



## PACWASTE COUNTRY PROFILE

## SAMOA

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PacWaste is a four year project (2014–2017) funded by the European Union and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), to improve regional hazardous waste management across the Pacific in the priority areas of healthcare waste, asbestos waste, E-waste and integrated atoll waste management.

A further priority for PacWaste is to foster links between Pacific island countries and encourage information sharing on sustainable waste management through regional collaboration and twinning arrangements.

Samoa is one of 15 countries participating in PacWaste, with activities taking place in the project domains of healthcare waste, E-waste and asbestos.

### Healthcare waste

PacWaste is working across 14 Pacific island countries and Timor-Leste to improve the management of healthcare waste. Healthcare waste is hazardous because it has the potential to be infectious or harmful to humans and the environment.

In Samoa, PacWaste conducted a healthcare waste management baseline survey in April 2014, through which information was collected on current waste management processes, from ward-level waste generation through to treatment and disposal. Audits were conducted at Samoa's two largest hospitals – Tupua Tamasese Meaole Hospital on Upolu and Malietoa Tanumafili II Hospital on Savai'i.

The survey found that both sites should improve the segregation of wastes to ensure that wastes are correctly deposited into their respective management streams. Part of the reason for the poor segregation observed was the lack of uniform, colour coded bins along with supplementary education materials such as signage.

To help address these issues, PacWaste will conduct specialised training in healthcare waste management at both of the hospital sites and provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), signage and secure storage systems to assist with waste segregation.

### Asbestos

PacWaste is working across 13 Pacific countries to address the issue of asbestos – a naturally occurring fibrous mineral that was once commonly used in building materials and other consumer items. Asbestos is now banned from most modern products as it has been found to be a major threat to human health.

In Samoa, PacWaste conducted a baseline asbestos survey in October 2014 to determine the prevalence of asbestos, ascertain risks associated with the materials and identify best practice options for cost-effective and sustainable interventions.

The survey found that the volume of asbestos containing materials in Samoa is quite small, with very few residential properties believed to contain asbestos. Asbestos fibres were confirmed to be present in 18 of 48 samples collected from 12 non-residential locations. Following the application of an asbestos assessment risk methodology, PacWaste has committed to the removal, secure transport and safe disposal of around 100m<sup>2</sup> of asbestos from three sites.

Samoa will also be targeted in a regional public awareness campaign about asbestos risk and the steps that can be taken to minimise exposure.

### E-waste

The rapidly increasing use of electrical and electronic equipment in the Pacific is resulting in increased volume of E-waste. Dumped E-waste can release harmful contaminants into the environment such as lead, cadmium and dioxins. The good news is that many end of life electronic items contain recoverable and valuable components such as copper, steel and gold.

Regionally, PacWaste is collecting information about current E-waste management and stockpiles across nine Pacific island countries to assist in the improved management of E-waste in the region.

In Samoa, PacWaste will launch an E-waste pilot project through which training will be provided in how to safely extract and export valuable or hazardous materials from old electronic and computer equipment. Shipping and logistical support will also be given to enable the processed E-scrap to be exported internationally.

## PacWaste Actions and Impact: Samoa

ACTION	LOCATION	IMPACT
<b>Healthcare waste</b>		
Healthcare waste baseline survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tupua Tamasese Meaole Hospital (Upolu)</li> <li>Maliëtoa Tanumafili II Hospital (Savai'i)</li> </ul>	Baseline data on the current status of healthcare waste management is publicly available.
Healthcare waste management training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tupua Tamasese Meaole Hospital (Upolu)</li> <li>Maliëtoa Tanumafili II Hospital (Savai'i)</li> </ul>	Healthcare facilities can effectively and safely handle their waste from point of creation through to disposal.
Provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), signage and secure storage systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tupua Tamasese Meaole Hospital (Upolu)</li> <li>Maliëtoa Tanumafili II Hospital (Savai'i)</li> </ul>	Healthcare facilities have improved storage facilities for healthcare waste and an integrated system of ensuring that wastes are clearly identified.
Assistance in developing a national healthcare waste strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National</li> </ul>	Healthcare waste management is prioritised at the national level in accordance with best practice.
<b>Asbestos</b>		
Asbestos baseline survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upolu</li> <li>Savai'i</li> </ul>	Detailed information about the prevalence of asbestos is publicly available.
Removal, transport and disposal of around 100m <sup>2</sup> of asbestos containing materials from three sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fasito'o Tai Village (Upolu)</li> <li>University of the South Pacific (Savai'i)</li> <li>Samoa Meteorological Station, Apia (Upolu)</li> </ul>	High risk asbestos is safely removed, reducing the risk of exposure to the general population.
Asbestos management training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upolu</li> <li>Savai'i</li> </ul>	Asbestos can be effectively and safely removed and disposed of in accordance with international best practice.
Asbestos public awareness campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National</li> </ul>	Residents of Samoa are aware of asbestos risks and the steps that can be taken to minimise exposure.
Assistance in developing a national asbestos strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National</li> </ul>	Asbestos management is prioritised at the national level in accordance with best practice.
<b>E-waste</b>		
E-waste pilot project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apia</li> </ul>	Workers are further trained in how to safely extract and export valuable or hazardous materials from E-waste.
E-waste public awareness campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National</li> </ul>	Residents are aware of their options for safely disposing of E-waste.
<b>Information sharing, regional collaboration and twinning</b>		
Connection to a developing recycler's network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional</li> </ul>	Opportunities are opened up for recycling materials such as scrap steel, plastics, E-waste, and Used Lead Acid Batteries.
Provision of resources, guidance materials and participation in regional workshops and other events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional</li> </ul>	Relevant national personnel have an improved understanding of best practice solutions for solid and hazardous waste management in the Pacific.

### For more information

Detailed information about PacWaste activities in Samoa, including baseline survey reports, are available at: [www.sprep.org/pacwaste](http://www.sprep.org/pacwaste)