



PACWASTE COUNTRY PROFILE

SOLOMON ISLANDS

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.

Solomon Islands 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 Solomon Islands, PacWaste conducted a healthcare waste management baseline survey in July 2014, through which information was collected on current waste management processes. Audits were conducted at six hospitals: Honiara National Referral Hospital (Honiara); Gizo Hospital (Gizo); Helena Goldie Hospital (Munda); Kilu'ufi Hospital (Auki); Atoifi Adventist Hospital (Atoifi); and Kirakira Hospital (Kirakira).

The survey identified the need for improved storage, treatment and disposal solutions for healthcare waste across Solomon Islands, noting that the method for treatment of healthcare waste was not up to standard at any of the hospitals visited.

To address these needs, PacWaste is procuring five high temperature incinerators and will provide much needed equipment and healthcare waste management training at all six of the locations surveyed.

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 Solomon Islands, PacWaste conducted a baseline asbestos survey in May 2015 to determine the prevalence of asbestos, ascertain risks associated with the materials and identify best practice options for cost-effective and sustainable interventions. The report observed that a significant number of residential structures in Solomon Islands contain asbestos cladding, and also noted that this cladding is still being sold locally. This means that the asbestos problem in Solomon Islands is not just a historical one as the number of houses with asbestos is likely to be growing.

To help address the threat of asbestos in Solomon Islands, PacWaste will be arranging for the removal, secure transport and safe disposal of around 500m² of asbestos cladding at the Waimpuru Secondary School in Makira. Solomon Islands will also be targeted in a 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 Pacific.

In Solomon Islands, PacWaste will initially establish a Used Lead Acid Battery (ULAB) collection system in Malaita followed by a mobile phone collection pilot. This will involve setting up a ULAB collection point, purchasing and installing necessary equipment and providing training and assistance to staff as the first phase.



PacWaste Actions and Impact: Solomon Islands

ACTION	LOCATIONS	IMPACT
Healthcare waste		
Healthcare waste baseline survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honiara National Referral Hospital (Honiara) Gizo Hospital (Gizo) Helena Goldie Hospital (Munda) Kilu'ufi Hospital (Auki) Atoifi Adventist Hospital (Atoifi) Kirakira Hospital (Kirakira) 	Baseline data on the current status of healthcare waste management is publically available.
Provision and installation of high temperature healthcare waste incinerators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honiara National Referral Hospital (Honiara) Gizo Hospital (Gizo) Helena Goldie Hospital (Munda) Kilu'ufi Hospital (Auki) Kirakira Hospital (Kirakira) 	Healthcare facilities have increased capacity for the proper disposal of healthcare waste.
Incinerator operator training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honiara National Referral Hospital (Honiara) Gizo Hospital (Gizo) Helena Goldie Hospital (Munda) Kilu'ufi Hospital (Auki) Kirakira Hospital (Kirakira) 	Incinerator operators have the necessary skills to operate and maintain equipment.
Healthcare waste management training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honiara National Referral Hospital (Honiara) Gizo Hospital (Gizo) Helena Goldie Hospital (Munda) Kilu'ufi Hospital (Auki) Atoifi Adventist Hospital (Atoifi) Kirakira Hospital (Kirakira) 	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"> Honiara National Referral Hospital (Honiara) Gizo Hospital (Gizo) Helena Goldie Hospital (Munda) Kilu'ufi Hospital (Auki) Atoifi Adventist Hospital (Atoifi) Kirakira Hospital (Kirakira) 	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		
Asbestos baseline survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guadalcanal (includes Honiara) San Cristobal (Makira) Malaita Gizo Island (Western Province) 	Detailed information about the prevalence of asbestos is publically available.
Removal, transport and disposal of 500m ² of asbestos cladding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waipuru Secondary School (Makira) 	High risk asbestos is safely removed, reducing the risk of exposure to the general population.
Asbestos management training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makira 	Asbestos can be effectively and safely removed and disposed of in accordance with international best practice.
Asbestos awareness campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National 	Residents and construction workers 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"> National 	Asbestos management is prioritised at the national level in accordance with best practice.
E-waste		
Establishment of Used Lead Acid Battery (ULAB) and mobile phone collection system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malaita 	ULABs and mobile phones can be safely collected and exported from Malaita.
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 Solomon Islands, including baseline survey reports, are available at: www.sprep.org/pacwaste