

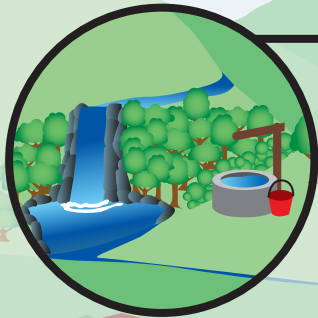
WE CAN BUILD RESILIENT WATER SYSTEMS

Climate change and natural hazards can threaten our water resources and our water security. Here are some ways to protect our water and build resilience.

PROTECT WATER SOURCES

- Look after natural water catchments and their ecosystems, 'from ridge to reef'
- Protect rivers and groundwater from polluting land uses and activities
- Use groundwater sparingly, especially during dry periods - pump at a sustainable rate to maintain quality and quantity
- Remember all water sources are important - groundwater, surface water, rainwater - so protect and maintain them all

Address the risk - Ensure that all relevant policy, planning and practice considers and responds to the water-related risks of climate change and disasters



Recognise and support the different roles of women, men, children, elderly and persons with disabilities in water resources management and water use decisions



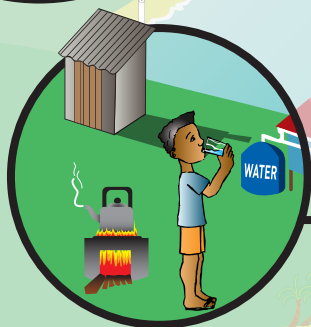
COLLECT AND USE WATER EFFICIENTLY

- Maximise roof catchment areas, and maintain gutters and rainwater tanks
- Don't waste potable water where non-potable water will suffice, for example for activities such as gardening
- Adopt water-saving technologies such as waterless toilets
- Reduce leakage, for example by fixing damaged pipes and connections (leakage rates of up to 70% are common in the Pacific)



PLAN FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER SOLUTIONS

- Involve all stakeholders in water management decisions, 'from community to cabinet'
- Encourage the use and replication of simple, robust and easily maintained technologies
- Build local capacity for monitoring and maintenance
- Plan now for future needs and pressures, including population growth and climate change



MAINTAIN SAFE WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

- Educate children and their caregivers on safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices
- Involve households and schools in keeping drinking water safe through boiling, disinfecting or filtering
- Maintain hand-washing facilities, including supplies of soap, to prevent the spread of disease
- Identify and mitigate threats to water quality with a drinking water safety and security plan

BE PREPARED

- Be aware of diminishing supplies by regular monitoring of water reserves
- Use weather monitoring and forecasting to plan for water conservation
- Adopt drought management plans that reduce water use when dry times are forecasted
- Develop and maintain contingency water supplies such as community cisterns
- Ensure that disaster preparedness policies and plans address water security and access to safe sanitation