

NGO Action Overview

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**Issues raised by NGO's working in the Water Sector in the Pacific
June – July 2002**

| Country | Issues | Recommendations and or Actions taken |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cook Islands | Freshwater management - Inadequate monitoring facilities to ensure land, marine areas are protected and sustainably developed - No proper sewerage treatment resulting in increasing pollution of lagoons - Poor quality of water during dry periods and after heavy rains - Government policy and planning not transparent to the public | - Develop a public waste management system - Establish a water testing and monitoring programme for the Lagoon - Develop transparency of the water management programme - Institute tax rebate system to encourage installation of roof water catchment - Progress the replacement of ageing and leaky water reticulation system |
| Federated States of Micronesia | Water contamination - Chronic lack of accessible information management system and clearing house databases inhibits development planning, policy and decision-making efforts. - Impact of water contamination not periodically assessed Water issues on Chuuk - Poor quality - Hard to upgrade the water system due to lack of money - Limited number of people have access to the water system - Water is not tested | - Accountability and transparency in information sharing, communication and coordination needed between Government and Civil Society, including NGO's. |

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| Fiji | <p>Watershed management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of water management experts - Little opportunity for locals to undergo relevant training - Little effort made to create awareness about sustainable use of quality water - Although Fiji blessed with an abundance of both surface and underground freshwater, there are still a lot of problems with access - Lack of water quality data | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quantity and quality of water needs to be recognized as a global priority - Government needs to take more of a lead role to ensure access of water for all - An agreement signed between Sydney Water and Fiji Government to: Develop a maintenance management programme; a review of water and sewerage operational policies and procedures; developing a strategic plan for the water and sewerage section; and training staff to implement the proposed changes Live and Learn - Provide action-based and practical water education in schools in the form of RiverCare - Capacity building of Fiji's teachers (also Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) - Work in partnership with the curriculum development unit and the Ministry of Education in the Solomons and Vanuatu |

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| Kiribati | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -lack of public knowledge on water conservation - inadequate legislation to control and treat waste - lack of management and maintenance of water supply infrastructure, results in poor quality of water - Boreholes too close to the sea and get contaminated with sea water - increase of population places pressure on water supply | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - desalination plant - every new house that is built needs to have a water tank installed - Drama group teaches water conservation |
| Nauru | <p>Water Shortages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No proper sewage treatment and increasing pollution - Lack of proper environment legislation and policies | <p>Develop proper legislation and policies for sanitation standards to properly seal waste from water table</p> <p>A desalination plant was installed</p> |
| Niue | Water wastage | Awareness programmes are being conducted to ensure people use water wisely |
| Palau | <p>Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased pressure on water supply & salt – water intrusion into the freshwater lens in atolls and coastline watersheds <p>Climate change causes coastal erosion, salt water intrusion into taro patches and drought</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drought management infrastructure - Desalination systems for outlying areas - Watershed protection programme |
| Solomon Islands | <p>Water supply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintenance - Poor design - Increase in water borne diseases - No awareness component | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan for mitigation and adaptation for climate change to prevent water table contamination by salt water |

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| Papua New Guinea | <p>Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health problems occur because pipes are not regularly replaced - General water supply not safe for drinking <p>Quantity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not enough to adequately supply everyone during the dry season. Government has not enough reserve tanks <p>Inadequate Government policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Water Board is only responsible for the main supply. If there are problems with water pipes it is your own responsibility - No policy in place covering water districts and there are a lot of problems with landowners as a result | |
| Papua New Guinea/Chevron | <p>Water pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increased sediment loading in waterways and subsequent colour change | <p>Prior to a drilling programme, construction or road project, it is a requirement of the Health Environment Safety-Environmental Specialist to undertake baseline sampling. This will continue during the operation and after closure or commissioning of the construction.</p> |
| Papua New Guinea/Bougainville | <p>Water management Problems of storage, pollution, funding for water projects, shortages during the dry season</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Form working teams that involve both the Health and Works Department to seek solutions to some of the problems facing improvements in water supply both in distribution and cleanliness. |

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| Samoa | <p>Freshwater management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - inadequate quality checks - inequitable distribution - overpricing <p>Watershed management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - conflicting land use - lack of awareness and information - lack of protection <p>Underground water aquifers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - boreholes too close to the sea <p>Water pricing/corporatisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lack of consultation with communities in formulation of government policy and privatization of water - policies require implementation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - engage communities - awareness campaigns - regulate positioning of boreholes - have the technology to test water quality - government to assess its service responsibility - monitoring and evaluation - waste management |
| Tonga | <p>Water quality</p> <p>No code of practice leads to polluted water from pesticides etc.</p> <p>Local contribution of materials/resources not always available</p> <p>Lengthy time waiting for projects approval from donors</p> <p>Insufficient funding to assist all interested families in providing cement water tanks</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Immediate assistance required to mitigate climate change in Tonga, specifically water table contamination. - Rainwater harvest programme for independent/sustainable domestic water supply. - Water quality monitoring - EIA' s to include impact of development on freshwater resources. |
| Tuvalu | <p>Supply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Big households impact on water supply - Expensive to fill water tanks from Government <p>Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - well water contaminated by sea water | |

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| Vanuatu | <p>Supply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Islands have wells, and streams etc, but in the Urban areas it is only limited to lease holders who get water from the private company – UNELCO, or have their own rainwater catchments <p>Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some people get their water from the Tagabe river but it is polluted from industry | <p>The Environment Unit has a project manage working with the Rural Water Supply Department on a Water Project</p> |