



# Enabling Sustainable Development and Management of Ecosystems - Experiences of the GEF/UNDP/UNEP Pacific IWRM Project

Author: **Marc Wilson**

Institution: **Secretariat of the Pacific Community**

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# GEF Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Project

- ▶ Goal aligned to GEF Pacific Alliance for Sustainability
- ▶ *To contribute to sustainable development in the Pacific Island Region through improvements in natural resource and environmental management'.*

# Project Objective

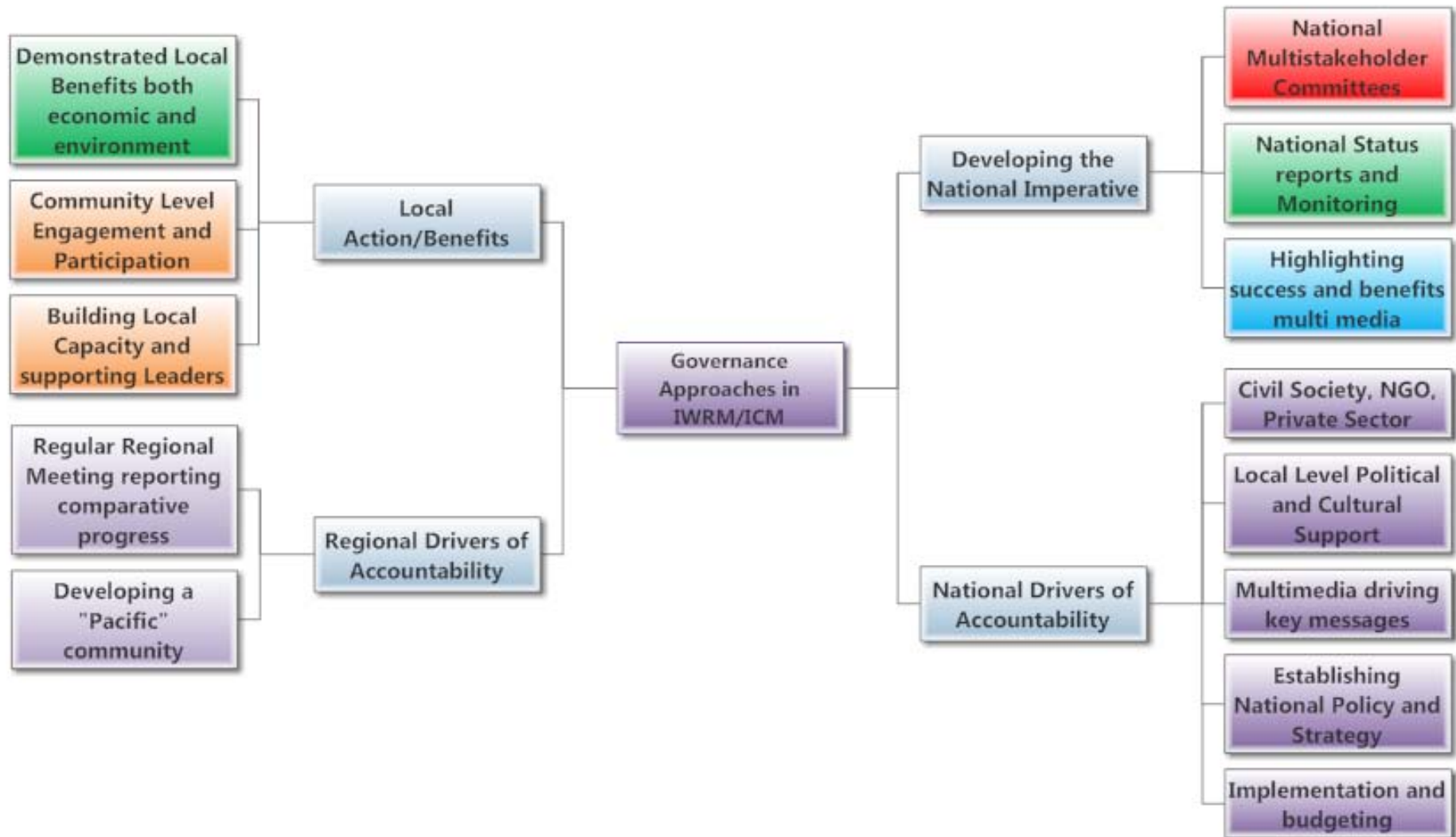
- ▶ *To improve water resource and wastewater management and water use efficiency in Pacific Island Countries in order to balance overuse and conflicting uses of scarce freshwater resources through policy and legislative reform and implementation of applicable and effective Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and Water Use Efficiency (WUE) plans*



# The Pacific Natural Resources Dilemma

- ▶ Use conflict within dynamic societal and environmental systems
- ▶ Impacts and interconnectedness of use in the case of water - extraction and supply, commerce, recreation, human health and wellbeing and ecosystem services.
- ▶ Diverse stakeholders holding different beliefs, values, capacity, and responsibilities. Sensitivity of the Natural Resources ie Sustainable Development Dilemma
- ▶ Poorly developed and applied governance with little accountability.

# Developing the push and pull mechanisms for adaptive



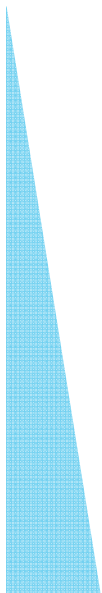
# Community to Cabinet approach to developing adaptive capacity

- ▶ Establishing structures of Good Governance
- ▶ National IWRM Committees multidisciplinary and stakeholder represented (the IMCs),
- ▶ Local level Steering Committees also multidisciplinary and stakeholder represented and also participating with IMCs
- ▶ Productive work outputs of societal and environmental benefit
- ▶ Appealing outputs cutting through vertical and horizontal communication blockages and diversions
- ▶ Knowledge sharing vertically and horizontally builds adaptive capacity to support active and informed participation in decision making.



# Demonstrating benefits

- ▶ Local level positive outcomes provides the benefit conduit vertically and horizontally and strengthens governance ie provides an acknowledged result and the prospects of future benefits.





# IWRM Achievement Stories



# IWRM in Palau : an achievement story

By Governor Victoria Kanai



## Community to Cabinet at work: Palau's 1st National Water Summit

The IWRM Project Coordinating Unit (PCU) in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental and Tourism (MNRET) prepared for and ran the 1st Palau National Water Summit. The Summit was organised as the first step in the development of a National Water Policy and was an opportunity to bring together various stakeholders from community to government, providing the space to openly discuss important water issues in Palau. Through the Summit it was anticipated that we would engage a wide section of the community and receive feedback from the community about what they saw as their vision

In order to create this space for community engagement we understood the importance of reaching the community and getting feedback on what information they required. As a team we incorporated information that community members wanted to know into the summit proceedings, thus tailoring the meeting to the actual needs of the



# Palau – National Water Summit

- ▶ Problem: Lack of societal awareness of impact of degraded environment on water resources and quality and the need to rehabilitate catchments.
- ▶ IWRM: National Water Summit attended by stakeholders “Community through to Cabinet”
- ▶ President endorses Palau National Water Policy.
- ▶ Airai State Governor provides state resources to support Ngerikiil Watershed rehabilitation and management.
- ▶ Community action for rehabilitation and management.



# Cook Islands





# Muri Lagoon, Rarotonga, Cook Islands

- ▶ **Problem:** High nutrient and bacterial effects in Muri Lagoon resulting in algal blooms, reef and fish stock degradation and public health issues (itchy skin and “red eye”) after swimming resulting in periodic area closures. **The major tourist location in the Cook Islands.**
- ▶ **Cause:** Use of inappropriate domestic and commercial sanitation systems for both people and pigs.
- ▶ **IWRM** - Raise awareness, Local Steering Committee, private sector involvement, trial appropriate sanitation technology and demonstrate impact.
- ▶ **Sanitation strategy** developed and approved and prioritised by Government.
- ▶ **Upscaling** to cover all Muri Residents and Businesses through NZ Aid funding.



# Tuvalu





# Tuvalu, Fongafale Lagoon Eutrophication.

- ▶ Tuvalu Capital, Funafuti located on Fongafale.
- ▶ Large *Sargassum* blooms correlated with population density.
- ▶ Primary nutrient source human and pig waste.
- ▶ IWRM awareness raising and installation of 40 compost toilets in Tuvalu.
- ▶ Eco-Sanitation adopted in Tuvalu's Sustainable and Integrated Water and Sanitation Policy.
- ▶ Scale-up ecosanitation throughout Tuvalu via the European Union funding support of €7.3 million.
- ▶ Significant reduction in Nitrogen entering lagoonal waters.



# IWRM Governance Elements

	IWRM Demo	Knowledge Base		Integration		Strategic Policy		Implementation
Pacific SIDS	Yes	Diagnostic		Nat Water Ctee		Nat IWRM Policy		National Strategy
		Outlook		Local Steeering Ctee		IWRM Legislation		
Niue								
Tuvalu								
Cook Isl								
Samoa								
Tonga								
RMI								
FSM								
Palau								
Kiribati								
Nauru								
Solomon Isl								
Vanuatu								
Fiji								