

Enhancing water security in Palau

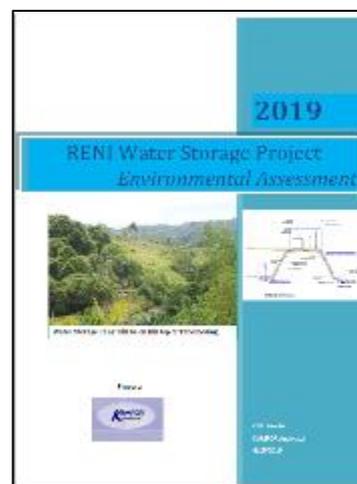
Based on the 2017 Drought Plan, the Palau RENI Steering Committee determined that the project activities were to focus on water security, particularly in the states near Koror and Airai and within a 30-minutes driving distance, as this would benefit the largest number of people. After evaluating several options it was decided to construct a new water storage system on one of the larger river systems that had not dried up during the 2016 drought, and to purchase two additional water tanker trucks to transport water to those in need.

The two most suitable watersheds for extraction and storage of water during drought were the Ngerderar Watershed and the Tabecheding Watershed, as these systems had continued to flow during the 2016 drought.

During 2018 preliminary site visits were conducted and in September 2018, hydrological assessments were prepared for the Ngerderar watershed in Aimeliik State and the Tabecheding watershed in Ngatpang State by the SPC Geoscience Energy and Maritime Division. The assessments showed that the Tabecheding watershed was the most suitable system for extraction and storage of water especially during drought. Based on this assessment, the Tabecheding watershed was selected as the focus for the RENI project.

Discussions were also held with the Palau Steering Committee about different types of water storage systems. A preference was expressed for the automatic valveless gravity filter (AVGF) system, a commonly used system in Palau.

Following a request for quotations, a Palauan consulting firm was selected to conduct an environmental assessment of the proposed water storage project on the Tabecheding river and the necessary environmental permits were obtained in 2019.



Environmental Assessment Report for the Tabecheding Watershed

The surveying and final design was completed by April 2019. A request for proposals was advertised in June 2019 by SPC with a closing date in August 2019. A pre-bid meeting and site visit was held in July 2019 attended by five local contractors.

The technical and financial evaluation was conducted by the SPC Procurement Committee. There was no satisfactory tender and the procurement process was closed in September 2019.

There followed discussions between representatives of the Palau RENI Steering Committee, SPC RENI Project Team and the European Union.

No alternative measures were selected or procured.