



Nadi Basin Catchment Committee meeting March 24, 2010. ©SOPAC

The Nadi Basin Catchment Committee

An integral part of the IWRM Nadi Demonstration Project was to put in place a proper governance structure that would oversee and coordinate the project's implementation. This was done through the establishment of the Nadi Basin Catchment Committee (NBCC).

Main purpose and role

The NBCC is tasked to guide the Project Management Unit (PMU) and the Land and Water Resource Management (LAWRM) Division through the planning and decision making process for the IWRM Nadi Demo Project and to oversee its implementation. The first tasks of the NBCC were to agree on the NBCC Terms of Reference (TOR), constitution and membership and the formation of the subcommittee. On completion of the project in 2013, it is envisaged that the NBCC will continue to function as the body authorised to plan and co-ordinate the sustainable development and management of the Nadi catchment water resources.

Strength and decision making powers

The NBCC benefits from being a multisectoral body at management level, which represents the strength, capacity, policies and enforcement powers of the departments and organizations involved. The NBCC is yet to be formally mandated under the reviewed Land and Water Conservation Improvement Act, which still awaits proper cabinet endorsement. However, in July 2009, the LAWRM Division secured cabinet endorsement of the IWRM Nadi Demo Project, which permitted the formation of the NBCC and the appointment of 23 interim NBCC members.

NBCC Members

Nominated interim members represent the key land and water resources stakeholders (both land and water managers and land and water users) within the Nadi Basin, including the IWRM Focal Point for Fiji. The Project Management Unit under the LAWRM Division acts as the secretariat for the NBCC. The 23 interim members include government representatives, statutory bodies, provincial offices and community representatives, academia, NGOs and regional organization reps.



A woman wades through floodwaters during the catastrophic floods in Nadi, January, 2009. ©SOPAC

Progress of the NBCC

From its inception in 2008, the NBCC has come a long way. It started initially as a working group. On August 20, 2009, interim appointments were issued to relevant key stakeholders to become members of NBCC. To date the NBCC has held four quarterly meetings. Issues of interest and discussion in meetings range from water issues, landuse, flood mitigation and protection, water supply, development plans, policies and legislations, gravel extraction, etc. All of which pertain to the Nadi Basin situation. A Terms of Reference for the NBCC has been developed with collective input of members.

Currently the NBCC is working on establishing subcommittees to focus specifically on the four project components: Community Liason, Technical, Governance and Planning, Land and Water Use. The direction and decision of the NBCC has also been sought on proposed work programs for implementation in the Nadi Basin. NBCC members have supported and assisted the installation of water level recorders, a flood early-warning system, initiated proper land use practices in the upper and mid catchment areas and initiated contact with communities.



A representative from the Fiji Trade and Investment Board addresses the NBCC. ©SOPAC

What is envisioned for the NBCC

The NBCC may still be in its infancy but it is moving forward with long term plans for the effective management of the Nadi Basin Catchment area. Its future aims are to:

- Formulate and finalize a Stakeholder Engagement Plan, with clearly defined participation, contribution and responsibilities for key players and stakeholders.
- Complete the formation of the four subcommittees, which should result in more proactive participation of NBCC members in the planning and decision making process.
- Ensure that Cabinet recognizes, strengthens and mandates the NBCC's role by endorsing the Land and Water Conservation Improvement Act.
- Oversee the smooth implementation of activities, and achieve outputs, which are in line with the IWRM Demonstration Project Proposal. This will include the authorizing, vetting and endorsing of project and PMU annual work plans, writing routine and special reports, and sub-project proposals etc.

On completion of the IWRM Nadi Demo Project in 2013, the aim is for the NBCC to continue its function as the body authorised to plan and co-ordinate the monitoring of IWRM in the Nadi Demo Project area and participate in initiatives such as the development of Integrated Water Resources Management policies.



Hydrologists measure floodwater levels after the January 2009 floods. ©SOPAC

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