



This initiative is supported by **PacWastePlus**-a 72 month project funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) **to sustainably and cost effectively improve regional management of waste and pollution.**



PacWaste Plus Programme Steering Committee

MEETING REPORT

26-28 April 2023,
Rarotonga Cook Islands



INFRASTRUCTURE
COOK ISLANDS
Te Tongo Anauanga o te Kuki Airani



Sustainable,
transformative,
and resilient for a
Blue Pacific
**SPREP
PROE**

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Our vision: A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

PacWaste Plus Programme

The Pacific – European Union (EU) Waste Management Programme, PacWaste Plus, is a 72-month programme funded by the EU and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to improve regional management of waste and pollution sustainably and cost-effectively.

About PacWaste Plus

The impact of waste and pollution is taking its toll on the health of communities, degrading natural ecosystems, threatening food security, impeding resilience to climate change, and adversely impacting social and economic development of countries in the region. The PacWaste Plus programme will generate improved economic, social, health, and environmental benefits by enhancing existing activities and building capacity and sustainability into waste management practices for all participating countries.

Countries participating in the PacWastePlus programme are: *Cook Islands, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.*

KEY OBJECTIVES

Outcomes & Key Result Areas

The overall objective of PacWastePlus is “to generate improved economic, social, health and environmental benefits arising from stronger regional economic integration and the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment”.

The specific objective is “to ensure the safe and sustainable management of waste with due regard for the conservation of biodiversity, health and wellbeing of Pacific Island communities and climate change mitigation and adaptation requirements”.

Key Result Areas

- Improved data collection, information sharing, and education awareness
- Policy & Regulation - Policies and regulatory frameworks developed and implemented.
- Best Practices - Enhanced private sector engagement and infrastructure development implemented
- Human Capacity - Enhanced human capacity

Learn more about the PacWaste Plus programme by visiting



SPREP
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Environment Programme



<https://pacwasteplus.org/>

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INTRODUCTION

The European Union (EU) funded PacWaste Plus programme is working with 14 countries in the Pacific region, plus Timor-Leste, to address the cost effective and sustainable management of waste and pollution, as well as reducing the negative impacts of improper waste management on human health and wellbeing.

The programme is a continuation and up-scaling of a previous EU funded Hazardous Waste Management project (PacWaste) that assisted countries to manage asbestos, e-waste and healthcare waste. This new programme will continue working in these areas and expand to address an additional five new waste streams, disaster waste, bulky waste, recyclables, organic waste and wastewater.

The Project Steering Committee is established to guide the development and implementation of the PacWaste Plus Programme, ensuring a fair and reasonable decision-making process for project priorities and funding allocations. The committee meets on an annual basis to discuss project activity and confirm forward activity for 12 months.

After two years of virtual steering committee deliberations, the 2023 programme Steering Committee Meeting themed, *“Turning Commitments into Action”* and associated other programme Talanoa and capacity building sessions was held from April 26-28, 2023, in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

SPREP acknowledges the support of the Government of Cook Islands for hosting this important meeting through the Ministry of Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI) as the meeting Chair and the financial support from EU to enable this meeting to enhance sustainable waste management efforts in the Pacific.

SESSION 1: INTRODUCTORY REMARKS/WELCOME ADDRESS

Following a welcoming ceremony performed by the Cook Islands, the meeting was officiated by Ms Claytoncy Taurarii of Cook Islands, with Bishop Paul Donoghue from the Cook Islands Catholic Church delivering the opening prayer.



The Hon. Albert Nicholas, Minister for Infrastructure Cook Islands & National Environment Service, provided a welcome address to the meeting and acknowledged the European Union for funding the PacWaste Plus programme. The Honourable Minister applauded the programme for recognising the impact of waste and pollution on sustainable development in the Pacific which is taking its toll on the health of communities, degrading natural ecosystems, threatening food security, impeding resilience to climate change and adversely impacting on social and economic development. He further stated that imports into Cook Islands continue to grow, and these items are either landfilled or stockpiled on vacant land. Cook Island promotes the 3 Rs of waste management – to reduce, reuse and recycle.

The Minister further noted that Cook Islands is focusing PacWaste Plus investment to support the implementation of an effective and sustainable financing system, known as the Advance Recovery Disposal Fee (ARDF) to enable long-term, self-financing collection and recovery of recyclable items.

The Honourable Minister announced that the country's Cabinet, approved the ARDF Policy the week before the Steering Committee meeting and its inclusion as Part 6 of our Solid and Hazardous Waste Bill. The policy is scheduled to be tabled to Parliament in June 2023 and further highlighted that the country recognises the ARDF scheme as a mechanism to incentivise consumers to return recoverable items to a collection depot and to fund the collection and recycling of these articles. In concluding his welcome address, the Hon Minister wished the committee the very best in its deliberations during the Steering Committee meeting.



Ms. Andreja Vidal from the European Union's Delegation to the Pacific thanked delegates for attending the programme Steering Committee meeting and specifically thanked the Cook Islands for hosting the meeting in the Rarotonga. Ms. Vidal stated that the EU was pleased to see that some of the global waste management issues, such as plastic pollution, finally getting the attention at the global stage that they deserve. She further stated that about 11 million tonnes of plastic currently enter the ocean every day and this amount will triple in the next 20 years if there is no effective international response. Ms. Vidal added that the European Union is committed to the international negotiation process on the legally binding instrument on plastic pollution and is looking forward to hosting the second session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in Paris at the end of May this year. The EU is also committed in supporting the Pacific Islands countries within this process through the ongoing as well as future programmes. Ms. Vidal highlighted that the European Union is currently

carrying out a mid-term review of the PacWaste Plus programme, and thanked all the countries that devoted their time and participated in the interviews. She mentioned that the programme mid-term review is important for the EU as it provide an independent assessment on what can be improved within the current programme and to hear about the lessons learned that will influence any future EU funding in the region in this sector. Ms. Vidal thanked the SPREP's PacWaste Plus programme management unit for organising the first Steering Committee meeting in person after a lapse of 2 years due to the pandemic.



Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra, SPREP Director General addressed the meeting and expressed SPREPs appreciation to the Ministry of Infrastructure Cook Islands for hosting the PacWaste Plus Steering Committee meeting, and the European Union for their continued support to build the collective capacity in the Pacific to address waste and pollution challenges. Mr. Nawadra highlighted that the PacWaste Plus programme reflects the importance of the EU's partnership with the Pacific in preserving our environment and supporting countries, in the area of sustainable management of waste with a key focus on the circular economy. He further stated that together with climate change and biodiversity loss, waste management remains as one of the major causes of environmental degradation and the triple planetary crises we are facing and encouraged countries to work together with the programme PMU to progress project commitments.



The PacWaste Plus Programme Manager, Mr. Bradley Nolan expressed his gratitude to ICI and the Cook Islands government for hosting the programme steering committee meeting in Rarotonga.

Mr Nolan acknowledged the continuous support from the EU to progress sustainable waste management actions in the Pacific and also thanked the country delegates for their commitment to attend the programme steering committee meeting.

He provided an overview of the meeting agenda for the formal steering committee meeting and the planned activities and structure for associated meetings planned for the 3 days.

Mr Nolan encouraged the participating country delegates to utilise the availability of the programme management unit members to discuss issues and solutions and country needs that would help in achieving project progress.

SESSION 2: PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022

The PacWaste Plus Programme Manager, Mr Bradley Nolan then provided a high-level summary of activity during 2022 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.

2022 Achievements

The PacWaste Plus Programme has achieved significant outcomes which includes:

- All waste audits have been completed, along with the human rights assessments, and legislative assessments. This means that work will be conducted in the next reporting period to build a detailed 'prospectus for opportunity' that will seek to increase private industry investment in waste management in the region.
- Provided direct support to eight countries on legislative development of sustainable financing and commenced development of legislative support for one additional country.
- Continued to publish the Connections newsletter to keep the region informed of PacWastePlus and partner programme activity, the readership of the newsletter was significantly increased from last year.
- Developed and published 246 resources and publications (since 2019) for participating countries.
- Developed, launched, and actively manage the Programme website as the online library of resources and source of information on the Programme.
- Developed the Sustainable Financing Legislative Pathway, and associated resources to assist implementation of sustainable financing legislation.
- Developed Asbestos Ban legislative pathway, Template Asbestos Management Policy, and Guideline to Asbestos landfilling.
- Developed and implemented a remote engagement strategy
- Provided response and recovery support and services to nine communities in Vanuatu following Tropical Cyclone Harold.
- Developed a series of programme management toolkits that are being used as basis for SWAP Programme Management Training.
- Continued to work closely with partner projects GEF ISLANDS, JPRISM II, POLP, PRIF, and SWAP on aligned activities.
- Succeeded in the development and submission of all 15-member country projects

Despite the challenges faced by the PMU, several significant achievements as included in the Annual Donor Report, have been made.

A summary of programme highlights is detailed as follows:

Item	Description
Programme Administration	
Programme alignment & Regional Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with the countries has continued throughout the reporting period. Details of various meetings and important consultations are included in meeting and events register in Monday.com (https://sprepwmprc.monday.com/boards/306313889) (note access to Monday.com has been provided to Ms Andreja Vidal only, if a copy of the register is required, we can download and send separately).
Programme Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued involvement with PRIF and the World Bank on the regional waste audit task force, and the Regional Recycling Hub project. PacWastePlus has continued working with the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (an agency of the Australian Government), Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA (an Australian overseas, labour focussed aid and development organisation) and the Asian Ban Asbestos Network (ABAN) on a path forward to ban asbestos from the Pacific region. PacWastePlus also delivered a paper and presentation to the ASEA Conference in April 2022 on our work. PacWastePlus continued to chair the healthcare waste management task force. The goals of the task force are to protect and enhance donor healthcare waste management investments in incinerator technology through support of a repair and maintenance backstopping effort, coordinate healthcare waste management efforts in the pacific region through information sharing and reducing duplication of efforts, and craft a path forward in the COVID19 healthcare waste management crisis. Participants are GEF ISLANDS, WHO, ADB, PRIF, DFAT and World Bank. Additionally, a donor presentation was developed and shared with UNEP, New Zealand, and Australia seeking funding. Engagement with these players will continue. Collaboration with J-PRISM II, SWAP and GEF ISLANDS in the coordination of an aligned programme (training and materials) to assist member countries on Container Deposit / Advanced Recovery Fee Schemes. Partnership with J-PRISM II regarding alignment of activities associated with implementation of Container Deposit in Vanuatu. Partnership with ACP-MEA and GEF ISLANDS regarding coordination of legislative work in Papua New Guinea. Participation in the Basil Rotterdam & Stockholm Conventions in Geneva, promoting PacWastePlus actions, and supporting country interventions in the proceedings
Communication and Visibility Plan (CVP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 97 programme resources and publications were produced, published, and circulated to all national country focal officers for the reporting period. These exclude programme collaterals, articles, and news updates on programme website, SPREP website, Clean Pacific Roundtable (CPRT) Event website and social media channels and mainstream media articles. A dedicated programme website was also designed which provides a source of information, access to publications and resources for all the participating countries and other stakeholders interested in the work of this programme or, more in general, the topic of sustainable waste management in the Pacific. The programme also invested in innovative collaterals such as programme branded USBs produced from recycled plastic bottle caps packaged on wooden sheets that would have normally been discarded waste. These USBs are

Item	Description
	<p>preloaded with programme publications/resources and have been utilised during country mission engagements and at other international events and conferences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The programme team established two new community of practice groups on the ISLANDS Green Forum. These include Disaster Waste Management in the Pacific and Sustainable Financing for Waste Management in the Pacific.
Research Advisory Group (RAG)	<p>The RAG assisted the Programme Management Unit with developing several research Terms of Reference during the reporting year. Projects they advised on were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research into uses for end-of-life tyres Research into recycling end markets Research into disposable diapers Research into waste to energy technology
2022 Steering Committee Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2022 Steering Committee Meeting, themed “Implementation and Commitments”, was held as a virtual event (Zoom platform meeting) due to the continued travel restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic. The urgency of implementing commitments into action was the key message at the meeting, which includes a series of five interactive Talanoa sessions addressing the waste priority areas implemented by participating countries. The five Talanoa sessions were held to enable a holistic discussion of both country and regional projects addressing the topic in question. Each Talanoa was allocated 25 minutes where the facilitated discussion explored the design, commitments, and implementation plan for 2022.
Programme Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Programme Working Group meeting was not held during the reporting period as the Programme Management Unit was working with both USP and SPC to progress service-based contracts with both entities. Discussions with our counterparts at the EU’s Delegation to the Pacific occurred as required to progress the Programme’s activities.
Advocate for change at regional and international meetings to influence the decision making of the Pacific and World Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Programme Management Unit has been working with development partners PRIF, ADB, World Bank, POLP, GIZ, JPRISM II, and UNEP to promote and align the PacWastePlus project with other projects operating in the region. Given COVID-19, majority of regional and international events have been cancelled or postponed during the reporting period. Discussion on the events that did occur are included in the advocacy discussion.
SPREP Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Programme Management Unit were heavily involved with the operation of the virtual SPREP Meeting in September 2021. Specifically, three PacWastePlus agenda items and papers were presented for endorsement. They were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asbestos Management Legislative Reform Pathway, Draft healthcare medical waste investment plan Pathway to Introduce Sustainable Financing Mechanism. PacWastePlus staff prepared presentations and briefing papers for each of these agenda items and briefed out at the meetings on these critical topics. All three were endorsed by the SPREP membership based on the briefing materials and presentations by PacWastePlus staff. Additionally, in coordination with several other programs, e.g., JPRISM2, SWAP, PacWastePlus staff provided support and input to the paper on Strategic Planning and Management of Disaster Waste. The Programme Management Unit provided additional supported through rapporteur services.
Confirmation of works for the Pacific Community as Programme Delivery Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing meetings have occurred with the Pacific Community (SPC) since the February 2020 Steering Committee Meeting to progress the design of the waste-water project. Formal design of project has not yet occurred as SPC does not have sufficient internal staff resource, so discussions are currently focusing on the

Item	Description
	<p>ability / possibility for release of funds to engage a staff member to assist with the development work. SPREP is reviewing the possibility of this with due consideration to our Procurement Policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions with EU Delegation to the Pacific and SPC sought to scale back this work and reallocate funds the project planning and contracting activities continued with SPC to enact this work. Ongoing discussions with SPC have occurred to progress this activity.
PacWaste Plus Risk Plan Implementation & Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many of the risks identified in the Risk Management Plan have been experienced in the reporting period (delays in staff recruitment, natural disasters, pandemic, issues with country engagement). The Programme Management Unit have established processes and systems to follow up with countries and adjust work programmes to address delays and ensure always working to capacity. The Risk Management Plan can be accessed here - https://sprepwmprc.monday.com/boards/783024600 (note access to Monday.com has been provided to Ms Andrea Vidal only, if a copy of the plan is required, we can download and send separately).
Development of Gender & Social Equality (GESI) Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A guiding document was developed by the Programme Management Unit and used to guide the mainstreaming of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) considerations in PacWastePlus Country and Regional Projects. The guiding document ensures consideration of GESI elements such as the right to information, equality in participation, equal employment opportunities, health & safety, traditional knowledge and culture, and governance. These topics were identified by the Human Rights Situational Review. A summary of opportunities for each country to consider gender and human rights in waste management decision making was provided to focal points as part of their project snapshots, published early in the reporting period.
Recruitment of National Officers	<p>National Officers contracted for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samoa Palau FSM (Yap) Tonga PNG
Key Result Area 1 – Data, Information & Education	
Waste Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PacWastePlus completed 8 national waste audit and provided assistance to PRIF and World Bank in 6 national waste audits. Copy of the Waste Audit Report can be found on the PacWastePlus Waste website.
Human Rights Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As reported previously, the Programme Management Unit completed a situational analysis assessment to gain a comprehensive understanding of how issues of human rights, equality, and cultural awareness (including traditional knowledge) are currently being considered and incorporated into waste and environmental programme management, and how they can be strengthened through the activities implemented by PacWastePlus. Specific country findings from this assessment were shared with each country in Q2 2022 as part of their project snapshots, highlighting opportunities to consider right to information, equality in participation, equal employment opportunities, health & safety, traditional knowledge and culture, and governance in waste management decision making. Additionally, the Programme Management Unit commissioned a study to analyse opportunities for decision makers in the Pacific to consider and incorporate GESI and disability inclusion in Sustainable Finance for Waste Management scheme design.

Item	Description
Publications & Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 97 programme resources and publications were produced, published, and circulated to all national country focal officers for the reporting period. Quarterly programme newsletters produced and disseminated to all project stakeholders
National Education and Awareness Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PMU continued to provide technical assistance to countries to refine and implement country project National Education & Awareness Plans (NEAP).
Key Result Area 2 – Legislative Assistance	
Legislative Support for Sustainable Financing for Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Programme Management Unit finalised six Legislation Support activities. As with previous reporting period, all six requests were to undertake a feasibility review and legislative guidance associated with the implementation of a Sustainable Financing / Advance Recovery Fee and Deposit Scheme. Countries involved include Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, PNG, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. PacWaste Plus developed and published several documents to assist Focal Points with the design of their Sustainable Financing schemes and move forward after their feasibility studies. Five “Do it Yourself” Guides provide resources to guide effective communications with stakeholders and draft a policy note for Scheme Implementation. A GEDSI publication provides guidance on how and when to consider, analyse, and mitigate potential GEDSI factors in Sustainable Financing Scheme Implementation. Assisted seven countries to establish Working Group for Sustainable Financing systems: Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and PNG
Implementation Plan for Asbestos Ban and Code of Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tendered, advertised and entered contacts for the drafting of ACM ban and Code of Practice language for PNG, Nauru and Tonga. Completed draft Code of Practice for Nauru and providing a PP presentation on the document for Nauru’s use during consultation. Completed and published a short briefing paper for each PacWastePlus member country for use in explaining what asbestos is, its risks to human health, and the regulation and process to adopt a ban in country. Published a regional template for an asbestos code of practice.
Disaster Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PacWaste Plus engaged the University of New Castle to establish the following Practitioner Guideline: National Disaster Waste Management Plan templates with drafting instructions Operational Guide on the Establishment of an Environment Sector Working Group Methodology for Estimating and Recording of Disaster Waste and Environmental Damage in Pacific Islands. PacWaste Plus presented at the 2022 Pacific Resilient Partnership Meeting in Suva, seeking endorsement to the establishment of a Disaster Waste Technical Working Group. The main objective of this group is to facilitate the mainstreaming of Disaster Waste Management into the implementation of the FRDP. The Programme Management Unit is currently in the process of finalising the TOR for this Working Group. PacWaste Plus hosted a side event on Disaster Waste Management at the 2022 Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and had an Exhibition Booth. PacWaste Plus will be working with a Pilot Country to trial the Practitioners Guideline before finalisation and publication.
Key Result Area 3 – On-ground Actions	
Incinerator Assessment and Repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed and assessment of three incinerators located in Timor Leste. This assessment will be used to evaluate costs for their repair as well as the drafting of a Terms of Reference for repair once we have received the go-head from EU.

Item	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair works has been completed on four PacWaste incinerators, Helena Goldie and NRH Honiara, both in Solomon Islands, Norsup Hospital in Vanuatu and Prince Ngu Hospital in Tonga. Terms of Reference has been drafted to replace the London Hospital PacWaste incinerator located in Kiribati.
Sustainable Financing for Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertook a Sustainable Financing Study Tour to Australia, joint with ISLANDS programme. Tour provided 23 representatives from the Pacific with a comprehensive "hands-on" understanding of the Sustainable Financing Systems in operation in Australia to enable findings and learnings to be applied in their countries. A communications and knowledge transfer plan are in development to ensure learnings from the Study Tour will be shared throughout the region. Provided further input and guidance during development of policy and legislative drafting documents for the Cook Islands (Solid Hazard Waste Bill and Advanced Recycling Policy), Samoa (Revenue Board Submission), and Vanuatu (Product Stewardship Scheme Drafting Note) Ongoing assistance provided to seven country who have priority to implement or expand a Sustainable Financing for Waste Management scheme
Key Result Area 4 – Capacity Building	
Completion of the National Capacity Needs Assessment (NCNA) and development of Curriculum for primary & secondary schools integrating waste management into core subjects (STEM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions progressed positively with our programme partner, the University of the South Pacific (USP), who were reminded on the urgency of implementation of contractual obligations without compromising quality deliverables. Contracts in place with USP to complete the 'Capacity Needs Analysis' project and to develop a single "Pacific Region" school curriculum package (primary and secondary), for the 15 participating programme countries. Awaiting final deliverables.
Behaviour Change Pilot Projects (BCPP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to the lack of responses on pilot project applications, the PMU identified the following pilot projects and sort agreement from countries for their implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PNG – Community to segregate and recycle e-waste. - Vanuatu – Choosing Reusable over Disposable- A community initiative to change behaviour to adopt reusable diapers instead of disposable diapers. - Solomon Islands – Improving the Management of Organics/Recyclables in the Ontong Java community (Lord Howe settlement)- Aligned to Greening of the Games national efforts and keeping Solomon Islands clean. Tenders/TORs for the pilot projects were developed and will be advertised within the first quarter of 2023.

PacWaste Plus 2022 Publications and Resources

Document type	Communications Output
PacWaste Plus related Articles on SPREP and News Media Websites and social media	<p><i>PacWaste Plus Website Goes Live</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.sprep.org/news/interactive-and-dedicated-website-for-pacwasteplus-programme-goes-live https://www.facebook.com/SPREP.PEIN/posts/4923960004315929 https://twitter.com/SprepChannel/status/1434987111615107073/photo/1 <p><i>Pacific Focusing on Waste this World Population Day</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.sprep.org/news/pacific-focusing-on-waste-this-world-population-day https://twitter.com/SprepChannel/status/1414376341101678593/photo/1 <p><i>Empowering Pacific Youth This World Youth Skills Day</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.sprep.org/news/empowering-pacific-youth-this-world-youth-skills-day https://twitter.com/SprepChannel/status/1415517547030478851/photo/1

Document type	Communications Output
	<p>Samoa Moves Ahead to Implement Sustainable E-Waste Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.sprep.org/news/samoa-moves-ahead-to-implement-sustainable-e-waste-management • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/samoa-moves-ahead-to-implement-e-waste-management-project/ • https://www.facebook.com/SPREP.PEIN/posts/5045660222145906 • https://twitter.com/SprepChannel/status/1448883211795255296/photo/1 • https://www.samoaoobserver.ws/category/samoa/93205?utm_content=buffer07537&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer&fbclid=IwAR3vsPS6R3O1LEgT9JApU1ZliQOo-Mnfv7gUDNDRr2E6bCEyMQw93jOZhPo <p>Improving Organic Waste Management in Chuuk and Yap States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.sprep.org/news/improving-organic-waste-management-in-chuuk-and-yap-states • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/improving-organic-waste-management-in-chuuk-and-yap-states/ • https://www.facebook.com/SPREP.PEIN • twitter.com/SprepChannel/status/1447758405901250564/photo/1 <p>Cook Islands Move Forward to Implement Sustainable Financing for Waste Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.sprep.org/news/cook-islands-move-forward-to-implement-sustainable-financing-for-waste-management • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/cook-islands-move-forward-to-implement-sustainable-financing-for-waste-management/ • https://www.facebook.com/SPREP.PEIN/posts/4800940766617854 • https://twitter.com/SprepChannel/status/1419876905654775809/photo/1 <p>Improving The Management of End-Of-Life Tyres in Palau</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.sprep.org/news/improving-the-management-of-end-of-life-tyres-in-palau • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/improving-the-management-of-end-of-life-tyres-in-palau/ • https://pasifika.news/2021/09/improving-the-management-of-end-of-life-tyres-in-palau/?fbclid=IwAR0Qz3-cWnwISemPfgESFlyQ67ETR5teGyEvuoPkBuwM5GrOVStArnPjjc • https://www.pacificislandtimes.com/post/tired-of-it-palau-seeking-solution-to-mounting-problems-with-waste-tires?fbclid=IwAR0gOmKIsnR68k72D6rvrfxcWpfzVhpEQkhcldHoztDjZnM9pcUpOb-as • https://twitter.com/SprepChannel/status/1440783610475286529/photo/1 • https://www.facebook.com/SPREP.PEIN/photos/pcb.4974796405898955/4974795789232350/ <p>Sustainable Financing Mechanisms for Waste Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.sprep.org/news/sustainable-financing-mechanisms-for-waste-management • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/sustainable-financing-mechanisms-for-waste-management/ • https://twitter.com/SprepChannel/status/1435763666167631876/photo/1 • https://www.facebook.com/SPREP.PEIN/photos/pcb.4930402517005011/4930396463672283/ <p>Strengthening The Management of Hazardous Waste in The Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.sprep.org/news/strengthening-the-management-of-hazardous-waste-in-the-region • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/strengthening-the-management-of-hazardous-waste-in-the-region/ • https://twitter.com/SprepChannel/status/1435764675291926528/photo/1 • https://www.facebook.com/SPREP.PEIN/photos/a.180356718676305/4930407067004556/ <p>Enhancing Management of Disaster Waste Resilience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.sprep.org/news/enhancing-management-of-disaster-waste-resilience • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/enhancing-management-of-disaster-waste-resilience/ • https://www.facebook.com/SPREP.PEIN/photos/a.180356718676305/4927815963930333/ • https://twitter.com/SprepChannel/status/1435464292464087050/photo/1 <p>Clean Pacific Roundtable PacWaste Plus Programme (Resources) Visibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://cleanpacificroundtable.hubilo.com/community/#/exhibitor/112597?exhib_tab_id=42200 • https://cleanpacificroundtable.hubilo.com/community/#/feed • https://www.cleanpacificroundtable.com/key-information • https://www.cleanpacificroundtable.com/day-2 <p>Managing Disaster Waste to Strengthen Country Resiliency – CPRT Deep Dive-Disaster Waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/managing-disaster-waste-to-strengthen-country-resiliency/

Document type	Communications Output
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.sprep.org/news/managing-disaster-waste-to-strengthen-country-resiliency https://pacwasteplus.org/news/clean-pacific-roundtable-deep-dive-side-event-4-disaster-waste-management/ https://www.facebook.com/SPREP.PEIN/photos/pcb.5151897794855481/5151896281522299/ https://www.facebook.com/SPREP.PEIN/photos/a.180356718676305/514518275526985/ <p>Clean Pacific Roundtable Zeroes In On Addressing Asbestos Containing Materials-Deep Dive Session-Asbestos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/news/clean-pacific-roundtable-zeroes-in-on-addressing-asbestos-containing-materials/ https://www.sprep.org/news/clean-pacific-roundtable-zeroes-in-on-addressing-asbestos-containing-materials https://www.facebook.com/SPREP.PEIN/photos/pcb.5152893278089266/5152892904755970/ https://twitter.com/SprepChannel/status/1461198274845544449/photo/1 https://www.facebook.com/SPREP.PEIN/photos/a.180356718676305/5103766179668643/ <p>Calls for Asbestos Bans Across Asia and Pacific Intensify</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/news/calls-for-asbestos-bans-across-asia-and-pacific-intensify/ https://www.apheda.org.au/calls-for-asbestos-bans-across-asia-and-pacific-intensify/ <p>Clean Pacific Roundtable Maps Out Way Forward To Reduce Impact Of Healthcare Waste On Our Environment And Public Health-CPRT Deep Dive Session-Healthcare waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/news/clean-pacific-roundtable-maps-out-way-forward-to-reduce-impact-of-healthcare-waste-on-our-environment-and-public-health/ https://www.sprep.org/news/clean-pacific-roundtable-maps-out-way-forward-to-reduce-impact-of-healthcare-waste-on-our-environment-and-public-health https://twitter.com/SprepChannel/status/1461598694541721602/photo/1 https://www.facebook.com/SPREP.PEIN/photos/pcb.5156605621051365/5156605341051393 https://www.facebook.com/SPREP.PEIN/photos/a.180356718676305/5145186945526566/ <p>Clean Pacific Roundtable Enables Pacific Islands To Enhance Understanding Of Waste Management Sustainable Financing Systems – CPRT Deep Dive session-Sustainable Financing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/news/clean-pacific-roundtable-enables-pacific-islands-to-enhance-understanding-of-waste-management-sustainable-financing-systems/ https://www.sprep.org/news/clean-pacific-roundtable-enables-pacific-islands-to-enhance-understanding-of-waste-management-sustainable-financing-systems https://www.facebook.com/SPREP.PEIN/photos/a.180356718676305/5081216628590265/ https://www.facebook.com/SPREP.PEIN/photos/pcb.5165139116864682/5165138066864787 https://twitter.com/SprepChannel/status/1462534855116218368/photo/1 <p>Personal Protective Equipment: Guidance for Waste Management Workers in Pacific Island Countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.facebook.com/SPREP.PEIN/photos/a.180356718676305/5453375321374392/ <p>PacWastePlus produced resources (collective)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://library.sprep.org/search?ff0=collection:8933 <p>PacWastePlus Programme Participating Countries Commit To “Make It Happen”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.sprep.org/news/pacwasteplus-programme-participating-countries-commit-to-make-it-happen https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=374878558000557&set=a.334543972034016 https://twitter.com/SprepChannel/status/1529640946933321728/photo/1 <p>Samoa: Sustainable E-Waste Management Through PacWastePlus Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://global-recycling.info/archives/6656 <p>PacWastePlus produced resources (collective)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://library.sprep.org/ <p>2022 Asbestos Safety and Management Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/news/2022-asbestos-safety-and-management-conference/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDOzmx9VOC <p>UN Ocean Conference 2022: Ocean pollution like all forms of pollution must be prevented</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/469887/un-ocean-conference-2022-ocean-pollution-like-all-forms-of-pollution-must-be-prevented?fbclid=IwAR3O6nileoXEczhHgLCIJOOeJwx71ez2jEQNUep1ZPTfalCykp4mUsEI0

Document type	Communications Output
Reports	<p>PacWaste Plus Programme Gender & Social Inclusion (GESI) Guiding Document</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/pacwasteplus-programme-gender-social-inclusion-gesi-guiding-document/ <p>Vanuatu Waste Audit Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/vanuatu-waste-audit-report/ <p>PNG Waste Audit Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/papua-new-guinea-waste-audit-report/ <p>Nauru Waste Audit Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/nauru-waste-audit-report/ <p>* Timor-Leste, RMI and Niue reports under peer review</p> <p>Asbestos Management Policy and Regulation for Pacific Island Countries and Timor-Leste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/asbestos-management-policy-and-regulation-for-pacific-island-countries-and-timor-leste/ <p>Waste to Energy Research Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/waste-to-energy-research-report/ <p>Recycling Market: Research Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/recycling-market-research-report/ <p>Research Report: Assessment of End-of-Life Tyres in the Pacific</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/research-report-assessment-of-end-of-life-tyres-in-the-pacific/ <p>RMI Waste Audit Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/RMI-Waste-Audit-Report_FINAL-1.pdf <p>PacWaste Plus Steering Committee Meeting Report 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/pacwasteplus-steering-committee-meeting-report-2022/ <p>Niue Waste Audit Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/niue-waste-audit-report/ <p>Timor-Leste Waste Audit Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/timor-leste-waste-audit-report/ <p>Volume 1: Executive Summary- Research Report: Assessment of Alternatives to Single Use Disposable Diapers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/volume-1-executive-summary-research-report-assessment-of-alternatives-to-single-use-disposable-diapers/ <p>Volume 2: Literature Review Research Report: Assessment of Alternatives to Single Use Disposable Diapers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/volume-2-literature-review-research-report-assessment-of-alternatives-to-single-use-disposable-diapers/ <p>Volume 3: Guidance for Decision Makers – Assessment of Alternatives to Single-use Disposable Diapers Research Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/volume-3-guidance-for-decision-makers-assessment-of-alternatives-to-single-use-disposable-diapers-research-report/ <p>Volume 4: Guidance for Decision Makers – Assessment of Alternatives to Single-use Disposable Diapers Research Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/volume-4-guidance-for-decision-makers-assessment-of-alternatives-to-single-use-disposable-diapers-research-report/ <p>Volume 5: Guidance for Communities and Private Sector – Assessment of Alternatives to Single-use Disposable Diapers Research Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/volume-5-guidance-for-communities-and-private-sector-assessment-of-alternatives-to-single-use-disposable-diapers-research-report/ <p>Policy Guidance Report: Waste Licensing and Environmental Monitoring Policy – Pacific Island Countries and Territories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/policy-guidance-report-waste-licensing-and-environmental-monitoring-policy-pacific-island-countries-and-territories/
Fact Sheets & Booklets	<p>Various Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Guide to Developing Project Engagement Plans: Stakeholder Education and Awareness Model Regional Education and Awareness Plan

Document type	Communications Output
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathway for a Sustainable Financing Mechanism • Asbestos Management Legislative Reform Pathway
	15 Country Project Profiles
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cook Islands • FSM • Fiji • Kiribati • Nauru • Niue • Palau • PNG • RMI • Samoa • Solomon Islands • Tonga • Tuvalu • Timor-Leste • Vanuatu
	Asbestos Management Legislative and Regulatory Analysis – Policy Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/asbestos-management-legislative-and-regulatory-analysis-policy-recommendations/
	Waste To Energy Information Booklet
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/waste-to-energy-information-booklet/
	CDL/ARFD Country Publications (not published country use only)
	Cook Islands
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility Study: Development of an ARFD System in the Cook Islands
	Kiribati
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation Plan • Legislative Guidance • Situation Review + Options Analysis
	Nauru
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation Plan • Legislative Guidance • Situation Review + Options Analysis
	Niue
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation Plan • Legislative Guidance • Situation Review + Options Analysis
	RMI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility Study: Expansion of Recycling Legislation for RMI • Technical Guiding Note for EPR Legislation in RMI
	Samoa
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility Study: Development of an ARFD System in Samoa • Technical Guiding Note: Drafting of a Legal Framework
	Solomon Islands
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation Plan • Legislative Guidance • Situation Review + Options Analysis
	Vanuatu
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation Plan • Legislative Guidance • Situation Review + Options Analysis
	Recycling Market: Summary Booklet
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/recycling-market-summary-booklet/

Document type	Communications Output
	<p>Personal Protective Equipment: Guidance for Waste Management Workers in Pacific Island Countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/personal-protective-equipment-guidance-for-waste-management-workers-in-pacific-island-countries/ <p>End of Life Tyres (ELT)-Community Factsheet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/end-of-life-tyres-elt-community-factsheet/ <p>End of Life Tyre Management: Options for Mechanical Processing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/end-of-life-tyre-management-options-for-mechanical-processing/ <p>End of Life Tyre Management: Thermal Processing Options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/end-of-life-tyre-management-thermal-processing-options/ <p>End of Life Tyre Management: Non-Processing Reuse Options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/end-of-life-tyre-management-non-processing-reuse-options/ <p>End of Life Tyres Series E-publication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://clt1383303.bmetrack.com/c/v?e=141261A&c=151B87&t=1&l=6BA94CA3&email=8XDe3NAVe88Cu4eO9uqVOxalw4W6c2hcNyleD9VsXLU%3D <p>Toolkit: Asbestos Management: Country Briefs and Implementation GANNT Charts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 country specific resources toolkits were produced to assist countries to progress work on the development and implementation of National ACM bans. The toolkit provides background information, identifies policy, legislative options available and includes a GANNT chart (schedule) for the implementation of this work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cook Islands Asbestos Management Brief • FSM Asbestos Management Brief • Fiji Asbestos Management Brief • Kiribati Asbestos Management Brief • Nauru Asbestos Management Brief • Niue Asbestos Management Brief • Palau Asbestos Management Brief • PNG Asbestos Management Brief • RMI Asbestos Management Brief • Samoa Asbestos Management Brief • Solomon Islands Asbestos Management Brief • Timor-Leste Asbestos Management Brief • Tonga Asbestos Management Brief • Tuvalu Asbestos Management Brief • Vanuatu Asbestos Management Brief <p>Toolkit: ARD Guiding Documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To assist countries to design their own effective ARFD scheme a toolkit was developed which contained a series of 5 publication resources. This included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance on the 21 Step Pathway - Decisions and Actions Needed • ARFD Policy and Drafting Instructions • Designing an ARFD Scheme - Key Questions Decision • Determining Scheme Partners – Roles and Responsibilities • Build it yourself- Guidance to Draft an ARFD Policy • ARFD Series E-Publication <p>Template Policy: Waste Licensing and Environmental Monitoring Policy – Pacific Island Countries and Territories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/template-policy-waste-licensing-nd-environmental-monitoring-policy-pacific-island-countries-and-territories/ <p>A Step-by-Step Guide to Implementation: Waste Licensing & Environmental Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/a-step-by-step-guide-to-implementation-waste-licensing-environmental-monitoring/ <p>Benefits of a Sustainable Financing System for Waste Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/benefits-of-a-sustainable-financing-system-for-waste-management/

Document type	Communications Output
	<p>Case Study: Composting – Titikaveka Growers Association (Down To Earth Compost)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/case-study-composting-titikaveka-growers-association-down-to-earth-compost/
Collateral	<p>The following programme visibility items were produced with PacWastePlus branding and messages:</p> <p>Programme Website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.pacwasteplus.org <p>Programme USBs</p> <p><u>USBs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 10 USBs which contained all programme produced publications and resources (PDF files) were distributed by the programme manager during the Fiji mission to various key stakeholders during meetings • A total of 12 USBs which contained all programme produced publications and resources (PDF files) were distributed by the SPREP Director General during a Fiji mission at various high-level meetings and also at other international engagements – UN Oceans Conference amongst others <p>Understanding Advance Recovery Fee and Deposit (ARFD) Scheme – Video resource</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/understanding-advance-recovery-fee-and-deposit-arfd-scheme/ <p>PacWaste Plus Branded Uniforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New uniforms (same design, but different colours as previously produced) have been developed and printed. Was provided to Programme staff. Additional uniforms to be created once National Officers are on board. <p>Messaged T-shirt for Global Recycling Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although the programme did not incur any cost for production, t-shirt artwork was designed by the programme team for Global Recycling Day celebrations organised by SWARMA in Apia. T-shirts allowed for the opportunity to include programme ribbon logo and messages to promote recycling. The event was unfortunately postponed due to the outbreak of community COVID cases in Samoa. <p>Pull Up Banners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two programme pull up banners were produced and provided to the Department of Environment (Fiji) during the programme managers country mission in May. As per SPREP requirements both banners were signed off using the standard SPREP Asset transfer form. <p>The Green Forum-Online engagement platform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The programme team established two new community of practice groups on the ISLANDS Green Forum. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disaster Waste Management in the Pacific - Sustainable Financing for Waste Management in the Pacific
Newsletter	<p>The Connection</p> <p>Issue 8 of the Programme Newsletter - published Programme Newsletter</p> <p>Issue 9 of the Programme Newsletter – published Programme Newsletter</p> <p>Issue 10 of the Programme Newsletter – published Programme Newsletter</p>

Financial Report 2021-2022

PACWASTE PLUS - BUDGET for the ACTION		PACWASTE PLUS - Actual Costs for the Action	
Titles	4 th Year Actual Costs USD (1 July 2021 30 June 2022)	Cumulative Expenditure	Remaining Balance
KRA 0 - PACWASTE PLUS Project Management			
TOTAL KRA 0	\$630,916	\$2,140,224	\$2,769,372
KRA 1 - Improved data collection, information sharing, and education and awareness			
KRA 1 – Activity			
Clean Pacific Roundtable meeting, including pre-inception workshop Pacwaste Plus	\$16,000	\$88,277.20	\$61,722.80
1.1 Conduct baseline waste management assessments	\$89,922.70	\$533,514.56	\$108,885.44
1.2 & 1.3 Establish the INFORM Waste data Portal and National Waste Monitoring Framework	\$660.00	\$16,260.00	\$341,340.00
1.4(i) & 1.4(ii) Develop regional education and awareness raising plan to guide delivery of National Plans	\$13,448.50	\$89,958.58	\$135,041.42
1.4(iii) Develop and Implement Social Marketing Campaigns	-	-	\$500,000.00
1.5 Research advisory group (RAG)	\$106,858.64	\$184,311.22	\$15,688.78
Subtotal KRA 1	\$226,890	\$912,322	\$1,162,678
KRA 2 Policies and regulatory frameworks developed and implemented			
KRA 2 – Activity			
2.1 Regional legislative framework for waste management	\$5,966.06	\$228,872.41	\$204,033.59
2.2 & 2.3 Develop Regional / National legislation	\$214,424.20	\$342,564.20	\$204,529.80
2.4 Advocacy on good environmental governance	\$876.79	\$3,131.54	\$94,268.46
Sub-total KRA 2	\$221,267	\$574,568	\$502,832
KRA 3 - Best practices, including enhanced private sector engagement and infrastructure development, implemented			
KRA 3 Activity			
3.1 - 3.9 Enhance solid, hazardous and disaster waste management	\$39,401.70	\$71,002.52	\$5,400,297

PACWASTE PLUS - BUDGET for the ACTION	PACWASTE PLUS - Actual Costs for the Action		
Titles	4 th Year Actual Costs USD (1 July 2021 30 June 2022)	Cumulative Expenditure	Remaining Balance
3.10 Waste Water research project	-	-	\$800,000
3.11 Complete PacWASTE I Activities	\$62,368.71	\$192,746.38	\$680,979
Sub-total KRA 3	\$101,770	\$263,749	\$6,881,276
KRA 4 - Human capacity enhanced			
KRA 4 - Activity Costs			
4.1 National Needs Assessment on governance activities	\$1,000	\$71,373.11	\$29,159.89
4.2 National / Regional capacity Building	-	-	\$300,000.00
4.3 School education project	-	-	\$100,000.00
4.4 Vocational & Tertiary education project	-	\$42,780.00	\$1,156,687.00
4.5 Facilitate capacity Building exchanges	-	-	\$400,000.00
Sub-total KRA 4	\$1,000	\$114,153	\$1,985,847
Total direct of the action	\$1,181,843	\$4,005,015	\$13,302,005
SPREP Administration Indirect Cost (7%)	\$87,729.01	\$280,351.07	\$931,139.93
Contingency	-	-	\$270,039.00
Total Budget	\$1,264,572	\$4,285,366	\$14,503,184

Questions from Session 2

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
Highlight the value of the Australian Sustainable Finance Study Tour that was organised which has assisted in initiating in-country efforts. From the study tour we were able to develop a sustainable financing model, influence political support to help with the Sustainable financing momentum in country.	Cook Islands	
Commend the PMU on level engagement which has seen good progress on actions, specifically the engagement of a national officer and the ACM abatement works which will be deployed on ground in June 2023. A comment however on the implementation of the NEAPS and the KRA 4 works and when this is planned to be in process.	Tonga	Our partner, USP has recently submitted the finalised National Capacity Needs Assessment, which will form the basis of course design and informing the bulk of actions under KRA 4.

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
Very interested to hear about the un-used allocation on legislative support for FSM, can we have more information on how to get this process started?	FSM	We acknowledge the unique set up of FSM, whereby interactions between states need to occur to confirm the support that can be provided from this allocation. PacWaste Plus will help in facilitating these state discussions and getting a way forward on utilising this support.
If the 5 countries identified who have not used their KRA2 legislative support allocation, do not use it, can other countries express interest in utilising this allocation? If so, we would like to indicate our interest in this support.	Cook Islands	KRA 2 has a regional component, and the 1 st option for utilising unused allocations is to expand on the regional effort, if there is a need for further support for countries that have already used their allocations, an Expression of Interest process will be used to appropriately determine how this support will be used.
If our process for the engagement of a national officer fails, what happens next?	Palau	If this process fails, PacWaste Plus will seek to discuss, and seek confirmation that Palau will provide the required support while this allocation can fund other types of support, whether it be specific technical assistance, or in-country actions support.
Commend the PMU on the progress and highlights from 2022. A comment however on the issues around engaging national officer, recruitment in Solomon Islands has been slow.	Solomon Islands	Recruitment is in partnership with ISLANDS, but this can be reviewed given the circumstances in Solomon Islands where much of the PWP activities are in Gizo. The positions can be separated if required.
Thankful for PacWaste Plus resources – especially the Moana Taka Partnership publication. Raised question on whether there will be a report on the Australian Sustainable Finance Study Tour?	Samoa	A draft has been started and will be finalised and published in coming months.
<p>Commended PacWaste Plus on the Tropical Cyclone Harold Disaster Waste clean-up work. PacWaste Plus had a high visibility during this time with a Regional Officer. This work provided for the mainstreaming of Disaster Waste.</p> <p>Recruitment of the national officer is ongoing in Vanuatu. If it is not successful, DEPC is open to other options.</p> <p>Highlighted the value of the Australian Sustainable Finance Study Tour, but a shame due to covid it was too late! If tour could have happened in 2020 it may have spared us from some of the challenges, we are now facing with designing our scheme.</p>	Vanuatu	
<p>Working to get the asbestos country project off the ground but progress is slow. If this project loses support – can we change priority area?</p> <p>Highlighted the value of the Australian Sustainable Finance Study Tour. A Sustainable Finance scheme</p>	Nauru	Country investment will not disappear if a country cannot implement project as designed. Suggest looking at ways project can be amended to still achieve the same outcome, for Nauru this may be looking at options for safe disposal of ACM on-island in landfill.

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
would be beneficial for Nauru, can PacWaste Plus assist outside country project?		PacWaste Plus will continue to assist with design of Sustainable Finance scheme, will share learnings and resources and can dial into working group meetings or provide other support as needed. Recommendation to also look at options with other donors and use support in a collaborate way.
Highlighted the challenge for Papua New Guinea with the country project allocation not able to spread far – had to consider what achievable under budget. Grateful to be part of the behaviour change project and links it can provide utilising existing local partners.	Papua New Guinea	Work is underway on the healthcare front in PNG. The strong interest on the part of the PNG department of health will pay dividends in using the money that is available. We are focused on updating the HCWM policy as well as following up on HCWM training for country hospitals.

SESSION 3: MID TERM REVIEW

The EU highlighted that they were carrying out a mid-term review of the PacWaste Plus programme and thanked all countries that dedicated their time to participate in the review interviews. Delegates were informed that the mid-term review was significant as it provided an independent assessment on what can be improved within the current programme and to hear about the lessons learned that will influence any future EU funding in the region in this sector.

The main objectives of the evaluation, conducted by NIRAS was to provide the relevant services of the EU and the interested stakeholders with:

- An overall independent assessment of the performance of PacWaste Plus, paying particular attention to its different levels of results measured against its expected objectives; and the reasons underpinning such results;
- Key lessons learned, conclusions and related recommendations in order to improve current and future interventions. The evaluation results will be used by:
- The EU Delegation for the Pacific and the relevant units within INTPA, the EUD Papua New Guinea and EUD Timor Leste.
- Clean Pacific Roundtable agencies involved: the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Pacific Community (SPC) and the University of the South Pacific (USP).
- Ministries of Environment or other relevant ministries responsible for waste management in the 15 Pacific ACP countries.
- Other donors active in the Pacific ACP

Representatives from NIRAS who visited Cook Islands, Samoa, Timor-Leste, and Solomon Islands as part of programme evaluation, presented the preliminary results of the mid-term review.

Preliminary Evaluation Results

Evaluation Criteria	Overall preliminary assessment
Relevance to regional and national priorities	Excellent
Relevance to social inclusion, accessibility and gender equity	Satisfactory
External coherence with EU policies, other donors and previous PacWASTE project	Satisfactory
Internal coherence of country and regional projects	Good
Efficiency of programme design	Satisfactory
Efficiency attributed to internal and external factors (e.g. COVID)	Good
Effectiveness in achieving programme objectives	Satisfactory
Effectiveness of programme design, governance and partnerships	Satisfactory
Sustainability of outcomes	Good
EU added value compared to other donors' and individual EU Member States' interventions	Satisfactory

Main Findings

- Extensive initial consultations and country projects ensure national priorities are addressed by the programme
- Piecemeal interventions of different donors – PWP is a piece of puzzle in a larger picture
- Very good donor cooperation at the regional level
- National officers highly needed and appreciated by beneficiaries
- Regional projects represent efficiency gains, but results are not so strongly felt at the country level
- Few results achieved so far due to delays associated with the pandemic
- Capacity building limited to punctual training sessions
- Challenges with the sustainability of incinerators still remain
- Double layer of EU in Timor-Leste and PNG does not translate into better project implementation, it adds confusion instead

Delegates were informed while the findings were preliminary, a finalised review report will be circulated to participating countries for their information once available.

Comments from Session 3

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
Expressed appreciation for the review to take Covid into consideration	Cook Islands	
Delays with procurement of services a challenge which has an impact at national level. Loss of momentum causes delay. Suggestion for the review to consider procurement policy.	Tonga	Issues have arisen due to COVID and recently in the acquisition of scaffolding for some of the abatement work. Other options are being used and work should begin in mid-July.
Support comments from Tonga regarding procurement. Footage during site visits was taken at the SWRMA facility and they are requesting to review prior to publication– may we request seeing the footage before publishing.	Samoa	EU – video clip will be one video for whole project, will be shared in advance
Mid term review correctly highlighted challenges faced by Papua New Guinea, particularly around partnerships. For example, healthcare waste is our selected priority, but getting the relevant representatives in the room is difficult. Solution for us to get commitment was developing an MOU with the Department of health.	Papua New Guinea	PMU concurs that the MOU process was very helpful in getting engagement by the DOH. Up to this point we have had good success getting procurement underway to prepare HCWM guidelines as well as undertaking the HCWM training efforts.

SESSION 4: PARTNER PROJECTS UPDATE

The session enabled programme partners and the SPREP Waste Management and Pollution Control (WMPC) to present project updates, identify opportunities for collaboration and country engagement on planned activities and the on-going support to members that will provide value to all participating countries.

WMPC Advisor's & Project Managers presented and discussed activities and how these leverages or assists PacWaste Plus programme implementation.

Discussions from the session included:

Country	Updates	Opportunities for Collaboration	Key Activities for 2023
POLP	Described work in the pipeline of from POLP pilot countries		Greening of the Pacific Games – Honiara 2023.
ISLANDS	Showed a matrix of activities outlining different priority waste streams for countries and proposed actions status		

	Updates	Opportunities for Collaboration	Key Activities for 2023
Country			
WMPC	Susana [WMPC solid waste advisor] briefly discussed her role and activities associated with the INC (plastics) negotiations. She also touched on the role of the Pollution Advisor		Clean Pacific Round Table to be held in PNG in 2024.

Questions from Session 4

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
The Micronesian 2024 games are to be held in Nauru, and we don't have the experience of greening of the games, so we would appreciate assistance in this area	Nauru	POLP Project Manager - We would be happy to support greening of the Micronesian games. The way things have rolled out in Solomon Islands for the 2023 Pacific Games, is that Solomon Islands developed and launched a Greening Strategy that listed out all the areas requiring support, and the different donors that are able to support this initiative reviewed the areas that require support and were able to confirm support in the areas that align with funding requirements. Please send me an email so we can begin discussions on ways we may be able to support Nauru.
In reference to the GEF ISLANDS matrix on activities, there are a list of priorities that Tuvalu is considering of changing (i.e., Shift from recyclables to e-waste, so that PacWaste Plus support focuses on recyclables and GEF ISLANDS on e-waste) How long would it take for changes in these proposals	Tuvalu	ISLANDS Project Manager - The process is for the country to communicate with us (PMU based at SPREP) on the revised proposal, we will then develop a concept note revision to be communicated with the donor. So, the process can be quick depending on how quickly we (countries and PMU) can begin communication on any proposed changes and have documents finalised for donor approval.
We are very pleased with the progress of project activities in-country and commend project teams for the level of engagement with our team. I would like to however highlight concern over the recent slow/no response from the technical advisors of WMPC.	Tonga	Concerns are noted, and WMPC advisors will strive to be more responsive to any requests from countries.

SESSION 5: WASTE STREAM-BASED TALANOAS

A series of five Talanoa sessions were held to enable a holistic discussion of both Country and Regional project under five waste streams. The sessions were designed to explore each waste stream with discussions focused on the progress of country project implementation, challenges faced, and sharing learnings with non-participating countries.

Each Talanoa included discussions on the regional resources available and possible solutions to expedite implementation of activities for 2023.

Talanoa 1: Sustainable Financing for Waste Management: Recycling / Resource Recovery

Seven member countries: the Cook Islands, Niue, Palau, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu, have selected to use their PacWastePlus Country Project support to improve recycling through the development, implementation, or to increase the scope of Sustainable Financing Deposit and Fee Systems (also known as Advance Recovery Fee and Deposit (ARFD)), and introduction of an in-country repurposing system.

In addition, four countries: Kiribati, Nauru, RMI, and PNG, have utilised KRA2 Legislative Support to complete a feasibility study on the design or expansion of an ARFD system.

This session was facilitated as a solutions-based conversation, where countries shared their progress and challenges for implementing an ARFD system, and for the group to identify possible methods to manage these challenges. The Talanoa also enabled discussion on the key aspects of each country ARFD scheme to enable peer-to-peer learning of how schemes can be designed to reflect the specific context of Pacific countries.

The background and current achievements to the country projects are provided as follows, along with a summary of challenges faced and solutions in place, and key activities for 2023.

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Challenges and Solutions	Key Activities for 2023
Cook Islands	<p>Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI) seeks to develop an ARFD Regulation (along with empowering legislation, the Solid Hazardous Waste Bill (SHWB)). These documents have been in development over the past several years. The ARFD Policy was recently approved by the Cook Islands Cabinet.</p> <p>ICI have undertaken consultation to finalise the detailed design of their scheme and commenced work to update their customs processes.</p>	<p>The Cook Islands elections took eight months to be ratified and Cabinet and Parliament did not sit in this time. As such the ARFD Policy and SHWB were waiting to be read.</p> <p>While awaiting political direction and approval, ICI have been developing the operation plans for the scheme and undertaking detailed system design. Challenges associated with system design have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EOI released to determine possible depot operators (using retail buy-back model) in 	<p>Guide the political approval processes and implement associated systems and facilities to provide for scheme operation.</p> <p>Systems and facilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete update to the Customs database to enable identification and capture of the ARFD Establish and furnish collection depots in all communities of the Cook Islands

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Challenges and Solutions	Key Activities for 2023
		<p>Rarotonga returned no response. Solution is to amend the scheme to provide for ICI as depot operator initially in Rarotonga with a mobile depot arrangement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TOR released to procure for depots challenging to identify a suitable solution. Solution has been to procure in wider networks and increase procurement activities. Contract for customs work took a long time to negotiate. Solution was to liaise with contractor and establish mutually agreeable contract wording 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop contracts, and deliver training for operation of the ARFD - depot operation and logistics support Develop and implement the communication strategy
Niue	<p>The Niue Department of Environment (DOE) seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop an ARFD Regulation and along with empowering Waste Management Bill to provide for holistic Waste Management and the sustainable financing of their new recycle facility, and construct an e-waste centre inside the recycling facility to provide for the management and export of e-waste. <p>DOE have undertaken consultation and have legislative support underway to draft the Solid Waste Bill and to assist in the design of their ARFD scheme and draft the required policy and regulation.</p> <p>DOE have also consolidated e-waste stockpiles and identified a supplier to complete the e-waste centre design, training, and stockpile removal.</p>	<p>A challenge for the DOE to progress has been the long-time frames needed to obtain political and stakeholder support and buy-in for designing the ARFD scheme. Cabinet was involved in approval of the TOR for the legislative support (took several months) and Working Group meetings, including with the Crown Law, were challenging to arrange.</p> <p>DOE conducted significant political liaison to ensure the ARFD and waste legislation are now a political priority, and recent stakeholder meetings have valuable engagement – with partners now seeing the ARFD as solution for improved management of waste in Niue</p> <p>Long time frame was also needed to release the TOR for the e-waste training and stockpile support. A suitable supplier has now been identified.</p>	<p>Guide the political approval processes and design the ARFD system and draft the ARFD Policy and Regulation and Waste Management Bill.</p> <p>Other activities will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> procure equipment and provide training to enable the collection and processing of e-waste processing and removing from Niue the collected legacy e-waste stockpiles
Samoa	<p>The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment seeks to introduce a Sustainable Financing system for the management of e-waste. The system will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting of an e-waste regulation pursuant to Section 10 of the national Waste Management act 2010 	<p>Several Challenges was encountered by MNRE in the implementation of the project. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determining of alternative sites since the allocated site was not suitable to accommodate the anticipated scope of dismantling and storage Long time frame to release TOR. 	<p>Establishment of the e-waste take Back system</p> <p>Drafting of the e-waste regulations</p> <p>Facilitation of the e-waste dismantling training</p> <p>Launching of an e-waste awareness campaign on the International E-Waste Day.</p>

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Challenges and Solutions	Key Activities for 2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of a national e-waste Take Back system Construction of an e-waste dismantling facility Facilitation of safe handling and dismantling training The Samoa country project has achieved the following: Secure land for the e-waste facility Site clearance and utility support is currently being undertaken with support from GEF ISLANDS project Consultant engaged to design the E-Waste Product Stewardship Scheme, and technical drafting note for the e-waste regulations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long time frames needed to obtain political support for the introduction of ARFD. 	Commence the construction of the e-waste dismantling facility.
Tuvalu	<p>The Tuvalu Department of Waste Management (DWM) implemented an ARFD system, the Tuvalu Waste Levy Regulation, in 2019. This system is working in the capital Funafuti, but currently outer island communities do not have an ability to claim their refunds or benefit from a cleaner environment.</p> <p>DWM have undertaken consultation and established partnerships to provide for scheme operation in the outer islands and have designed the communications and awareness plan.</p>	Main challenge was the long process it took to determine suitable design of depots in outer islands. Tuvalu do not have formal contractors in the islands, so depot design was necessary to be realistic for the context. Once a design was established, a long process was needed to identify a suitable supplier. Solution has been to procure in wider networks and increase procurement activities.	Construct depots on each island and undertake training with the DWM Waste Officers to operate them, establish systems, and deliver awareness to provide for social equality and equal participation in the Waste Levy.
Palau	<p>The Solid Waste Management Division seeks to introduce a Tyre Repurposing Programme in Palau.</p> <p>Facilitation of stakeholder consultation on the country project</p> <p>The project has engaged the following consultants to provide technical support in the design of the Tyre Repurposing Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MRA to develop ELT specifications (for the use of used tyres in engineering / construction applications) suitable for implementation in Palau 	Tender released in Q3 2022 for the design of Palau ELT Repurposing Programme returned no response. PacWastePlus then proceeded to release small RFQ that will see the engagement of multiple contractors to undertake this design.	<p>Key Activities for 2023 includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of ELT specifications (for the use of used tyres in engineering / construction applications) accepted by Ministry of Infrastructure in Palau Amendment of custom regulations to include importation standard for importation of tyres Procurement of Equipment to support ELT Repurposing in Palau Awareness with tyre distributors and importers.

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Challenges and Solutions	Key Activities for 2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislation options to manage the issues faced by Palau to manage end of life tyres will be undertaken. This includes legislation to establish importation standard for tyre. MRA to develop recommendations for ELT specifications (for the use of used tyres in engineering / construction applications) suitable for implementation in Palau Recommending of suitable options to utilise ELT suitable in Palau will be undertaken. A market assessment of used tyres for the government of Palau will be undertaken. Research into appropriate equipment to process ELT in Palau will be undertaken 		
Solomon Islands	<p>Ministry of Environment Climate Change Disaster Management and Meteorology is looking to divert recyclables and organic wastes from landfill through the introduction of ARFD system, and Organic Processing Programme.</p> <p>The project has engaged Tonkin & Taylor to design a suitable organic processing programme for Gizo. The consultants have completed the following:</p> <p>Waste Audit of the Gizo market</p> <p>Output Market Analysis.</p> <p>For the introduction of the ARFD system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MECDM in consultation with MoF has submitted a Cabinet Paper seeking the introduction of the ARFD system PacWastePlus PMU will be assisting in the release of a TOR to engage a consultant to design the ARFD system. 	<p>Tender released in Q2 2022 for the design of Gizo Organic Processing Programme turned no response so PacWastePlus had to extend the advertisement timeframe.</p>	<p>Design of the ARFD system Drafting of ARFD Regulations</p> <p>Training of officers in Gizo on the Organic Processing Programme</p>
Vanuatu	<p>Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC) have been working with other donors on their ARFD system, the Product Stewardship Scheme (PSS) since 2017.</p>	<p>Disconnect been the PSS Working Gorup and the DEPC on scheme design, delaying the drafting of regulations and the confirmation of PacWastePlus project components.</p>	<p>Recommenced government consultation to redesign the PSS scheme to achieve the desired goals.</p> <p>Confirm PacWastePlus project components to provide for PSS implementation.</p>

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Challenges and Solutions	Key Activities for 2023
	The PSS was drafted but was not presented to cabinet due to opportunities the DEPC see to reflect the needs and goals of the department and achieve social equality for the people of Vanuatu.	DEPC has recommenced government consultation and seeks to redesign scheme to achieve the desired goals.	
PacWaste Plus Regional Sustainable Financing for Waste Management Project	PacWastePlus regional ARFD project will build on the existing resources in the “design-it-yourself” ARFD series on the website, and findings from the feasibility studies completed and other resources. The regional project will include a guided workbook modules to guide countries on the pathway to ARFD implementation, by making evidence-based decisions throughout the design, implementation, monitoring, and expansion of a system to suit local needs and context.		PacWastePlus will finalise and publish guided workbook and training modules to assist with evidence-based decision making throughout the design of the ARFD scheme.

Key questions and discussion points from the Sustainable Financing Talanoa are summarised below:

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
One of the site visits of the SCM was to the Resource Recovery Facility, and there are other private sector agencies completing resource recovery initiatives. How was existing equipment and agencies considered in design of the Cook Islands ARFD scheme	Question for Cook Islands, raised by PacWastePlus	Cook Islands ARFD Regulation was designed with our existing operations in mind – to enhance their efficiency and financial viability. The Cook Islands scheme will be run via contracts so that businesses and agencies already undertaking recovery work can apply to be a scheme partner. The ARFD will also provide for flexibility - for example, in the short-term ICI will be depot operator on Rarotonga as no private sector company provided interest through an EOI process. In the longer term, it is intended that depots may be run by a private sector or NGO so the regulation provides for this flexibility. Additionally, processing of different material types can be managed through different contracts - bottles and cans will be initially processed at RRC (run by ICI) but ELV and e-waste etc may be processed by the private sector through contract as they are equipped to manage those items. It is important to future proof the scheme to provide for flexibility and operational controls through good contracts.
How were the Fees and Deposits calculated for the Cook Islands proposed scheme	Question for Cook Islands, raised by Nauru	For beverage containers, a deposit amount of 20c (NZD) was selected based on research for the proposed New Zealand scheme that a higher deposit amount provides greater incentive for households to return their item. We thought it was a good idea to match the proposed NZ amount as a large proportion of our tourists are from NZ.

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
		For the fees – we are proposing incorporating a Handling Fee and Waste Management Fee. The total about for beverage containers were calculated though financial modelling undertaken by the Department of Finance. The modelling considered transport, processing, depot operation and other factors to calculate the fee of 20c per container.
What is the level of Fees for existing schemes in PIC and are they sufficient to achieve the goals of the scheme	Question for Kiribati, Palau, RMI, and Tuvalu, raised by PacWastePlus	<p>Scheme fees are: 1c AUD for Kiribati, 1c USD for RMI, 5c USD Palau, and 5c AUD for Tuvalu.</p> <p>Kiribati and RMI state the 1c is sufficient for aluminium cans but are not providing for financially viable processing and export of the PET bottles so many are being disposed to landfill.</p> <p>Palau states the fees are sufficient for their department to achieve the goals of the system and provide for other waste management initiative. Further to the challenge of exporting PET, we manage to export our PET through an arrangement with the private company who collects (and pays for) our aluminium – when they collect the aluminium they are also required to take plastics for free.</p>
Has any monitoring undertaken to confirm whether the financial component of your scheme is effective?	Nauru	<p>Response from Palau</p> <p>There is an annual report that is developed and includes details such as the number of beverage containers that were imported, retained, and sent out. Initially the redemption rate was high, which experienced over 100% on the legacy waste.</p>
Who are the key partners assisting ICI with scheme design	Question for Cook Islands, raised by PacWastePlus	The key partners are the Ministry of Finance who will be establishing a trust fund (under existing regulations) to provide for the scheme financial operation, and the Department of Customs who are currently working with consultants to update their tariff listings to enable the identification and capture of the ARFD.
In terms of scheme governance, what models are being used for existing schemes in PICs?	Question for Kiribati, Palau, RMI, and Tuvalu, raised by Vanuatu	<p>All are government run – with the fee and deposit collected at the border by customs and deposited into a fund held by finance.</p> <p>In Palau, the local government is the scheme operator, and our ministry is the implementing agency, with Customs/Finance administering and distributing the fund.</p> <p>In Tuvalu, the DWM is the scheme operator and Customs collects the funds which is paid into the consolidated government fund – not a separate fund for the ARFD.</p>
Vanuatu has mentioned using a “community-based model” for their PSS – what will that entail?	Question for Vanuatu, raised by PacWastePlus	<p>We have only one recycler in Vanuatu, so as we want all communities to be able to participate across our 6 provinces, the best way is utilise existing community initiatives and provide facilities for them to become collection points.</p> <p>Another important consideration will be ensuring awareness of the scheme both during scheme design and throughout scheme operation. We have plans to engage a Theatre Group to produce a skit and video to educate about the scheme. Theatre Groups are an effective communication mean in Vanuatu used</p>

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
Samoa seeking their ARFD to be used for E-Waste, how is the scheme being designed and who is involved?	Question for Samoa, raised by PacWastePlus	<p>In our context, more consultations are required with decision makers. We have completed a feasibility study and now looking into a product stewardship design on e-waste.</p> <p>We note the importance of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue (as this scheme will involve going through the Revenue Board) being consulted and part of the whole process.</p> <p>It is important to understand what information and prior consultations to allow relevant national authorities to decide. When undertaking consultations, it is important for the ministry to be consulting the right people. At times the board will ask if you have consulted the private sector and not only other government ministries.</p>
The scheme in Tuvalu has been operating for a few years, are there any opportunities for improvement you can share with the group?	Question for Tuvalu, raised by PacWastePlus	<p>Our scheme has been beneficial for Tuvalu, the value of deposit (5c AUD) is a good incentive for community – kids are out collecting cans and bottles, and we see very little container litter now where there used to be big piles. The DWM get a nice clean bottles and cans returned to the transfer station for processing.</p> <p>For improvement, the scheme is currently only operational on the main island of Funafuti, so with PacWaste Plus support, the scheme operations are to be extended to the outer islands to provide for equality across Tuvalu – all people should be able to claim their refunds and benefit from a cleaner environment. The island depots will be little sheds with hand operated crushers so the community can drop off their items and the DWM Island Officers can process ready to be shipped back to Funafuti on the next boat.</p> <p>Other opportunity for improvement is around education and awareness, making it really clear how and when community can bring in cans / bottles and claim their refund. Better equipment at transfer centre to process the cans and bottles efficiently is another area of improvement</p>
How is MECDM working with other agencies to design a system that is suitable for Solomon Islands?	Question for Solomon Islands raised by PacWastePlus	Solomon Islands is utilising the Working Group for the Honiara Waste Master Plan to deliberate on the Sustainable Financing model for Solomon Islands.

Talanoa 2: Organics

Average waste to landfill and dumps in the Pacific is approximately 40% organic material. Organic materials are also commonly burnt or stockpiled in unmanaged pits or piles. The awareness for improved organics management and composting is growing in the region as landfills reach capacity, knowledge increases regarding climate change/methane emissions and water/soil pollution, and local-scale farming is viewed as a way communities can increase climate resilience.

Four member countries: FSM, Fiji, RMI, and the Solomon Islands have selected to use their PacWaste Plus Country Project support to improve organics management. This session was facilitated as a solutions-based conversation, where countries shared their progress and challenges for implementing an organics system, and for the group to identify possible methods to manage these challenges. PacWaste Plus provided an update on resources available for all countries to assist with the design and implementation of organics projects.

The background and current achievements to the country projects are provides as follows, and along with a summary of challenges faced and solutions in place, and key activities for 2023 are provides as follows.

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Challenges and Solutions	Key Activities for 2023
Federated State of Micronesia	<p>DECEM seeks to divert organic waste from landfill in the state of Chuuk and Ya through the introduction of Organic Processing Programme.</p> <p>Progress of the Chuuk project includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitation of stakeholder consultation to discuss the scope of the project and solicit support in the implementation Tonkin&Taylor is engaged to design the organic processing programme for Chuuk Draft facility design was established in Q3 2022 Site clearance for the facility has been undertaken by the Chuuk EPA. <p>Progress of the Yap Project includes:</p> <p>L. Engagement of New Resources to design a suitable organic processing programme in Yap and establish Standard Operating Procedures for the Yap facility.</p>	<p>Tender released in Q3 2022 for the design of Organic Processing Programme in the two states turned no response so PacWastePlus had to re-advertise.</p>	<p>Targeted Activities for 2023 includes:</p> <p>Establishment of the Organic Processing Programme in Chuuk and Yap.</p> <p>Construction of the Chuuk Organic Processing Programme</p> <p>Establishment of Standard Operating Procedures for the existing facility in Yap</p> <p>Establishment of Community Organic Processing Programme.</p>
Fiji	<p>The Ministry of Environment is seeking to process organic wastes generated in 25 communities to support agricultural activities.</p>	<p>A challenge in the implementation of the Fiji project is the lack of participation from the national focal points</p>	<p>Following the confirmation of the communities to receive project assistance, activities for 2023 includes:</p> <p>The engagement of a consultant to establish community waste management plans template, establish community waste survey methodology, and design organic processing programme guideline suitable for Fiji communities,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community consultation and awareness. Waste Survey for 15 communities Design and implementation of organic processing programme for 10 communities
RMI	<p>The main Dumpsite in Majuro, RMI, is overcapacity and has been declared a national emergency. The Majuro Atoll Waste Company, in partnership with the RMI EPA, seek to divert the 40% of this waste currently comprising of organics and paper/cardboard to an existing compost facility.</p>	<p>Main challenge was the long process it is taking to identify and engage suitable supplier to deliver equipment to RMI. Additionally, it was a long process to determine an appropriate design and engage</p>	<p>Continued procurement activities to secure a mobile organics chipper paper/cardboard shredder, and diversion shed at the MAWC yard.</p>

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Challenges and Solutions	Key Activities for 2023
	<p>Market research has been undertaken to understand desired organics processing, and partnerships have been established to confirm appropriate feedstock.</p> <p>Procurement processes are underway to secure equipment and training has been undertaken increase capacity of staff to process organic material effectively.</p>	<p>suitable supplier for the construction of the shed at the MAWC dumpsite.</p>	<p>Also, the development of procedure and systems to divert materials from landfill and process compost for sale in Majuro.</p>
Solomon Islands	<p>Ministry of Environment Climate Change Disaster Management and Meteorology is looking to divert recyclables and organic wastes from landfill through the introduction of ARFD system, and Organic Processing Programme.</p> <p>The project has engaged Tonkin & Taylor to design a suitable organic processing programme for Gizo. The consultants have completed the following:</p> <p>Waste Audit of the Gizo market</p> <p>Output Market Analysis.</p> <p>For the introduction of the ARFD system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MECDM in consultation with MoF has submitted a Cabinet Paper seeking the introduction of the ARFD system <p>PacWaste Plus PMU will be assisting in the release of a TOR to engage a consultant to design the ARFD system.</p>	<p>Tender released in Q2 2022 for the design of Gizo Organic Processing Programme turned no response so PacWaste Plus had to extend the advertisement timeframe.</p>	<p>Design of the ARFD system Drafting of ARFD Regulations</p> <p>Training of officers in Gizo on the Organic Processing Programme</p>
Regional Organics Project	<p>The PacWaste Plus Regional Organics Project was designed to support governments and stakeholders on the design and implement effective organic management solutions, appropriate for specific context and stakeholders.</p> <p>Resources developed in 2022 included factsheets and design drawings for eight organics solution effective for the pacific, a practical “how-to” guide for composting typical items in the pacific, and Pacific Composting Standard. document to provide minimum standards for composting systems.</p>		<p>PacWaste Plus will deliver sessions to raise awareness of resources and how to use them to design and implement effective organic management solutions and develop a regional training module to assist governments and stakeholders on effective composting and compost facility operation.</p> <p>Additional resources will include a “Decision Support” tool to assist decision makers to select an organic solution/facility to suit local needs and context, and framework operation plans to assist guide the operation of the selected facility.</p>

Questions from Talanoa 2

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
FSM has proposed several community compost facilities along with two central compost facilities in Chuuk and Yap. Why was a hybrid system designed?	Question for FSM, raised by PacWastePlus	<p>There were Little Fire Ants, an invasive species, that was detected in communities in Yap and this has prevented movement of materials out of these communities.</p> <p>Additionally, with the road conditions and the weather conditions in Chuuk, it is more viable to undertake organic processing in each community as transportations are limited.</p>
RMI has had an organics facility since 2019 but it is currently not operating effectively. What have been the main challenges encountered and how is RMI proposing to overcome the challenges?	Question for RMI, raised by PacWastePlus	<p>Transport is the largest challenge in Majuro, with the compost facility over an hour from the landfill, it has been challenging to provide vehicles to divert the expected volume of material to that facility. We seek to overcome that challenge through the provision of a mobile shredder that will provide for efficiency –collecting and shredding the material at source (households) before it comes to landfill and with the material already undergoing size reduction it will be easier to transport material to the compost facility. Space also a challenge, we are overwhelmed at the landfill by the volume of waste received which results in no segregation and all material going into the pile.</p> <p>We have also undertaken training which will increase the capacity of the staff at the compost facility and an education programme is underway.</p>
In the case countries are unable to weigh and confirm volume of organics that are being transported to landfills, how would we be able to factor this data in decision making?	Question for PacWastePlus, raised by Nauru	There are calculators that can provide this data specifically, PacWaste Plus will include guidance on the decision support tool. Typically, 1 cubic meter is about a third of a tonne. I.e., 4 cubic meters = 1 tonne.
Having attended waste expos in Australia, there are interesting technologies available, that may be less labour intensive.	Nauru	There are many technologies available and as part of regional tools we have developed, a decision support tool may be helpful in outlining a general list of options to be considered by countries once you have provided basic info for input.
Commercial composting is beneficial as you can confirm weight and undertake a proper composting procedure. However, in relation to community-based composting, what other simpler ways can we encourage composting in the community? The banana circle was a method that was encouraged in the past which looks at natural ways you can compost from home. We have trialled composting pilot projects, but these efforts have not been successful mainly due to fencing issues, roaming animals (pigs etc).	Tonga	PacWaste Plus will be using the learnings from country projects that are looking at community organic processing programmes, to establish publication or resource tool kit to assist other counties in designing similar systems.

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
There is no existing project or works that look at the direct management of organics – in past projects we have targeted the reduction of POPs and a no-burning campaign. The use of bricks has also been used to deter roaming animals (dogs and pigs). In the collection of household waste, green waste is strictly prohibited to be included in collection and contractors are instructed to place any green waste found in household collection back in household rubbish bins.	Samoa	

Talanoa 3: Disaster Waste Management

Disaster is common in the Pacific and with it, large volume of waste is generated. PacWaste Plus is helping participating countries to mainstream disaster waste management into the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific.

Through the Regional Disaster Waste Project, the PacWastePlus Programme Management Unit hosted a side event on Disaster Waste at the 2022 Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Brisbane. Additionally, the PMU managed to obtain endorsement of the Pacific Resilience Partnership taskforce for the establishment of a Technical Working Group on Disaster Waste Management. The TWG is tasked with supporting countries to mainstream disaster waste management in the implementation of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) 2017 – 2030.

This session seeks to implement participating countries of challenges faced by the two leading countries in the region on the implementation of disaster waste management initiatives and execution of timely disaster waste management response following natural disaster.

During this session, a video on Disaster Waste challenges faced by Tonga in the Hunga Tonga Hunga Haapai volcano and tsunami was featured in this session.

Recently developed animation videos on the Disaster Waste Management practitioner's guideline which included specific guidance on Disaster Waste Management Plan, Establishment of Environment Taskforce were featured in this session.

Key activities from each country in 2023 include:

Project	Background and Current Achievements	Challenges and Solutions	Key Activities for 2023
Tonga	Department of Environment has drafted Disaster Waste Management Plan through the assistance of JPRISM.	Challenges faced by DoE includes: Geographic location of communities	Key Activities for 2023 is the implementation of the Disaster Waste Management Plan and capacity building of national stakeholders.

Project	Background and Current Achievements	Challenges and Solutions	Key Activities for 2023
	DoE has been successful in partnering with the National Disaster Management Office to ensure the effective management of disaster waste.		
Vanuatu	DEPC through the assistance of JPRISM has had local officers trained on safe handling of disaster waste. Additionally, DEPC has also drafted National Disaster Contingency Plans and Community Disaster Waste Management Plan.	Challenges faced by DEPC includes: Geographic location of communities	Key Activities for 2023 is the implementation of the Disaster Waste Management Plan and capacity building of national stakeholders.

Questions from Talanoa 3

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
The SWAP project is looking at climate proofing the current landfill on Tongatapu, what are the activities planned for the pilot project for disaster waste?	Tonga	<p>3 practitioners' guidelines have been developed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting a Disaster Waste Management Plan Standard Estimation Methodology (assessment of disaster waste generated as confirmed during a post disaster needs assessment) Establishment and TOR of the Environment Cluster (political brief of the CLUSTER) <p>The pilot project will look to trial the 3 guidelines in-country, which will include trainings on the disaster waste assessment, categorisation and recording (through partnering with SPREP EMG on the deployment of the kobo toolbox).</p>
For Samoa, the disaster waste management plans were developed under the J-PRISM project, however we're very interested in the 2 other guidelines that have been developed and being part of the pilot project. How can we express interest?	Samoa	An expression of interest circular was distributed a few weeks back to all countries to complete the form and send back to us for review. PacWaste Plus will send out the link to these forms again. Email from Nitish sent out to all participants with link to circular and expression of interest forms.
In relation to aid supplies that have come into the country, specifically the Hunga Haapai Hunga Tongatapu volcanic eruption, in addition to disaster relief, we also had to deal with a high volume of plastic waste from plastic water bottles – and we were able to negotiate the return of processed plastic water bottles on aid ships to be further processed in Australia.	Tonga	The Practitioner Guideline on drafting National Disaster Waste Management also identifies standards on foreign aid that needs to be included to ensure that items being sent into the country are relevant.

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
I want to also make note of the importance of useful aid supplies when call for aid is made to partners. For example, we have received expired food items, winter clothing and other items that while are appreciated are not of much use to families that are recovering from a disaster		PacWaste Plus is also in close collaboration with the AusAid on their programme that is looking to introduce green aids to the Pacific.

Countries were reminded of the deadline for submitting interests to be pilot country for the Regional Disaster Waste Management project.

Talanoa 4 – Hazardous Waste: Capacity Building sessions - Asbestos

ASBESTOS

Asbestos-containing materials are an issue for many Pacific Island countries with a history of use of asbestos-containing materials (ACM) in construction. All forms of asbestos are carcinogenic to humans and inhalation of asbestos fibres that have become airborne can cause serious lung disease. During this session, countries presented an update on project progress and challenges faced for implementation activities for 2022 and discussed solutions to common challenges to progress project implementation activities in 2023.

Key activities from each country in 2023 include:

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Challenges and Solutions	Key Activities for 2023
Kiribati	<p>Virtual meetings were continuing to be held with the Ministry of Environment, Land and Agriculture Development. A consultation meeting was held with Ministry of Environment, Land and Agriculture Development, the Banaba Island Team (consisting of Kiribati MP representative, Banaba Island Clerk, Banaba Island immigration officials, etc.) to agree on the listing of facilities to be abated under the project.</p> <p>An MOU was signed between PacWaste Plus and Ministry of Environment, Land and Agriculture Development for the implementation of the project. The MOU defines the parameters of PacWastePlus and the Ministry agreement around the work to be completed.</p> <p>As part of their in-kind investment in the project, Ministry of Environment, Land and Agriculture Development deployed staff to Banaba Island and the undertook an assessment at several facilities to define the parameters for asbestos abatement activities under the program. This work was successful and has led to a better understanding of the parameters of project actions.</p>	<p>Advertisement of Terms of Reference to engage a consultant to support the develop of a Strategic Asbestos Management Plan for the island of Banaba was completed, but bids were above the available budget.</p> <p>We are working with the Consultant to re-evaluate costs and look for savings.</p>	<p>Implementing the Banaba pilot scale project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> removal of asbestos containing materials from a number of high-risk areas on the island and develop a case study that documents that work to highlight best practices for ACM packaging, labelling and offsite shipment/disposal. delivery of Asbestos abatement training to Banaba residents to build an on-island workforce with the ability to safely address legacy Asbestos in the community.

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Challenges and Solutions	Key Activities for 2023
Nauru	<p>An MOU was signed between PacWaste Plus and Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment for the implementation of the project and approved by the Nauru Cabinet. The MOU defines the parameters of PacWastePlus and DCIE agreement around the work to be completed. The MOU was endorsed by the Nauru Cabinet in 2022.</p> <p>The Nauru project has commenced implementation through:</p> <p>PacWastePlus developed and tendered a contract for consultant assistance in preparation of an Asbestos Code of Practice for Nauru. The code of practice will provide best practice for asbestos handling, management, abatement, and disposal in Nauru.</p>	<p>A revised scope for Implementation of the asbestos removal and disposal of stockpiles is needed to match the budget dollars available under the project.</p>	<p>The contract for the project, removal and disposal of ACM stockpiles, creation of a case study based on the work, and training of in-country staff on ACM abatement has been signed.</p>
PNG	<p>A consultant has been hired to prepare an Asbestos Ban and Code of Practice for PNG. The code of practice will provide best practice for asbestos handling, management, abatement, and disposal in Papua New Guinea.</p>	<p>Adoption of an asbestos ban.</p> <p>With the hiring of a PNG national officer work can proceed more rapidly to execute an asbestos import ban in PNG</p>	<p>Complete a draft asbestos ban and code of practice for PNG</p>
Tonga	<p>An MOU was signed between PacWaste Plus and the Department of Environment for the implementation of the project. The MOU defines the parameters of PacWastePlus and DOE agreement around the work to be completed.</p> <p>The Tonga project has commenced implementation through:</p> <p>The contract for the project, removal, and disposal of ACM from selected buildings in Tongatapu, creation of national strategy for legacy management of asbestos and training of in-country staff on ACM abatement has been signed and work is underway.</p> <p>The contract has been signed and work is underway to prepare an Asbestos Code of Practice for Tonga. The code of practice will provide best practice for asbestos handling, management, abatement, and disposal in Tonga.</p>	<p>Implementation of the work is underway.</p> <p>The Tonga national officer is working to move the project forward</p>	<p>Complete the ACM abatement and disposal work which is scheduled to begin in mid-July 2023.</p> <p>Move forward on the adoption of the ban on ACM import and adoption of the asbestos code of practice.</p>
Tuvalu	<p>Additionally, new asbestos sampling technology was identified as such, the project was redesigned to reflect new conditions. The main changes include a reallocation of the budget to provide support to the Attorney General Office to undertake the Asbestos Ban.</p>		<p>Confirm the accuracy and efficacy of the microPHAZIR technology.</p> <p>Adopt an asbestos importation ban.</p>
PacWaste Plus Regional	<p>A Model Asbestos Management Policy was developed and published to assist governments across the Pacific Islands and Timor-Leste to formulate asbestos policies and promote a consistent approach to</p>	<p>Disposal remains a critical issue for PAC.</p>	<p>Continue working with PICT to endorse asbestos bans on the importation of ACM and adopt a Code of Practice.</p>

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Challenges and Solutions	Key Activities for 2023
Asbestos Project	<p>asbestos management and is designed for governments to adopt an existing asbestos management policy or develop a new one.</p> <p>A Model Asbestos Management Code of Practice was published that provides accessible, practical advice to a broad range of parties who have a responsibility or duty of care regarding exposure to asbestos or Asbestos Containing Materials. This includes those with responsibility for or involvement in legislation, worker health and safety, and any work involving asbestos.</p> <p>This Recommended Procedures for the Disposal and Landfilling of Asbestos Containing Wastes publication is designed to provide accessible, practical advice to a broad range of parties who have a responsibility or duty of care in regard of exposure to asbestos or Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM).</p>	<p>For larger countries on-island disposal in landfills is an option as Tonga has done.</p> <p>The costs associated with off-island disposal is too costly to address the large amounts of legacy asbestos remaining.</p>	

Questions from Talanoa 4 -Asbestos session

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
Tonga, can you please describe the process that you took in terms of asbestos management?	Questions for Tonga Raised by PacWastePlus	Legislation takes time to be put in place, we were fortunate enough to have an umbrella legislation already in place. We started our consultation process by discussing with non-public stakeholders (contractors, business owners, government agencies etc) to develop a draft regulation, this draft was then provided to the stakeholders for review and comment. The draft asbestos ban legislation document is then finalised for cabinet submission. If there are further comments from cabinet, these comments are addressed before it is endorsed by cabinet. Once endorsement is in place, the difficult task of enforcement comes into play together with the roll out of public awareness and education.
From the consultation process you described, are local industries and businesses to be consulted?	Questions for Tonga Raised by PacWastePlus	<p><u>Response from Tonga</u></p> <p>The relevant stakeholders I described included NGO's and those in the construction field, so far, we haven't received any push back from those in the local industry on any hazardous material ban.</p> <p>I also want to highlight that our government values human health greatly and is one of the top priorities of the government – so when you can show the linkage and impacts of what you are trying to ban on human health, our experience in Tonga is that there is little to no push back.</p>
Has there been an appropriate level of research undertaken on the forms of asbestos coming into countries? and is there monitoring and evaluation put in place?	Questions for Tonga Raised by PacWastePlus	<p><u>Response from Tonga</u></p> <p>After TC Gita, buildings containing ACM were damaged which was easily recognised as old government buildings – hospitals, schools, and residences. A quick survey undertaken and confirmed from customs and revenue data, indicates there hasn't been any importation of ACM into Tonga since the 1990's.</p>

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
		<p>The legacy ACM on island came into the country in the 70s and 80s to support the construction of government buildings.</p> <p>We have also undertaken surveys and checks at different hardware stores and no ACM was found. This has indicated that importation is not an issue in Tonga, just the need to manage legacy stockpiles, which we are able to do appropriately in-country with disposal managed in-country in our landfill.</p>
Leaders have indicated in the Pacific the desire to ban Asbestos – whose responsibility is it then to advise and action on the steps to banning?	Questions for Tuvalu Raised by PacWastePlus	<p><u>Response from SPREP DG</u></p> <p>Decisions that leaders make, for example in the SPREP meeting applies to all members of an organisation including CROP agencies and countries, in terms of CROP governance, it doesn't mean it automatically falls into SPREP's responsibility, as every CROP agency has a mandate on what their responsibilities are.</p> <p>In terms of how SPREP responds to requests for support – it depends on how a request is received, as there are mechanisms in country to facilitate requests for support, which comes through country focal points.</p>
How is the situation in Tuvalu? Has there been any research undertaken to confirm the volume of ACM being imported into the country? In terms of the process of regulations to be put in place, what was the feedback during consultations with stakeholders?	Questions for Tuvalu Raised by EU Delegation	<p><u>Response from Tuvalu</u></p> <p>The report on ACM in Funafuti indicates that ACM is mainly found in building material. Recently we had a technical expert that helped with sampling of potential ACM on island. Many of the buildings that were assessed as containing ACM during the 2017 assessment under PacWaste, could not be confirmed as having asbestos by the technical expert buildings.</p>
In Nauru, the baseline information on the ACM on island was determined through the assessment work undertaken by the initial PacWaste project. In terms of legislation, the Minister can make provisions under the existing legislation to limit the amount of ACM coming into country. For us, the main issue has been the enforcement aspect of our legislation.	Questions for PMU Raised by Nauru	<p><u>Response from PMU</u></p> <p>Work is ongoing to create an asbestos code of practice for Nauru. Discussions on how such a code will be endorsed and enforced are underway.</p>
I believe it is time for the region to be able to have the capacity to undertake asbestos testing, which is a service we heavily rely on to be sent to be tested and verified from countries like NZ and Australia etc. Perhaps a project opportunity or expanding on tertiary training to upskill lab technicians to be able to provide this service in the region.	Questions for PMU Raised by Tonga	<p><u>Response from PMU</u></p> <p>An evaluation is underway in Tuvalu on the microPHAZIR technology that could be used as a first line asbestos assessment tool in the Pacific region.</p>
What guidance or measures are there to ensure that training provided by SPREP, and other donors are effective?	Questions for PMU Raised by Cook Islands	<p><u>Response from PMU</u></p> <p>Appropriate M&E of those that are being nominated from countries to attend trainings is the way to go. There is a JPRISM database called the PIDOC which has recorded the different types of trainings that have been provided and the contact details of those that have attended trainings.</p>
Projects such as PacWaste Plus are short term and can only provide competency type training, it doesn't however mean that SPREP is unable to address trainings that are more than just competency based. However, this needs to be taken into	SPREP DG	<u>No further comment</u>

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
<p>consideration right from the outset – at the project design phase. Other avenues for example are a partnership SPREP has with University of New Castle where PHD students are placed with SPREP for a time to assist in their studies.</p> <p>In relation to the issue of tracking training effectiveness – that is your responsibility as countries, as you are the ones that nominate a person to attend a training and are therefore responsible for encouraging the transfer of knowledge.</p>		
<p>This has been a challenge for us for many years, the transfer of knowledge. I would recommend as a requirement of nomination of appropriate people to attend trainings a competency requirement to ensure those most appropriate are those that are being nominated to attend trainings, and the transfer of knowledge is a seamless process.</p>	Vanuatu	<u>No further comment</u>
<p>The responsibility of bearing costs of removal and disposal of ACM – whose is it?</p>	<p>Questions for all participants</p> <p>Raised by PacWastePlus</p>	<p><u>Response from Tonga</u> In our case, it is very easy as the legacy stockpiles of ACM are either on or from government owned buildings, so the government is responsible.</p> <p><u>Response from Samoa</u> The responsibility is the owner of the building, there is a fee structure established at the landfill for disposal by owners. A lesson learnt through abatement for us is to insure the marking of the burial site at the landfill. This best practice was exhibited during abatement works at of the NZ High Commission residence which involved contractors from NZ who were well resourced to undertake the works.</p> <p><u>Response from PMU (Fiji Experience)</u> There are two statutes that govern ACM abatements: 1) the OHS ACT enforced by the Ministry of Labor and Employment which requires, before a building is to be taken down, asbestos testing must be undertaken to confirm ACM presence. If confirmed, the burden of safe removal is borne by the owner of the building, and 2) Ministry of Environment through the Environment ACT that is responsible for the regulating of transport of hazardous material and its disposal.</p>

Presentation and capacity building session on ACM Legislative Ban

Session to build capacity of programme focal points on the PacWaste Plus ACM Ban initiative and showcase the country initiatives and learnings from their project implementation.

Key discussion points are summarised below:

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Challenges and Solutions	Key Activities for 2023
PacWaste Plus Support	Brief on available resources to support ACM ban	Documents are available that provide guidance and support to Countries to implement the ban	Continue to produce high quality asbestos management documents in support of PacWastePlus member countries.
Tonga	<p>Presentation: Process for the Development and Adoption of the Hazardous Wastes and Chemicals (Asbestos) Regulation 2023-Tonga</p> <p>Ms Mafile'o Masi Chief Environmentalist Department of Environment Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECC) Tonga</p>	Tonga's process for endorsement of a legislative ban for asbestos includes opportunities for consultation, both within government and outside with the private sector/local communities.	<p>Tonga's project Solutions as defined by these objectives:</p> <p>Develop a national legislation to ban the importation of asbestos or goods containing asbestos to ensure no more asbestos materials will arrive in Tonga.</p> <p>Develop a Code of Practice to guide the safe handling and management of Asbestos and Asbestos Containing Material in Tonga</p> <p>Provide training to customs and border protection staff, and provide education materials (e.g., inventory, charts) needed to enact and enforce ACM importation ban.</p> <p>Provide an educational program to raise public awareness of asbestos and how to interact with it safely.</p> <p>Develop a Strategic Action Plan which details the short- and long-term management options for eventual removal/abatement of ACM in Tonga and execute the removal of ACM from selected sites in Tongatapu.</p>
Tuvalu	Tuvalu with PWP PMU support has drafted a concept note for approval from their government advisory committee to implement an ACM Ban regulation	Effective stakeholder and decision maker consultation a key factor to progress and get buy-in for proposed ACM Ban.	Implement an ACM ban

Questions and responses session on ACM Legislative Ban

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
What agency (s) implement the Ban?	Questions for Tuvalu Raised by PacWastePlus	Responses by Tonga: Customs and Quarantine is the relevant agency in Tonga for addressing importation of any hazardous substance.
How does one assess if a material contains asbestos?	Questions for Tonga Raised by PacWastePlus	Markings, place of manufacture, and physical sampling.
If ACM is found what is the process for return/disposal?	Questions for Tonga Raised by PacWastePlus	Return via shipping company, and/or on-island disposal.

Presentation and capacity building session on ACM Code of Practice

The purpose of this session was twofold:

- To provide information on the initiative of the PacWastePlus concerning ACM Code of Practice,
- Showcase some of the country's initiative, and learnings in implementing an ACM Code of Practice.

Key discussion points are summarised below:

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Challenges and Solutions	Key Activities for 2023
Nauru	Presentation: Key Aspects/Timeline/ Challenges of creating an Asbestos Code of Practice for Nauru Bryan Starr Department of Commerce, Industry & Environment Republic of Nauru	Nauru coordinated directly with contractors to create a COP that made sense for Nauru.	In-country process to implement a COP for legacy ACM
Panel Discussion	Panel Discussion on Adopting an Asbestos Code of Practice	Enforcement is a critical issue of concern. In a number of countries, i.e., Tonga, Samoa, an inspectorate already exist that can take on the asbestos oversight work. Other countries will have to create a group of inspectors to oversee the implementation of the COP.	Endorse/Adopt an Asbestos COP for Nauru that meets their needs.

Questions and responses from session on ACM Code of Practice

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
What agency (s) implement the CoP?	Questions for Nauru Raised by PacWastePlus	For Nauru is varied: Department of the Environment, Department of Labour, Department of Health, Department of Infrastructure – very country dependent.
What regulation/statute are used? 1. Environmental 2. Worker health and safety 3. Infrastructure	Questions for Nauru & Tonga Raised by PacWastePlus	Responses from Tonga and Nauru: Varied, in most cases it will come under worker health and safety standards.
Enforcement: what agency/department?	Questions for Nauru Raised by PacWastePlus	Responses from a number of PICs - Enforcement process options: Create a stand-alone Asbestos Inspectorate, Incorporate work into already existing enforcement departments/agencies - Department of Licensing, Department of Labour, Department of Environment - very country dependent.

Presentation and capacity building session on Assessing and Disposing of ACM

The session was designed to build capacity of programme focal points on the PacWaste Plus Assessing and Disposing of ACM and showcase the country initiatives and learnings from their project implementation.

Key discussion points are summarised below:

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Challenges and Solutions	Key Activities for 2023
Tonga	<p>Presentation: Showcase Tonga's experience and learnings in implementing an ACM Disposal Process [Asbestos Waste and Disposal options at Tapuhia Landfill]</p> <p>Ms. Sulieti Pongi Hufanga PacWaste Plus Programme National Officer Tonga</p>	<p>Asbestos In-Country Disposal Opportunity Reduction of environmental and health exposure impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-term storage requirements reduced/eliminated. Risk of exposure through long-distance transport and handling reduced. Cost savings can lead to more asbestos removal. Efficient and rapid disposal option becomes available for asbestos disaster debris. 	<p>Implement ACM abatement work in Tonga.</p> <p>Develop a strategic plan for long term management of ACM in Tonga.</p>

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Challenges and Solutions	Key Activities for 2023
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce climate impacts. • Off-island shipping eliminated. • Carbon footprint reduced. • Reduce costs. • Significantly [4X] reduced disposal cost • Dollars freed up for more asbestos removal work. • Costs for creating a landfill disposal cell for asbestos are low 	

Questions and responses for session on Assessing and Disposing of ACM

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
Who is responsible and liable for the costs of disposal?	Question for Tonga, raised by PacWaste Plus	In Tonga it is the supplier or demolition company or landowner.
What agency (s) is responsible for proper disposal of ACM?	Question for Tonga, raised by PacWaste Plus	Tonga's Public works (sanitation/landfill operation) department.
What is the most appropriate disposal option?	Question for Tonga, raised by PacWaste Plus	Responses by Tonga and Nauru: Generally, on-island landfilling. For countries with limited space, i.e., Kiribati, Tuvalu off-island disposal may be the only option.

Talanoa 5 – Hazardous Waste: Capacity Building sessions – Healthcare Waste

Improper management of wastes generated in health care facilities can have direct health impacts on the community, the personnel working in health-care facilities, and on the environment. In addition, environmental pollution by inadequate treatment of healthcare waste can cause adverse health effects to the community. Injury occurs and human health is at risk when the community is exposed to inadequately handled and disposed of health care waste.

Significant improvements can however be achieved by providing national policy for the management of health care wastes and local hospital health care waste management plans to drive proper treatment and disposal of the waste as is envisioned here.

The session discussed the current actions that are underway in both PNG and Timor Leste, and that work can be broadly used regionally.

During this session, countries presented an update on project progress and challenges faced for implementation activities for 2022 and discussed solutions to common challenges to progress project implementation activities in 2023. Updates on the outcome of the PacWaste HCW project assessment and lessons learnt from that intervention were presented and a country presentation on the development of HCWM policy in Timor-Leste. Facilitated discussions were held with participants on progressing regional healthcare management.

Key Healthcare waste management activities discussion from countries where HCWM is a primary project:

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Challenges and Solutions	Key Activities for 2023
Timor-Leste	<p>An MOU was signed between PacWaste Plus, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and Ministry of Health for the implementation of the project. The MOU defines the parameters of the agreement around the work to be completed.</p> <p>A healthcare waste research project to provide guidance to Pacific Island countries and Timor-Leste in choosing a technology other than high temperature incineration to treat healthcare waste was completed. The healthcare waste management training modules and the draft national healthcare waste strategy are completed and under review.</p>	<p>Consultation on the national health care waste strategy is underway.</p> <p>Assessment of three PacWaste incinerators that need to be repaired is complete. Path forward to get this repair work is underway.</p>	<p>Endorsement of the national healthcare waste guidance and implement the train the trainer course for HCWM.</p>
PNG	<p>Contracts are tendered to revise the national healthcare waste management policy and guidelines in PNG.</p>	<p>Consultations are underway that should lead to the endorsement of the updated national health care waste policy as well guidelines for policy implementation</p>	<p>Endorsement of the healthcare waste management policy and guidelines.</p> <p>Implement of the train the trainer course training for HCWM.</p>
PacWaste Plus Regional HCWM Project	<p>The regional Healthcare Waste Management project involves addressing on-going issues surrounding healthcare waste management in Pacific Island countries. The aim for the Healthcare Waste project is to assist the region to effectively manage healthcare waste to protect human health from the harmful effects caused by exposure.</p> <p>Healthcare Waste Management training provided under the PacWaste program (2014-2017) has been updated and developed into a train-the-trainer course so local facilitators can provide the training in their countries.</p> <p>Incinerators installed under the previous PacWaste programme in Timor-Leste, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu have been identified and repaired.</p>	<p>Addressing the sustainability of incinerator-based technologies for dealing with healthcare waste.</p>	<p>Continued focus on healthcare waste management training for use in all PacWastePlus member countries.</p>

Presentation on progressing Healthcare Waste Management in Timor Leste

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Challenges and Solutions	Key Activities for 2023
PacWaste Plus PMU	Presentation: PacWastePlus Healthcare Waste Activities in Countries and Regionally.	Opportunities for other PWP member countries in this area.	
Timor Leste	<p>Presentation: Details of the development of HealthCare Waste Management (HCWM) strategy, HCWM training and Baucau Hospital pilot scale actions in Timor-Leste</p> <p>Mr Agostinho de Oliveira Chief, Environmental Health Department Ministry of Health Timor-Leste</p>	<p>Healthcare Waste Management Solutions in Timor Leste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafted HCW Training for use in Timor Leste • Consultant has presented the HCWM-Plan and Training Summary on 21 April 2023. • Path Forward: • Consultant to Finalize Training Plan and Shared for Inputs and Comments by WHO, MoH and Stakeholders in Timor – Leste. • MoH Staff trained on HWM Training and provide that training nation-wide. <p>Baucau Referral Hospital Waste Disposal Area Contaminated as impacted by Long-time Burning of Healthcare Waste</p> <p><i>Current Situation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dumping Burning opened area indicated as a High risk • Healthcare Waste Disposal Practices still uncontrolled • Medical Waste (used) equipment throw in everywhere <p><i>Path Forward:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remediate the Location and Location Clean up • New Design with new arrangement to Properly Control the Dumping area for HCW Disposal Practices 	Implement training and Baucau Hospital facility construction work.

Questions/Comments from group discussion on progressing Healthcare Waste Management

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
<p>Timor-Leste experience challenges with healthcare waste management which isn't a prominent issue with other countries in PacWaste Plus and we commend Timor-Leste for continuing to prioritise HCWM in their in-country actions.</p> <p>For Tonga, the incinerators that were supplied under the initial PacWaste project are still operational on Tongatapu and assisted greatly in the efforts of managing HCW during the covid pandemic.</p>	Tonga	No further comment
<p>Would like to highlight an issue regarding asset transfer forms from the last PacWaste project, where we were provided advise and had the impression that if asset transfer forms were not signed off from the incinerators of the Pacwaste project, then any support on its maintenance and repair would not be available from the PacWastePlus project.</p>	Tonga	<p><u>Response from the EU</u></p> <p>The EU technical adviser in the country is not a EU representative, and does not have the authority to provide advice on EU projects and actions.</p> <p>Please contact the Delegation directly if there are any concerns or need for advice, I and my team would be happy to provide it.</p>
<p>Our incinerator similarly is not working and was not working upon project closure of the Pacwaste project – is there any way to address this?</p>	Nauru	<p><u>Response from EU</u></p> <p>No issues regarding the Nauru incinerator were raised with us during the closure period, so it is quite difficult to address this so late into the implementation of the PacWaste Plus project.</p>
<p>The incinerator supplied to us, is still operational to date, which is way beyond its 5year shelf life – this has been mainly due to maintenance work that our government through the hospital has undertaken to ensure operation of the unit.</p>	Cook Islands	<u>No further comment</u>

SESSION 6: WORKSHOP CLOSURE

The day ended with closing remarks and words of encouragement to the participants to encourage efficient and effective project commitment implementation.

Ms. Andrea Vidal, from the EU delegation thanked all delegates for attending the programme steering committee meeting and encouraged participating project countries to engage with the programme management unit to progress commitments prior to the meeting being officially closed with a prayer by Mr Epu Falenga of Tuvalu.

The programme manager in his vote of thanks expressed appreciation to country delegates for their continued work on progressing country project actions and assured the countries that the programme management unit will continue to provide the required help to progress project commitments. He also thanked the EU for their continued assistance and guidance for moving the programme forward.

The next SCM will be held as a side event aligned to the Clean Pacific Roundtable 2024.

The meeting concluded at 12.35pm on 28 April 2023.

Programme Steering Committee Communications and Visibility

(Below mentioned articles, available on our programme website, have photo albums embedded at the end of each article)

Type	Communication Output
Website articles	<p><i>Pacific Island Countries Move Together on Sustainable Waste Management Solutions for the Region</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/pacific-island-countries-move-together-on-sustainable-waste-management-solutions-for-the-region/ <p><i>Programme Steering Committee Meeting Delegates Tour Cook Islands Upcycling Initiative</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/programme-steering-committee-meeting-delegates-tour-circle-cook-islands-upcycling-initiative/ <p><i>It's Not Waste-It's A Resource</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/its-not-waste-its-a-resource/ <p><i>Site Visit to the Rarotonga Waste Facility</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/site-visit-to-the-rarotonga-waste-facility/
Video	<p><i>Programme Steering Committee Opening Ceremony</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/programme-steering-committee-meeting-opening-ceremony-highlights/ <p><i>Programme Manager Interview – Cook Islands TV</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/programme-manager-interview-cook-islands-tv-news/
Social Media	<p><i>Programme Steering Committee Meeting</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.facebook.com/SPREP.PROE/posts/pfbid026vcwx3p6G9zEP7tyUypa4LYeRbpmN9dD1LFj8my6LMJXBzC91tVqe393hgkY4ykMl <p><i>Site Visit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.facebook.com/SPREP.PROE/posts/pfbid02dvezSmmYwa9osSrgYN6xThpH72Qd4EySHtg8xvEtmK5J33X4vTFRfNg5wSBYi7XI



PacWaste Plus Programme Steering Committee Meeting
26 - 28 April 2023, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

"We at Infrastructure Cook Islands had the pleasure of hosting & chairing the PacWaste Plus Steering Committee meeting which brought together all programme participating countries to discuss our challenges, have Talanoa on how we can overcome these and engage in capacity building sessions to progress our project commitments"

Ms Clayton Taurail
Director of Waste
Infrastructure Cook Islands



PacWaste Plus Programme Steering Committee Meeting
26 - 28 April 2023, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

"We are making progress on our project commitments and the PacWaste Plus programme steering committee meeting enabled us to have constructive discussions to not only learn from other countries but also find solutions to our challenges so project actions can be implemented more effectively"

Mr Epu Falenga
Director
Department of Waste Management
Tuvalu



PacWaste Plus Programme Steering Committee Meeting
26 - 28 April 2023, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

"The capacity building and the Talanoa sessions that were held during the PacWaste Plus steering committee meeting was indeed valuable and we commit to progress our project implementation actions to improve long-term management of healthcare waste in Timor-Leste"

Mr Agostinho de Oliveira
Chief, Department for Environment
Ministry of Health
Timor-Leste



PacWaste Plus Programme Steering Committee Meeting
26 - 28 April 2023, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

"We know the issues, we have designed our projects based on our needs accordingly but now is the time to deliver impactful actions to truly address our waste management issues and make Samoa safer and cleaner"

Ms Fiasoitamalii Siasoi
Principal Environment Officer-Hazardous Waste
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Samoa



PacWaste Plus Programme Steering Committee Meeting
26 - 28 April 2023, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

"This steering committee meeting enabled us to discuss our challenges, identify solutions to progress our country project actions and reaffirm our commitments to move forward together to enhance sustainable waste management in the region"

Ms Debra Kereseka
Deputy Director Environment
Ministry of Environment, Climate Change
, Disaster Management & Meteorology
Solomon Islands



PacWaste Plus Programme Steering Committee Meeting
26 - 28 April 2023, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

"The 2023 PacWaste Plus Steering Committee Meeting provided the participating countries an excellent opportunity to get together, discuss our challenges and share learnings that enable us to move together towards progressing our project commitments"

Mr Jared Marar
Natural Resources Programme Manager
Chuuk EPA
Federated States of Micronesia



PacWaste Plus Programme Steering Committee Meeting
26 - 28 April 2023, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

"The 2023 PacWaste Plus Steering Committee Meeting provided us with an opportunity to learn from other countries, and work together through Talanoa sessions to identify ways in which we can progress our project commitments into action"

Ms Kathrina Mogia
Projects Coordinator
National Ozone Unit Conservation and
Environment Protection Authority
Papua New Guinea



PacWaste Plus Programme Steering Committee Meeting
26 - 28 April 2023, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

"We are committed to turning our project commitments into action for the safe removal of Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM) on Banaba Island and eliminate the importation of asbestos and ACM into Kiribati"

Mr Taulehia Pulefou
Senior Environment Officer
Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture
Development
Kiribati



PacWaste Plus Programme Steering Committee Meeting
26 - 28 April 2023, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

"Vanuatu is committed to work together with PacWaste Plus to progress our project implementation not only at the national level but to work together with all stakeholders to further improve regional waste management"

Ms Ionie Bolenga
Principal Officer - Waste Management & Pollution
Control, Department of Environment and
Conservation, Ministry of Climate Change
Adaptation, Meteorology & Geo-Hazards,
Environment, Energy and Disaster
Vanuatu



PacWaste Plus Programme Steering Committee Meeting
26 - 28 April 2023, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

"The PacWaste Plus steering committee meeting provided a great platform where not only our challenges were discussed but solutions were also identified through knowledge sharing by all meeting participants"

Mr Calvin Ikesiil
Chief, Solid Waste Management
Bureau of Public Works
Palau



PacWaste Plus Programme Steering Committee Meeting
26 - 28 April 2023, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

"If we are to truly make a difference towards improving waste management, we first need to understand the needs of our communities, ensure that the correct information is provided to them and appropriate systems exist which will enable our communities to better manage waste"

Ms Jellesen Rubon
Chief, Education and Awareness
Environmental Protection Authority
Republic of Marshall Islands



EUROPEAN UNION



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



PacWastePlus
PACIFIC WASTE MANAGEMENT

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