

SPC and Pitcairn Islands Join Hands To Secure Reliable Water Supplies for Pitcairn Islanders

Written by Administrator

Saturday, 24 September 2011 10:02 - Last Updated Saturday, 24 September 2011 10:17



Pitcairn Islanders are experiencing longer, more severe periods of drought, as illustrated below. The effects can be devastating on many fronts, from crop production to drinking water consumption or fighting fires. Highly dependent on local water resources, the 48-strong population is fighting back, with the support of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

The objectives of this partnership are three-fold: (1) closely monitor the climate, the weather and water resources on the island; (2) utilise this knowledge to bolster the island's water catchment, storage, treatment and distribution capacity; and (3) enhance the island's water and meteorology governance arrangements.

This initiative falls under a larger regional project aimed at reducing disaster risk in Pacific overseas countries and territories, targeting Pitcairn Islands, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, and Wallis and Futuna. The project is managed by SPC's Applied Geoscience and Technology Division (SOPAC) and supported by the 9th European Development fund.

SPC's assistance follows a 10-day scoping mission to the island by SPC water and sanitation experts and falls under a comprehensive strategy to improve food and water security for the Pitcairn population. For the next 12 months, SPC, through its Applied Geoscience and Technology Division (SOPAC), will provide technical expertise and funding to support the Pitcairn Islands government to mitigate the risk of drought.

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~~For more information, please contact the Administrator, Pitcairn Islands, at evan@pitcairn.gov.fj or the SPC at secretary@spc.int.~~