The application of IWRM in the Fiji Islands

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Information in Support of IWRM

4th World Water Forum

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Main Water Issues
FLOOD

REMEMBER the risk

RESPECT the river

BE ALERT

BE PREPARED
El Nino Droughts

Yearly Rainfall Total Anomalies for Fiji vs Yearly SOI Averages: (1957 - 1998)
AND YOU THOUGHT I WAS GONE FOREVER !!!

WATER CUTS

AHHH

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Fiji Times 26 January 2006
Constraints in Water Resources Management

- Lack of Water Resources Information
- Lack of Coordination between Agencies
- Lack of Capacity and Resources (financial/human)
- Lack of Water Policy
- Lack of Legislation
- Lack of Good Water Governance
Fiji Water Governance

- Pacific Programme for Water Governance
  - National Water Committee
  - Draft Water Policy
  - Multi sector consultations
  - Legislation
  - National IWRM plans

- Governing Water Project Fiji
  - NGO and communities
  - Establish “Learning Circles” in selected communities
  - Develop “Governing Water Plans”

Partners: SOPAC/Live and Learn
Funding: European Union
Water Governance Building Blocks

- Awareness
- Planning
- Expertise
- Information
- Organisation
- Legislation
- Policy
- Responsibility

- Information is key to Water Resources Management
Future Action

• Establish New Water Resources Department for coordination of data and information

• Capacity Building in Water Resources Assessment and Management (a.o. Pacific HYCOS with WMO/SOPAC)

• National IWRM Plans and Catchment Demonstration Projects, International Waters Project (GEF/UNDP/SOPAC)
More water cuts

JUST when we thought water cuts were a thing of the past especially in Suva, the taps have run dry again.

The Public Works Department is blaming the low supply at the main reservoir near Namalata where the supply is sourced from.

The water supply situation has improved greatly toward the end of last year in the greater Suva area after major upgrading work was carried out by the department. There were minimal disruption to supply and many people were starting to believe the worst of the crisis was over.

But this week, some families are reliving the trauma and headache they had experienced previously because of water cuts. These have come back to haunt adults and children and make their lives miserable.

And the timing is bad too. It is the start of school and children need to have their shower, breakfast early if they are not to be late to school.

There have been suggestions to privatise the water supply unit so that it may provide a consistent and reliable service to consumers. But the Government ignored this and insisted on a department within the Ministry of Works to solely look after water supply.

There is no question about the Government’s commitment to providing the people with a permanent water supply but it is obvious there is still a long way to go. There is a lot of work to be done if the supply is to be consistent and reliable.

Water woes have been attributed to the shortage of skilled personnel and the low investment from the Government over the years.

Lately, the Asian Development Bank gave $100 million toward the development and upgrading of the water supply system. Most of the funds have been directed towards the Suva-Nausori Water Supply Project aimed at improving water supply along this densely-populated corridor. It has had some positive effects on water supply in this area but it is complete.

The department is aware that there has been a tremendous increase in water demand but low investment over the past 20 years for both capital and maintenance work. Poor supply of pressure during peak demand and inadequate capacity of a number of key bulk supply and reticulation mains have also been a concern to the department.

Hopefully the Works Ministry will focus its attention on these problems to ensure there are no more disruptions to water supply in this most heavily-populated area of the country.

The department has proved in the past months that it can provide the services which families expect and desperately need everyday. It needs to fix the problem and ensure it does not recur.

Consumers are getting fed up.