



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.

Nauru

Asbestos Project

Addressing Legacy ACM in Nauru

Disposal best practice and establish appropriate legislation and policies



Nauru Project Summary

THE ISSUE

Asbestos-containing materials are a major issue for Nauru with an estimated 212,000 m² of asbestos containing materials in buildings, primarily in the form of asbestos-cement in roofing and cladding, and stockpiles of waste. These buildings are over 50 years old and in various stages of deterioration, which pose a risk to human health due to the potential for release of asbestos fibres.

THE SOLUTION

To develop a legislation framework for asbestos management, ensuring the legacy asbestos was not being added to, and implement abatement of asbestos containing materials from a priority site identified by the Nauru Government.

Active engagement with local building and demolition industry and government stakeholder to build capacity for the identification and safe removal and disposal of asbestos containing materials.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. Asbestos containing material stockpile removed and appropriately disposed from the landfill.
2. Develop a legislative framework for asbestos management.
3. Enhance the capacity of local officials, asbestos abatement workers and government staff to execute the asbestos containing materials framework.

Data & Education

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

Legislative Environment

- Legislative & Regulatory Stocktake and National Option Paper
- Feasibility Study for Advance Fee & Deposit system
- Supported the design of a National recycling system
- Provided drafting notes for National legislation and regulation to manage asbestos containing materials
- Developed and implemented an Asbestos Management Code of Practice

On-Ground Activities

- Removal and disposal of asbestos containing material from NRC landfill
- Development of a case study to provide lessons learned for future asbestos removal actions

Capacity Building

- Capacity Needs Analysis
- Sustainable Financing study tour to Australia
- Build Capacity of Government Staff and Stakeholders: Asbestos Management, Education and Awareness Training, Healthcare Waste Management, Hazardous Materials Management, Schools Education Curriculum, 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.

Through the transformation of the construction and demolition industry to proactively and effectively identify and appropriately manage asbestos containing materials, protecting workers and the public from the potential risk of exposure.

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.

The project also increased community understanding of the risk of exposure to asbestos containing materials and managing asbestos containing materials.

I never thought that it could be done that way, and I came to know, and seeing what was done, that people would know about asbestos-containing materials and that they should be taken seriously, but it is also not a product to fear if you wear proper protective equipment and dispose of it properly and do not disturb it.

Ms. Delvina Thoma, Supervisor, NCR Waste Dumpsite

The provision of this abatement training as part of this removal works was important, as new members of the waste unit need to be trained on how to do the abatement work, as well as learn how to monitor and manage this issue, as our people need to be educated on how to safely manage ACM.

Mr Bryan Starr, Director of Environment.

52 local officials, asbestos abatement workers and government staff were trained in the proper management and removal of asbestos containing materials residents of Banaba Island no longer exposed to asbestos in the school and hospital.



1 Asbestos Importation ban [titles of gazette regs]

1 Asbestos Management Code of Practice and Supplemental Guidance endorsed [titles of gazette regs]



4,966 m² of asbestos containing materials were repackaged and disposed of in New Zealand.

11,875 people listened to radio spots developed to educate and raise awareness on asbestos containing materials.

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.