



REGIONAL PROCESS SESSION DESCRIPTION FORM 2.

10TH WORLD WATER FORUM

Regional Session Code and Title:

RP11. Climate-resilient sanitation in Pacific Small Island Developing States

Regional Session Coordinators (Name, Position, Organization, email, mobile number):

Anita Walters, Strategy and Partnerships Lead, Australian Water Partnership
Anita.Walters@waterpartnership.org.au +61 458 045 524

Regional Session Description including objectives and expected outcomes (500 words maximum):

Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face a unique set of threats including sea level rise, frequent tropical cyclones, coastal inundation, and droughts. Pacific Leaders have repeatedly recognised the threat of climate change to the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of its people and Pacific Foreign Ministers declared a climate emergency in July 2022, calling on all development partners to prioritise climate action. The Pacific is also one of the most off track regions globally for meeting SDG6.2 - clean water and sanitation. About 70% of our Pacific population live without access to basic sanitation, and open defecation rates in Papua New Guinea are increasing faster than any other country in the world. The Pacific population is the world’s least urbanised, and establishment and maintenance of safe sanitation services is challenged by long distances, limited resources and services, and complex supply chains.

While the links between climate change and water are increasingly recognised, the links between climate change and sanitation have not received the same attention. Sanitation is essential for poverty alleviation, human and ecosystem health and underpins sustainable development and climate resilience. Current efforts to improve sanitation in the Pacific are not sufficient to address these challenges, and a step change is needed in both the level of investment and priority given to sanitation by decision makers at all levels, and by our region’s international partners in development and resilience. This session will examine opportunities to place sanitation within the framework of climate change to better focus on what is needed to meet SDG6 targets under changing climatic conditions. Participants will connect with Pacific representatives and hear local stories of resilient sanitation solutions, drawing on examples of community governance, traditional knowledge, adaptation planning, appropriate infrastructure, and sustainable financing (including access to climate financing).

Detailed Regional Session Plan:

| ESTIMATED TIMING | ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE | SPEAKERS |
|------------------|---|--|
| 0:00 - 5:00 | Introduction / Facilitator | Shreya Gyawali Australian Water Partnership |
| 5:00 - 20:00 | Successfully and sustainably implementing WASH through strengthening of subnational government. | Ms Shirlee Rovou WaterAid PNG |
| 20:00 - 35:00 | “Exploring the water and sanitation financing gap across the Pacific region” | Dr Tim Foster University of Technology Sydney |
| 35:00 - 50:00 | “Sanitation in the Pacific” | Neeta Pokhrel Asian Development Bank |
| 50:00 - 65:00 | Facilitated discussion linking session topics. Guided questions - interview style. | Alex Nash Asian Development Bank |



| | | |
|---------------|-----------------|--|
| 65:00 - 85:00 | Q&A | Alex Nash Asian Development Bank |
| 85:00 - 90:00 | Closing remarks | Shreya Gyawali Australian Water Partnership |