



This initiative is supported by PacWastePlus-a 85-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.

Kiribati

Addressing legacy Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM) on Banaba Island

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



Kiribati Project Summary

THE ISSUE

Banaba island was mined for phosphate from 1900 to 1979. The Pacific Phosphate Company constructed a large number of buildings including housing, workshops, schools, hospital, churches, and other structure, all built with asbestos-containing materials. Upon The departure of the Pacific Phosphate Company, all buildings were handed over to the Banaba Island Council for ongoing community use. These buildings are now over 50 years old and pose a risk to human health due to the deterioration of the asbestos containing materials.

THE SOLUTION

Specially trained asbestos management contractors were deployed to Banaba Island to undertake removal of the asbestos from approved buildings. Local Banaba Island residents were trained on safely removing and storing asbestos-containing materials as an additional activity, so they could remain safe from asbestos in other buildings they may interact with. Strategic management plans, and asbestos importation ban documents were drafted for implementation.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. Create a legislative environment for the effective management of asbestos containing materials
2. Remove and dispose of asbestos containing materials from approved sites on Banaba Island.
3. Adopt an Asbestos Management Action Plan for Banaba Island.

Data & Education

- Waste Audit
- Regional Data Collection Monitoring and Reporting Framework
- Data Collection for Sustainable Financing
- Waste Profiling
- Education and Awareness Support
- Waste Management Decision Tool
- Research Documents approved by the Research Advisory Groups

Legislative Environment

- Legislative & Regulatory Stocktake and National Option Paper
- Advanced Recovery Fee and Deposit expansion Feasibility Study
- Development of asbestos importation ban
- Development of asbestos management strategic action plan for Banaba island

On-Ground Activities

- Removal and disposal of asbestos containing material from sites on Banaba Island
- Installed and commissioned two healthcare waste incinerators

Capacity Building

- Capacity Needs Analysis
- Sustainable Financing study tour to Australia
- Build Capacity of Government Staff and Stakeholders: Asbestos Management, E-Waste Management, Education and Awareness Training, Healthcare Waste Incinerator Maintenance and Operation, Healthcare Waste Management, Hazardous Materials Management, Organic Management, Schools Education Curriculum, Sustainable Financing, Inform Portal, Waste Auditing



Created an enabling environment for the management of asbestos containing materials through the implementation of the asbestos importation ban and by developing a minimum standard of operation management by the asbestos management code of practice.

This work was underpinned by the capacity building of government and private industry to meet the new standards for asbestos management and abatement, and piloted through the safe and efficient removal of asbestos containing materials from the landfill.

This enabling environment is further supported by the communities increased understanding of the risk of exposure to asbestos containing materials and learning how to live safely with asbestos.



We thank SPREP for commencing the work of making our island safer to live on, we believe this is the first step in the process, with the removal of this asbestos, and the development of a strategic plan for the management of the remaining asbestos materials, we believe we will secure additional donor support to secure a healthy and safe future for the Banaban People.

The Hon. Tibanga Tarata, the Banaba Island representative in the Kiribati Parliament, 12th Parliament, Maneaba ni Maungatabu

40 residents and workers trained in the proper management and removal of asbestos containing materials

330 residents of Banaba Island no longer exposed to asbestos in the school and hospital.

1 healthcare waste incinerator procured and commissioned for Ronton Hospital on Kiritimati island

1 Healthcare waste incinerator installed and commissioned for Tungaru Hospital, South Tarawa



- Asbestos Management Code of Practice and Supplemental Guidance drafted
- Adoption of the Asbestos and asbestos containing materials importation ban
- Adoption of a Banaba Island Strategic Action Plan

3,645m² of asbestos containing materials in high risk areas were removed from Banaba island and disposed

About PACWastePlus

The Pacific – European Union (EU) Waste Management Programme, PacWastePlus, is a 85-month programme funded by the EU and implemented by SPREP to sustainably and cost-effectively improve regional management of waste and pollution.