Republic of Nauru
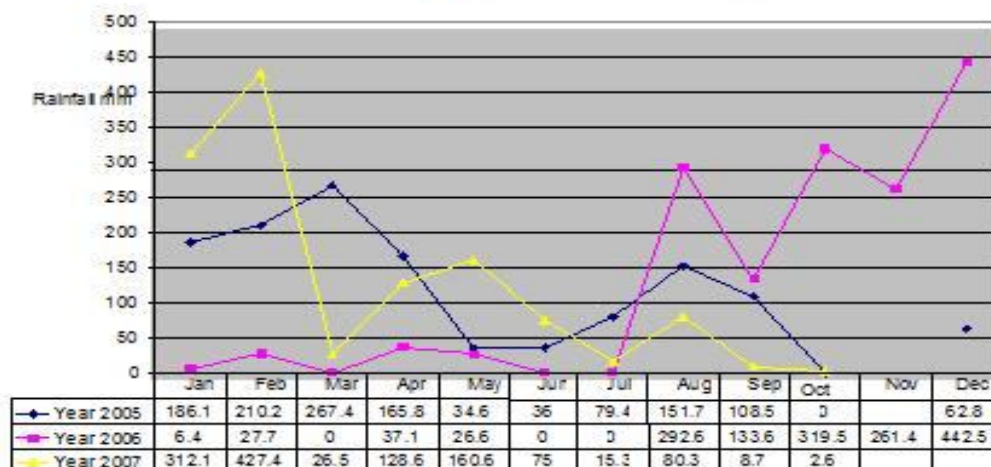## Department of Commerce, Industry & Environment

Linking PACC with National Sustainable Development Strategies

Water is a priority and strategic goal for the people of Nauru under the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS), with a medium term milestone, the Government targets by 2015 for an improved and sustainable access to water for the people by 50%.

Nauru is located in the dry belt of the equatorial oceanic zone and is subject to La Nina episodes, due to prevailing climate change, particularly the increasing periods of drought in Nauru over the last few years, water is becoming an increasingly scarce resource. Annual rainfall is extremely variable and able to range between 280mm to 4950mm per year. Prolonged droughts are common and have been recorded to extend out as long as nine years.

Figure 1 Average Monthly Rainfall Data of Three Years

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Year 2005	186.1	210.2	267.4	165.8	34.6	36	79.4	151.7	108.5	0		62.8
Year 2006	6.4	27.7	0	37.1	26.6	0	0	292.6	133.6	319.5	261.4	442.5
Year 2007	312.1	427.4	26.5	128.6	160.6	75	15.3	80.3	8.7	2.6		

Originally Nauru had a comprehensive water storage and distribution system of 71285 tonnes: 9 concrete distribution tanks (mainly at hospitals) at 4548 tonnes, 31 concrete catchment tanks (mainly at location) at 9729 tonnes, and 13 main steel tanks with a total capacity of 57009 tonnes. But throughout the many years of exposure to sea, air and non-maintenance due to insufficient funding has seen all but one of these steel storage tanks become unusable and the concrete catchment tanks being decommissioned. Today there is only one remaining useable water storage tank with a total capacity of 4,410 tonnes.

General brief on adaptation projects

1. In 1992 a multi-effect evaporative desalination unit with a capacity to produce 1200t of water per day was installed, however due to financial limitations and technical problems, currently it has not been operational. Since 2004, fresh water on Nauru has been provided from three Veolia reverse osmosis (RO) units. Each of these units is capable of producing around 120t of water per day.