

## “Freshwater under Threat – Pacific Islands” publication

Description

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Project Status [Completed](#)

Start Date [Friday, August 12, 2022](#)

End Date [Friday, August 12, 2022](#)

Project Type [Knowledge Communication](#)

Project Scope [Regional](#)

**Project Objectives**

The report, “Freshwater under Threat – Pacific Islands”, written by David Duncan, Regional Environmental Engineer at SPC SOPAC’s [Water](#) and [Sanitation](#) Programme, found that the almost total reliance on rain-fed [agriculture](#) across all islands puts economies and livelihoods at risk. Nearly 10% of deaths of children under five in the region are attributable to [water](#) related causes; 90% of these deaths, according to the report, can be traced to poor [sanitation](#) treatment systems. “The challenges facing the region in terms of freshwater resources are immense. Many of these islands have limited [water](#) resources, not to mention human, financial and management resources.

The report cited [water](#) management as one of the greatest challenges to [water](#) resource [vulnerability](#), particularly the limited technical and [governance](#) capacity partly due to the high emigration of its skilled and educated workers. All Pacific Islands are struggling with Integrated [Water](#) Resources Management capacity, according to the report, with only Samoa and Nauru having IWRM [policies](#). These challenges—which are likely to be aggravated by [climate change](#) -- will require innovative approaches and tailoring solutions that take into account the complex geographical and socioeconomic constraints of each island. There is no one solution and would need a mix of [policy](#) intervention and preferred management [measures](#).

[Development](#) Partner - UNEP

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