



VANUATU PACWASTE PLUS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Ionie Bolenga
Principal Officer: Waste Management & Pollution Control
Environmental Protection Division
Department of Environmental Protection & Conservation (DEPC)
Republic of Vanuatu

COUNTRY PRIORITIES

1. **Solid Wastes recyclables**; PLASTICS: Single-Use Plastics including soft plastics and hard plastics .
2. **Organic Waste**; majority of waste to the landfill is organic waste, no waste segregation resulting in the need to upgrade of current landfill
3. **Disaster Waste**; Ships wrecks after Cyclone PAM, poses threat of oil spillage into the surrounding sea and beach.
4. **Bulky Waste**; there are a number of illegal dumpsites especially in communities and near main wharf area (waste from ships).
5. **E-waste waste** recovery and export
6. **Waste water** – Road construction works required sideway pits to manage waste water during heavy rains; all other solid wastes including recyclables are captured in the filled in pits.

OTHER WASTE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

1. Solid Waste: Disposable Diapers
2. Healthcare Waste: Proper & Safe Handling of medical waste
3. Hazardous Waste: Recovery & Export of Solar Batteries

MANAGEMENT OF 8 WASTE STREAMS

1. **Solid Wastes recyclables**; PLASTICS: The 1st & 2nd Phase of the Ban on Single-Use Plastics – Vanuatu will soon launch its National Plastics Strategy that is currently being drafted by the UK Technical Adviser on Plastics.
2. **Organic Waste**; The J-PRISM II Project has this year undertaken a Composition Training with the Main Market Vendors in an effort to discourage organic waste transfer to landfill – currently, majority of waste to the landfill is organic waste, people do not practice waste segregation resulting in the need to upgrade of current landfill.
3. **Disaster Waste**; A number of Government Agencies have mandates on specific provisions of for vessel removal to address this issue; so far no practical approach has been undertaken to address the issue. J-PRISM will conduct a Disaster Waste Workshop in March to help us develop our draft Disaster Management Plan.
4. **Bulky Waste**; Regular monitoring is undertaken jointly with the Municipalities and Provincial Governments to address the issue of illegal dumping in respective jurisdictions.
5. **E-waste waste**; Initial discussions have initiated during the PACWASTE PLUS Project Team visit to Vanuatu – other than that Vanuatu initially benefitted from the PACWASTE Project.
6. **Hazardous Waste Asbestos**; Vanuatu is yet to amend its legislations to include the ban on the importation of asbestos – legislative approach to manage Asbestos in country.
7. **Healthcare Waste**; The PACWASTE PLUS Project has provided funding for the maintenance and repair of at least two Hospital Incinerators – the Project package also included providing maintenance training.
8. **Waste water** – Road construction works required sideway pits to manage waste water during heavy rains; all other solid wastes including recyclables are captured in the filled in pits. The Ministry of Public Utility has confirmed that this is the current measure to management waste water during heavy rains – when filled in water dries up, the recyclables and other waste can easily be collected.

CHALLENGES & LIMITATIONS

- The main challenge is meeting Project expectations given that our priority waste management issues as an environmental issue is crosscutting with other social and political issues.
- Attempting the most possible holistic approach is always the best practice so that at least our people in the communities will have the opportunity to take ownership of the projects.
- Transferability Issues: Like any other Pacific Island Country, the priorities of a current active Government may NOT necessarily be the same priorities of the Next Government.
- Ability to change the mind-sets of communities into making waste management a priority.

THREE PRIORITY ISSUES FOR VANUATU

1. **Solid Wastes recyclables**; PLASTICS: Single-Use Plastics including soft plastics and hard plastics – including efforts to find cheaper alternatives of Disposable Diapers such as Reusable Diapers.
2. **Organic Waste**; majority of waste to the landfill is organic waste, no waste segregation resulting in the need to upgrade of current landfill.
3. **Bulky Waste**; there are a number of illegal dumpsites especially in communities and near main wharf area (waste from ships).

WAY FORWARD

- Vanuatu's approach to this round of Project proposals is for a 'Community-based Waste Management Project with piloted communities'.
- This project proposal although still in design stages will aim to add value to existing Government and NGO projects that are already happening in the communities around Vanuatu.
- We want to make an impact at the community level as majority of our population in the communities need empowerment and confidence building to mobilize and make a change in the waste management sector.
- To maintain the pristine nature of Vanuatu, we will continue to advocate for Greener Environment, Cleaner Oceans, Healthier People & Plastic-free Vanuatu.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION 😊