

Long Term OBJECTIVES

PACC RMI long term objective is to increase the resilience that is to better prepare the people of Marshall Islands on the adverse effects of severe drought conditions caused by climate change. The project will help the people address the issue of water supply and sources of water supply on Majuro given the high population density and the amount of space and resources available.

PACC RMI will address the issue of high evaporation rates and leakages of current water storages at source and provision for alternative source of water for drought resilience and food security.

The Project is nationally implemented through the Office of Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination in collaboration with Majuro Water and Sewer Company and the IWRM Water Taskforce Committee.



The people of RMI during a severe drought spell

National Implementing Agency



Office of Environment Planning &
Policy Coordination
P O Box 15
Majuro 96960, RMI



Regional Executing Agency



Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme
P O Box 240
Apia, Samoa
www.sprep.org

Regional Implementing Agency



United Nations Development
Program
Multi-Country Office, Samoa
Private Mail Bag, Apia
www.undp.org.ws

Funding Agencies



Global Environment Facility
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20433, USA
www.gefweb.org



Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project Marshall Islands

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www.sprep.org/climate_change/pacc

What is the PACC Project?

The Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project in the Marshall Islands aims to build resilience to the adverse effects of climate change in the Water Resource Management Sector.

It is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and executed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

PACC is made up of 3 main components:

1 Mainstreaming

To strengthen the institutional framework, policies and plans and the capacity of the RMI Government and community decision makers to take climate change risks into key decisions in their sustainable resource development programmes.

2 Pilot Demonstration

To design and demonstrate innovative decision systems, approaches, technologies and practical measures to strengthen the resilience of the country to the adverse effects of climate change. PACC RMI is developing specific guidelines in the Water Resource Management Sector on how climate change assessments and demonstrations can be undertaken, taking current and future changes in climate into consideration.

3 Technical Support and Communication

This outcome is to ensure that results and lessons from the PACC RMI are shared regionally and globally. And provide the medium to bring together new knowledge generated through the project as the basis for a strategic regional approach to climate change adaptation.

THE VULNERABILITY of our island atolls to sea level rise, drought, coastal erosion, increased salinity to our ground water lens, frequent typhoons, high evaporation rate on our water resources and other major impacts of climate change and variability are some of the risks that the RMI Government, the National Climate Change Committee, Joint National Action Plan, National Disaster Risk Management and Integrated Water Resource Management National Taskforce is to address.

Water Resource Management

During consultations and mainstreaming process to address impacts of climate change, the RMI Government identified the Water Sector as a critical issue for adaptation intervention. There is a need for technical assessments to develop guidelines for demonstration projects in improving the water supply.

Pilot Site 1: Airport Water Reservoir

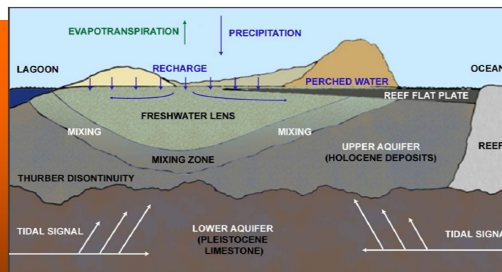


Water supply on Majuro is from the airport reservoir and Laura underground water lens. Efforts have started to do a technical assessment of the airport reservoir. Based on

the technical assessment a guideline will be developed to improve the airport reservoir and reduce the high evaporation rate and leakages.

Pilot Site 2: Laura Underground Water Lens

During a drought event, the underground water lens at Laura has been identified as an alternative distribution source for the whole of Majuro. There is however a limited supply of freshwater lens and with increasing use by households and sea level rise there is evidence of contaminants and increased salinity especially during a drought event. Water catchments, rainwater harvesting systems, public awareness for conservation desalination units are some of the alternative options that are to be included in the PACC technical assessments.



Climate Change Effect

Drought is generally a prolonged period of dryness or shortage of water. Majuro has had dry period of dryness in 1970, 1977, 1983, 1992 and 1998. The droughts occurred between 6 and 9 years apart. Since most households depend on rainfall catchment for water supply, Majuro is subject to droughts on most occasions. The droughts in Majuro generally show a 1-4 month period of monthly rainfall less than 2 inch per month within a 3-7 month period of lower than average rainfall.

Source: USGS Scientific Investigation Report 2005

Effects of the 1998 drought on the freshwater lens in Laura, Majuro, RMI

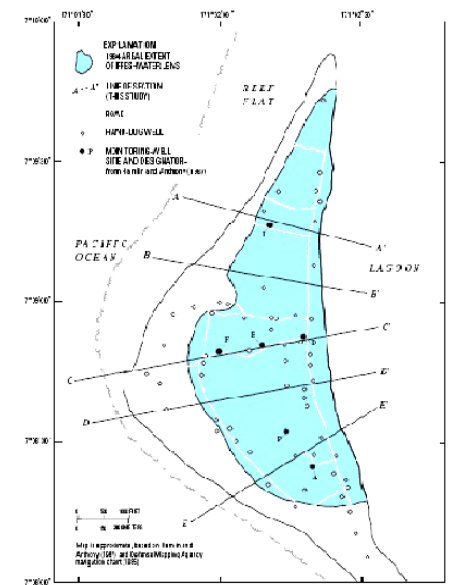


Figure 2. Outline of freshwater lens in Laura, location of hand-dug wells, sediment borings and monitoring sites in the Laura area, Majuro Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands.

PACC 14 Member Countries

