

6.0 Nauru

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
DIDI	Department of Islands Development and Industry
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
PACC	Pacific Islands Adaptation to Climate Change Project
PNG	Papua New Guinea
SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund
SPREP	Secretariat to Pacific Regional Environmental Program
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

With an area of 21 square kilometers, Nauru is the world's smallest island nation. Located in the South Pacific approximately 2,900 kilometers northeast from Australia, Nauru's Exclusive Economic Zone extends 200 nautical miles from the country's 30 kilometer coastline. Historically, phosphate was the primary economic resource in Nauru, and the country boasted of having one of the highest rates of Gross Domestic Product per capita. However, these stores were thought to be nearly depleted and the end of phosphate mining left a legacy of environmental degradation and unemployment. The country is now mostly dependent on foreign aid and food imports from Australia and other countries (CIA, 2011).

A. Adaptation Needs and Priorities

The main climate change vulnerabilities in Nauru are sea level rise and the effect that an increase in temperature will have on marine resources and already stressed water and vegetative resources (DIDI, 1999). Due to environmental degradation, Nauru is already experiencing coastal erosion and declines in the productivity of its coral reef systems. Rising ocean temperatures, sea level rise and an increase in the number of intense storms could cause further damage to these ecosystems (DIDI, 1999).

Nauru also has no significant surface water resources; desalination plants and groundwater are its only drinking sources. Water scarcity is already affecting human health. Greater incidence of drought could therefore reduce the sustainability of the country's groundwater resources, the health of its population, and the persistence of a vegetation ecosystem already stressed from major phosphate mining (DIDI, 1999).

In response to these concerns, Nauru identified education and information activities that have been or should be implemented to support its efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

B. National Level Policies and Strategic Documents

Nauru’s First National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (DIDI, 1999) outlines its baseline situation, highlights the environmental degradation resulting from nearly a century of phosphate mining and the country’s commitment but limited capacity to cope with the effects of climate change. This document outlines several initiatives that Nauru has taken part in, and several actions that it would need to take as first steps to adapt to the effects of climate change (particularly sea level rise).

Table 1: Key Government Policies and Reports reflecting Adaptation Needs, Priorities and Planned Actions

Name of Policy Action		Government Division Responsible	Status	Sector(s) of Focus	Summary description
1.	Climate Change Response. Republic of Nauru Response. 1 st National Communication–1999. Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ¹³³	Department of Islands Development and Industry and Nauru’s National Committee on Climate Change	Released October 1999	Multi-sectoral	This report describes Nauru’s background and presents data on its greenhouse gas emissions. It also outlines the country’s vulnerabilities to climate change and the different policies and measures that can be taken for mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to sea level rise. The document concludes by outlining education and information activities that have been or should be implemented.

C. Current Adaptation Action

Nauru is involved in a low number of adaptation projects at the regional level as identified in Table 2; no nationally focused adaptation projects have been identified. Through these projects, adaptation action is being implemented on the ground that addresses needs related to agriculture, coastal zone management, water, forestry, tourism, gender and policy and planning.

¹³³UNFCCC, <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/natc/naunc1.pdf>

Table 2: Current Adaptation Projects and Programs active in Nauru

Name	Objectives	Funder(s)	Implementing Agency(s)	Type of project	Duration	Priority Sector(s)	Geographic focus (if any)
Participation in Regional and Global Actions							
1.	Pacific Islands Adaptation to Climate Change Project (PACC) ¹³⁴	<p>SCCF, co-financing</p> <p>Budget: US\$59,526,299</p>	UNDP, ADB, SPREP	Capacity building; Policy formation and integration	2008–2012	Agriculture; Coastal zone management; Freshwater supply	<p><i>Regional:</i> Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Nauru, Palau, PNG, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu</p> <p><i>In Nauru:</i> Demonstration measures to reduced vulnerability in coastal areas and crop production. Groundwater prospecting and monitoring. Water tanks and water catchment.</p>
2.	Strengthening the Capacity of Pacific Developing Member Countries to Respond to Climate Change (Phase 1) ¹³⁵	<p>ADB, Canada</p> <p>Budget: US\$4.965 million</p>	ADB	Capacity building; Policy formation and integration	2009–?	Government	<p><i>Regional:</i> Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.</p>

¹³⁴ GEF, <http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/document/09-16-08-SCCF.pdf>

¹³⁵ ADB, <http://pid.adb.org/pid/TaView.htm?projNo=43071&seqNo=01&typeCd=2#timetable>

Name	Objectives	Funder(s)	Implementing Agency(s)	Type of project	Duration	Priority Sector(s)	Geographic focus (if any)
	<p>capabilities to foster the adaptation process; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptation preparation—up to five countries will be supported in preparing the implementation of climate change adaptation plans, including further capacity building 						Plus: Timor-Leste
In Nauru: Additional information required							
3.	Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region ¹³⁶	<p>German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development</p> <p>Budget: €17.2 million</p>	GIZ, SPC	Capacity building; Policy formation and integration; Field implementation	2009–2015	Agriculture; Forestry; Tourism	Regional: FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
In Nauru: Additional information required.							
4.	Mainstreaming Gender Aspects in Climate Change Adaptation and Low-Carbon Development ¹³⁷	<p>German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear</p>	GenerCC—Women for Climate Justice, Centre for Global Change, Secretariat of the Pacific Community	Capacity building;	2010–2013	Gender	Asia-Pacific: Bangladesh, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru

¹³⁶ GIZ, <http://www.gtz.de/en/weltweit/asien-pazifik/27718.htm> and SPC, http://www.spc.int/lrd/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=478&Itemid=44

¹³⁷ BMU, <http://www.bmu-klimaschutzinitiative.de/en/projects?p=1&d=673>

Name	Objectives	Funder(s)	Implementing Agency(s)	Type of project	Duration	Priority Sector(s)	Geographic focus (if any)
		Safety					
		Budget: €451,339					
In Nauru: Additional information required.							

D. Proposed Adaptation Action

There is no evidence of proposed adaptation actions within Nauru at this time.

E. Assessment

Adaptation action in Nauru is low relative to other Pacific Island countries, and it does not appear a number of new projects are in development within the country. It is participating in multi-country projects that address several of its priority areas for adaptation, as well as gender, forestry and tourism. The limited current programming in the country means that some gaps remain within the priority adaptation areas identified by the country, including health and marine resources.

References:

Central Intelligence Agency [CIA] (2011). *The World Factbook: Nauru*. Retrieved from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/nr.html>

Department of Islands Development and Industry [DIDI] (1999). *Climate Change Response. Republic of Nauru Response. 1st National Communication - 1999. Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*. Retrieved from <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/natc/naunc1.pdf>