved application of climate information forecasting tools for water resources managers.

[National Actions and Partnerships in the Pacific Region](#)

The regional partnership and regional strategic action plan are now being increasingly used as approaches for achieving sustainable water management at the national level.

Papua New Guinea and Samoa have organised follow-up meetings on the national and regional consultations, are developing National Water Policies and Action Plans, and have set up national multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms.

Fiji is currently drafting a National Water Policy through the National Water Committee, which was formalized last year.

Tuvalu has completed further national consultations and is currently developing a national Water and Sanitation Policy.

Kiribati, assisted by ADB, is carrying out a national water resources assessment and management study, to assist in developing a national policy and strategy.

3rd WORLD WATER FORUM FOLLOW-UP

During the Enviro 2003 Conference in Auckland, held in September 2003, a side meeting was organised with representatives from the 3rd World Water Forum Secretariat (3WWF), ADB, NZWWA, SOPAC and PWA. The 3WWF Secretariat expressed its intent to assess the impact of the World Water Forum on the global water sector, a year after Kyoto. The 3WWF Secretariat advised that they would like to see a Pacific regional meeting held to discuss progress since March 2003.

The Pacific stakeholders agreed that a regional meeting would be largely premature, but advised that there was merit in reporting back to the Pacific representatives involved in

the earlier consultation process on the progress made to date on implementation of the Regional Action Plan.

It was agreed that a proposal would be prepared that identified a small stakeholder group meeting to review progress since Kyoto, and confirm the implementation priorities for the next two years. This process would build upon existing Pacific regional CSD12 and Barbados+10 SIDS reporting commitments, which would by necessity have to be inclusive of the Kyoto preparations and outcomes, and subsequent follow-up.

It is proposed that a small group of regional stakeholder representatives meet, under the concept of a steering committee for the Type II partnership, to:

- i) review implementation of the Pacific RAP, the Kyoto outcomes & the Type II;
- ii) agree upon progress to date, both actions, commitments & advocacy;
- iii) identify constraints to further implementation;
- iv) propose actions to overcome these barriers; and
- v) confirm priorities for the subsequent next 2 year period (CSD12 & 13).

The proposal is currently being considered by the 3WWF Secretariat.

BACKGROUND on WATER IN SMALL ISLANDS COUNTRIES

The global water community acknowledged the special vulnerability and particular needs of small islands by the inclusion of "**Water in Small Islands Countries**" as a special theme at the 3rd World Water Forum that was held in Kyoto, Japan from 16-23 March 2003. SOPAC and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) jointly led this Water in Small Island Countries session as well as its preparation through a regional consultation in the Pacific.

A major outcome of the Pacific regional consultation was the **Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management (PRAP)**, which details priority actions of the water sector in the region. This action plan, endorsed by 18 countries, 14 at ministerial level, (and 14 at Head of State level) has been incorporated into the Type II Water Initiative and was submitted by the Pacific Island Countries to the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) in Johannesburg during the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) in August 2002.

By now you will have received information on the outcomes of the regional consultation by e-mail and hardcopies of the Regional Action Plan have been distributed to all attendees of Sigatoka and Kyoto. In addition you can obtain more information from the following website:

www.sopac.org.fj/Secretariat/Programmes/H2O/3rd_world_water_forum.

ARRANGEMENTS OF THE PACIFIC TYPE II PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE ON SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT

The overall aim of the Pacific Type II Initiatives is to ensure coordination and increased partnerships in meeting the WSSD goals through its Plan of Implementation.

The [Pacific Type II Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Water Management](#) is coordinated and facilitated by the intergovernmental organisation SOPAC (South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission), which has the regional mandate to support the Pacific Island Countries in water & sanitation. SOPAC is assisted in this task by a deputy facilitator, the University of the South Pacific. The objective of the Pacific Water Type II is to implement the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management, inclusive of its sister strategies, the Pacific Wastewater Policy Statement and the Pacific Wastewater Framework for Action, as effectively as possible.

The Partnership has a Facilitator (based at SOPAC) who is responsible for implementing the core functions of the partners liaising between the regional stakeholder groups and their sub-networks; researching and receiving stakeholder information on on-going and planned water activities; tracking donor and development agency programmes; identifying areas requiring implementation; and coordinating proposal submissions and project implementation. The Facilitator is also responsible for high-level advocacy of the strategic approach.

Monitoring and evaluation are carried out using a matrix inventory of previous, existing, planned and proposed activities, including details of the stakeholders involved, the intervention objectives, implementation duration and status, and anticipated impact. (A draft is attached for review).

The Facilitator enables countries and development agencies to: identify successful previous activities and therefore improve the sustainability of subsequent interventions; reduce and prevent duplication of activities; link country requirements to development programmes (and vice versa); and augment existing and proposed activities nationally and regionally.

A working group of CROP agencies (Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific) and NGO representatives has been set up to act as the overall coordinating body of the Pacific Type II Initiatives. Facilitators are asked to report to this Sustainable Development Working Group on a regular basis also in the preparations for Barbados +10.

NEXT STEPS

We anticipate that much of the future discussion will be through e-mail, which encourages an open dialogue. We continue to actively seek further partnerships and funding to carry the Pacific Regional Action Plan forward.

The priority of the Partnership remains the implementation of the priority actions agreed at the 3rd World Water Forum, all of which are contained with the Regional Action Plan, namely:

- i) Water resources management in climatic extremes
- ii) Water demand management
- iii) Water quality capacity building
- iv) Water governance (national, institutional and communal)
- v) Pacific Water Type II Coordination Unit
- vi) Joint Caribbean-Pacific Programme for Action on Water & Climate (IWRM)

The concept of creating a steering committee for the Pacific Water Type II, is under consideration by the Type II facilitator and other regional stakeholders. Initial thoughts are, that subject to securing funding, a Steering Committee (SC) of representatives of regional networks covering governments, utilities, regulators, educators, NGO's and so on, will be established. The SC would meet bi-annually to review progress in implementation of the Pacific Regional Action Plan in the previous 2-year period and agree on priorities for the following 2-year period. You will be kept advised of progress on this development.

We would appreciate it if you could inform us on any current and proposed regional and national activities relevant to this initiative. Information on the type of activity, it's funding arrangements, individuals responsible and timeframes would be helpful. Also if you have comments on this Type II Initiative or would like to make contributions and be further involved please do not hesitate to contact me on the following e-mail address: rhonda@sopac.org.

I look forward to hearing from you all.

Rhonda Bower

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SELECTED WATER WEBSITES

ADB Water in Small Island Countries

www.adb.org/Water/theme3.asp

AOSIS Alliance of Small Island States

www.sidsnet.org/aosis

AUSAID

www.ausaid.gov.au

Australian Water Portal

www.developmentgateway.com.au/water/index.html

Barbados +10

www.sidsnet.org/Mauritius2004/Regional_Meetings/Pacific.html

CSD12

www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd12/csd12.htm

DFID

www.dfid.gov.uk

Dialogue on Water and Climate

www.waterandclimate.org

East-West Center

www.EastWestCenter.org/climate

ESCAP Regional Implementation Meeting for Asia and the Pacific

www.unescap.org/esd/water/activities/2003/RIM/

European Union

www.europa.eu.int/comm/development/publications/water/en/frontpage_en.htm

Gender and Water Alliance

www.genderandwateralliance.org

Global Water Partnership

www.gwpforum.org

GWP Australia

www.gwpaustralia.org

International Association of Hydrogeologists

www.iah.org

Island Climate Update

www.niwa.cri.nz/NCC/ICU

NZAID

www.nzaid.govt.nz

Pacific ENSO Update

http://lumahai.soest.hawaii.edu/Enso/subdir/update_dir/update.html

Pacific Water Association

www.pwa.org.fj

SIDSNET

www.sidsnet.org

SOPAC Water

http://www.sopac.org/Secretariat/Programmes/H2O/3rd_world_water_forum

UNEP

<http://freshwater.unep.net/>

UNESCAP

www.unescap.org

UNESCO

www.unesco.org/water

UNU

www.inweh.unu.edu/inweh

WHO

www.who.int/water_sanitation_health

WMO

www.wmo.ch/web/homs/index.html

World Bank

www.worldbank.org/html/fpd/water

World Summit on Sustainable Development

www.johannesburgsummit.org

World Water Council

www.worldwatercouncil.org

World Wide Fund for Nature

www.wwfpacific.org.fj

WSSCC

<http://www.wsscc.org/>