



PACWASTE COUNTRY PROFILE

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Photo: © Stuart Chape

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.

Papua New Guinea is one of 15 countries participating in PacWaste, with activities focusing on the project domain of healthcare waste.

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 Papua New Guinea, PacWaste conducted a healthcare waste management baseline survey in July 2014, through which information was collected on current waste management processes, from ward-level waste generation through to treatment and disposal. The audit was conducted at Port Moresby General Hospital – Papua New Guinea's largest hospital.

The survey identified the need for improved storage, treatment and disposal solutions for healthcare waste at the hospital, but particularly in the area of waste segregation.

To address these issues, PacWaste will provide equipment and healthcare waste management training for staff at Port Moresby General Hospital. This will include the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), signage and secure storage systems for different waste types. Assistance will also be provided in developing a national healthcare waste management strategy.

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 Papua New Guinea, PacWaste will support the development of an asbestos strategy to ensure a framework is in place for best practice management of asbestos at the national level.

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 Pacific.

While Papua New Guinea is not participating in the E-waste component of the project at this time, assistance will be provided in developing a national E-waste strategy. PacWaste will also assist, where possible, in linking Papua New Guinea to a regional recycler's network.

PacWaste Actions and Impact: Papua New Guinea



ACTION	LOCATIONS	IMPACT
Healthcare waste		
Healthcare waste baseline survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Port Moresby General Hospital 	Baseline data on the current status of healthcare waste management is publically available.
Healthcare waste management training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Port Moresby General Hospital 	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"> Port Moresby General Hospital 	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"> National 	Healthcare waste management is prioritised at the national level in accordance with best practice.
Asbestos		
Assistance in developing a national asbestos strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National 	Asbestos management is prioritised at the national level in accordance with best practice.
E-waste		
Assistance in developing a national E-waste strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National 	E-waste management is prioritised at the national level in accordance with best practice.
Information sharing, regional collaboration and twinning		
Connection to a developing recycler's network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional 	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"> Regional 	Relevant national personnel have an improved understanding of best practice solutions for solid and hazardous waste management in the Pacific.



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The Pacific environment – sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

www.sprep.org/pacwaste

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For more information

Detailed information about PacWaste activities in Papua New Guinea, including baseline survey reports, are available at: www.sprep.org/pacwaste