



# Waste Management in Tonga

Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information,  
Disaster Management, Environment, Climate  
Change and Communications (MEIDECC)



# Outline

- Management of Waste
- Challenges and Limitations
- Way Forward



# TSDF II

- ***Pillar 5, Organizational Outcome 5.3: Cleaner environment with improved waste recycling***

*Traditional societies produced limited waste and pollution, most of which was bio-degradable. Modern trade and consumption generates vast amounts of waste that can easily lead to the pollution of our sensitive environment. There is a serious lack of commitment to managing waste disposal with wide dumping of waste in inappropriate and unsightly ways. Poor waste management also creates conditions which increases the risk of communicable disease. Opportunities for landfill are limited. Efficient management, minimization and recycling of wastes are essential.*

- ***TSDF Organizational Outcome 5.3:***

*Cleaner environments and less pollution from household and business activities building on improved waste management, minimization and recycling, making conditions safer, healthier and more pleasant for residents and visitors.*



# Legal Mandates

Environmental Acts	International Obligations
Environment Management Act 2010	Waigani Convention, Basel Convention, Stockholm Convention, Rotterdam Convention, Minamata Convention, UN Convention on Biological Diversity, UN Convention to Combat Desertification and Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
Environment Impact Assessment Act 2003	
Environment Impact Assessment Regulation 2010	
Biosafety Act 2010	
Hazardous Wastes and Chemicals Act 2010	
Waste Management Act 2005	
Litter Control Regulation 2016	
Waste Management ( <b>Plastic Levy</b> ) Regulations, 2013	
Public Health Act 1992	



# Lead Agencies

- **Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECC)**
  - Regulator
- **Waste Authority Ltd**
- waste collection on Tongatapu (more than 200 households) and Vava'u (more than 100 households);
- Management of Tapuhia Landfill (Tongatapu) and Kalaka Landfill (Vava'u)
  - waste collection from visiting yachts
  - recyclable materials streamed off for processing
  - septic tank emptying service for buildings and ships
  - waste and sanitation services for events



# Lead Agencies

- **Ministry of Health**
  - Waste collection and disposal in the Outer Islands (Ha'apai, 'Eua, Niuatoputapu and Niuafou'ou)
- **Others**
  - Relevant Gov't Ministries, NGO's and Private sectors



# Waste Management

Activity	Progress	Issues (positive & negative)	Costs & funding sources
1. Asbestos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Still in the process of developing a environmental standard on asbestos</li> <li>Survey has been conducted to determine the volume and type of asbestos in the Kingdom</li> </ul>	<p>Positive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asbestos in Ha'apai has been removed and disposed at Tapuhia Landfill</li> <li>Asbestos in Tongatapu, Vava'u and 'Eua removal and disposal are in progress</li> </ul> <p>Negative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very expensive to manage</li> <li>No national strategy or policy in place to manage asbestos</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Bank</li> <li>PacWaste/SPREP/EU</li> </ul>
2. E-Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No survey has been conducted to determine the volume of electronics in or entering the country</li> <li>Collection and disposal of e-waste is operated by private sector</li> </ul>	<p>Positive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>E-waste can be collected and dispose</li> </ul> <p>Negative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of market makes it difficult for operators to manage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GEF/SGP</li> <li>PacWaste/SREP/EU</li> </ul>
3. Healthcare Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Separation at source</li> <li>Treatment of hazardous component of healthcare waste</li> </ul>	<p>Positive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disposal method are in place</li> </ul> <p>Negative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disposal method expensive to operate and maintain</li> <li>Only 1 incinerator operational and the rest are in-operational</li> <li>Lack of capacity on how to operate and maintain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WHO</li> <li>PacWaste/SPREP/EU</li> </ul>



# Waste Management

Activity	Progress	Issues (positive & negative)	Costs & funding sources
4. Green Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>District/Town Officers are involved</li> <li>Green waste is not allowed at Tapuhia. This is to promote home composting or commercial <b>composting</b>.</li> <li>However, due to the lack of interest in composting, green waste was allowed at the landfill</li> <li>Composting operated by the private sector</li> </ul>	<p>Positive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Message is sure to be heard by the people</li> <li>Increase the lifespan of the landfill</li> </ul> <p>Negative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Home composting not very popular</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tonga Solid Waste Management Project/Waste Authority Ltd</li> <li>Department of Environment</li> <li>FAO</li> <li>Other donor funded sources</li> </ul>
5. Recyclables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>User pay system</li> <li>Fee for returned cans, beer bottles etc to encourage recycling</li> <li>Recycling operated by the private sector</li> </ul>	<p>Positive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People get money in return for cans, beer bottles etc</li> </ul> <p>Negative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not apply to other recyclables</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$0.10/can</li> <li>\$0.20/beer bottle</li> </ul>





# Waste Management

Activity	Progress	Issues (positive & negative)	Costs & funding sources
6. Cars & other bulky wastes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No survey has been conducted to determine the volume of scrap metal, and tyres in or entering the country</li> <li>Gio Recycling charge \$20+ (depending on distance) to collect and recycle car bodies</li> </ul>	<p>Positive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cars and some bulky wastes can be recycled locally</li> </ul> <p>Negative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There should be a refund deposit scheme in place because most people find it expensive to have their old car bodies recycled</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$20.00/car</li> <li>Car owner</li> </ul>
7. Disaster Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Disaster Waste Management Plan in place following Cyclone Gita</b></li> </ul>	<p>Positive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disaster waste better managed and well coordinated</li> <li>Reduce the risk of an epidemic following a natural disaster</li> </ul> <p>Negative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential to fill up the landfill quickly is high</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Government</b></li> <li><b>JPRISM II</b></li> </ul>



# Waste Management

Activity	Progress	Issues (positive & negative)	Costs & funding sources
8. Waste Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste water is managed by Waste Authority Ltd, Tonga Water Board and Environment</li> <li>WAL charged TOP\$120/household to collect and treat waste water from septic tank</li> <li>There's no plan in place to manage waste water</li> </ul>	<p>Positive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste water is treated at the landfill</li> </ul> <p>Negative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not include storm water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WAL</li> <li>TWB</li> <li>Government</li> </ul>
9. Plastic packaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unfortunately, Tonga is still using the non-biodegradable plastics</li> <li>Plastic levy introduced</li> <li>There has been awareness on the 'green bags' but only a few adopt the idea.</li> <li>Government has approved the introduction of Single-Use Plastic Ban</li> </ul>	<p>Positive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There's a choice between plastic bags and 'green bags'</li> <li>National consultation on single use plastic ban to commence soon</li> </ul> <p>Negative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic bags is still widely used through out the Kingdom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Environment</li> <li>Waste Authority Ltd</li> </ul>



# Limitations and Challenges

- Lack of enforcement capacity;
- Lack of relevant skills and expertise within organisations;
- Lack of resource (human/equipment) capacity;
- Lack coordination;
- Duplication of functions;
- Lack of public awareness programmes; and
- Lack of adequate finances



# Way Forward

- Review and update relevant legislations
- Regional/national training (short/long-term) be made available
- Recruit National PMUs??
- Coordination Mechanism in place
- Conduct public awareness and education on a regular basis
- Funds made available (Gov't/Donor)



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QUESTIONS?????