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# The Connection

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## In this issue:

<b>Programme Managers Message</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>About the PacWastePlus Programme</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>PacWastePlus Activities</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Programme Updates</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Country Corner</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Partner Programmes Updates</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Regional Waste News</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Spotlight</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>PacWastePlus Virtual Library</b>	<b>44</b>

## Disclaimer

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## Programme Steering Committee Meeting

The 2021 Programme Steering Committee Meeting was held as a virtual event (Zoom platform meeting) due to the continued travel restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic. Due to the online meeting format, the steering committee meeting was a focused 3.5-hour meeting that provided high level discussions on programme administration and activities.

The meeting provided the PacWastePlus programme team an opportunity to present a high-level summary of activities during 2020 and identified how the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic had delayed and slowed many activities, leading to the need to request a variation to the programme to account for these delays.

Country focal points provided updates on what their project were, core issues and the desired outcomes of their proposed projects. All country projects are designed and implemented by countries with support from the PMU. All focal points were also offered an opportunity for a 30-minute Zoom tri-lateral discussion with EU and the PacWastePlus Programme Manager to discuss issues, concerns and clarifications related to country projects.

In addition to Country Projects, Regional Projects are designed and implemented by the PMU to assist in the management of waste streams not covered under the Country Projects. Technical officers from the PMU provided an update on 10 regional projects that are currently under planning and development stages. The interactive virtual sessions also enabled participants to seek clarifications on country and regional project clarity and other administrative concerns. The Programme Management Unit (PMU) has been working continuously with all countries to develop country projects that will meet with the approval of the EU, and therefore enable the implementation of works in 2021.

We would like to thank all country focal points and representatives that participated and made the 2021 Steering Committee meeting meaningful and engaging. A detailed meeting report which provides a summary of discussions can be accessed from:

<https://www.sprep.org/attachments/Publications/WMPC/PWP/steering-committee-meeting-report.pdf>

## MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAMME MANAGER



Welcome to the first Edition of Connections for 2021! Although the world is still in the grip of the global pandemic, the team here in SPREP has continued to actively engage with member countries to progress PacWastePlus, the GEF/UNEP funded GEF ISLANDS project, and the AFD funded SWAP Project.

In this edition of the Connection we focus on the delivery of the regional Waste Management Legislative Assessment and showcase the ongoing activity of waste management activity throughout the Region.

A few weeks ago, the PacWastePlus Programme successfully hosted the second annual Programme Steering Committee Meeting. The Steering Committee meeting was held virtually, and provided an opportunity for countries to present their project focus, and the PacWastePlus PMU presented on the design and development of several Regional Projects to be included in the scope of programme activities. The Steering Committee Meeting was followed by a series of tri-lateral meetings enabling countries to discuss actions directly with the European Union and SPREP.

The last few months have also provided the opportunity for the PacWastePlus and GEF ISLANDS projects to integrate for greater assistance to the region. 11 of the 15 PacWastePlus participating countries have some level of project overlap, enabling programme teams to leverage work from each programme and to provide a more comprehensive outcome than would have been possible without the linkage. The exact details of project activity and linkage will continue to be developed over the next few months whilst the GEF ISLANDS project awaits formal approval from the GEF Secretariat.

On behalf of the PacWastePlus team, and SPREP's broader Waste Management & Pollution Control team, thank you for your continued engagement, and we wish you all a wonderful Easter.

**Bradley Nolan**  
PacWastePlus Programme Manager

## WORDS FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION'S DELEGATION TO THE PACIFIC



"Bula everyone and welcome to the first issue of The Connections for 2021.

We were all facing many challenges in 2020 and although some of them will continue for a while, we are very excited to see PacWastePlus countries to confirm their country project activities and move into the implementation phase.

The Steering Committee Meeting and the following tri-lateral discussions with the countries were very productive; they helped us address some open questions and progress smoothly to the next steps. The countries' enthusiasm for the project is very much appreciated, and shared by the European Union.

We look forward to seeing all of the projects develop this year, and feed into the broad regional outcomes that you all assisted to design into the PacWastePlus programme."

**Andreja VIDAL**  
Programme Manager and Acting Head of Section for Climate Change, Environment and Energy  
Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific



## ABOUT THE PACWASTEPLUS PROGRAMME

The impact of waste and pollution on sustainable development in the 15 Pacific countries is taking its toll on the health of Pacific communities, degrading natural ecosystems, threatening food security, impeding resilience to climate change and adversely impacting on social and economic development. The Pacific – European Union (EU) Waste Management Programme, PacWastePlus, a EUR 16.5 million programme, will generate improved economic, social, health and environmental benefits by enhancing existing activities and building capacity and sustainability into waste management practices.

### Priority Waste Streams

PWP is focussing efforts on the following priority waste streams:

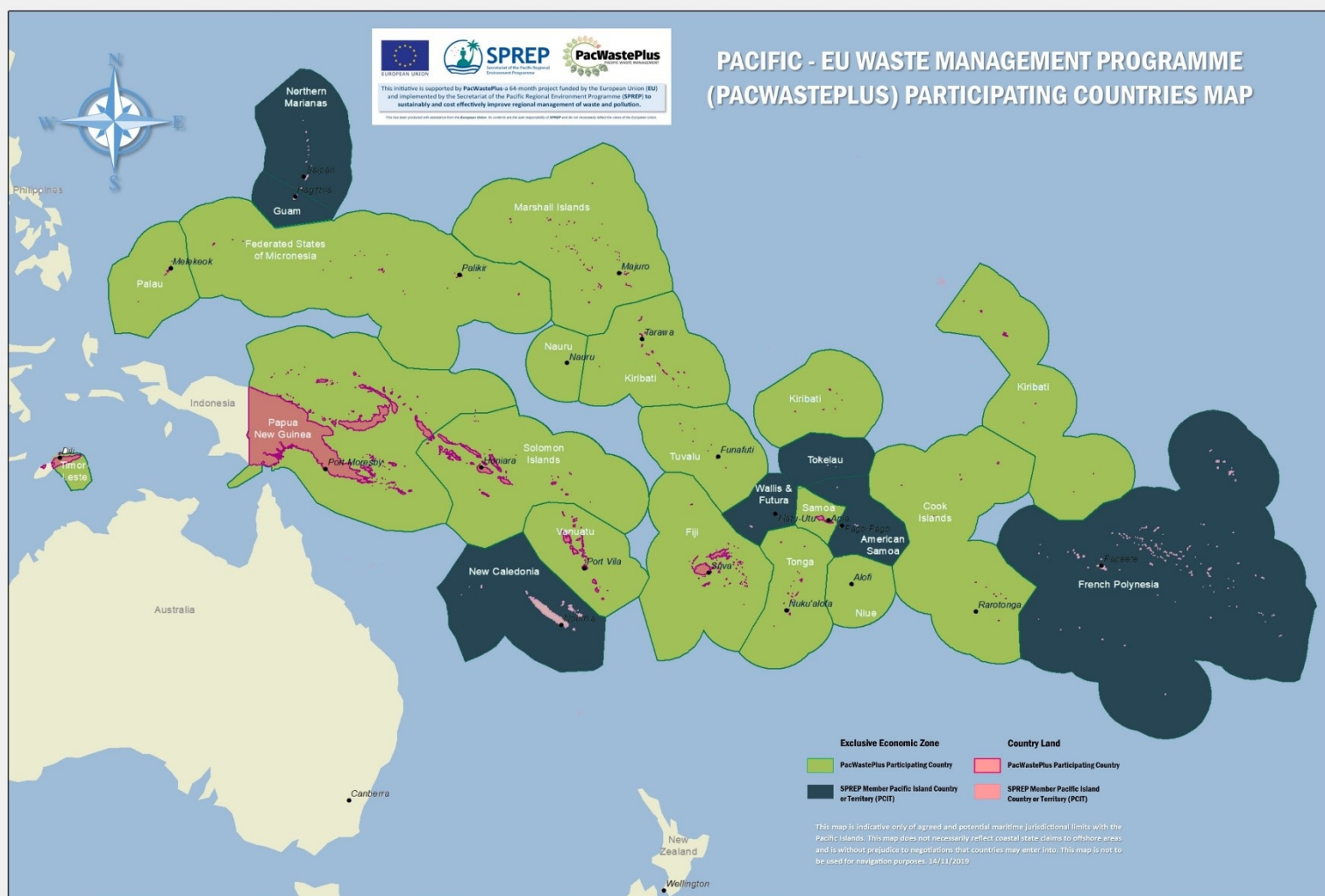
- hazardous wastes (specifically asbestos, E-waste and healthcare waste),
- solid wastes (specifically recyclables, organic waste, disaster waste and bulky waste) and
- Water impacted by solid waste

### Participating Countries

PacWastePlus is partnering with 15 countries to deliver positive social and environmental outcomes related from the effective management of waste in the Pacific: *Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu*. The activities are tailored to address the specific needs of each country based on their identified priorities.

### How will SPREP seek to facilitate PacWastePlus?

The programme brings together key organisations supporting waste and pollution sector in the region, with SPREP as the entrusted implementation agency. The Pacific Community (SPC) and the University of the South Pacific (USP) will be implementing partners contracted by SPREP for specific activities in line with their core expertise and responsibility. Additionally, PacWastePlus is partnering with numerous other development partners operating waste management projects in the region, to ensure no duplication of efforts or wasted resources.





## Legislative Assessment

PacWastePlus has invested heavily to undertake an assessment of the legislative environment that governs waste management throughout the participating PacWastePlus countries. The University of Melbourne was engaged to conduct the assessment in all countries. Unfortunately, due to the travel restrictions imposed by the global COVID-19 pandemic, travel to most countries was unable to be completed, and therefore the assessment was done through remote interviews and surveys.

The assessment process undertook a number of discrete activities:

1. Stocktake of existing legislation & pipeline legislation / policy / strategy activity.
2. Assessment of the legislative framework, and how well it addresses the management of waste streams included in the PacWastePlus programme.
3. Assessment of the capacity of each country to implement the framework they have established.

A series of Nationally focused reports have been published, along with a regionally focused report identifying key issues and opportunities related to the strengthening of legislative frameworks to continually improve the management of waste throughout the region.

It is noted, that there is presently no single international organisation or convention that establishes rules of general application for waste management, potentially creating conflicts and gaps and making it difficult to take a comprehensive global approach to the issue of waste management. The existing global framework has many limitations, including: (i) inattention to issues of waste generation and minimisation; (ii) lack of controls on land-based waste management; (iii) lack of specific support for re-use, recycling, and recovery operations; and (iv) limited inclusion of modern waste management concepts, such as the circular economy, cleaner production, and extended producer responsibility.

Several Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) have been developed to address the impacts of poor waste management, and the impacts caused by the transboundary movement of waste. All countries participating in the PacWastePlus programme are a member to at least one of the Waste focused MEAs (Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam, Minamata and Waigani Conventions) with the Stockholm Convention being the most extensively implemented throughout the region.

Assessments of the waste management and environmental management systems of countries suggest that membership to these MEAs is positively correlated with better performing waste legislation and enhanced implementation, perhaps due to the access to the capacity-building resources that membership of these conventions enables.

The barriers that exist to effective waste management in the Pacific and Timor-Leste include the lack opportunities for the export of recyclable and other wastes (leading to stockpiling in countries), lack of support to develop re-use and recovery operations to reduce pressure on limited land resources, gaps in capacity for drafting, carrying out and enforcing waste management laws effectively.

The Assessment considers the relevant requirements applying to waste management under international and regional conventions and non-binding 'soft law' instruments, their alignment to the needs of the PacWastePlus participating countries, and common gaps and challenges that arise that might be the basis for developing regionally harmonised approaches. Several options for regionally led approaches to address the gaps and opportunities for a regional legislative framework are identified in the report, including the development of technical guidance, model laws and compliance/enforcement training to build a foundation of skills, knowledge, and capacity for waste governance across the region.

These more achievable steps are likely to be required before initiating more ambitious efforts to realise regional agreements (such as: supporting the export of recyclables off-island to overseas markets; establishing regional waste management facilities that can provide a hub for recycling or waste re-use and recovery; or accomplishing plans for modular waste-to-energy systems operated across several countries or by a central cooperative with one country acting as a host).

PacWastePlus and SPREP will commence discussions with International Development Donors regarding the opportunities for greater investment into the gaps and opportunities identified through this assessment.

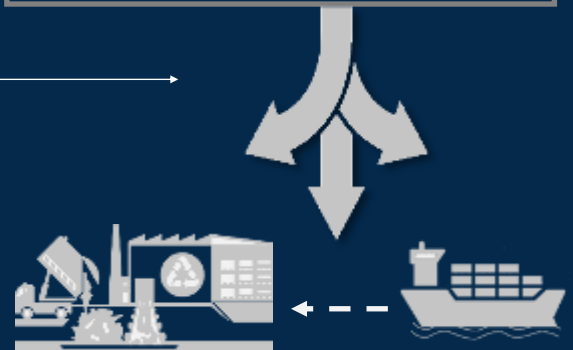
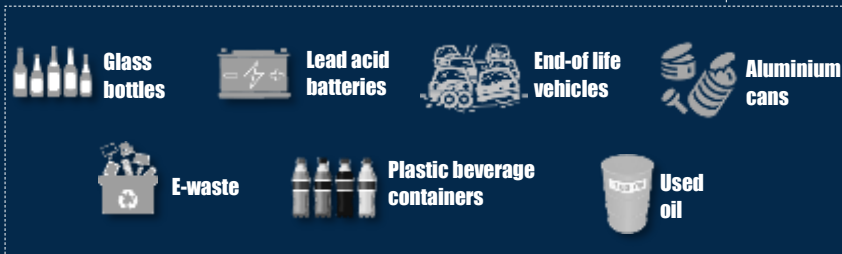
Copies of the reports can be sourced from the PacWastePlus website: <https://www.sprep.org/pacwaste-plus>





**Many Pacific Island Countries have undertaken collections of commonly recovered products, such as:**

**Pacific Island Countries are seeking opportunities for waste commodities to be sent from the region, to a recovery or disposal**



## Expressions of Interest – Solutions for Waste Management

As we know, Pacific Island Countries are faced with the increasing issue of stockpiles of solid waste, hazardous waste, and low-value recyclable materials. These items are imported into our islands as consumer goods and packaging, building materials, household items, vehicles, electronics, etc. But once they have passed their useful life, we are faced with limited viable options for their recycling in-country or exporting to recycling markets.

As such, the items often get disposed in overflowing landfills, unlined dumps, and vacant land, posing a potential hazard to human health and the environment.

To connect member countries with potential solutions and opportunities to consider for the recycling and management of these items, PacWastePlus is establishing two databases:

### 1. Database of Overseas recycling companies able to receive certain waste/recyclable items from Pacific islands

This database:

- will provide a list of companies (both within and external to the region) who are certified and able to accept waste/recyclable products from PICs for appropriate recovery or approved disposal.
- will help with identifying possible markets for waste products.

### 2. Database of technology solutions for the In-Country management or recycling of waste/recyclable items

The database:

- will provide a list of proven technology providers that may be able to provide in-country management solutions (i.e., technology for collecting and processing waste products to enable export), or recycling (i.e., technology for recycling or processing/converting item into a new product that has value in region) for various waste/recyclable items.
- will help identify technology suitable to recycle problem wastes

Before listing on either database, PacWastePlus will verify certain criteria for each technology such as where it is currently in operation, what waste types it can manage and volumes/throughput, power requirements and consumption, spare parts, environmental emissions, staff requirements and training, etc.

This verification will ensure technologies on the list is proven and suitable for the pacific context, enabling countries to make informed decisions prior to investing in new infrastructure. Noting that inclusion on the database is not an endorsement of their product or technology, just that we have been made aware the technology exists.

## PacWastePlus Work on the go!

The PacWastePlus Programme Management Unit is currently working on several project with members. We have compiled a quick summary of activity for your information

Key Result Area	Activity	Status	Lead Officer	Date
<b>KRA 1 – Data, Information and Education</b>	EOI-Recovery and Recycling	EOI released and website page being developed to communicate outcomes	Crystal Shwenke	Webpage to be live April 2021
	EOI-Waste Technology	EOI released and website page being developed to communicate outcomes	Crystal Shwenke	Webpage to be live April 2021
	Waste Audits	Waste audits planned and scheduled for delivery	Sainimili Bulai	All Audits completed by May 2021
	Research into alternatives for disposable diapers	Contractor engaged, contract signed	Hilary Boyes	Research to be undertaken between April – July 2021
	Research into used tyre management	ToR under released for response	Sainimili Bulai	Research to be undertaken between April – June 2021
	Research into landfill impacts	ToR under released for response	Sainimili Bulai	11 <sup>th</sup> January – 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2021
	Regional Education and Awareness Plan	Plan under internal review and finalization	Nitish Narayan	April 2021
<b>KRA 2 – Legislative Frameworks</b>	Feasibility Study of Advance Recovery Fee in Kiribati	Work to commence in April	Hilary Boyes	July 2021
	Feasibility Study of Advance Recovery Fee in Nauru	Work to commence in April	Hilary Boyes	July 2021
	Feasibility Study of Advance Recovery Fee in Niue	Work to commence in April	Hilary Boyes	July 2021
	Feasibility Study of Advance Recovery Fee in Solomon Islands	Work to commence in April	Hilary Boyes	July 2021
	Feasibility Study of Advance Recovery Fee in Vanuatu	Work to commence in April	Hilary Boyes	July 2021
	Development of legislative drafting note to implement an Asbestos Containing Material importation ban	Contracts being negotiated	Lance Richman	May 2021
	Development of a Regional Asbestos Containing Material Code of Practice	Contracts being negotiated	Lance Richman	May 2021
<b>KRA 3 – On-ground Activities</b>	Healthcare Waste Management Training and Resource Manual	Materials revised and currently being designed. Assessing the possibility of creating on-line training modules	Lance Richman	April 2021
	Developing Country Projects	All 15 countries finalising country project plans	Hilary Boyes Lance Richman Sainimili Bulai	Ongoing
	Healthcare Waste Incinerator Assessments	Assessments Completed	Lance Richman	February 2021
	Healthcare Incinerator maintenance (specific units)	Contractor awaiting signing of MOUs and lifting of travel restrictions	Lance Richman	TDB
<b>KRA 4 – Capacity Building</b>	Waste Management National Capacity Needs Analysis	USP have completed undertaking country consultations. Country reports and final synthesis report under internal review. Next stages of country need based training course to be developed	Nitish Narayan	On-going
	Design of webinar series for 2021	A series of webinars are currently under development and includes topics such as Project Design Thinking, Sustainable Financing Solutions for Waste Management, Asbestos Management and Disaster Waste Management Planning	Nitish Narayan	July 2021





## KEY RESULT AREA 1 – DATA, INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

### Progress on Regional Waste Audits

PacWastePlus is focused on supporting evidence-based decision making through the collection and analysis of contemporary data. National waste audits are either scheduled or have occurred in the 15 participating PacWastePlus countries, using a standard Waste Audit Methodology.

The funding of audits is being shared by several donor programmes :

Country	Donor	Audit Status
Cook Islands	ADB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical Audit completed.</li> <li>Outcome Report currently being finalised.</li> </ul>
Federated States of Micronesia	PacWastePlus and POLP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audits completed in Chuuk and Pohnpei.</li> <li>Kosrae and Yap audits are expected to wrap up by 10<sup>th</sup> April 2021</li> </ul>
Fiji	ADB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit is ongoing. There was a delay following the Tropical Cyclones experienced late 2020 and early 2021.</li> </ul>
Kiribati	World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit Training Completed.</li> </ul>
Nauru	PacWastePlus and POLP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit training completed.</li> <li>Audit Completed</li> <li>Audit report currently being finalised (SPREP/ Consultant).</li> </ul>
Niue	PacWastePlus and POLP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit Training completed</li> <li>Audit Completed with follow up interview expected to be completed by 26<sup>th</sup> March.</li> </ul>
Palau	UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit Report published.</li> </ul>
Papua New Guinea	PacWastePlus and POLP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste Audit training for local officers completed.</li> <li>Physical audit completed for POM. Report awaiting the outcome of the audit in Alotau and LAE done by JICA.</li> </ul>
Samoa	World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit Completed in March 2020. Final Report yet to be circulated for review.</li> </ul>
Solomon Islands	PacWastePlus and POLP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit will be undertaken by local officers trained under the CEFAS, CLiP audit in 2018.</li> <li>Audit will focus on landfill, stockpile, and custom data.</li> <li>Finalisation of Audit Plan ongoing. Audit planned to commence in the first week of April 2021.</li> </ul>
Timor-Leste	PacWastePlus and POLP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit Plan and logistic planning ongoing.</li> <li>A sub-consultant will be engaged to coordinate works on the ground to assist with current language barrier.</li> </ul>
Tonga	World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit Training completed</li> <li>Audit currently underway.</li> </ul>
Tuvalu	ADB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit Report published.</li> </ul>
Vanuatu	PacWastePlus and POLP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit Training Completed</li> <li>Audit Completed.</li> <li>Finalisation of report underway (SPREP/Consultant)</li> </ul>

Copies of the completed audit reports (once published) can be accessed through the Inform Country Portals.

Once all audits are completed, PacWastePlus will engage a data analysis and waste specialist to analyse all results to assist with building a regional prospectus for waste management.

## Human Rights Literature Review

There is currently little literature specifically on the issue of human rights and waste management in the Pacific region.

PacWastePlus has undertaken an initial step to fill this gap - to understand how waste-related concerns may have differentiated issues and impacts based on non-discrimination and equality factors such as gender, race, ethnicity, and age.

A literature review was undertaken to, firstly, gain an understanding of how human rights is impacted (both positively and negatively) by waste management.

The research utilised reports and documents to identify how issues of human rights, equality and cultural awareness are currently being considered and incorporated into waste and environmental programme management.

PacWastePlus is using information gathered from this literature review to ensure country projects embed elements of human rights, equality and cultural awareness.

The PacWastePlus programme intends to build on this information using results from an online survey completed in October/ November 2020, to provide options and tailored direction for each country on how human rights, equality and cultural awareness can be incorporated in and strengthened by future waste and environmental projects.



## Situational Analysis of Human Rights Issues in the Waste Management Sector: Literature Review

February 2021



This literature review considers the many issues and elements related to waste management and human rights as they relate to both substantive rights, and progressive realisation of rights.

The literature review is available on the [PacWastePlus publications website](https://library.sprep.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/situational-analysis-human-rights-waste-management.pdf) - <https://library.sprep.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/situational-analysis-human-rights-waste-management.pdf>

## KEY RESULT AREA 2 – LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS

### PacWastePlus continuing engagements in Legislation and Policy to address Asbestos Containing Materials

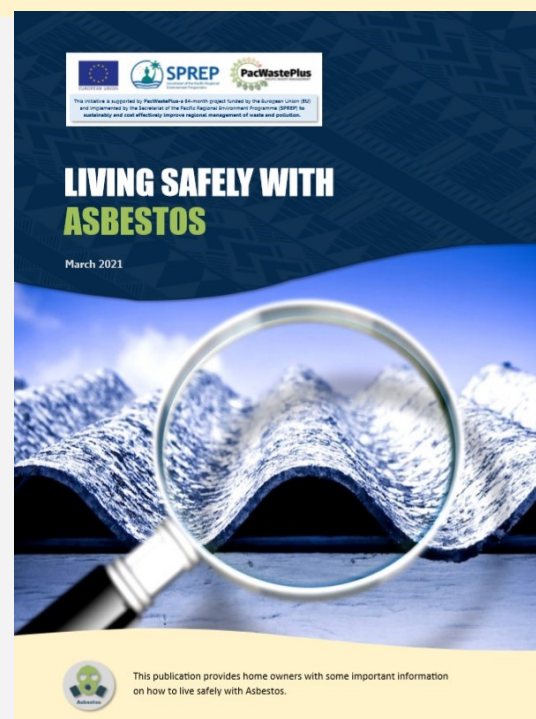
Asbestos is a major issue for many Pacific Island countries (PIC) with a history of use of asbestos-containing materials (ACM) in construction. Asbestos has been classified as a known human carcinogen (a substance that causes cancer) and inhalation of asbestos fibres that have become airborne can cause asbestos-related diseases such as mesothelioma, asbestosis, and lung cancer. serious lung disease.

The PacWastePlus programme is seeking to develop a toolbox containing resources to support PICs to mitigate and eventually eliminate ACM and its impact on human health and the environment.

The first resource to be developed is the creation of an Asbestos Ban Policy Note (and supporting documents), that will guide PIC in their drafting and execution of legislation and regulations to ban the manufacture, use, reuse, import, transport, storage or sale of all forms of asbestos and asbestos containing materials.

The second instrument is an ACM code of practice (ACOP), tailored for use in PIC on how to manage, control, and if needed safely remove and transport ACM. The ACOP provides specific guidance on (1) identifying asbestos and ACM, (2) determining whether removal is the best control option and, if removing asbestos is not the most appropriate action to take, (3) implementing other control measures that eliminate or minimise the risk of exposure with airborne asbestos fibers.

This ACOP sets guidelines on safe remove, handle and transport asbestos and ACM, and provides further guidance for asbestos abatement crews to minimizing the exposure of workers and other persons to airborne asbestos.



While the PacWastePlus program is undertaking this work, we continue to provide guidance and publications e.g., [Living safely with Asbestos](#), on relevant ACM options and techniques to mitigate and reduce the impact of ACM on human health and the environment in our island communities.



## 5 Advanced Recovery Deposit & Fee projects country work

Kiribati\*, Nauru, Niue, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu have recently requested PacWastePlus assistance to complete an Options Analysis and Implementation Plan to support the development of an [Advanced Recovery Deposit & Fee](#) (ARFD) Legislation. A further three countries - Cook Islands, Republic of the Marshall Islands\*, and Samoa - completed a similar assessment in 2020.

The ARFD Options Analysis and Implementation Plan will complete research and provide options for the development of an appropriate ARFD system and legislation for each country.

The Options Analysis / Implementation Plan will provide guidance on:

- What items would make sense to be included in / added to an ARFD system (i.e., beverage containers, e-waste, EOL vehicles, etc)?
- What are the recommended starting 'deposit' and 'fee' (i.e., handling/admin) fee for selected ARFD item?
- What are the options for ARFD system operation and administration, including operation of redemption centres / collection depots for the buy-back of ARFD items
- What are the key principles to guide the implementation of ARFD legislation
- How can ARFD legislation fit into the existing legal environment, including what legislation/reforms will be necessary to be established, modified, or repealed.

The Options Analysis / Implementation Plan for each of the five countries is planned to commence after Easter and each country's individual study will run for approximately three months. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to designing an ARFD.

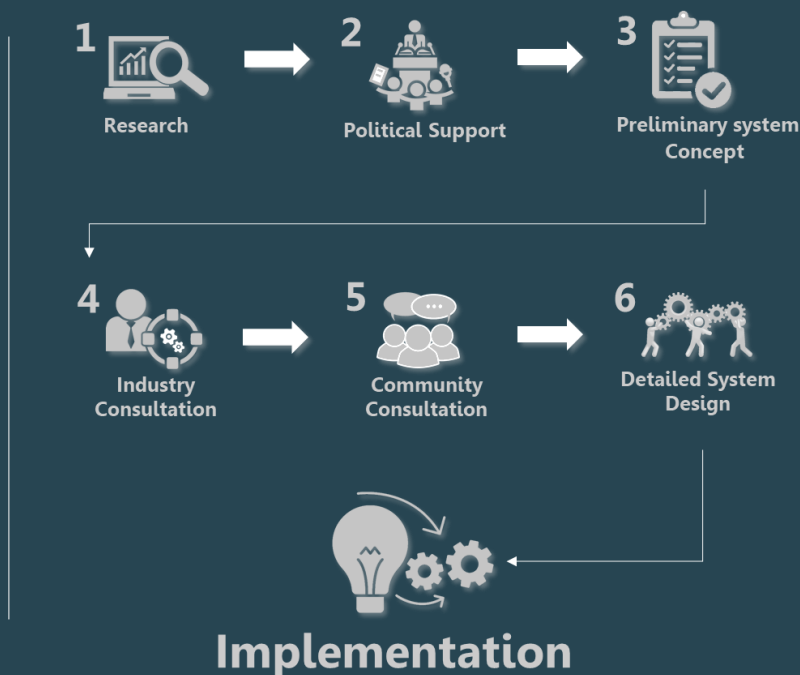
However, PacWastePlus will adapt the general process and key decision-points from the review provided to the eight countries, coupled with learnings from other country experience and JPRISM II, to develop a **decision support tool/guidance**. This tool will **assist countries to design their own individual ARFD systems to suit their own unique context**. If you would like more information or to request PacWastePlus KRA2 legislative support to complete a similar review (or any other legislative activity) contact Hilary or any of the PacWastePlus team.

\* = already have existing CDL, this review targeted to understand feasibility to expand to include additional items such as vehicles, e-waste, and whiteware).

## Why implement Advanced Recovery Fee & Deposit Systems ?



## How to design and Implement a Advanced Recovery Fee & Deposit Systems ?



## KEY RESULT AREA 3– ON-GROUND ACTIVITIES

### Country Project Development

### Cook Islands – Advance Recovery Fee



Solid waste management is a serious issue in the Cook Islands due to land scarcity, proximity to the ocean and a very small economic base.

Through this proposal, the Cook Islands seeks to utilise PacWaste Plus funds for expert consultant assistance, equipment and facilities, and seed money to implement the ARFD.



#### Current situation

Currently we rely primarily on disposal of waste to landfill but the amount of waste we are now receiving is exceeding our landfills capacity and to continue to dispose waste to landfill has significant costs, both environmental and financial. **Our focus now needs to be on reducing solid waste to landfill.**

#### Future situation

We see an **ARFD** as a way to improve the collection, management and recycling of waste entering our nation, offering a way to ensure its long-term self-sustaining management no longer completely reliant on variable government funding.



#### Outcomes

#### At the end of the project, we seek to have:

- Have the ARFD system approved to provide long-term funding for effective management of target waste streams
- Have an updated Customs database and Customs staff able to effectively identify ARFD products and collect the Fee / Deposit
- Have the Resource Recovery Centre furnished with the tools and equipment to allow for long-term collection, processing and export of target recyclable waste
- Have the ARFD system operating effectively (Rarotonga and Pa Enua) – and providing opportunity to all members of the community to participate and generate income through redemption of products
- In combination with GEF ISLANDS, have other legacy waste items (cans, bottles, vehicles, etc) cleaned-up and removed from the Cook Islands through the use of seed funding
- Have a Recovery and Recycling industry which provides equal opportunity employment for women and men, and those that have a physical or mental disability



#### How will we Measure?

#### We will prove success by measuring:

- New ARFD legislation approved, adopted and running effectively, achieving a recycle rate of 40% year 1; 50% year 2; 60% year 3
- Customs system operating effectively, capturing 65% of target items in year 1; 80% year 2; 100% year 5
- Equipment (TBD) installed, operational and running effectively, including the enactment of a maintenance plan and achieving less than 10% down-time
- Percentage recycling – i.e.,: # items imported
- Number of items collected and exported
- 50% year 1; 70% year 2; 90% year 5
- Monitoring social data of who is utilising system and providing changes if necessary
- Number (TBD) of items collected, processed and exported from the Cook Islands
- ICI recruitment process to offer equal employment opportunity for all.



## Country Project Development

### Federated States of Micronesia – Improving Organic Waste Management in Chuuk and Yap



The project will **divert Organic Waste** in Weno (Chuuk) and Colonia (Yap), from landfills.



Introduce an Organic Waste Management project that will **collect organic wastes from communities**.



Collected organic waste is processed into **valuable compost** to support local agricultural activities.



#### Outcomes

At the end of the project, we seek to have:

- Organic processing facilities and equipment operational to allow for effective collection and processing of Organic waste in Weno and Colonia
- Reduce volume of organic wastes being landfilled – to reduce land, water and air pollution
- Have all households participating in the Organic Processing Programme by segregating organic waste for collection by local authorities.
- Have an Organic Processing Programme that enables equal participation of local population regardless of gender, physical or mental disability.
- Compost from the processing facilities is being utilised to improve agricultural production



#### How will we Measure?

We will prove success by measuring:

- Volume of compost produced from the facility
- Quarterly landfill audits identify the decrease in the volume of organic waste disposed at the landfill.
- % households undertaking waste segregation
- Awareness on the organic waste management programme is advertised on various media platforms.
- Local communities are utilising compost produced from the processing facilities.

## Country Project Development

### Fiji – Improving Organic Waste Management



#### Current Situation

Fiji's project will focus on **improving Organic Waste management in informal settlements and villages.**



The project will assess existing composting programmes and **design suitable composting programme for identified communities.**



#### Future Situation

The project is designed to **minimise waste and support local agricultural activities.**



#### Outcomes

#### At the end of the project, we seek to have:

- All Organic waste generated at targeted communities are composted effectively, thereby eliminating land and water contamination.
- Composting facilities established to process organic waste collected from targeted communities.
- Awareness activities facilitated for community members.
- Targeted communities are participating in the new programme by segregating organic waste for collection.
- Establish a market for compost produced through the organic waste management project.



#### How will we Measure?

#### We will prove success by measuring:

- Composting programme effectively capture and process organic wastes from targeted communities.
- Facility constructed and handed over to Ministry of Environment.
- Community members are well informed of the new organic waste management programme.
- Random household audits confirm no organic matter in household waste collected for landfilling.
- Department of Agriculture is supportive of the project and assist in the supply of compost to local farmers.



## Country Project Development

### Kiribati – Addressing legacy Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM) on Banaba Island through sound disposal and establishing appropriate legislation and policies including training to eliminate the import of ACM



A regional asbestos survey was undertaken by the PacWaste Project, “An Asbestos Free Pacific: A Regional Strategy and Action Plan 2011”; Kiribati was one of the countries involved in this study.



In addition, a focused study was undertaken for Banaba Island in 2014. Most of the buildings on the island were surveyed, and approximately 30 were sampled for the presence of ACM. A preliminary estimate on volume of **ACM on the island easily exceeded 1,000 m3.**



We seek to meaningfully engage in the management of ACM on Banaba Island with the **goal of ultimately removing from the island this risk to human health and the environment.**



#### Outcomes

#### At the end of the project, we seek to have:

- Adopted appropriate regulations and/or policy to eliminate the importation of asbestos and ACM into Kiribati
- Strengthened the capacity of local Customs, and other government officials, to carry out ACM identification and enforce the ACM Regulations/Policies adopted.
- Executed removal and disposal of ACM from sites prioritized as high risk
- A Strategic Plan for long-term management of ACM in Kiribati.



#### How will we Measure?

#### We will prove success by measuring:

- The adoption and enactment of the asbestos ban regulation
- Number of trained personnel that undertook the training, and
- 5 Year review of Import/Export data to ensure that no new ACM has been imported into the country.
- Number and volume of buildings where asbestos has been abated in Banaba, and
- yearly report on the status of abatement actions for Banaba Islands consistent and as defined in the Action Plan.
- Field study report identifying high risks ACM sites released, and
- Strategic Plan for the long and short-term management and removal of Asbestos developed

#### Kiribati PacWaste Activities Closure - Incinerator Repairs

Under the direction of the European Union, PacWastePlus is providing corrective actions and repairs for to the Tungaru hospital, deployed by the PacWaste project. PacWastePlus has engaged a consultant to undertake the repair work, but the activity cannot be completed until the current travel restrictions are lifted.

## Country Project Development

### Nauru – Addressing Legacy ACM in Nauru through disposal best practice and establishing appropriate legislation and policies for the elimination of the importation of ACM



#### Current Situation

Previous asbestos survey from the PacWaste Project included Nauru. There is **substantial quantity of asbestos discovered, estimated 212,000 m2 primarily in the form of asbestos-cement in roofing and cladding and stockpiles of waste.**



It is estimated that it will **cost about USD\$17.3 million to free Nauru of asbestos** (not including cleaning up contaminated sites).



#### Future Situation

We recognise the PacWastePlus budget of USD\$300,000 is only a fraction of the required amount, however it is essential for this fund to be meaningfully engaged in the management of ACM with the **goal of ultimately removing from Nauru of the high risk to human health and the environment.**



#### Outcomes

##### At the end of the project, we seek to have:

- Established legislation to ban the importation of new ACM into Nauru – eliminating the long-term health and pollution risks.
- Established Code of Conduct for Asbestos in Nauru.
- Executed packaging, labelling and offsite shipment of containers of ACM off Island.
- Have trained Customs officials who can confidently identify and capture Asbestos prior to it entering the country.
- Have trained individuals with relevant skills to safely execute asbestos abatement (safe handling and disposal).



#### How will we Measure?

##### We will prove success by measuring:

- Asbestos ban legislation approved by parliament.
- Code of Conduct finalised and approved.
- # of shipping containers of ACM shipped.
- # Customs staff provided with relevant resources and training.
- No occurrences of Asbestos entering the country.
- All individuals and staff trained.
- # individuals trained in ACM handling and disposal.

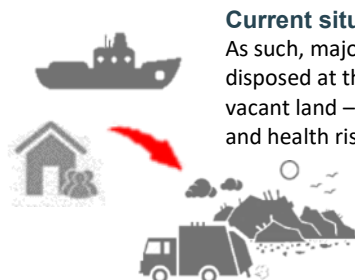
## Country Project Development

### Niue – Sustainable Management of Waste



Niue, like many Pacific Island Countries (PICs), is faced with the increasing issue of **waste filling dumpsites and stockpiles of low-value recyclable materials**. Items are imported into Niue but there are limited viable options for their management and/or export.

We seek for the PacWastePlus supported project to be developed in combination with the Australian Government-funded Recycle Facility, the GEF ISLANDS, and the Ridge-to-Reef projects to develop and implement a “Plan for the Sustainable Management of Waste in Niue”



#### Current situation

As such, majority of items imported are disposed at the main dumpsite or stockpiled on vacant land – causing environmental pollution and health risks.

#### Future situation

We seek for Niue to become a frontrunner in the management of waste, by having an effective solution for the collection and recycling of each item before it is imported.



#### Outcomes

#### At the end of the project, we seek to have:

- Have a “Niue Waste Management Strategy & Action Plan” approved and operational – giving viable options for management of each waste item entering Niue and a sustainable financing system approved to provide long-term funding for effective management of target waste streams.
- Have an updated Customs database and Customs staff able to effectively identify sustainable financing products and collect the Fee / Deposit and have the sustainable financing system operating effectively – and providing opportunity to all members of the community to participate and generate income through redemption of products.
- Have the new Austral Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFaT) funded waste facility (currently under construction) furnished with the tools and equipment to allow for long-term collection, processing and export of electronic waste.
- Have legacy electronic waste currently in stockpiles and dumps in a variety of locations around Niue cleaned-up and removed from Niue.
- Have DOE staff and other stakeholders trained in effective processing, dismantling and export of electronic waste through on-the-job training during clean-up and export of legacy electronic waste, in combination with DFaT and GEF ISLANDS, have other legacy waste items (cans, bottles, vehicles, etc) cleaned-up and removed from Niue.
- Have clear and effective communications provided to communities to enhance participation in effective electronic waste management, including in the sustainable financing system.
- Have a Recovery and Recycling industry which provides equal opportunity employment for women and men, and those that have a physical or mental disability.



#### How will we Measure?

#### We will prove success by measuring:

- New “Niue Waste Management Strategy & Action Plan” approved and built into standard DOE operations.
- New “Advance Recovery” legislation approved, adopted and running effectively, achieving a recycle rate of 40% year 1; 50% year 2; 60% year 3.
- Customs system operating effectively, capturing 65% of target items in year 1; 80% year 2; 100% year 5
- Percentage recycling – i.e. # items imported and Number of items collected and exported.
- 50% year 1; 70% year 2; 90% year 5
- Monitoring social data of who is utilising system and providing changes if necessary.
- Tools and equipment (TBD) installed, operational and running effectively, including the enactment of a maintenance plan and achieving less than 10% down-time.
- ~70m2 of legacy items collected, processed, and exported from Niue and DOE staff trained in effective electronic waste dismantling and export, achieving a recycle rate of 40% year 1; 50% year 2; 60% year 3, and Number (TBD) of items collected, processed and exported from Niue and DOE recruitment process to offer equal employment opportunity .

#### Niue

##### Asbestos Abatement

PacWastePlus, as directed by the European Union, is completing the asbestos removal activity commenced by PacWaste Niue’s asbestos pilot. The work under contract is:

- ACM abatement through the removal and disposal of ACM – asbestos lagging - from six (6) bitumen tanks located at the Old Quarry Pit (Kaimiti) and at the Huihui Temporary Recycling Centre, and
  - Packaging, shipment and disposal of ACM stored in bags located at the Huihui temporary recycling centre and at the Niue warehouse facility.
- At the present time a Contractor is being procured and work will begin once travel restrictions under the COVID19 pandemic are lifted.



## Country Project Development

### Republic of Palau – Improving the Management of End-Of-Life Tyres



Palau currently has a **high volume of End-Of-Life Tyres (EOLT)**, including **shredded tyres, stockpiled** at the M-Dock.



**Exporting** of EOLT out of Palau for Environment Sound Management is **very expensive**.



Palau chooses to utilise the PacWastePlus investment to establish a **programme that will repurpose EOLT in-country**.



#### Outcomes

**At the end of the project, we seek to have:**

- Empower local authority to draft a legislation that allow for the management of End-Of-Life Tyre.
- Introduce a national EOLT repurposing programme that effectively manage existing EOLT stockpile and future EOLT generated in Palau.
- Training for Enforcement Officers and Awareness to Tyre Retailers



#### How will we Measure?

**We will prove success by measuring:**

- Management Structure for EOLT management established in the country
- Policy Note for Legal Drafting supplied to Government's Legal Drafters
- Equipment Procured and facility set up to effectively process EOLT for reuse in the infrastructure industry.
- Training Facilitated for local offers, Training Manual Produced

#### Palau PacWaste Activities Closure - Incinerator Repairs

Under the direction of the European Union, PacWastePlus is providing corrective actions and repairs on the Belau hospital incinerator deployed by the PacWaste project.

PacWastePlus has engaged a consultant to undertake the repair work, but the activity cannot be completed until the current travel restrictions are lifted.

## Country Project Development

### Papua New Guinea – Environmental sound management of Hazardous Waste: Asbestos, E-waste, and Healthcare waste



**Hazardous waste management** is a challenge in Papua New Guinea where exposure to toxic substances and chemicals have adverse impacts on public health and the environment.

We seek with this project to provide a holistic approach to hazardous waste management through the development of:



To help PNG achieve environmental, economic, social, and health benefits.



Outcomes

At the end of the project, we seek to have:

- Established a Strategic Plan for long-term management of ACM in PNG.
- Established a Code of Practice for the safe handling and disposal of ACM in PNG.
- Established a National E-waste Management Strategy.
- Established a Healthcare waste management policy and guideline.
- Have trained Customs officials who can identify and capture Asbestos prior to it entering the country.
- Have trained individuals with relevant skills to safely execute asbestos abatement (safe handling and disposal).
- Have trained CEPA & other officials certified to provide specialised e-waste dismantling training.
- Establish legislation to ban importation of new ACM into PNG – eliminating long-term health and pollution risks.



How will we Measure?

We will prove success by measuring:

- Completed baseline assessment of asbestos in PNG.
- Strategic Plan for the management and removal of Asbestos developed and adopted.
- Code of Practice finalised and adopted.
- Completed feasibility study of the potential for e-waste recycling and recovery fees.
- Strategic Plan for the management of e-waste developed and adopted.
- Policy adopted and Asbestos ban legislation adopted.
- Number of Customs staffs provided with relevant resources and training with no occurrences of ACM entering country.
- Number of individuals trained in ACM handling and disposal and officials certified to provide dismantling training.

## Country Project Development

### Republic of the Marshall Islands – Combined PacWastePlus / GEF ISLANDS Project (TBC)



#### Current situation

The overflowing Jable-Batkan dumpsite in Majuro is the urgent problem for waste management faced in RMI. A new temporary (18-month) landfill is currently under construction on the adjacent reef flat which will solve this immediate problem. However, the core issue for waste management in RMI is the lack of viable options for recovery/recycling and the few circular solutions for waste management in place.

The EPA understands that if a solution to the core issue is not found they will be faced with the same problem when the temporary landfills also reach capacity. As a combination GEF ISLANDS / PWP project, the RMI seeks to design two main programs to provide solutions to divert waste from landfill.



#### Future Situation



#### Bulky and Electronic Waste – process and export

- Building on the success of the CDL, develop legislation for a “Products Stewardship Scheme” (PSS), which will provide self-sustainable funding for collection, processing and export of targeted bulky, electronic and hazardous items
- Undertake site work, procure equipment, deliver relevant training, and provide technical assistance to collecting/ exporting target items.

#### Paper/cardboard and Organics – diversion from landfill

- Review current/ previous practises for:
- managing paper/card – currently 20% of waste to landfill
- managing organics – currently 34% of waste to landfill
- implement findings/solutions identified to remove from landfill.

**The success of these two projects would result in 65% less waste to be disposed into landfill.**



#### Outcomes

#### At the end of the project, we seek to have:

- Have a PSS approved to provide long-term funding for effective management of bulky and electronic items (i.e., ULABs, oils, tires, e-waste & bulky wastes – Phased in over 5 years as required by EPA / MAWC).
- Have an updated and digital Customs systems in RMI; with Customs staff trained in its use and effectively identifying PSS items and collecting the Fee / Deposit.
- Have previous waste paper/cardboard-firebricks processing facility reinstated to divert 20% of waste away from landfill.
- Have organics facility at Laura operating at full capacity to divert 34% of waste away from landfill.



#### How will we Measure?

#### We will prove success by measuring:

- New PSS legislation approved, adopted and running effectively, achieving a recycle rate of 50% year 1; 70% year 2; 90% year 5.
- Customs staff trained in effective operation of the PSS, capturing 75% of target items in year 1; 90% year 2; 100% year 5.
- Firebrick facility reinstated processing waste paper/cardboard and achieving less than 10% down-time.
- Percentage reduction in paper/cardboard disposal at the dumpsite (using a mini-audit): 75% year 1; 80% year 2; 90% year 5.
- Percentage reduction in organics disposal at the dumpsite (using a mini-audit): 75% year 1; 80% year 2; 90% year 5.



## Country Project Development

### Samoa – Improving E-Waste Management

#### Current situation

E-waste mostly ends up in landfills or are dumped illegally causing environment and health concerns.



#### Future situation



#### Increased community awareness program:

Develop National Education & Awareness (i.e. strengthen environmental and health impact of improper E-Waste disposal & the new collection system for E-Waste)



#### Strengthening policy & legislation:

Develop E-waste Policy & Regulation.



**Training on e-waste dismantling** (i.e. support circular economy & job creation).



**Establish dismantling and storage facility** for safe handling, storage & proper disposal.



#### Outcomes

#### At the end of the project, we seek to have:

- E-Waste Legislation and Policy established for the sound management of e-waste in Samoa.
- E-Waste treatment facility established for the dismantling and safe storage of E-Waste.
- Improved knowledge on e-waste safe dismantling.
- Employment created through the introduction of the e-waste management programmes provides equal opportunities for all Samoans.
- E-Waste Management Programme (including collection) is fully operational.



#### How will we Measure?

#### We will prove success by measuring:

- Legal framework enacted / Policy endorsed by the Honourable Minister for Environment.
- Facility Commissioned and handed over to MNRE.
- Refresher training on safe dismantling and handling is facilitated by MNRE on a quarterly basis.
- Hiring process for the e-waste management operation is done through an Open Merit Recruitment system.
- Landfill audit recorded no e-waste disposed at the Tafaigata landfill.

## Country Project Development

### Solomon Islands – Introduction of Resource Recovery Programme that diverts Organic and Recyclables from landfill



#### Current Situation

63% of Solomon Islands waste stream are made up of **organic waste** while **recyclable** make up an estimated 30%.



These items are either **landfilled, burnt, or dumped into the environment**. Landfilling organic wastes and recyclables take up critical landfill air-space, generates methane gas and leachates.

#### Future Situation

The project will establish a resource recovery programme in the Solomon Islands that effectively divert organic and recyclable waste from landfill through the following:

1. Introduce an organic processing programme in Honiara Market, construct an organic processing facility, establish a marketing strategy.
2. Introduce an Advance Recovery Fee & Deposit system and legislation in Solomon Islands to improve recycling rate in the country.
3. Establish a recyclable collection centre in Gizo.



#### Outcomes

#### At the end of the project, we seek to have:

- All Organic waste generated at the Honiara Market is diverted from landfill.
- Organic Processing facility established in Honiara.
- Design an ARFD system that is economically viable for Solomon Islands.
- Technical Guiding Note to assist in the drafting of an ARFD legislation.
- Construct a Recyclable Collection Station in Gizo.



#### How will we Measure?

#### We will prove success by measuring:

- Random audits confirm that all of Honiara Market Organic waste is taken to the Organic Processing Facility.
- Facility commissioned and handed over to Ministry of Environment Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology.
- MECCDDM agrees with the final report recommending ARFD system for Solomon Islands.
- Technical Note submitted to the Office of the Solicitor General Office.
- Facility commissioned and handed over to the MECCDDM.

#### Solomon Islands PacWaste Activities Closure - Incinerator Repairs

Under the direction of the European Union, PacWastePlus is providing corrective actions and repairs for several healthcare incinerators deployed by the PacWaste project.

PacWastePlus has engaged a consultant to undertake the repair work, but the activity cannot be completed until the current travel restrictions are lifted.

## Country Project Development

### Tonga – Asbestos Removal and Management in Tongatapu



#### Current Situation

Previous asbestos survey from the PacWaste Project covered Tongatapu and Vava'u. Based on the 1,600 residential properties surveyed, 30 buildings were suspected of containing ACM. Lab analysis confirmed asbestos present at 12 of the 17 sites, and 7 locations were remediated in the remediation component of the PacWaste Project.



Following Tropical Cyclone Gita in 2018 and Harold in 2020, many buildings were damaged in Tongatapu, heightening the risk from asbestos debris.



#### Future Situation

We seek to ban the importation of new Asbestos, update the Code of Practice, train individuals on asbestos abatement, and execute ACM abatement work at several public buildings in Tonga.



#### Outcomes

#### At the end of the project, we seek to have:

- Establish legislation to ban the importation of new ACM into Tonga – eliminating the long-term health and pollution risks.
- Update the Code of Practice for Asbestos in Tonga.
- Have trained Customs officials who can confidently identify and capture Asbestos prior to it entering the country.
- Have trained individuals with relevant skills to safely execute asbestos abatement (safe handling and disposal)
- Have a Strategic Plan for long-term management of ACM in Tonga.
- Executed ACM abatement work.
- Disseminate information and raise awareness through consultation with information on how to live safely with Asbestos to reduce exposure and incidents of illegal dumping – protecting against possible health risks.



#### How will we Measure?

#### We will prove success by measuring:

- Asbestos ban legislation or regulation approved by parliament.
- Code of Practice finalised and adopted.
- Number of Customs staffs provided with relevant resources and training.
- No occurrences of Asbestos entering the country.
- All individuals and staff trained.
- Number of individuals trained in ACM handling and disposal.
- Strategic Plan for the management and removal of Asbestos developed and adopted.
- Number of buildings where asbestos has been abated in Tongatapu.
- Number of factsheets distributed.
- Number of consultations conducted.

#### Tonga PacWaste Activities Closure - Incinerator Repairs

Under the direction of the European Union, PacWastePlus is providing corrective actions and repairs to the hospital incinerator at Prince Ngu Hospital, deployed by the PacWaste project. PacWastePlus has engaged a consultant to undertake the repair work, but the activity cannot be completed until the current travel restrictions are lifted.



## Country Project Development

### Tuvalu – Asbestos Ban and Assessment in the Outer Islands

The 2015 PacWaste Asbestos Assessment completed an analysis of buildings on Funafuti and **estimated 18% of our buildings contain Asbestos.**



We **currently do not know the location of the Asbestos** in our outer islands.



#### Future situation

We seek to **ban the importation of new Asbestos and complete an assessment to identify the location and quantity of the Asbestos** so we can make a plan for its removal (which will be completed by another donor), and ultimately clean Tuvalu from Asbestos.



#### Outcomes

#### At the end of the project, we seek to have:

- Establish legislation to ban the importation of new ACM into Tuvalu.
- Have trained Customs officials who can confidently identify and capture Asbestos prior to it entering the country.
- Have Asbestos identified and marked on buildings in the outer islands of Tuvalu and a report developed providing the Government of Tuvalu with options and costings for its removal.
- Have a Strategic Plan for the management and removal of Asbestos endorsed by Tuvalu Government.
- Have households on outer islands provided with information on how to live safely with Asbestos to reduce exposure and incidents of illegal dumping – protecting against possible health risks.
- Have Kaupules and other stakeholders on outer islands provided with information and minimum safety standards to handle asbestos (i.e., post disaster event) to reduce exposure and protect against possible health risks.



#### How will we Measure?

#### We will prove success by measuring:

- Asbestos ban legislation approved by parliament.
- All Customs staff provided with relevant resources and training.
- 0 occurrences of Asbestos entering the country.
- 95% of buildings in outer islands reviewed for Asbestos and a report of findings submitted.
- Strategic Plan for management and removal of Asbestos developed and approved by parliament.
- Awareness / Information session held with communities in all nine outer islands.
- 0 incidents of incorrect/unsafe handling or illegal dumping of Asbestos identified.
- Kaupules and stakeholders provided with relevant resources and training for handling of Asbestos when necessary (until it is removed).

## Country Project Development

### Tuvalu – Expansion of the Waste Levy to Outer Islands



Funafuti has been operating the “**waste Levy**” since August 2019.



#### Current situation

Currently the outer islands do not have facilities to be involved so all “waste levy” items are going to the dumps (currently making up >20% of waste in the dumps).



#### Future situation

We want to build small waste levy sheds “depots” on each island (attached to the new tractor sheds) so all our communities can:

- 1) claim their Waste Levy refunds (social/economic benefits)
- 2) have a cleaner environment (environmental benefits)
- 3) have equal access to waste facilities so recyclable items can be transported back to Funafuti (and onwards) for recycling



#### Outcomes

#### At the end of the project, we seek to have:

- Have the operation of the Waste Levy and improved waste management written into island by-laws so all stakeholders are aware of best practises for waste management in all islands of Tuvalu.
- Have facilities and equipment to allow for effective collection and processing of Waste Levy items on each outer island.
- Reduce Waste Levy items disposed at the outer island dumpsites – to reduce land, water and air pollution.
- Have the Waste Levy system on outer islands operating effectively, collecting and processing items and self-funding their transportation back to Funafuti (and onwards) for recycling.
- Have all households participating in the Waste Levy to generate income through redemption of product.
- Have a Recovery and Recycling industry which provides equal opportunity employment for women and men, and those that have a physical disability.
- Have the Waste Levy system on outer islands operating with self-funding transportation back to Funafuti (and onwards) for recycling and have all households participating in the Waste Levy to generate income through redemption of product.



#### How will we Measure?

#### We will prove success by measuring:

- Updated waste management section in the by-law of each outer island islands.
- Waste Levy depot, with equipment, installed on seven outer islands (Vaitupu funded by other donor).
- Percentage reduction in waste disposed to island dumps (using a mini-audit): 50% year 1; 70% year 2; 90% year 5.
- Percentage recycling – # items (cans, bottles and batteries) collected / # items delivered.
- \* 50% year 1; 70% year 2; 90% year 5.
- Percentage households involved in Waste Levy on each island:
- \* 50% year 1; 70% year 2; 90% year 5
- DWM recruitment process to offer equal employment opportunity for all Tuvaluan people

## Country Project Development

### Timor-Leste – Healthcare Waste Management Project



Timor-Leste currently has several hospitals that have healthcare **waste incinerators on-site, but none are functioning properly.**

#### Current situation



**Waste segregation in hospitals is not effectively managed.** In many cases wastes are either burnt in open pits adjacent to the hospital wards or transported to municipal waste facilities where the material is added to other waste.



#### Future situation

We seek to implement several interconnected components for the improved long-term management of healthcare waste in Timor-Leste.



#### Outcomes

#### At the end of the project, we seek to have:

- Hospitals effectively budgeting and funding necessary costs to manage healthcare waste in perpetuity.
- Pollution from inappropriately managed healthcare waste at all hospitals and clinics is eliminated.
- Site contamination caused by open burning of healthcare waste at hospitals is removed.
- 100% of healthcare waste generated from hospitals and clinics is managed in accordance with the adopted legislative framework.
- Healthcare workers and waste industry workers eliminate exposure risks from healthcare waste by employing industry best practice.



#### How will we Measure?

#### We will prove success by measuring:

- Health care waste management plans (with budgets incorporated) for five hospitals are adopted.
- Assessment report on healthcare waste disposal options other than incineration completed.
- Monthly Progress Reports providing data on the volume of contaminated soils removed/disposed.
- Number of hospital WM personnel surveyed that agree they have sufficient equipment to properly handle and contain health care wastes during transport to disposal.
- Number of hospital personnel surveyed that agree they have sufficient PPE to execute their work in hospital.
- Number of hospital personnel that confirm that healthcare waste is managed in accordance with the waste management plans.

#### Timor-Leste PacWaste Activities Closure - Healthcare waste training

A consultant has been engaged for the development and delivery of the healthcare waste management training materials and to review and update them as required. The materials are being re-designed to achieve two outcomes:

- Developed as a train-the-trainer course
- Developed as a general course.

The contractor is currently completing the review of materials and development of the train-the-trainer modules and materials. All outputs from the activity will be published on the PacWastePlus website, and countries could seek to receive training in their countries through capacity building support, or their country projects. Investigations into the possibility of creating on-line training modules is on-going.



## Country Project Development

### Vanuatu – Waste Recovery Program



Currently in the Port Vila, Efate in Shefa Province of Vanuatu there are **few options for the collection and management of waste.**



The two key barriers identified for the development of recovery programmes in Vanuatu are **lack of finances and lack of expertise / resources.**

#### Future Situation

This project, therefore, seeks to develop two interrelated programmes to provide 1) financial opportunities through the implementation of a Sustainable Financing System; and 2) a package of well-promoted resources (user-friendly brochures and short videos) to enable communities in Vanuatu to implement their own practical solutions to divert target waste streams (recyclable and organic) from dumps/landfill.



#### Current Situation

As such waste received from markets and households is generally **disposed at the main Bouffa landfill, stockpiled on vacant land, burnt or dumped into water bodies such as lakes, rivers and the ocean** - resulting in environmental pollution and health risks.



#### Outcomes

#### At the end of the project, we seek to have:

- Have a sustainable financing mechanism (Advance Recovery - i.e., CDS/PSS/ ARFD) in place to provide long-term funding for effective collection and recycling of selected items (Phase I = beverage containers).
- Have Customs staff able to effectively identify Advance Recovery products and collect the Fee / Deposit.
- Have the Advance Recovery scheme operating effectively in all of Vanuatu – with appropriate facilities, equipment, education materials etc provided to all provinces.
- Have an organics facility in operation at the PVCC Yard – with appropriate composting facilities, equipment and training – processing organics from markets in Vila.
- Have five pilot project established achieving ‘best practise’ community waste management initiatives (i.e., composting, collection of CDL items, anti-littering, and anti- burning, (plus collecting of waste from river for two Tagabe communities\*).
- Have the learnings from the pilot facilities shared with all of Vanuatu through a variety of “Toolkits” (brochure and video) which will guide the design, construction and operation of facilities.



#### How will we Measure?

#### We will prove success by measuring:

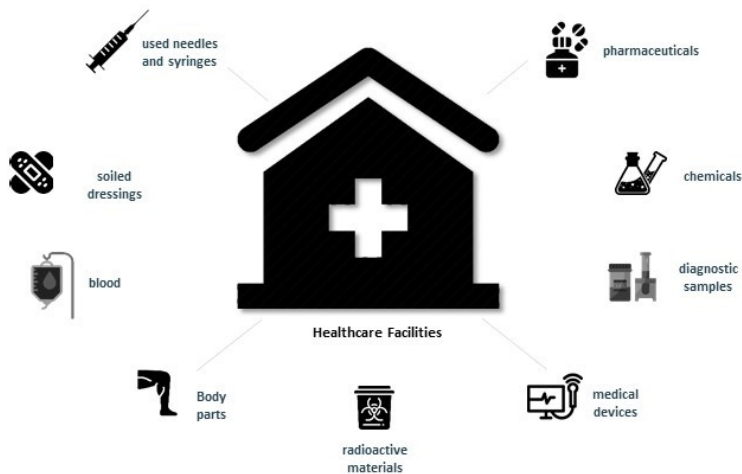
- New “Advance Recovery” legislation approved, adopted and running effectively, achieving a recycle rate of 40% year 1; 50% year 2; 60% year 3.
- Customs system operating effectively, capturing 70% of target items in yr 1; 80% yr 2; >90% yr 5.
- Phase I of the Advance Recovery program (beverage containers) operating effectively, achieving 50% recycling in yr 1; 70% yr 2; >80% yr 5.
- An organics facility constructed and operating effectively.
- reducing organics disposed at the landfill of: 50% yr 1; 70% yr 2; 90% yr 5
- Five pilot communities successfully achieving ‘best practise’ waste management through operation of organics facility, recycling, completing litter-clean up, collection of river waste\*.
- “Toolkits” developed and shared with all Provincial Governments / Area Councils and other stakeholders in Vanuatu with additional compost and recycling facilities designed and operating successfully utilising the Toolkit.

#### Vanuatu PacWaste Activities Closure - Incinerator Repairs

Under the direction of the European Union, PacWastePlus is providing corrective actions and repairs to the Norsup hospital incinerator, deployed by the PacWaste project. PacWastePlus has engaged a consultant to undertake the repair work, but the activity cannot be completed until the current travel restrictions are lifted.

## Regional Project Update: Healthcare Waste

Healthcare waste is defined as waste generated from diagnosis, treatment, and immunisation of humans. Waste generated by healthcare facilities include:



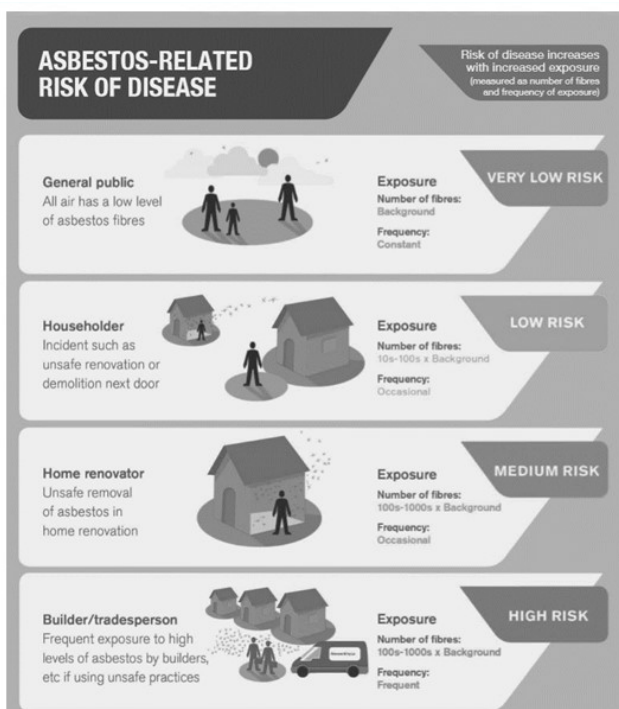
### Why

- The absence of proper health care waste management puts **human health at risk**.
- Significant improvements can however be achieved by **promoting proper healthcare waste management options** that include national and local, hospital level healthcare waste management plans and policies.

### What

1. **Literature review and options assessment to determine** if other technologies, besides incineration, can and should be utilized for healthcare waste volume reduction and treatment.
2. Deliver a **series of train the trainer sessions** following up on the PacWaste work on healthcare waste handling, storage, and disposal.

## Regional Project Update: Asbestos



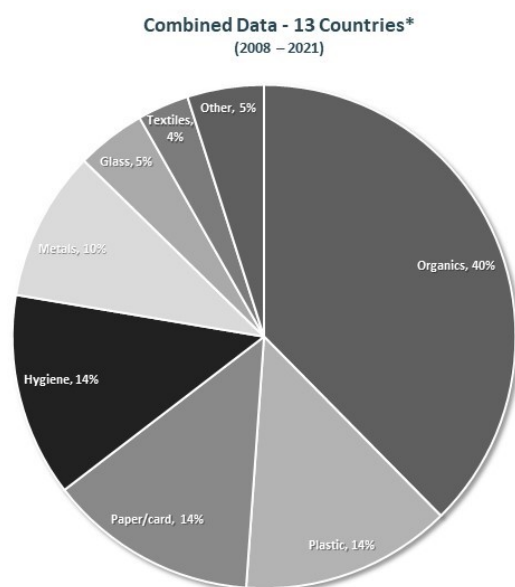
### Why

- Asbestos is a known carcinogen and **can cause other disease and serious health conditions**.
- Helps **meaningfully engage in the management and ban of Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM)** with the goal of removing from Pacific Island Countries this risk to human health and the environment.

### What

1. Development of an asbestos and asbestos containing materials **legislative ban Policy Note**.
2. **Creation of a Code of Practice (Code)** on how to manage, control, and if needed safely remove and transport asbestos, tailored for use in Pacific Island Countries.
3. Develop a **series of Publications** addressing ACM

## Regional Project Update: Organic Waste



\*Cook Islands, Kiribati, FSM, Fiji, Nauru, Palau, PNG, RMI, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

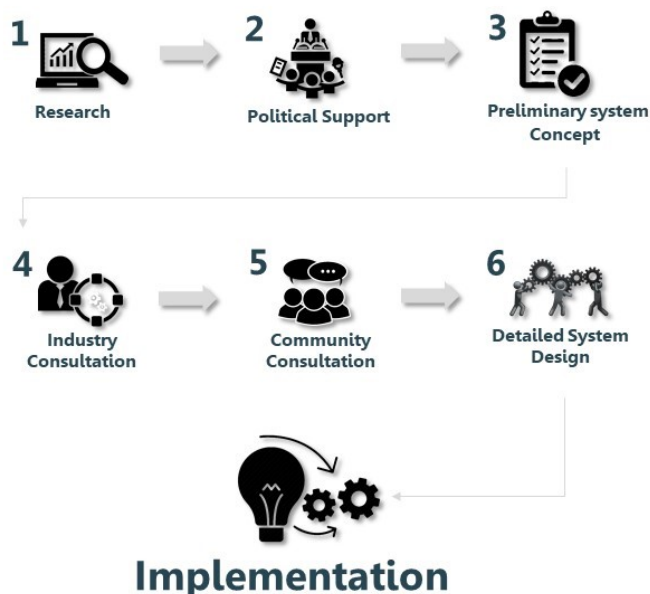
### Why

- 40% waste disposed to landfill - “anaerobic”
- In-country solutions exist - “aerobic” processing
- **Many benefits:**
  - Saves landfill capacity
  - Reduces leachate and methane gas
  - Makes a valuable nutrient rich product
  - Soil enhancement
  - Food cultivation, climate resilience
  - Business opportunities
- Project designed to **increase knowledge/expertise** to implement organics solutions

### What

1. **Research** - social and technical
2. **Pilot studies**
3. **Resources** - package to enable design and implementation of your own organics' solution:
  - How to develop business case
  - How to design and construct facility
  - How to operate – manual, checklist
  - Learnings from case studies

## Regional Project Update: Advanced Recovery Fee and Deposit



### Why

- PICs faced with the **increasing** issue of stockpiles of recyclable materials
- **Limited viable options** for their recycling/export
- From success of current systems in place, Countries looking to **ARFD systems as solution**
- Project designed to **increase knowledge/expertise** on how to design and implement ARFD system to suit needs of your country

### What

1. **Education** - inform strategic planning and decision-making processes
2. **Pilot studies**
3. **Decision Support Resources / Training** – package to guide project owners through decision making process, considering operational, financial, and legal factors



## Regional Project Update: Disaster Waste



### Why

- Pacific Region is **vulnerable to Natural Disaster**
- **Enhance** countries **resilience to disaster**
- Proper **management** of **waste** generated from **natural disasters**.
- **Benefits:**
  - Incorporation of waste management into National Disaster Management Process
  - Empowerment of local communities to improve daily waste management
  - Enhance in-country capacity to manage high volume of waste generated following a disaster.

### What

1. **Project to be implemented in a pilot county:**
  - Waste Management Cluster within NDMO
  - Develop and implement National Disaster Plan
  - Partnership Agreements with stakeholders
  - Training of first responders/ local officers
2. **From the learnings of the Pilot project appropriate resources will be developed to assist other countries:**
  - Development of Guidelines (*on establishment of Waste Management Cluster, Practitioner guideline, drafting National Disaster Waste Management Framework, and Partnership Agreement for effective management of DW*)
  - Development of Training Manual on DWM

## Regional Project Update: Bulky Waste



### Why

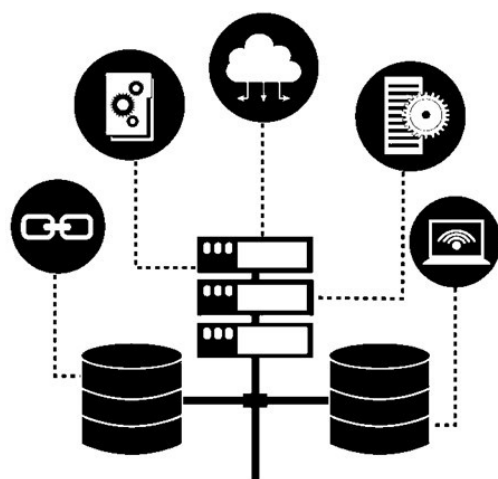
- Without proper processing, scrapping, and recycling, **End of Life vehicles (ELV)** are **abandoned, landfilled** or **stockpiled** at poorly managed scrap yards.
- ELV contains hazardous components that have **environment and health impacts**
- **Benefits of managing ELV:**
  - Preserve landfill airspace
  - Allow for safe dismantling and handling of ELV in country
  - Allow for environment sound management of ELV

### What



1. **Designing Legislation on ELV management** – A Guide for Legal Drafters
2. **Training Manual** – to mainstream waste management into existing Automobile courses
3. **Vehicle Dismantling Guideline** – to ensure safe handling, dismantling, storage and disposal of ELV parts

## Regional Project Update: Data Management



Determine the status of regional and national decision making

### Why

- To support regional and national decision making through the provision of relevant accurate data.
- Identify gaps in effective waste management in the region.

#### • Benefits:

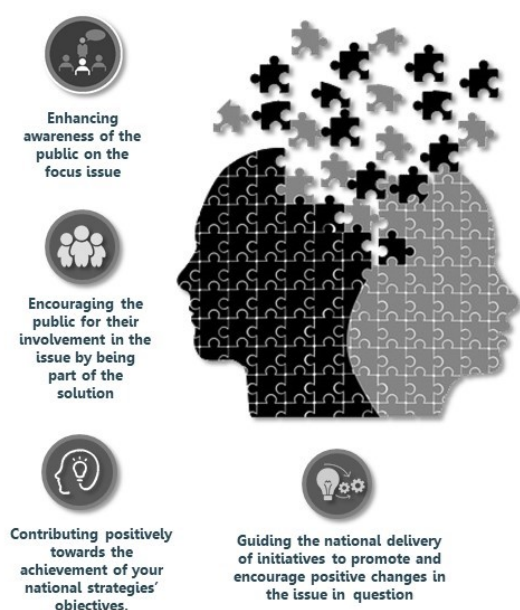
- Support Investment Prospectus in the region on waste management

### What

1. **Establish a Regional Waste Data Report** – this will be established through:

- ✓ analysing the outcome of audits funded by PRIF, UNEP, PacWastePlus and World Bank
- ✓ analysing Legislation Review funded by PacWastePlus in 2020
- ✓ analysing result of Capacity Needs Assessment funded by PacWastePlus

## Regional Project Update: Behaviour Change



### Why

- **Shifting Community Behaviour** – community attitude and behavior, their relationship to waste, their relationships to each other, to their past, to their religion or beliefs, social norms and how it can contribute towards sustainable waste management.

#### • Benefits:

- Empowerment and involvement of communities by being agents of change for providing innovative simple solutions for sustainable waste management
- Provides an opportunity for various country-based stakeholders to work together in a meaningful manner to enhance action on waste management

### What

1. **Projects to be implemented in pilot countries:**

- 3 pilot projects (Pilot **MAY** occur on a priority project. A selection criteria will be developed to select country and project action. TBD)

2. **From the learnings of the Pilot project**

- Replication of successfully implemented projects across the region

## A central collage of various educational icons. At the top center is a graduation cap. To its left is a small book and a molecular structure icon. To its right is a calculator and another molecular structure icon. Below the top cap is a clock and the text '2x2='. In the center is a large open book with horizontal lines. To the left of the book is a microscope and a set square. To the right are three beakers and a palette with pencils. Below the book are two hands holding it. At the bottom are a computer monitor with a graduation cap on top, a DNA helix, a globe, an apple, and another graduation cap. On the far left is a ribbon award and three test tubes.

1. Stocktake of Available Tertiary and Vocational Courses
2. National Capacity Needs Assessment
3. Development of a sustainable capacity building program for waste management in the Pacific



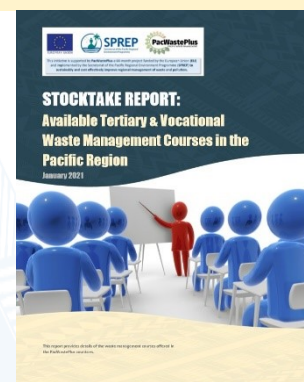
## KEY RESULT AREA 4 – CAPACITY BUILDING

### Regional Training Stocktake

USP has completed undertaking the first ever stocktake of waste management training courses in the Pacific, which describes the status of waste management skills and competencies training available in the Pacific and inform the development of academic and professional waste management training needs in the Pacific island countries.

A detailed report of the stocktake has been produced and available from:

<https://www.sprep.org/sites/default/files/documents/publications/Stocktake-Report-Final.pdf>

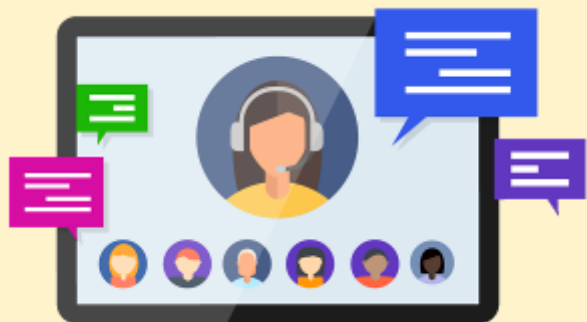


### National Capacity Needs Assessment

The University of the South Pacific (USP) have Undertaken initial consultations with countries on their capacity building needs. Following the development of minimum standards for waste management, USP worked with countries to explore which standards were not currently being supported to identify where capacity building opportunities may exist.

Reports for this work are under internal programme review will be discussed with countries before being finalised. The PacWastePlus team will commence discussions with each country to 'truth' the current findings and complete the work prior to developing the next stage of works of course development and provision.

### Webinar series for 2021



The programme team are excited to announce a number of meaningful and valuable webinars that currently under development. Watch this space as we announce details for our webinar series which will include topics such as:

**Project Design Thinking – Good practices to ensure outcome-based project designs, secure project funding and making it a sustainable and impactful project**

Project design is an early phase of a project where a project's key features, structure, criteria for success, and major deliverables are all planned out. The aim is to develop one or more designs that can be used to achieve the desired project goals.

### **Sustainable Financing Solutions for Waste Management – The benefits of implementing an Advanced Recovery Deposit & Fee system**

Advanced Recovery Fee & Deposit (ARFD) Systems are legislative instruments designed to create a way to sustainably finance waste management and recycling. In the Pacific, Advanced Recovery Fee & Deposit systems currently operating are called a Container Deposit, Beverage Deposit, Advanced Disposal Fee, or a Waste Levy.

### **Asbestos Management – The importance of legislative frameworks that protect the Pacific**

Asbestos is a major health issue for many Pacific Island countries with a history of use of asbestos containing materials (ACM) in construction. The import, use, misuse, and degradation of ACM can lead to adverse health impacts (disease) in the community. In addition, occupational safety and health remains a challenge for workers around the Pacific that undertake construction and asbestos abatement work.

### **Disaster Waste Management Planning – Building Country Resilience through effective systems and structures to assist the preparation and response activities to waste generated from natural disasters**

Disaster generates large amounts of waste from damage to both the natural and man-made environment. Inefficient or ineffective management of clean-up efforts following a disaster often results in the slow and costly recovery of a community, potentially risking public, and environmental health.

In this issue we are featuring **Ms. Grace Garabwan**, the Waste and Chemical Manager for the Waste Section, Environment Division of the Department of Commerce Industry and Environment in Nauru.

Grace is responsible for managing waste projects, both Government and donor funded under the Government Agency. She is involved in the development of environmental reports, plans, strategies and policies but not necessarily in on-ground waste activities. Although her department has plans in engaging other primary stakeholders to take lead of selected project activities in communities and with the private sector.

Grace has been working tirelessly with the PacWastePlus programme team to develop and progress Nauru's in country project and activities shares her experiences working with the team.



#### **How long have you been working in waste management?**

It has been close to 3 years since I started working under waste management in the Department of Commerce Industry and Environment. I have always had a passion for protecting and preserving our environment.

#### **Could you briefly describe your involvement with the PacWastePlus Programme?**

My engagement with the PacWastePlus programme is through many key areas around the waste sector and includes various aspects that is assisting to improve the delivery of our waste management. I have been involved as a nominated programme Steering Committee member, assisting in the design and implementation of our in-country project and related project actions.

#### **What has been the most exciting and rewarding experience that you have had so far while developing your PacWastePlus country project?**

Through this programme we were able to identify the core issues of waste management in Nauru and managed to work with the team to develop the best holistic approach to manage these waste priorities. I find it extremely fulfilling to be able to see the work progress for Nauru with the support from the PacWastePlus team.

#### **How has PacWastePlus assisted in building your capacity and helped mainstream into waste management interventions elements of innovative project planning, ensuring that projects meet required Environment and Social Safeguards, Gender Equity and Social Inclusion principles.**

The PacWastePlus programme has not only provided the technical assistance that we needed for us to be able to design a project that is meaningful for Nauru but also empowered us to consider other important aspects to make our project more environmentally sociable and sustainable. They have enabled us to be more cognisant of the various key areas around the management of waste and is assisting us to address issues holistically by strengthening our institutional capacity in managing waste at a National level. I would like to express our appreciation to the entire PacWastePlus team, especially our country project lead, Mr. Lance Richman, for the continuous support for Nauru and we look forward to continue working towards our goals as we move forward together.

#### **What are you hoping that PacWastePlus will help you and your colleagues to achieve in your country?**

I look forward to working with the PacWastePlus programme to help Nauru enhance the standards of managing waste effectively and efficiently and to further strengthen our institutional capacity to develop and implement more sustainable waste projects.

***"As we continue to address key areas around our waste sector with our PacWastePlus supported project, I truly hope we further build on from the excellent working relationship that we have with the programme team. I believe there was work done in the past by the initial PacWaste project which unfortunately I was not working with at the time."***





In this issue we are also featuring **Mr. Zitu Fernandes**, the Rural Development Programme Manager for the European Union Development funded project at the National Authorising Office (NAO) Services in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in Timor-Leste. He is also responsible for the coordination and monitoring of implementation of the Rural Development Sector Project funded under the National Indicative Programmes, including coordination with relevant ministries for Pacific regional implemented programmes. Zitu has been working tirelessly with the PacWastePlus programme team to develop and progress Timor-Leste's in country project and activities shares his experiences working with the team.

**How long have you been working in waste management?**

I have been working on waste management projects for close to seven years now. Prior to working for the Timor-Leste government, I was engaged with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) on projects building safer and resilient communities in the Pacific, with a focus on Disaster Waste Management.

**Could you briefly describe your involvement with the PacWastePlus Programme?**

I have been involved with the programme since September 2019 when the PacWastePlus Programme Manager visited Timor-Leste, as part of their country mission courtesy visit, and held several programme related meetings with us. The meetings were to introduce the programme to the relevant ministries and discuss our waste management concerns. In 2020, I was nominated to attend the PacWastePlus Steering Committee Meeting held in Fiji with other colleagues from 14 Pacific island countries. Over the past year, I have been liaising with the programme team and our Ministry of Health for the development of a project on Healthcare Waste. Despite the challenges we have faced with COVID 19, we have progressed well with the development of our project by engaging with the PacWastePlus team through regular online progress and update meetings. We have successfully coordinated with consultants, engaged by PacWastePlus from the University of Melbourne to complete an assessment of legislative frameworks governing waste management in Timor – Leste in 2020. I am currently coordinating liaison between consultants and relevant ministries in country on the possibility to conduct a Waste Audit in Timor-Leste in April or May 2021.

**What has been the most exciting and rewarding experience that you have had so far while developing your PacWastePlus country project?**

Overall, it has been an extremely enriching journey so far! By working closely with the PacWastePlus team, I have improved my understanding about waste management and sharing experiences with all of the friends from 14 Pacific Countries during the PacWastePlus Steering Committee Meeting had been rewarding experienced for me. It has made me realise that Waste Management is very important for the human life as poor waste management can lead not only to environmental problems but also can create health issues for our communities. These extreme challenges have further motivated me to be work hard and actively coordinating with relevant ministries to provide the necessary awareness and information to our various stakeholders of the importance of proper waste management practices.

**How has PacWastePlus assisted in building your capacity and helped mainstream into waste management interventions elements of innovative project planning, ensuring that projects meet required Environment and Social Safeguards, Gender Equity and Social Inclusion principles.**

On behalf of the NAO Services of Timor – Leste, I would like to express our appreciation for the continued efforts of the PacWastePlus team and the assistance they have provided for our Healthcare Waste management project development. I would especially like to thank Mr. Lance Richman who is always ready to help Timor – Leste, be it assisting and guiding us on the development of an innovative and environmentally project to providing updates and discussions on a weekly basis via online calls. We look forward for this same commitment and coordination that we have built over the past year to continue during the implementation phase of our project.

**What are you hoping that PacWastePlus will help you and your colleagues to achieve in your country?**

We hope that the PacWastePlus team will continue to assist and provide the necessary support to Timor-Leste during the implementation of our Healthcare Waste Management Project. We would like to see that when the project concludes we have an efficient National Healthcare Waste Strategy in place, which will greatly assist the National and Municipality Hospitals. We need significant positive changes and improvements of our healthcare waste management systems, effective execution of policies and education and awareness raising on proper and safe healthcare waste disposal practices. With the assistance of the PacWastePlus programme the Ministry of Health will be able to properly manage Healthcare issues in Timor-Leste reducing the risk of infections and other health risks to our dedicated healthcare workers and reduce the impact of healthcare waste on our environment. We are happy and excited to continuously work together with the team to achieve our project objectives that will contribute to the goals of sustainable waste management practices in the Pacific region.





## Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific (SWAP) Project is now formally underway

The virtual inception meeting for the Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific (SWAP) Project was successfully held in December 2020. The participating countries who attended the 3-day meeting (French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna) and regional partners from the ongoing projects (J-PRISM II and PacWaste Plus) and pipelined projects (ISLANDS and POLP) showed willingness to partner with SPREP and AFD in initiating actions that will complement each other's aspirations in the waste sector. The SWAP Project will focus on piloting sustainable actions to address issues on disaster waste, used oil, and marine debris, and exploring sustainable financing mechanisms to continue or extend these pilot activities beyond the project.

Funded through Agence Française de Développement (AFD), SPREP will implement this 4-year project which aims “to improve sanitation, environmental, social and economic conditions in Pacific Island Countries and Territories through proper waste management”. It hopes to achieve this goal through the following three components:

- a regional training program;
- implementation of pilot projects; and
- establishment of a Community of Practice

The SWAP Project envisions enhanced partnership among the Pacific Island countries and overseas territories through engagements such as the training programme, the Community of Practice as well as other regional fora and events. New Caledonia will provide technical support by sharing their wealth of experience in various aspects of waste and pollution management such as sustainable financing through the eco-organization TRECODEC.

For 2021, amid the ongoing pandemic situation, the SWAP Project will invest in virtual training program covering all targeted thematic areas. The virtual training will be reinforced with a face-to-face training once borders open. In the meantime, the project team will explore e-learning platforms to be used to upskill trainees from the participating countries and potentially other non-SWAP countries and territories. Other project activities planned for 2021, while travels are not allowed, include the development of management plans for used oil and the identification of suitable marine litter data collection system to ensure that coastal clean ups are well documented, and stakeholders are actively engaged in selected pilot communities. Pilot project proposals will be developed fully with the participating countries and regional partners to be rolled out in 2022. Preparations are also underway for the 1<sup>st</sup> Project Steering Committee meeting to be held in April 2021.



## The 3<sup>rd</sup> Clean Pacific Roundtable (CPRT) Confirmed for October 2021

The CPRT Steering the 3rd Clean Pacific Roundtable will now be held virtually from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2021. With the global pandemic still impacting international travel, the Committee has decided the Roundtable, as per many international events, will be delivered via a virtual conference platform.

The theme of the 2021 Roundtable is *“Sustainable innovations for a clean environment, resilient ocean, and healthy communities”*, with the CPRT focussing on circular economy, technological innovations, and behavioural change at the core of the event. The Roundtable is designed to provide the platform for government, industry, community and institutions to discuss waste and pollution issues in the Pacific Region, identify possible solutions, and attract interest from international donors to invest in the continued improvement of waste management in the region.

Technical webinars will be held on the first week of the two-week event, and are designed to inform the more detailed Roundtable discussions. Technical sessions will provide the government, private/industry, tertiary/academic institutions, and civil society to present achievements and discuss challenges to improving management of wastes in the region.

The CPRT provides opportunities for everybody to input and inform discussions on how to establish and support a sustainable waste management and recycling industry in the region despite challenges of isolation, economic volatility, low supply, and high freight costs. The Roundtable will also include several consultation sessions to inform project design for enhancing recycling in the region. To ensure high standard of online delivery and allow networking to really happen, the event will be supported by an experienced virtual platform provider. It is expected that the platform will provide networking lounges, exhibit galleries, and other interactive features to boost the interest of as many people as possible.

CPRT is the biggest waste event in the region and the Steering Committee and its Secretariat (SPREP) working behind it will ensure it will offer great benefit to the region. Please watch out for more information as the event draws closer to the dates.

## Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP)

In 2019 the Australian Government commenced its Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP), implemented by SPREP, with a commitment of AUD \$16 million. POLP aims to reduce single use plastics (such as plastic bags, take-away food packaging, plastic cutlery and straws, and PET bottles) in the coastal environments of Pacific Island countries.

The outcomes of POLP are:

- Measures, policies or practical strategies to reduce single-use plastics are developed and provided to pilot countries
- Local and visiting consumers (women, men, girls and boys) are using less single-use plastics and more alternative products
- Target sectors, companies and businesses adopt plastic reduction measures
- Alternative products are identified for adoption
- SPREP, as the regional lead agency, has the capacity to coordinate the delivery of the Pacific Regional Action Plan: Marine Litter

Despite being in the design phase, POLP has already established a strong presence in the region. Through SPREP, POLP has worked collaboratively with other initiatives to tackle marine plastics. For example, co-funding waste audits in 8 Pacific island countries in partnership with PacWastePlus which will compliment the remaining waste audits conducted by other partners such as the World Bank, ADB and UNEP as well as co-funding the legislative review (in partnership with PacWastePlus) for all PICs. POLP will continue to work within, and to support SPREP, to coordinate marine litter initiatives.

In mid-2020 the POLP project manager, Mark Skinner, returned to Australia in response to the spread of COVID-19. With no clear end to the travel restrictions associated with the pandemic, Mark is no longer able to carry the project management role. His support, knowledge and positive approach will be missed at SPREP, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavours!

Rather than appointing a new Australia-based project manager, the project now hopes to support SPREP to directly recruit its own staff to manage POLP. This will be an exciting opportunity to lead the project delivery, and more broadly to support SPREP in the implementation of the Pacific Regional Action Plan: Marine Litter. This project manager will lead a small team – similar to the PacWastePlus approach – to implement the project. Keep an eye on SPREP’s website for these jobs to be advertised soon!

SPREP is working to ensure the new POLP project manager and supporting team are appointed by mid-2021. After this, POLP implementation will commence in earnest.



## Cook Islands Capitalise on Available Resources

As the Pacific Region continues to face challenges brought about by the pandemic, our member countries continue to find innovative ways to partner with us in implementing various projects.

Cook Islands, as a participating country of the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) Project (currently executed by SPREP), recently signed an amended Memorandum of Understanding to reflect changes in their approach to implement project activities.

Initially, the National Environment Service (NES) was expecting to hire three National consultants; a National Project Coordinator, Data Expert and Legal Consultant to carry out specific activities outlined in the project's scope of work. However, due to the impact from COVID-19, limited applications for the roles were received.

In response, NES proposed to utilise an already established unit in the ministry called the Project Management Unit (PMU) instead of the consultants. The PMU houses project staff engaged in implementing various projects from the government as well as donors. Their new approach is intended to reduce the amount of staff turnover during and between projects, to secure local expertise, as well as better support the planning, implementation, reporting and termination of projects.

SPREP and its international consultant welcomed this proposed arrangement and had it approved immediately as such an approach is an excellent way to achieve the objective of the project while allowing Cook Islands to take full ownership.

SPREP has every confidence in the PMU and is looking forward to working with them to successfully execute the project.

## GEF ISLANDS Project Set to Start in 2021

SPREP's support to the Pacific's ongoing efforts on waste management is set to receive a major boost when the GEF ISLANDS Project commences this year.

SPREP and UNEP spent all of 2019 and 2020 undertaking a region-wide consultation with 14 of its members to develop a project proposal to be submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat under its 7th round of funding. The proposal was submitted in December 2020 and was well received by the GEF Secretariat.

At the completion of their review of the proposal, the GEF Sec gave the project a big vote of approval with excellent comments regarding the exceptional thinking and planning that went into designing the project. The GEF Secretariat stated that the project proposal displays a clear link between the countries' priorities and their obligations to the chemicals and waste conventions and could easily identify that the project is part of SPREP's contribution to a larger global effort.

Minor comments from reviewers have since been addressed and the proposal re-submitted for final vetting and approval by GEF Secretariat in February 2021. The project should be signed off in April 2021 and SPREP has moved ahead with preparations to ensure the project gets off to a good start in an already disrupted year. The WMPC team has commenced planning for the recruitment of the project management unit and a workplan and budget for Year 1.

When fully rolled out over its 5-year life span, the \$20 million investment from GEF will see countries tackle long running problems posed by chemicals and hazardous waste.

There will be improvements to national institutional and regulatory frameworks for hazardous waste, a clean-up of harmful chemicals currently stockpiled around the region and strengthened management systems for these wastes. SPREP is excited to execute this project and looks forward to working with the 14 beneficiaries and partners.





## Cook Island Waste Audit: Moving Towards the Establishment of a Regional Recycling Network

Managing solid waste is critical for Pacific countries to reduce land and marine pollution and create a healthy and sustainable environment. Waste and pollution management is high priority for Pacific island countries.

The Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) development partners and regional agencies, including the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), are dedicated to supporting development in the Pacific and protecting the environment. With over 12 million people, the Pacific faces significant challenges in providing sustainable solid waste management systems.

PRIF is involved in a collaborative effort to identify opportunities to strengthen recycling initiatives in Pacific island countries. PRIF partners including the EU, World Bank and JICA, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and SPREP are cooperating to carry out waste audits, using a common standard methodology, in 15 Pacific island countries and are on target to complete the audits by July 2021. The waste audits of the 15 countries are expected to inform the proposed establishment of a regional recycling network.

PRIF, as a part of this initiative, has been responsible for the Cook Islands waste audit. Work commenced during COVID-19 in August 2020 over a 3-month period. Due to travel restrictions, the contractor, Tonkin & Taylor, mobilized technology to remotely train staff to collect waste data, view collection and track on a live basis, and develop GIS maps of sites. The use of technology had the additional benefit of developing local capabilities to undertake waste audits and meet safety requirements.

The waste audit was carried out on Rarotonga and Aitutaki, the two most populated islands. The audit's main finding was that there are recycling opportunities, as there are significant household waste components, including hygiene products, organic waste, metal, paper/cardboard, and single-use items.

Other findings were that there has been a reduction in waste sent to Rarotonga Landfill since COVID 19, reducing waste to landfill by around 27 per cent, and there is also a reasonable willingness to pay in communities for waste collection services.

The next step after all the waste audits have been completed will be for PRIF partners and regional agencies to work together on the scoping study to consider the feasibility of establishing a regional recycling hub.

The Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility is a multi-partner coordination and technical assistance facility for improved infrastructure in the Pacific. Its partners include the Asian Development Bank, Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, European Investment Bank, European Union, Japan International Cooperation Agency, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, US State Department and the World Bank Group.

Contact: [enquiries@theprif.org](mailto:enquiries@theprif.org)





## Launching of SIRWMA Strategic Plan

On Thursday, 18th February 2021, the launching ceremony for Solomon Islands Recyclers and Waste Management Association (SIRWMA) Strategic Plan 2021 – 2031 took place at the Mendana Kitano Hotel in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

Honourable Titus Fika, the Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management (MECCDM) delivered the keynote statement as the Patron of SIRWMA. He commended SIRWMA members for the accomplishment achieved after one year of its existence. In his statement, he recognized SIRWMA's effort to align its strategic plan and the National Waste Management and Pollution Control 2017 – 2026, with a common vision for a Cleaner Solomon Islands.

The supporting statements and congratulatory remarks were delivered by Honourable Wilson Mamae, Honiara City Council (HCC) Mayor; His Excellency Mr. Morimoto Yasuhiro, Japan Ambassador for Solomon Islands; and Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP. All keynote speakers described the importance of the private sector's engagements in promoting and implementing better waste management measures in the country.

The statements from Mr. Motoyuki Uegaki, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Solomon, Resident Representative and Dr Melchoir Matak, Permanent Secretary of MECCDM, summed up what should be the focus in the future, with an overall suggestion for enhanced collaboration between SIRWMA and the government through MECCDM and other government agencies, as well as Solomon Islands development partners.

Ms. Debra Kereseka of MECCDM confirmed that the participation from the politicians, high level government officials and development partners to this event was never experienced before in past environmental events.

The event was attended by two Government Ministers (MECCDM and Ministry of Health), three Heads of International Missions to Solomon Islands – Ambassador of Japan, New Zealand High Commissioner and British High Commissioner as well as Heads and senior managements of Government Agencies, Development Partners Offices and Businesses.

According to Mr. Lindsay Teobasi, Acting President of SIRWMA, it was a good day for the promotion of waste management in Solomon Islands. He stressed the importance of the connection and platform established during the event for the implementation of the plan.

Lastly, he thanked JPRISM II for initiating and funding the event as well as the support from MECCDM, HCC, JICA Solomon Office and his SIRWMA Team.

Contact: [ayakoy.ext@sprep.org](mailto:ayakoy.ext@sprep.org)

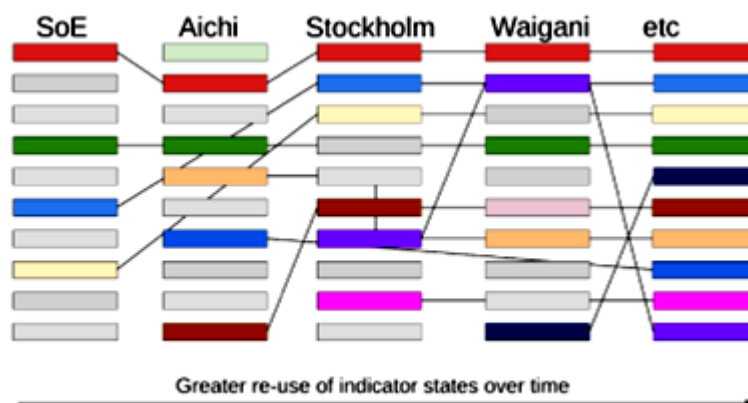


## Capacity Building Training on the Use of the Indicator Reporting Tool delivered in Tonga under the UNEP-GEF Inform Project

The Indicator Reporting Tool, known as IRT developed under the Inform project helps countries by making reporting processes easier.

The aim of the IRT is to simplify the reporting workload for countries that are required to report their progress in meeting goals against different environment agreements or reporting obligations that they may be a Party to.

The Inform national consultant in Tonga, Mr. Siosuia Latu had facilitated another capacity building training session in late February targeting staff of the department of environment, on how to use the tool in their works.



The status of environmental indicators related to Tonga including the waste indicator are captured in the tool and will be mapped across different reporting obligations such as SDGs, Aichi Targets, Samoa Pathways, Noumea Convention for the country to track their progress in achieving the targets and goals set out at the national, regional and global level.

The tool is built in a way that it generates reports on status of each indicator assessments by simply exporting information in the tool to a word document. The IRT was launched in August 2019 and it is targeted towards government officials responsible for compiling and producing indicator-based reports.

For more information, please contact our team at [sprep@sprep.org](mailto:sprep@sprep.org) or [inform@sprep.org](mailto:inform@sprep.org)

## Waste Technology Management Options Publication Series

The PacWastePlus programme team have produced a series of publications from the Assessment of Small-Scale Technology Suitable for Waste Management in the Pacific and Timor-Leste report which provides details of available small-scale waste management technology options that are suitable for use in the Pacific region and remote communities to manage waste and the viability of each technology in the project countries given the unique geographical settings.



[Download -Waste Technology Management Options: Healthcare Waste](#)



[Download -Waste Technology Management Options: Organic Material](#)



[Download Waste Technology Management Options: Plastic Material](#)

[Download Assessment of Small-Scale Technology Suitable for Waste Management in the Pacific and Timor-Leste](#)



## **Plastic waste is a growing menace, and a wasted opportunity**

The use of plastics is deeply embedded in our daily lives, in everything from grocery bags and cutlery to water bottles and sandwich wrap. But the quest for convenience has gone too far and we are failing to use plastics efficiently, wasting valuable resources and harming the environment. Plastic overconsumption and mismanagement of plastic waste is a growing menace, causing landfills to overflow, choking rivers, and threatening marine ecosystems. This has a negative impact on sectors that are critical to many economies, including tourism, shipping and fisheries.

**Read more:** <https://asia.nikkei.com/Opinion/Plastic-waste-is-a-growing-menace-and-a-wasted-opportunity>

## **Clean up exposes plastic and styrofoam dumped in Creek**

A group of paddlers have started a clean-up movement in the Fijian capital, beginning with the landmark Nabukalou Creek. On Saturday, 27 February, members of the Suva Stand-Up Paddler team on their boards and volunteers numbering 80 fished out debris and waste material from the creek, locally known as one of the most polluted waterways in Fiji. Suva Stand-Up Paddler representative, Roderick Lal says an increased amount of rubbish in rivers and waterways encouraged them to organise a clean-up campaign, roping in the city council and other like-minded environmental organisations.

**Read more:** <https://pasifika.news/2021/03/clean-up-exposes-plastic-and-styrofoam-dumped-in-nabukalou-creek/>

## **New model predicts how plastic travels across ocean garbage patches**

Every year, approximately eight million tons of plastic find their way to our oceans. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a collection of marine debris in the North Pacific, is the poster child of this haphazard waste disposal byproduct. You may have heard it called the Pacific trash vortex. It is comprised of Western Garbage Patch, located near Japan, and the Eastern Garbage Patch, located between the U.S. states of Hawaii and California. The litter spans from the American west coast all the way to Japan. But one may wonder...how did it get there exactly? Researchers in the U.S. and Germany decided to find out.

**Read more:** <https://www.zmescience.com/science/new-model-predicts-how-plastic-travels-across-ocean-garbage-patches/>

## **Building a more circular Australia: The opportunity of transitioning to a circular economy**

As the world emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic we face the challenge of finding our 'next normal'. This is both a significant challenge and a great opportunity. "Building a more circular economy" explores the opportunity for Australia to adopt the concept of a circular economy, establishing a robust and holistic framework for sustainable growth.

**Read more:** <https://www.pwc.com.au/important-problems/environment-social-governance/building-a-more-circular-australia.html>

## **Cars that eat Paradise**

Pacific governments are increasingly engaging with the challenges of waste management, as the burden on limited landmasses becomes greater. Problems are being acknowledged, causes identified, solutions sought and action taken. As education and awareness have increased, populations are more engaged in waste management activities such as sorting recyclables from general and organic waste. Vastly improved collection services and modernised dumping sites are making tangible differences. There are plans for a deposit system on cars that will help pay for their removal from the island at end of life.

**Read more:** <http://www.darrenjamesphotography.com/#/cars-that-eat-paradise>

## **Styrofoam ban now in effect in Samoa**

Samoa's much delayed ban on Styrofoam has finally come into effect, a year after it was due to commence. The ban was initially meant to be introduced in January of last year, following on from a nationwide ban on single-use plastic bags, packing bags and straws that came into force in 2019. The new rules prohibit importation, selling, distribution, use and manufacturing of styrofoam in the Samoa, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment will be monitoring compliance.

**Read more:** <https://www.abc.net.au/radio-australia/programs/pacificbeat/1/13207574#:~:text=Samoa's%20much%20delayed%20ban%20on,it%20was%20due%20to%20commence.&text=The%20new%20rules%20prohibit%20importation,Environment%20will%20be%20monitoring%20compliance>



In our spotlight section, we highlight stories on individuals or on ground actions that demonstrate a true passion for the environment and bring to you how they are making a difference to the communities in terms of bringing about constructive action on waste management. In this edition feature the brilliant initiative of the **Mapu o Te Au Youth Group** for the inspiring work undertaken on Cook Islands to help in the removal of end of life vehicles (junk vehicles) from communities. We would like to express our gratitude to **Ms. TeRiu Woonton** and **Ms. Jessie Sword** for their responses and also congratulate the Mapu o Te Au Youth Group for this initiative. Photos credit: Radio Cook Islands - The Voice of the Nation Facebook page.



## Youth Champions for Bulky Waste (End of Life Vehicles)

### Mapu o Te Au Youth Group - End of life Vehicle Removal Initiative in Cook Islands

#### Could you please provide some background information as to how and why this initiative started?

Mapu o Te Au is a church youth group affiliated to the New Hope Church Inc. One of our objectives is to give back and help the community we serve in with whatever we feel needs addressing.

The idea of the scrap vehicle removal programme came about when some members of the youth group discovered that large numbers of vehicles were being dumped haphazardly in the environment / and left around people's homes and vacant sections providing ideal breeding places for mosquitoes. They were also an eye sore and not nice for tourism.

Also, there was real fears of the dengue fever virus spreading throughout the community from these breeding places in the scrap vehicles, so the Group felt this would be an ideal first project to tackle to benefit the environment, and the people. The opportunity of funding via the Global Environment Fund – small grant initiative made it possible for this important project to commence in June 2020.

#### How many youths were involved in this initiative?

We are a small group of about 15 members and for this initiative we usually roster and have a group of 4-7 youth members who undertake weekly registrations and inspections of vehicles/motorbikes/bicycles at people's homes/vacant sections and other areas where we have sighted scrap and dumped vehicles.

The vehicles are marked with NH, the New Hope sign and owners register to participate in the programme, a little explanation of what the project entails is provided to the owners who agree to part with the scrap vehicles so that appropriate recycling measures can be achieved.

The vehicles are removed of any green waste and then are ready for collection by the Service Provider CIGT who complete the next phrase of the project.

We are also contacted during the week from interested persons wanting to participate in the programme and we do encourage them to contact us as the objective is to now clear out as many scrap vehicles as possible with the funding available.





### How long did the initiative run for?

The project commenced in June 2020 and is still ongoing, we envisage that the programme will be completed by December 2021. Our progress in 2020 was impacted severely by the global COVID pandemic, so our objective of 25 cars per month over a 6-month period was not achieved, however we remain committed and enthusiastic to complete this project by the end of this year.

The project has been given a National strategic directive, with priority given to the Central business district and Government properties in the Vaka Te Au Tonga areas. Vaka Te Au o Tonga is the biggest district on Rarotonga, the New Hope church is in this area, and it is the central area for business/tourism and close to the Service provider CI General Transport who are completing the collection/compacting and shipping of the scrap vehicles off island.

### Will there be more such initiatives organised by the Mapu o Te Au youth group?

The Youth group is very proactive and is always looking at ways we can address pressing environmental issues. Currently the group are seeking funding to assist in the re purposing of plastic and other non-scrap metal items that we have noticed are prevalent and stored/dumped into abandoned vehicles around the community.

We are keen to explore and develop the process to re purpose these items and make them into other useable products / mixed with concrete we can make cheap building blocks for low cost animal shelters / concrete curbing / civil works, park benches / foot paths, etc. We are hopeful that we can begin to contribute to cleaning up our environment. Becoming a voice for environmental issues and promoting good recycling practices and educating our younger members and community on how we should respect the environment we live and work in as we are only caretakers of the land for those who will come after us.

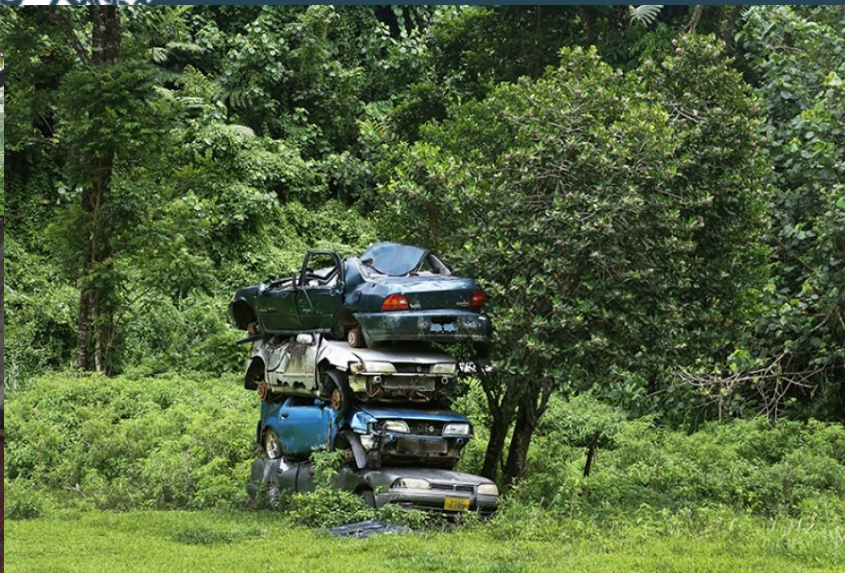
### Were the efforts of the group supported by relevant authorities like the National Environment Service or by the private sector organisations?

The project has been widely supported by Governments officials, especially the National Environment Services and Members of Parliament within Te Au o Tonga.

Most recently we have received positive feedback from other Members of parliament and their respective constituent PUNAs keen to commence similar projects in their areas and assist in cleaning up and to ridding the island of mosquito breeding grounds.

The private sector have also been very supportive and we are contacted most days for people keen to participate in the programme and to register their vehicles for removal.



**Would you be able to share data or statistics on the junk vehicles that were removed?**

As of 31 December 2020, the project has collected, stripped and bailed 78 cars, 81 motorbikes, 15 bicycles, and 3 mowers. With another 98 vehicles marked/ registered and awaiting collection/compaction by the Service Provider CIGT.

**What will happen to the collected junk vehicles?**

The junk vehicles are baled / packed into 20ft steel shipping containers and shipped to New Zealand for further recycling purposes.

**How do members of the community react when they witness this initiative?**

We've had a large number of people who are super grateful for the initiative and can't wait to have the vehicles on their properties removed. Small donations have been received for this service which assist the church further in assisting those in need in the community. Owners are required to remove all other waste streams from the vehicles. There are also a lot of homes who don't want their junk vehicles removed mainly because they need them for parts or are just being plain hoarders and not making the most of the opportunity to remove them at a very small cost.

This initiative has received positive reviews as it is a subsidized project and affordable for most people, normally it would cost over \$350 per vehicle to be disposed not including transportation to the recycling depot, this amount is out of the reach of most residents.

**What would you like to say to communities or relevant government authorities about reducing bulky waste items, such as the end-of-life vehicles, and the health and socioeconomic impacts that it may have?**

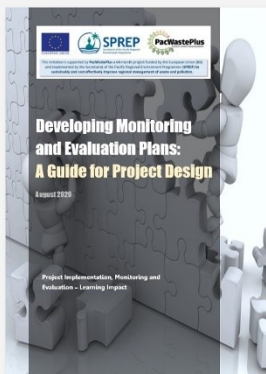
If there is a political will then positive changes would need to be undertaken to provide for better management of most imports into the island. It has been widely debated that there is an urgency to provide a sustainable programme to remove end of life vehicles. Currently the Government is looking at initiating an Advance Disposal Fee collected at the import clearance stage to fund the removal of end-of-life vehicles and other products from the island.

This is a positive approach, however we believe other initiatives and policies have to be implemented to reduce imported non-recyclable items into the island. If these items continue to be imported, then Government needs to ensure that there is a facility available to receive these for processing and repatriation off the island.

Our current landfill is near capacity within its time, changes need to be made soon and support provided to the private sector to assist in effective removal off island. Members of parliament should be challenged to pass laws that would support sustainable practices to avoid the pile up and haphazard dumping of bulky waste items and to look at strengthening the Resource management act that will protect the environment and deter actions such as these. Adequate public awareness of the ramifications of continued dumping of bulky waste items also needs to be an ongoing process. Bulky waste items are just the tip of the iceberg and a holistic approach to the Islands Waste management policies, recycling and embracing the promotion of a Circular economy are vital for our islands existence.



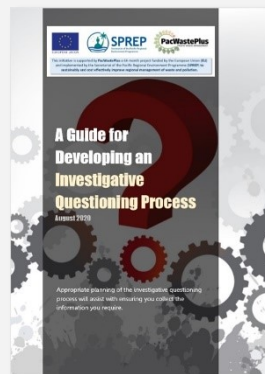
## Project Management Tools



[Download Developing Monitoring and Evaluation Plan: A Guide for Project Designs](#)



[Download Developing A Project Logic: A Guide for Project Design](#)

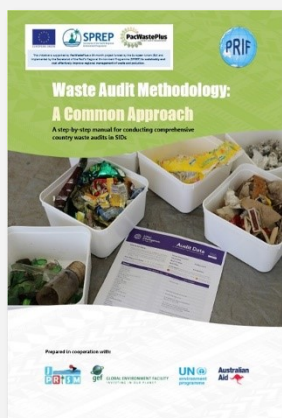


[Download A Guide for Developing an Investigative Questioning](#)



[Download SMART Objectives factsheet](#)

## Reports



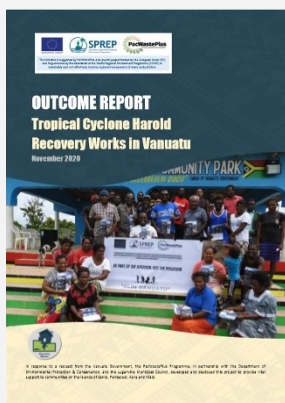
[Download Waste Audit Methodology. SIDs](#)



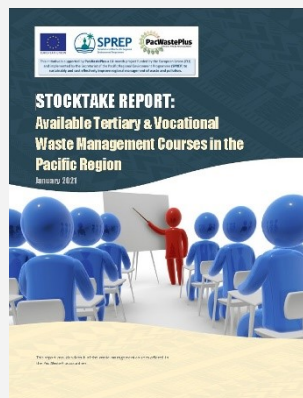
Country Reports as part of the PacWastePlus regional Waste Legislative Review assessment.

1. **Assessment of Legislative Frameworks Governing Waste Management Country Reports**
2. **National Waste Legislation Stocktake Country Reports**

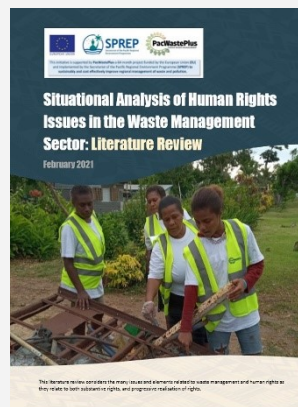
Should you be interested in downloading a particular country report please visit - <https://www.sprep.org/pacwaste-plus>



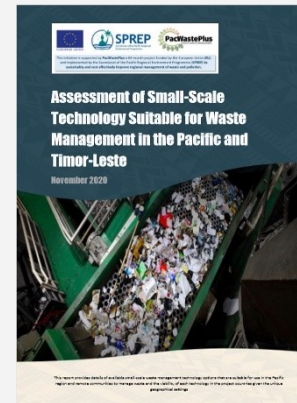
[Download Tropical Cyclone Harold Recovery Works Outcome Report](#)



[Download Stocktake Report: Available Tertiary & Vocational Waste Management Courses in the Pacific](#)



[Download Situational Analysis of Human Rights Issues in the Waste Management Sector-](#)



[Download Assessment of Small-Scale Technology Suitable for Waste Management in the](#)



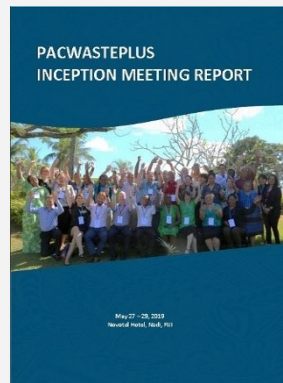
## Project Governance Documents



[Download - PacWastePlus 2021 Steering Committee](#)

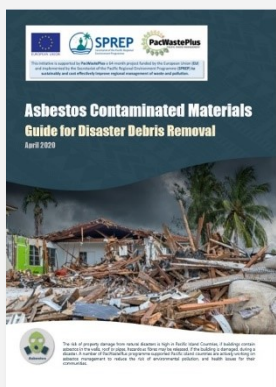


[Download - PacWastePlus 2020 Steering Committee](#)



[Download - PacWastePlus 2019 Inception Meeting](#)

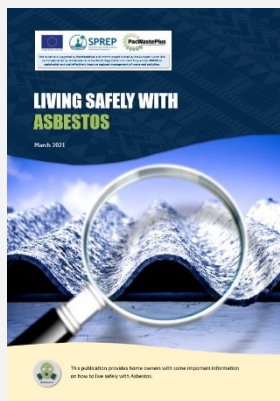
## Booklets



[Download - Asbestos contaminated materials: Guide for disaster debris removal](#)



[Download - Global and Regional framework - Chemicals and waste multilateral environmental](#)



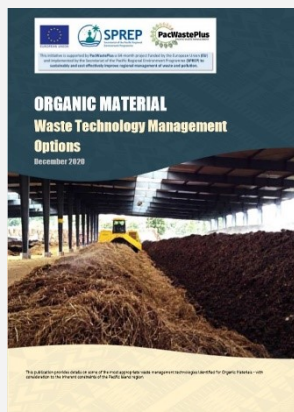
[Download - Living Safely with Asbestos](#)



[Download Moana Taka Partnership-A Guide for Pacific Island Countries & Territories](#)



[Download -Waste Technology Management Options: Healthcare Waste](#)



[Download -Waste Technology Management Options: Organic Material](#)



[Download Waste Technology Management Options:](#)



***PacWastePlus Project Snapshots** is a series of publications on each of the 15 participating countries highlighting country features and details of the EU investment from the initial PacWaste and current*



## Factsheets



[Download - Medical Waste Alert - How to manage COVID-19](#)



[Download - Advanced recovery fee & deposit systems - Factsheet](#)



[Download - National disaster Waste Management Plans: Benefits of having disaster waste management plans and planning](#)



[Download - Managing Disaster Waste: A Guide](#)



[Download - In-country National Education and Awareness Plans](#)

## Programme Newsletters



[Download - The Connection - Issue 1](#)



[Download - The Connection - Issue 2](#)



[Download - The Connection - Issue 3](#)



[Download - The Connection - Issue 4](#)

The programme team are currently working on a number of useful and valuable programme resources that may provide further meaningful assistance to countries and partners. We will continue to share these resources on our website (<https://www.sprep.org/pacwaste-plus>) and in our newsletter as well.

The team at PacWastePlus will be glad to develop additional resources that you may require. If you feel that a particular publication will be helpful let us know:

1. What would you like your resource product to focus on and why is it valuable?
2. Why is there a need for this particular resource to be developed?
3. Who will most likely use this resource product?

For more information or to submit articles, photographs and events for our newsletter please contact:

Nitish Narayan  
PacWastePlus Communications Officer  
email: [nitishn@sprep.org](mailto:nitishn@sprep.org)  
<https://www.sprep.org/pacwaste-plus>



We would love to hear from you to make our newsletter more meaningful, informative, and enjoyable for your reading. May we request for a few minutes of your valuable time to take a short survey? If you agree please click [here](#).