

Water Governance – Pacific Islands

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PACIFIC WATER ASSOCIATION

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Program for Water Governance (PfWG)

- Overall goal:
 - *‘To mainstream the principles of good water management into day to day applications and pilot projects so as to assist in achieving sustainable water resource management and provision of water services’*
 - Challenge: *‘coping with the institutional changes necessary in the transition from subsistence cultures to developing urban communities’*
 - Three pilot projects in Solomon Islands, Fiji and Kiribati
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Outline of Programme

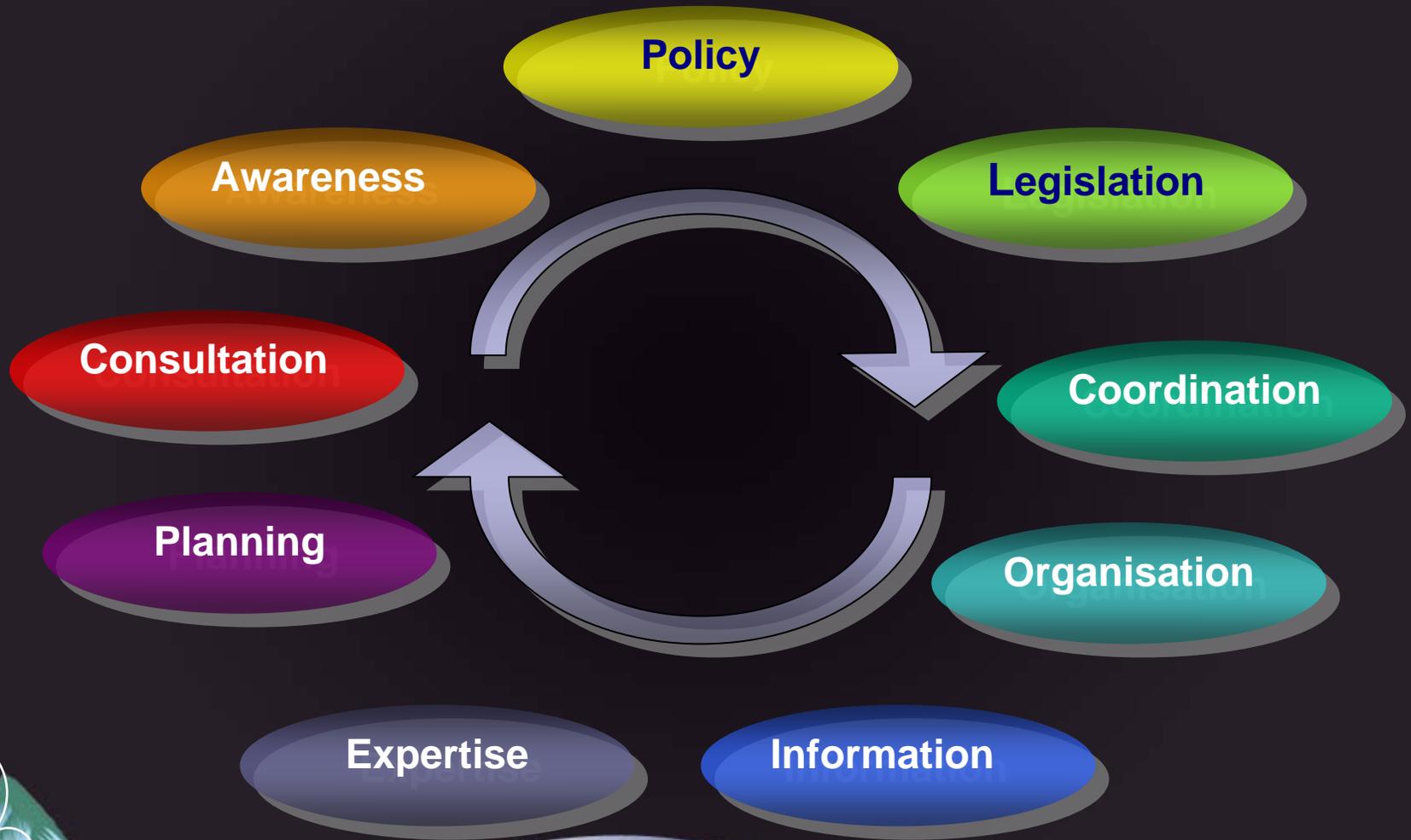
- Pilot programme with three components in three countries
 - Solomon Islands: governance at national level
 - Fiji: governance at national level
 - Kiribati: governance at local level
- Pilots inputs limited in scale and intended to initiate, identify key issues and commence action where possible



IWRM in Pacific region

- Some initiatives occurring now:
 - Interest in water resources policy to bring rational framework for management
 - Commercialisation of utility functions – water supply and sanitation occurring in a number of countries
 - Land ownership and water rights is an issue
 - In general, water is managed from a service and utility perspective and IWRM functions are only now being considered or developed
 - Need for public understanding about water resources
 - Capacity and finance!!!
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Water governance: links in the chain



Solomon Islands

- Issues:

- Serious political problems during the time of the pilot (eg several changes of minister)
- Need for policy consultation at local levels – important for implementation of initiatives
- Desirability of awareness, starting at school age
- Preparation of policy and legislation, but next steps require political attention



Solomon Islands

- Ministry of Mines and Energy, Water Resources
 - Preparation of National Water Policy – goal ‘*every Solomon Islander shall have reasonable access to sustainable, adequate, quality water*’
 - Describes both water resources and services
 - Proposes a monitoring and implementation programme
 - Draft legislation covers water rights, licensing of water development and protection of catchments and water bodies
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IWRM National - Fiji

- Strategy workshop
 - Legislation workshop
 - Some findings:
 - No national responsibility for water resources management
 - Government has no ability to control the development of groundwater or surface water in a coordinated way
 - Water and land rights the key political and water management issue
 - Need for coordination and legislation
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Prior actions

- Government (Cabinet decided has initiated:
 - National water policy to be drafted
 - Commercialisation of national urban water supply (Fiji Water Authority)
 - Coordination committee within administration (*ad hoc and not resourced*)
- Concerns:
 - Flooding on large islands
 - Inefficient and inadequate water supply
 - Lack of coverage and sustainability of rural water supplies

Fiji - outcomes

- Initial national water policy
- Proposal for national water strategy
- Coordinating mechanisms proposed:
 - National Council with public-private stakeholders
 - National Water Committee senior level technical
- Water legislation covering water rights and allocation
- Definition of responsibility for water management at Ministerial level and in administration
- Water resources information coordination

Kiribati issues and approach

- Focus on national level but with implications for island and village levels
- Current water and sanitation policy ad hoc and fragmented, not embedded in a framework of sustainable development
- Consistency with Kiribati Adaptation Program Pilot Implementation Phase (KAPII - GEF)
- Proposal for National Water and Sanitation Coordination Committee
- Developed outline for national water policy focusing on *'affordable access to sustainable water supply and appropriate sanitation'*
- National water plan:



Kiribati Recommendations

- Approval of national water policy and legislation
 - Support Water Sector Committee (Water Resource Division of Mines and Energy)
 - Promote awareness and education
 - Provide capacity for local management of water supply schemes
 - Introduce a water benchmarking system to monitor sector performance
 - Cultivate donors
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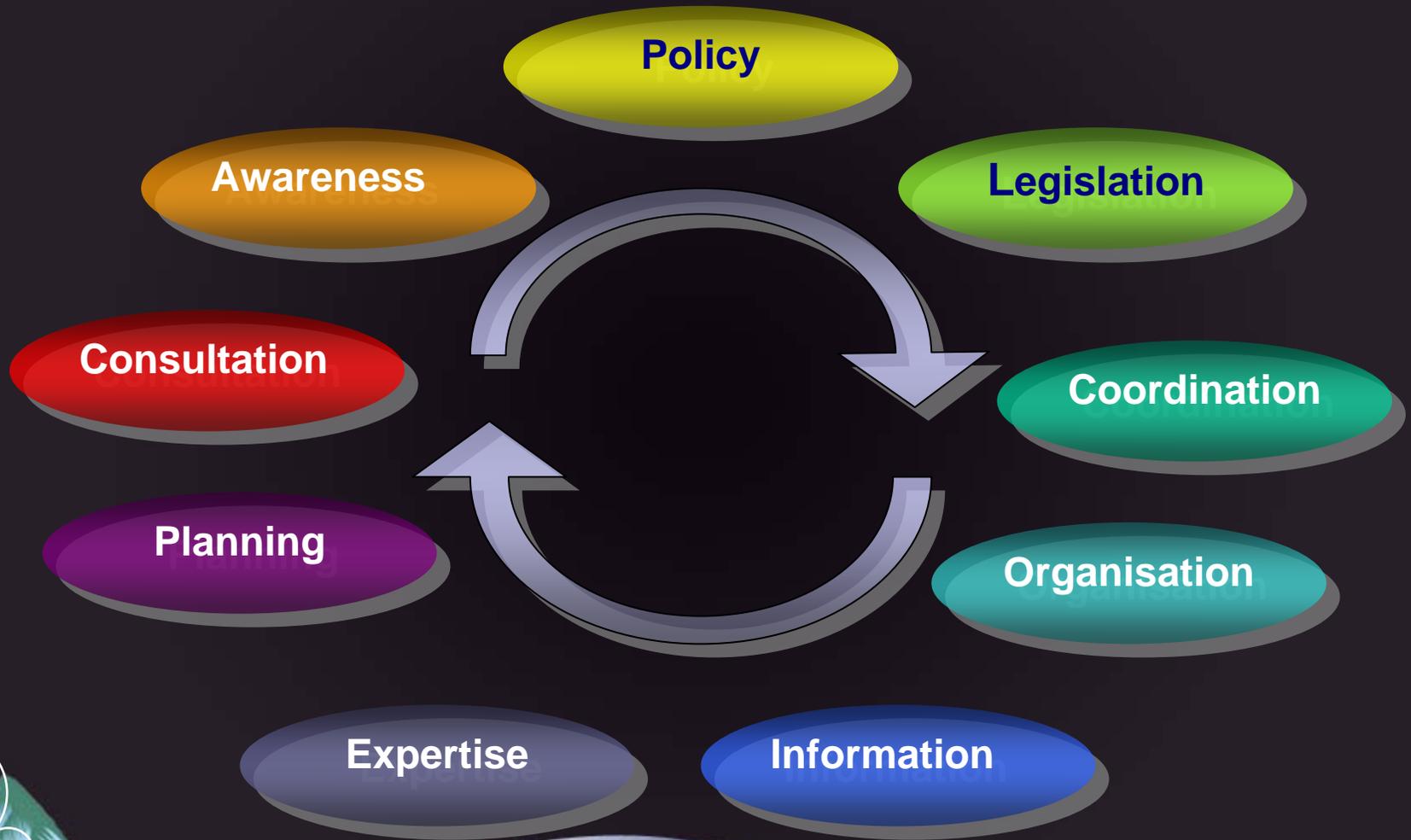
General issues

- Movement from or coexistence between subsistence societies and modernising urban societies
 - Need for water management framework that includes policy and legislation
 - Build on existing administrative capacity and assign clear responsibilities
 - Land ownership and water rights – can be very complex
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Where to next

- The pilots have covered an initial investigation and preliminary work on governance
- National frameworks have emerged as the key starting point
- Combined with consultation and improved awareness
- Developing the frameworks at national levels will ensure that local initiatives are more successful and sustainable

Water governance: links in the chain



National frameworks

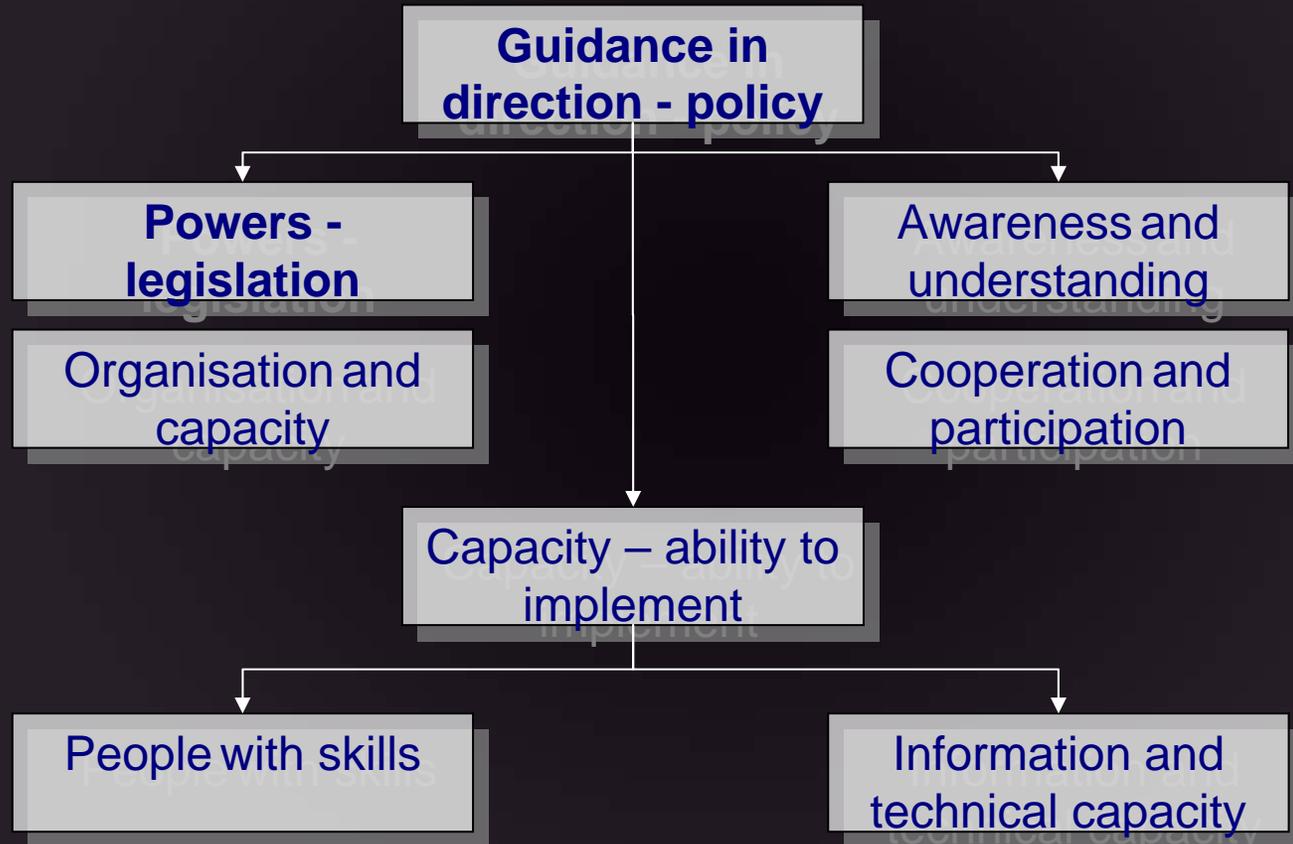
- Specific objectives and indicators for water management
- Develop policy at national level first and then at other levels
- Legislation particularly as regards:
 - water rights and land ownership
 - links between water management and other functions of government – environment management, development, disaster management



National framework requirements

- Key requirements are:
 - Policy direction at various levels, down to technical guidelines
 - Adequate legal powers
 - Organisation and assignment of responsibility
 - Technical information base
 - Technical capacity
 - Awareness and local responsibility
 - People to do things!!!!!!

Needs and constraints in the Pacific





Pacific Water Conference

Samoa September 9-11 2008

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The inaugural Pacific Water Conference will be held at Hotel Kitano Samoa, September 9 - 11, 2008. The conference will be a platform for water professionals in the Pacific to discuss the unique issues that face the island nations as well as an opportunity to increase their knowledge of benchmarking and the use of Delphi. At the same time there will be occasions to see some of the newest technology available at the exhibition. The Pacific Water Conference will be hosted by the Pacific Water Association.

Come and enjoy the knowledge, share your ideas and thoughts and enjoy the atmosphere that can only be felt in the Pacific.

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