



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



This initiative is supported by **PacWastePlus**-a 64-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.**

The Connection

A bi-monthly newsletter of the PacWastePlus Programme

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2019



MESSAGE FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION

"The European Union (EU) is committed to assisting Pacific countries in moving towards cost effective and sustainable waste management in line with circular economy principles. The Pacific-EU Waste Management Programme (PacWastePlus) will contribute, not only to environmental, but also health, social and economic benefits of the Pacific Countries.

Through this programme we will support and strengthen regional cooperation, where countries will share their experiences and best practices in the sector. A good example of regional cooperation was the inception meeting that took place at the end of May this year, where all participants had the opportunity to shape programme priorities and discuss their main challenges.

After the inception period, the PacWastePlus Programme is continuing at full speed. There is now a lot of hard work in front of us to develop the activities. The EU is looking forward to cooperating with the Pacific countries to shape both the regional and in-country activities and contribute to sustainable waste management, improved health and economic benefits for our partner countries."

Mr. Adrian Nicolae
Team Leader of Climate Change, Energy, and
Circular Economy of the Delegation of the EU
for the Pacific

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Disclaimer

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MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAMME MANAGER

Talofa colleagues! It is with great pleasure that I get to introduce the first of many PacWastePlus Newsletters!

The last 12 months have required a significant amount of effort to establish the project and develop the required project governance and project management systems and documents.

We have been undertaking the lengthy and necessary recruitment processes to build a strong and competent team of professionals that will now work with you all over the next 4 years to implement the ambitious PacWastePlus project!

Between now and June 2020, the team and I will be making a concerted effort to undertake mission trips to all countries to ensure you know who we are, and understand how the Team will be working to help you deliver and enhance your work to manage waste and protect the environment in your country.


Additionally, we will be mobilising many regional projects that are designed to generate important information to inform the design of your in-country projects and general delivery of effective waste management.

The initial activities include:

- Waste audits (household, business and landfill) that will be delivered in partnership with project partners PRIF, GEF, JPRISM II and POLP
- Legislative reviews (assessing current and pipeline legislation, policy, strategy activity that will affect waste management in countries and the region)
- Gender equality and Human Rights-based approach surveys to understand how these considerations can and should be incorporated into project activities.
- Capacity needs analysis to understand what training and capacity needs currently exist to determine what PacWastePlus may need to provide.
- Stocktake of available vocational and tertiary waste management courses on offer in the region

Finally, we are excited to launch the process for nominating in-country project concepts - more details are in the newsletter, so read on for this and other interesting stories of waste management from not only the PacWastePlus project, but from our programme partners working throughout the region.

The PacWastePlus team and I are excited to be working with you all and cannot wait to see all the valuable actions we will all achieve over the next 4 years of project delivery.



ABOUT THE PACWASTEPLUS PROGRAMME

The impact of waste and pollution on sustainable development in the 15 Pacific countries is taking its toll on the health of Pacific communities, degrading natural ecosystems, threatening food security, impeding resilience to climate change and adversely impacting on social and economic development.

The Pacific – European Union (EU) Waste Management Programme, PacWastePlus (PWP), will generate improved economic, social, health and environmental benefits by enhancing existing activities and building capacity and sustainability into waste management practices.

What waste streams will be the focus of will PacWastePlus?

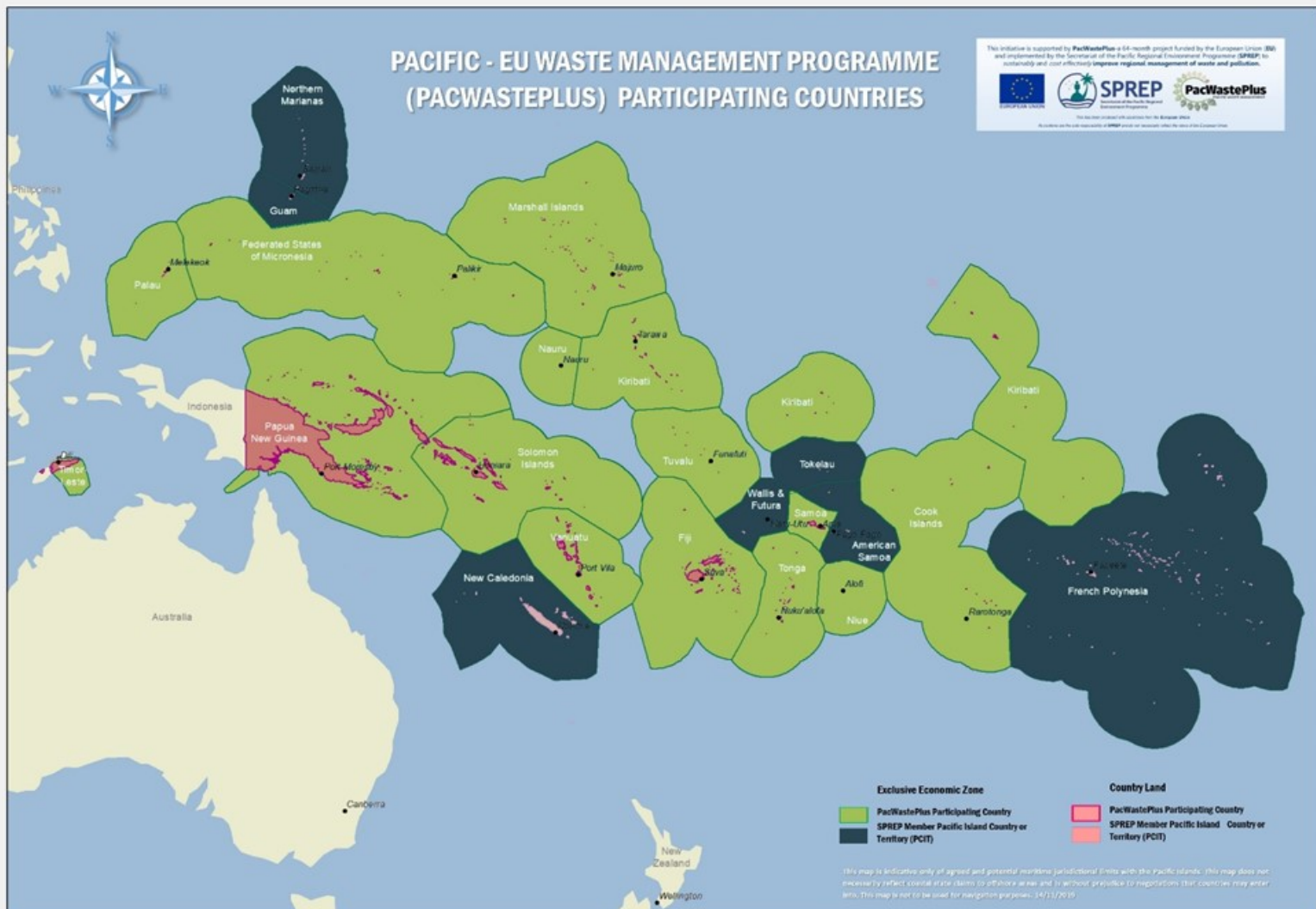
Priority waste streams that the PWP programme will focus on are:

- hazardous wastes (specifically asbestos, E-waste and healthcare waste),
- solid wastes (specifically recyclables, organic waste, disaster waste and bulky waste) and
- Water impacted by solid waste

In Which countries will PacWastePlus operate?

The project is being implemented in 15 countries: *Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.*

The activities are tailored to address the specific needs of each country based on their identified priorities.



PacWastePlus Objectives and Key Result Areas

The overall objective of PWP is “to generate improved economic, social, health and environmental benefits arising from stronger regional economic integration and the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment”.

The specific objective is “to ensure the safe and sustainable management of waste with due regard for the conservation of biodiversity, health and wellbeing of Pacific island communities and climate change mitigation and adaptation requirements”.

The four key result areas of PacWastePlus are:

- Improved data collection, information sharing, and education and awareness,
- Policies and regulatory frameworks developed and implemented,
- Best practices including enhanced private sector engagement and infrastructure development implemented, and
- Enhanced human capacity.

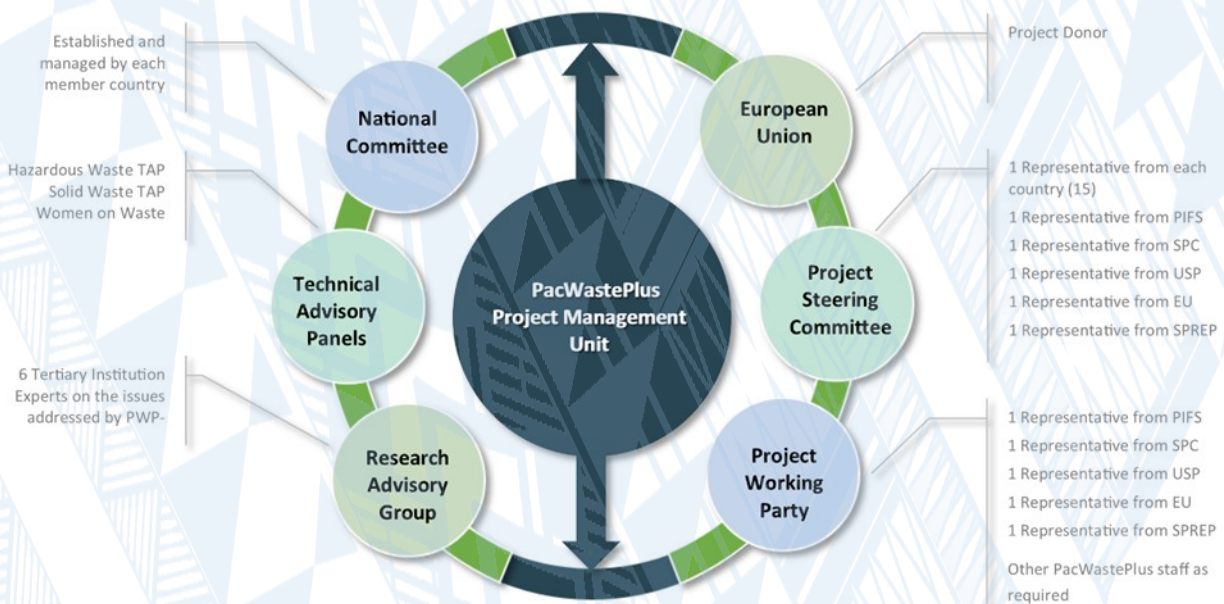
How will SPREP seek to facilitate PacWastePlus?

The programme brings together key organisations supporting waste and pollution sector in the region, with SPREP as the entrusted implementation agency.

The Pacific Community (SPC) and the University of the South Pacific (USP) will be implementing partners contracted by SPREP for specific activities in line with their core expertise and responsibility.

Additionally, PWP is partnering with numerous other development partners operating waste management projects in the region, to ensure no duplication of efforts or wasted resources.

PacWastePlus Programme Governance

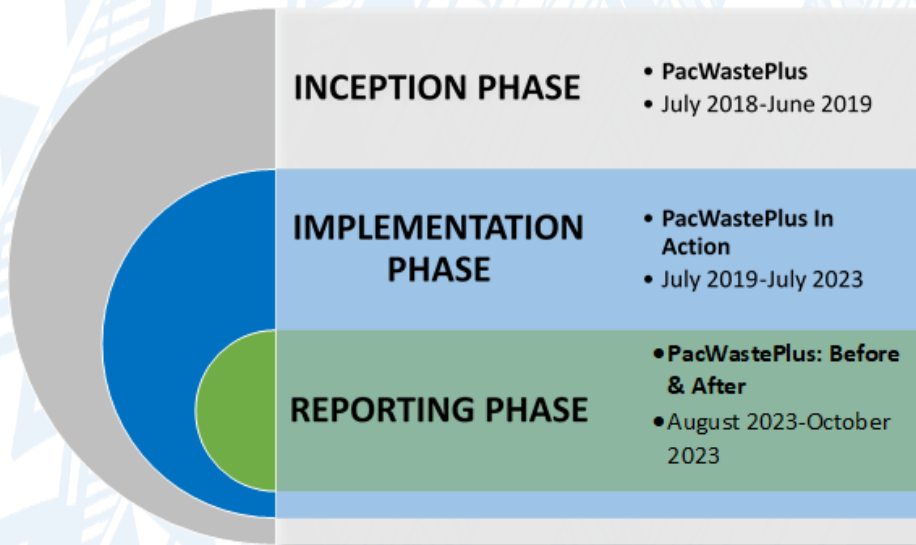


An MoU will be developed between SPREP and each country to outline activities and responsibilities

Programme Phases

The delivery of PacWastePlus will be progressed in three stages;

- inception,
- implementation and
- closure

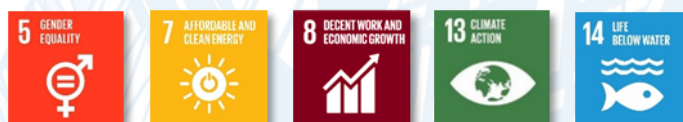


PacWastePlus Linkages to supporting achievement of SDGs

PacWastePlus is relevant for the Agenda 2030 and will support national activities towards the progressive achievement of multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



It also progresses and contributes to the following Sustainable Development Goals



Project Manager PacWastePlus

“The opportunity to come and work in the Pacific, directly with skilled, talented and committed individuals from 15 countries is exciting. With the support of the European Union, SPREP and all countries, the programme is set to deliver positive and long-lasting benefits for the region”

Mr. Bradley Nolan, a national of Australia, has been appointed to the position of Project Manager, PacWastePlus. Bradley is working closely with all PacWastePlus team members and country focal points to deliver a successful and useful waste management programme to the Pacific.

Finance and Procurement Officer

“I look forward to all stakeholder’s support in adhering to sound financial policies and procedures, as we collectively work towards better waste management in the region”

Ms. Sela Soakai-Simamao, a Tongan national, is the PacWastePlus Finance and Procurement Officer and is responsible for the financial management, procurement activities and management support to the PWP Project team.

Project Technical and Administration Officer

“Waste Management is one of the crucial yet undermined issues in the Pacific. I am excited to be part of the solution to address these issues and build connections with countries, partners and colleagues for a resilient Pacific”

Ms. Crystal Schwenke, a national of Samoa, is the Programme’s Technical and Administration Officer. Crystal is providing project assistance and support to the Programme Management Unit (PMU) and country focal points to assist the management and implementation of PacWastePlus.

Regional Project Officer – Fiji, Niue, Tonga, Tuvalu

“Waste management is everyone’s business, and I’d like to see our Pacific people become more aware and engaged in efforts and practices that contribute towards waste reduction, and ultimately build a sustainable future for generations to come.”

Ms. Vira Atalifo, a Fijian national joined us as a PacWastePlus Regional Project Officer, based in Fiji. Vira is one of the key liaisons, in coordination with other sub-regional officers, between the PacWastePlus programme Management Unit and regional Countries for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of PWP country activities. Vira will be working closely with counterparts in Fiji, Niue, Tonga, and Tuvalu.

Communications Officer

“I am excited and honored to be working with countries, our partners, funding agency, colleagues and most importantly with the people on the ground as we move forward together to address cost effective and sustainable waste management in the Pacific”

Mr. Nitish Narayan, a national of Fiji, is the PacWastePlus Communications Officer. Nitish is responsible for the successful development and implementation of a regional communications strategy to support the programme and to ensure visibility. Additionally, Nitish will work closely with country counterparts on the design and implementation of Country Engagement and Awareness Plans and the development of behaviour change and educational curriculum programmes to be developed as part of PWP.

Details on remaining PWP positions will be included in subsequent newsletters once recruitment processes are completed.





A logo for the programme was designed jointly by the PacWastePlus communications officer and design consultants as part of the programmes Communications and Visibility Plan, using symbology that captured the essence of the Pacific Region, including the representation of the 15 member countries and ideology based on our project work that focuses on a circular economy.

The 15 members are represented by the leaves which feature Pacific designs with the colours representing our Micronesia, Melanesia, Polynesia and Timor-Leste country members.

The green branch design represents not only a circular economy but also the PacWastePlus project itself that brings all member countries together to enhance waste management practices, policies and advocacy in the Pacific.

Programme Ribbon Logo



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



In compliance with the PWP programme Communications and Visibility Plan (CVP), an EU approved ribbon logo which features the logos of the funding agency-EU, implementation agency - SPREP, and the approved PWP logo will be used to increase project visibility.

It is important to note that the PacWastePlus logo consists of three elements – the European Union (EU) emblem, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) logo and the PacWastePlus logo. These three elements are saved together in a ribbon format that must never be altered or changed, without written permission.

A branding, logo use and communications guideline for countries and partners has been developed and aligned to the project CVP which will be provided to country focal points for their use and guidance whilst implementing in country project activities.

Waste Stream Icons

Priority waste streams of the PacWastePlus programme include:

- **Hazardous wastes** (specifically asbestos, E-waste and healthcare waste)
- **Solid wastes** (specifically recyclables, organic waste, disaster waste and bulky waste) and related aspects of
- **Wastewater** (water impacted by solid waste)

We have developed for each of the three core waste streams distinct icons associated with its priority areas .

HAZARDOUS WASTES

Simply defined, hazardous waste is waste with properties that make it dangerous or capable of having a harmful effect on human health or the environment. Hazardous waste is generated from many sources, ranging from industrial manufacturing process wastes to batteries and may come in many forms, including liquids, solids gases, and sludges.

Under the Hazardous Wastes stream the PacWastePlus programme deals specifically with **Asbestos, E-waste and Healthcare waste** only.



ASBESTOS

Asbestos refers to six naturally occurring silicate minerals composing of long and thin fibrous crystals. These crystals contains many microscopic 'fibrils' that can be released into the atmosphere by abrasion and other processes. Inhalation of asbestos fibres can lead to various serious lung conditions, including asbestosis and mesothelioma.

Given its high resistant to heat, Asbestos has been used as a building material for many years. The use of Asbestos as a building material is banned in many countries due to its well-known health hazard.

The "State of Asbestos in the Pacific" report highlighted that four of the 13 countries surveyed in the region account for 83% of confirmed non-residential asbestos.

In the Pacific region, the risk of exposure to asbestos is heightened by the incidence of disasters and extreme weather events, which can damage asbestos materials and release airborne fibres. The report also reveals that new building products containing asbestos continue to be imported into the region.

This raises the very real concern that the problem of asbestos in the Pacific is not simply a legacy issue. Even though asbestos has been banned in 56 countries around the world, none of the Pacific island countries have implemented controls to eliminate the import of new asbestos containing materials.

PacWastePlus participating countries may, through developing project concepts, prioritise remedial actions in locations where asbestos poses the greatest risk to human health which could be supported by a nation-wide public awareness campaign on the risks associated with asbestos and steps that can be taken to minimise exposure.



HEALTHCARE WASTE

Waste generated by health care facilities and includes used needles and syringes, soiled dressings, body parts, diagnostic samples, blood, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, medical devices and radioactive materials. Poor management of health care waste exposes health care workers, waste handlers, patients and local communities to infection, toxic effects and injuries, and risks polluting the environment. It is essential that all medical waste materials are segregated at the point of generation, appropriately treated and disposed of safely.

The volume of healthcare waste tends to increase in the Pacific region as population grows and medical services expand. Healthcare waste is hazardous as it has the potential to be infectious to humans, or cause injury and may contaminate the environment, therefore proper treatment and disposal is important to protect people and our natural surroundings. Protection of Pacific communities from the impact of healthcare wastes means protecting all individuals at risk of exposure to poorly managed healthcare waste. This includes healthcare workers at hospitals and health clinic responsible for the handling, transport and disposal of healthcare waste, and members of the community living near Health care facilities.

Potential exposure to health care waste increases in areas where scavenging at waste disposal sites occur and/or at health facilities where manual sorting of wastes is undertaken. These practices are common in the Pacific. In 2013, a regional healthcare waste baseline survey found that none of the Pacific region's key hospitals and health clinics met all the minimum standards for the proper management of hazardous healthcare waste.

The lack of access to appropriate incineration equipment and training was found to be a major barrier at many of the locations surveyed. The PacWastePlus programme is providing countries with the opportunity for necessary in country interventions.



E-WASTE

The rapid expansion of technology and the consumption driven society contributed to the increase of e-waste volume. Electronic waste or e-waste refers to discarded electrical or electronic devices. Used electronics which are destined for refurbishment, reuse, resale, material recovery, or disposal are also considered e-waste. Informal processing of e-waste in developing countries can lead to adverse human health effects and environmental pollution. Electronic scrap components, such as CPUs, contain potentially harmful materials such as lead, cadmium, beryllium, or brominated flame retardants. Recycling and disposal of e-waste may involve significant risk to health of workers and communities in developing countries.

The rapidly increasing use of electrical and electronic equipment in the Pacific results in an increase in the volume of waste as it is discarded. Electrical and electronic items contain many recoverable and valuable components such as copper, steel and gold that can be re-used. Most components used in electronic and electrical equipment (including computing equipment) can be eventually reused or recovered and made into new products. Sustainable management of E-waste requires the coordination of E-waste collection points, storage facilities and use of financial models based on 'user-pays' principles. In addition, training E-waste workers in identification of valuable components and dismantling electronic items is also required.

E-waste contains a range of hazardous materials including heavy metals, brominated flame retardants and other toxic substances. If left to accumulate in landfills, E-waste will in time release these toxic substances and contaminate the environment. Currently, there are E-waste stockpiles in several Pacific island countries.

Efforts to effectively manage E-waste are often faced with economical, logistical and technical challenges due to limited access to disposal points, recycling markets and the high costs in transporting E-waste out of the region.

PacWastePlus is working with countries towards provision of equipment and training for commercial operators in dismantling E-waste and establishment of storage facilities, collection points and port upgrades as well as assistance in the removal of E-waste stockpiles in priority countries if necessary with support in developing best practices for reuse, recycling and export of economically recoverable components.

SOLID WASTE

Many pacific island nations have emerging economies and are consuming a growing amount of disposable goods. These goods often become waste and waste in solid form such as car bodies, plastic bags and packaging are often referred to as Solid Waste. Solid waste in a broader sense is understood as any household, industrial and agricultural materials that have been used and are no longer suitable for their designed purpose. Solid waste management is the discipline associated with control of generation, storage, collection, transport or transfer, processing and disposal of solid waste materials in a way that minimises the negative impact on human health and the natural environment. However, solid waste management practices can differ for residential and industrial producers, for urban and rural areas, and for developed and developing nations but the primary goal of solid waste management is reducing and eliminating adverse impacts of waste materials on human health and the environment to support economic development and superior quality of life.

Under the Solid Waste stream the PacWastePlus programme deals specifically with **Organic waste**, **Disaster waste**, **Bulky waste** and **Recyclables** only.



ORGANIC WASTE

Organic waste is waste that is biodegradable and has the potential to disintegrate. These wastes often includes vegetable and fruit peelings, paper, food waste and human waste. Organic waste is typically a significant proportion of a waste stream, and if managed through landfill creates leachate and harmful greenhouse gases. But when processed appropriately, organic waste can add significant value to soil quality and potentially increase food production, increase soil water retention and helps in elimination of invasive weeds.

Waste generated every day in the Pacific region contains readily biodegradable organic matter such as kitchen waste, garden waste and paper, which on average accounts for about 58% of the waste generated. In some of the larger cities, the amount of organic waste accounts for almost 70% of the total waste generated. Most of this organic waste ends up in dumpsites or in landfills. When organic waste decomposes in landfills (anaerobically) it releases methane gas - one of the potent greenhouse gases contributing to global warming and climate change. As climate change has been recognised by the leaders of all Pacific Island Countries as the greatest risk facing the region, any opportunity to reduce climate impacts is of vital importance to Pacific Island countries. Appropriate collection and processing of organic waste (aerobic processes such as composting) not only reduces greenhouse gas emission, but produces valuable resources suitable for food cultivation and soil water retention, as well as significantly reducing the volume of waste to landfill, thereby increasing landfill life, and reducing the toxicity of landfills.



DISASTER WASTE

The generated waste during a disaster. A Disaster is a sudden devastating event (cyclone, flood, earthquake, tsunami, fire etc) that seriously disrupts the functioning of a community or society and causes human, material, economic or environmental losses that exceed the community's or society's ability to cope using its own resources.

With natural disasters frequency and severity in the Pacific region increasing, the issue of disaster waste has developed a higher profile and greater sense of urgency. Disaster waste is waste produced during and after a disaster. Natural disasters generate a huge volume of intermingled waste types - comprising solid, green and hazardous waste - which often need to be cleared very quickly to allow for relief efforts to be undertaken.

In most cases, Disaster Waste (DW) places more burdens on communities already struggling to cope with catastrophe. During a disaster response, it is difficult to properly manage waste material as priorities are placed more on lifesaving and disaster containment. Disaster Waste has potential to contaminate natural environment and poses a risk on human health. Safe handling, removal and management of Disaster Waste are therefore important issues in disaster response and recovery. PacWastePlus can assist countries in disaster planning and preparation, including determining alternate staging and storage sites for disaster waste, as well as establishing systems to manage the response to natural disasters to enable efficient and effective recovery following events.



RECYCLABLES

Recyclable wastes refer to waste that can easily be recovered or made into other products and typically includes glass, paper, cardboard, metal, plastic, tyres, textiles, batteries, and electronics. To put it simply recyclables are objects that are able to be processed and used again.

Recycling is a process to convert waste of potentially useful materials into a new product. The consumption behaviour in our society today is largely based on a linear model of “take, make, waste.” There is a problem with this system that needs to be first acknowledged and then fixed especially with *natural resources becoming scarcer and more expensive*. Recyclables are often dumped at landfills with the associated cost borne by national governments and local governments. Similarly, incinerators are often considered as a better solution because of their potential to provide energy. However, they are inefficient for a number of reasons ranging from high construction and maintenance cost to potentially impacting on human health. Recycling materials from municipal solid waste saves three to five times more energy than burning them for electricity.

PacWastePlus can provide assistance to adopt the concept of circular economy — a restorative, zero-waste economic model in which resources are used to maximum capacity and natural systems are regenerated. As the world becomes more aware of climate change impacts and scarce resources, the more relevant the concept of circular economy becomes. This is a step toward making a difference by being smart about finite resources by trying to close the loop and keeping the circulation of products and materials going for as long as possible.



BULKY WASTE

Bulky waste (end-of-life vehicles, tyres, white goods, furniture and other large household goods) describes wastes that are too large to be accepted by the regular waste collection service. These includes damaged furniture, abandon vehicles and large appliances.

Depending on the type, bulky wastes has the potential to contaminate soil and the surrounding waterways and posing an indirect threat to health of local communities. Currently, waste collection authorities in the Pacific undertake separate collection for bulky wastes; an exercise that often proves to be too costly while some are disposed in community dump sites.

PacWastePlus has the potential to assist project countries with necessary interventions to ensure safe and financial sustainable management of bulky waste.



WASTEWATER

For the purpose of the PacWastePlus project, Waste water refers to waterways impacted by solid wastes and related aspects such as leachates from landfills or point source pollution from storm water drains.

Pacific Island countries depends largely on the ocean and related water bodies for daily sustenance and economic gain. Improper waste management has greatly impacted water bodies and poses a potential threat to the health of local communities. The PacWastePlus project seeks to assist countries with necessary intervention that protects and monitors the receiving environment potentially impacted by waste facilities/handling.

PACWASTEPLUS INCEPTION MEETING

The PacWastePlus (PWP) Programme Inception meeting held in Nadi, Fiji in May 2019 empowered participating countries to actively engage in the project’s design and confirm priorities for action to be undertaken on-ground to assist them to strengthen their waste management policies, legislation and practices.

Based on the lessons learned from a previous PacWaste 2014-17 project, which focused on hazardous waste, PWP is a much more ambitious and comprehensive project. It takes a broader approach, looking across eight different waste streams, at data availability, legal framework and capacity building to deliver good waste management practices across the Pacific Island Countries.

It was encouraging to see the enthusiasm of country representatives as they actively engaged in discussions, provided useful feedback on the past project and how they would like to see things operate differently in the PacWastePlus project while providing the programme staff with high level guidance on the priorities and needs of their countries.

Representatives from 13 of the 15 PWP participating countries attended the meeting. An outcome from a capacity building workshop held following the Project Inception Meeting was the creation of a draft country specific National Education & Awareness Plans (NEAP).

This template plan was discussed with Country representatives, and they were taken through a day-long process on how to complete the plan. A capacity development workshop to assist countries through a second workshop was held in Fiji to further address the capacity needs of countries to develop their NEAPs in November 2019.

The PacWastePlus programme seeks to support the identified countries to reduce the production of, and improve the management of, hazardous wastes, solid wastes and waterways impacted by solid waste. It will work to assist countries to improve data collection to inform decision making and strengthen legislative and policy frameworks.

The programme will also look at effective ways to incentivise public and private partnerships in the waste sector and build the capacity of governments, industry and the community to reduce waste generation, and effectively manage wastes that are generated.

Country Priorities as stated at the Project Inception Meeting

Country	Waste Streams							
	Asbestos	E-Waste	Healthcare Waste	Recyclables	Organics	Disaster	Bulky Waste	Waste Water
Cook Islands	6	1	3	4	8	7	2	5
Democratic Repblic of Timor-Leste	8	4	3	2	7	6	5	1
Federated States of Micronesia	5	2	4	1	7	6	3	8
Fiji	6	4	3	1	8	7	5	2
Kiribati	4	5	3	1	7	6	2	8
Nauru								
Papua New Guinea	4	2	1	3	5	8	7	6
Palau	8	3	1	2	5	7	4	6
Republic of Marshall Islands	8	4	6	1	2	5	3	7
Samoa	6	1	5	2	8	4	3	7
Solomon Islands	8	1	3	2	5	6	7	4
Tonga	1	2	7	4	3	6	5	8
Tuvalu	2	1	4	5	8	7	6	3
Vanuatu	5	4	2	1	6	3	7	8

- 1 Priority
- 2 Priority
- 3 Priority
- 4 Priority
- 5 Priority
- 6 Priority
- 7 Priority
- 8 Priority



“As an island nation, Palau is afflicted with waste management challenges. PacWaste Plus is a welcome avenue to address priority areas related to waste management, and strengthening our waste management and the health of our people and environment, and giving way to sustainable economic development.”
 ROXANNE BLESAM
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 PALAU



“Koror State Government was very fortunate to participate in the discussions on the PacWaste Plus project. We have pledged our support to promote proper waste management in Koror State. With assistance of PacWaste Plus, Palau will be able to elevate its waste management program to ensure human health and environmental protection is achieved.”
 LESLIE TWID
 DIRECTOR DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
 KOROR STATE, PALAU



“How can we expect our communities to change when we ourselves, working in waste management, are using plastics and single-use materials?”
 The change starts with us, and we need to lead by example.
 MATILE'O MASI
 CHIEF ENVIRONMENTALIST
 TONGA



“It's been a great opportunity for me to attend the PacWaste Plus meeting and be involved. I have learned a lot, particularly in the session on communication tools which I think will be useful beyond the successful implementation of this project, but also in my work in the field.”
 MONTEKSTAR MOGER
 ACTING PRINCIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT & POLLUTION CONTROL OFFICER
 VANUATU



“Given the large geographical distance between islands, waste is a very challenging environmental issue to tackle at the national level. I hope PacWaste Plus will provide opportunities to address priority waste issues in our provincial islands.”
 SIBIRA KEREREKA
 CHIEF ENVIRONMENT OFFICER
 SOLOMON ISLANDS



“The one-fits-all solution has not worked well for PNG. Given our larger land mass, population size, and other factors, we have to consider other approaches to waste management. We are hopeful PacWaste Plus will provide better support to ensure a successful implementation.”
 VEAAHI KULA
 MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE, UTILITIES & CONVENTIONS
 PAPUA NEW GUINEA

IN COUNTRY PROJECT CONCEPTS PROPOSAL

Programme Investment Structure

PacWastePlus has established secure funding to invest in projects that support positive waste management and environmental outcomes for businesses, community groups and social enterprises. The European Union has strict guidelines for program activity. Project funding must comply with EU and SPREP guidelines. Important guidelines to note are:

- SPREP Procurement Policy and Procedures will be applied to all financial obligations.
- SPREP is unable to directly transfer funds (**Grant**) to entities, however, can spend on their behalf.

Approved project funding will be managed by SPREP through the PacWastePlus Project Management Unit through contract management processes. Country Agencies and Ministries are able to tender for work but will be assessed as part of the formal open tender process required by EU and SPREP. PacWastePlus will provide in-country investment into projects for the 15 participating countries that address at least one of the following areas:

- Implementation of prevention and reduction programmes that promotes schemes to minimise generation of solid waste from imported products and nearly expiring perishables;
- Improve Disaster Waste Management through preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction to assist countries in dealing with the generation of large volumes of waste.
- Implementation of legislation that enables best practice in waste management.
- Sustainable management of waste and pollution through the implementation of preferred sustainable financing options
- Implementation of feasible resource recovery initiatives with private sector involvement.
- Continuation of existing programmes to dispose of legacy (radio active waste)and hazardous wastes and remediate contaminated sites (asbestos, healthcare waste and E-waste).
- Improvement and/or construction of appropriate small-scale waste management infrastructure to facilitate good practice in waste management
- Development and implementation of agreements and incentives for private sector participation in waste management
- Support the exportation of wastes to (regional) recycling hubs from atoll nations
- Implementation of programmes to build national and local capacities in designing bankable projects.

Assessment criteria for Project Concepts

Each project concept application will be assessed by the PWP Programme Management Unit (PMU) and assistance provided to ensure concepts meet the required criteria. Where input or assistance is required from the PWP Technical Advisory Panels or Research Advisory Group, this will be facilitated by the PMU. Final approval of projects will be granted by the European Union's Delegation for the Pacific. It is recommended that project concept notes include details of all the above-mentioned points. The project will not be assessed if the application form is not used, and information is insufficient for review: desired outcomes, approximate project timing and costing. Inadequate project concepts will not progress for assessment.

Funding

PacWastePlus can invest **US\$300,000 per participating Country**. Project co-funding is not required but would be considered favourably. More details will be made available in the Project Concept Application Guideline on funding eligibility.

Technical Advisory Service

PacWastePlus is seeking to ensure each participating country develops appropriate and long-term beneficial projects for their countries, as such each country is able to access various levels of Technical Assistance to develop and submit their in-country project concepts.

Application Form

All projects seeking support from the PacWastePlus programme are required to provide detailed information in the format required. A PacWastePlus *Project Concept Application Guideline* is currently being developed and will be sent to all country focal points once ready for dissemination.

There are a number of aligned regional waste management projects that share synergy with the PacWastePlus programme. In this issue we feature articles from the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility, GEF ISLANDS, JPRISM II, Disaster Waste Management through the Canadian Funding for Local Initiative and IMO projects. We welcome article submissions from your organisation on your various waste management programme/project activities or any major event announcements that you would like to include. Do not expect an email or call from us requesting for your input for our newsletter. You may submit an article no more than 550 words. We also request if you could provide a suitable hi-resolution photograph to accompany your article. As we will be developing a PacWastePlus website and other information, education and communications materials we request high resolution photographs of various waste issues in country. All photographs used will be credited and acknowledged. You may send the articles and photographs to nitishn@sprep.org

PACIFIC RESOURCE CIRCULATION AND RECYCLING NETWORK

The increasing presence of plastic marine debris in the South Pacific Ocean is focusing attention on strengthening recycling policies and systems in the region. Pacific island countries (PICs) face significant challenges in providing sustainable management systems for an increasing and diversifying range of waste materials, driven mainly by changing urbanisation patterns, globalised markets, wealth redistribution and the resultant changing lifestyles.

Unique challenges associated with shipping commodities of low value over long distances to recycling markets, however, reduce the economic viability to do so. Most countries across the world are facing similar barriers to achieving cost-effective and efficient waste and recycling systems. However, these challenges are magnified for the Pacific island countries as a result of their unique circumstances, including: geographical isolation; limited availability of environmentally suitable land for the construction of waste management infrastructure; high costs of servicing small and largely dispersed populations; an inability to achieve critical mass due to a relatively small consumer base; relative financial disadvantage where eight of the 15 countries are in the lower to middle gross national income bracket.

Additionally, many PICs are heavily reliant on imported goods, international development assistance and are often remote from international recycling markets. These countries are also extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and severe weather events which can generate shock loads to normal waste levels. Between 2017 and 2060, global material use is predicted to nearly double from 89 to 167 gigatonnes (UN GSDR Report 2019). This will contribute to water stress, which occurs when the demand for water exceeds the available amount during a certain period or when poor quality restricts its use, biodiversity loss, climate change and waste pollution. For this reasons, circular economy policies and implementation are necessary to manage and reduce these environmental pressures.

To assist in identifying economically viable sustainable waste management solutions, the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF), in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) initially published a research study assessing the potential for resource recovery of 15 common recyclable commodities in the solid waste stream in 15 Pacific island countries and territories: Pacific Region Solid Waste Management and Recycling – Pacific Country and Territory Profiles.

All 15 PacWastePlus member countries will have some investigation into the required standards funded by multiple partners. PRIF will assess the feasibility of a circular recycling network in the Pacific and gather accurate data from South Pacific island countries with a series of comprehensive waste audits that commences in September 2019 in Tuvalu, complementing studies already carried out in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands, and through other programs and initiatives such as the EU-supported PacWastePlus, Japan's JPRISM II and the GEF program. The multi-island network study will include examining the potential for a processing, trans-shipment and recycling hub to prepare materials for supply to current/future remanufacturing enterprises or shipping to other destinations.

For more information, contact Ms. Lorena Estigarribia - lestigarribia@theprif.org



IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABLE LOW & NON-CHEMICALS DEVELOPMENT IN SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (GEF ISLANDS)

The GEF ISLANDS programme was developed in response to challenges facing Small Island Developing States (SIDS) at the global level across the Caribbean, Indian Ocean and Pacific regions. SIDS in each of this region have varying levels of capacity to address the challenges posed by chemicals and waste, but share a similar development trajectory, creating an opportunity for learning from each other both within and across the three regions. The programme is implemented by UNEP, the Pacific Regional project will be executed by SPREP.

Timeline for Pacific Project Development

ISLANDS has been developed, in line with the Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy (2016-2025), and in consultation with countries and regional partners in 2018/19. The project has now entered the 12-month Preparation Phase where the Pacific project concepts will be fully developed and submitted for GEF CEO Endorsement. The project must be developed and submitted by UNEP to GEF by 11 June 2020. The Pacific project will commence in July 2020.

National priorities for action under Pacific Child Project advised by countries:

- E-waste: Cook Islands, FSM, Solomon Islands
- Recycling/landfill management/POPs reduction: Samoa, Vanuatu, Niue, Tonga, Palau, Nauru,
- Plastics management: Kiribati and Tuvalu
- Used oil: Marshall Islands POPs stockpiles: PNG

ISLANDS programme components

Component 1: Preventing future build-up of chemicals in the SIDS environment;

Component 2: Safe management and disposal of existing, historically produced wastes posing an immediate risk to people and natural resources;

Component 3: Promoting systems for future management of wastes and chemicals entering SIDS by adopting and putting into practice 4R approaches including increased recovery of resources from wastes by adopting the principles of sustainable consumption and production;

Component 4: sharing knowledge and experience across all regions to address issues common to all SIDS and to stimulate inter regional cooperation to combat major global level challenges posed by wastes such as plastics, electronics and other major pollutants.

How will ISLANDS deliver in each of these four components?

To maximise impact and results on the ground the four components summarized above will work at different levels.

Component 1 will be a combination of Global standard setting applicable to all SIDS in common areas of interest (an example where some countries have already taken the initiative is banning of single use plastics). This will then inform and support execution at the regional and national level to put the principles into practice on the ground.

Component 2 will focus heavily on addressing national level priorities. Again, guidance, experience and lessons learnt from across the regions will be provided via *Component 4*.

Component 3 will look to the future. How can we make SIDS resilient to the impacts from materials which can't be avoided? This component will look to work at all levels based on access to global best practice and information, promoting innovation and lessons learnt from other SIDS with relevant experience, and by mobilizing resources to support development of national and regional capacity. Guidance will be provided, and experience / lessons will be captured from all components via *component 4* (Knowledge Management).

A partnership model will be developed and honed, and factors for success analysed. Access to finance and creating a scale and critical mass by promoting regional approaches to combat problems such as e-waste and plastics will also be explored with the intention to develop regional / sub-regional hubs to support multiple countries.

For more information contact: Ms. Melanie Ashton, Melanie@iisd.org

PRACTICAL TRAINING ON **DISASTER WASTE MANAGEMENT**

A practical training on Disaster Waste Management (DWM) funded under the Canadian Funding for Local Initiative (CFLI) scheme and delivered by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) was held in Port Villa in late 2019.

Disaster waste management is covered in several ongoing regional projects such as the JICA-funded J-PRISM II and EU-funded PacWastePlus, and an upcoming AFD-funded project on Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific (SWAP). These projects will collaborate to enable more effective mechanisms to manage this waste stream.

Through this initiative, SPREP will partner with experts from J-PRISM II Project and the University of Newcastle in Australia to develop a DWM Training Handbook and conduct practical training programmes to build the capacity of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) to respond to disaster waste issues using more planned approaches.

The pilot training in Vanuatu will contribute significantly towards refining the DWM Training Handbook and feed it into the Regional DWM Guideline currently developed by J-PRISM II and SPREP. As one of the most affected PICs during disaster events, Vanuatu has witnessed 23 cyclones per decade on average. It was also reported as the most risk-prone country on earth in the World Risk Report released by the Institute for Environment and Human Security of the United Nations University.

Historical records show that there was a big spike on generated wastes after Tropical Cyclone Pam hit Vanuatu in 2015. This left a significant amount of legacy wastes at the Bouffa Landfill. Support to rehabilitate the landfill was provided by SPREP through the PacWaste Project. While considerable efforts have been focused on predicting and building resilience to climate change impacts, the management of debris after each disaster event is often still ad hoc and uncoordinated at the regional, national and community levels.

For more information about the training on disaster waste management (DWM) funded under the Canadian Funding for Local Initiative (CFLI) scheme please contact: Ms. Ma Bella - bellag@sprep.org



JAPANESE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT FOR PROMOTION OF REGIONAL INITIATIVE ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PHASE II (JPRISM II)

Waste has become an alarming problem in the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) in consequence of the rising socioeconomic and technological advancement in the Region generating ever-changing forms of urban and industrial wastes in tremendous amounts. In recent years, the PICs have recognized the significance of properly managing wastes to prevent the resulting social and environmental problems that arise from lacking a proper waste management system. PICs have limited land masses, making them vulnerable, since waste accumulates daily and if not managed well, can affect the health and well-being of each nation.

The remote locations of the PICs in addition to lacking capacity and economic strength and over-reliance on foreign aid and imported goods limit the management of solid waste in the Pacific. PICs requested the Japanese Government for assistance to improve solid waste management in their respective countries.

Through JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency), the commitment of the Japanese government was accomplished by collaborating with SPREP to assist the PICs. In accordance with the Cleaner Pacific 2025, Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy 2016-2025, JICA executed JPRISM II together with the help of SPREP and the cooperation of the waste management agencies in each target PIC. The intention of the project is to strengthen the region's capacity through implementing the Cleaner Pacific 2025 at both national and regional level.

The earlier phase of JPRISM project enhanced the proficiency and capabilities of local counterparts, that they became experts and trainers not only in their own countries but within the region. For effective and efficient cooperation in the region, the human resource exchange programs conducted would be a fixed system in the Pacific whereby each country would gain from the shared experience and information. Majority of the Pacific region lacked recycling facilities due to, little to no market for recycling within the countries. The "3R+Return" approach was promoted to reduce waste in PICs by encouraging proper resource recycling and appropriate disposal by shipping out (returning) valuable waste or difficult waste for disposal, whereas organic waste is properly treated and returned to the soil to be decomposed naturally.

- Overall Goal Sustainable Management of solid waste in the Pacific region is enhanced based on Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy 2016-2025
- Integrated Purpose Human & institutional capacity base for sustainable Solid waste management in the Pacific region is strengthened through implementation of the "Cleaner Pacific 2025"
- Regional Purpose Implementation of the Cleaner Pacific 2025 on solid waste management is timely monitored and supported based on Pacific to Pacific cooperation.

Output

1. Monitoring mechanism for solid waste management in line with Cleaner PACIFIC 2025 is strengthened;
2. Regional cooperation is organized and promoted by utilizing regional human resource and sharing good practices in the region;
3. Regional capacity of disaster waste management is strengthened;
4. Practical and sustainable 3R+Return system is examined in Member countries: Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Independent state of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Republic of Vanuatu, Kingdom of Tonga, Independent State of Samoa (8countries)

Period February 2017-February 2022

The project's purpose and determination are to ensure that project activities align with national priorities of each target country. The PICs are aware of the fast-paced environmental changes that they are vulnerable to and are willing to collaborate with JPRISM to tackle waste management problems that arise in their respective countries to have a clean and healthy environment for future generations.

Recent events:

- Disaster Waste Management Pilot Training – 11-22 November 2019, Port Villa, Vanuatu.
- PacWastePlus Working Party Meeting- 25 November 2019, Suva, Fiji.
- Pre-National Education & Communications Awareness Plan (NEAPs) Capacity Development Workshop meeting - 25-26 Nov 2019, Nadi, Fiji.
- Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Steering Committee Meeting – 26 November 2019, Suva, Fiji.
- 2nd National Education & Communications Awareness Plan (NEAPs) Capacity Development Workshop - 27 Nov 2019, Nadi, Fiji.

Future events:

- GEF ISLANDS Inception Meeting – 9 December 2019, Brisbane, Australia.
- 1st Research Advisory Group (RAG) Meeting - 10 Dec 2019, Brisbane, Australia.
- GEF - Actor/Donor Meeting - Pacific Waste Projects, 12 December, Brisbane, Australia.
- Pacific Ocean Litter Project Design Meeting-13 December, Brisbane, Australia.
- PacWastePlus Programme Steering Committee Meeting – 10-13 February 2020, Nadi, Fiji.
- Pacific Ocean Litter Project - Inception Meeting - 14 Feb 2020, Nadi, Fiji.

In country missions

Between now and June 2020, the team will be making a concerted effort to undertake mission trips to all countries to ensure you know who we are, and understand how the PacWastePlus team will be working to help you deliver and enhance your work to manage waste and protect the environment in your country. Recent missions include:

- Timor Leste (Project Launch) - 21 Sept – 4 Oct 2019
- Fiji (PWP Staff Onboarding) - 5 – 17 Oct 2019
- PacWastePlus Meeting with Fiji Government – 9 October 2019
- PacWastePlus Meeting with Fiji Recycling Association – 10 October 2019
- PacWastePlus Meeting with SPC – 14 October 2019
- PacWastePlus Meeting with USP – 15 October 2019
- PacWastePlus Meeting with EU Pacific Delegation office- 15 October 2019
- Vanuatu (meetings with Government of Vanuatu) – 11-13 November 2019

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL PROJECTS



PacWastePlus Programme

The European Union funded PacWastePlus project, will work with 14 Pacific Island Countries and Timor-Leste to: improve and enhance waste management activities; improve capacity of governments, industry and communities to manage waste; and to reduce the impact of waste on human health and the environment.

- EURO 16.5 M
- 8 waste streams-Asbestos, healthcare waste, e-waste, recyclables, organics, disaster waste, bulky waste, wastewater
- 14 PICs and Timor-Leste



Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP)

POLP aims to build the capacity of SPREP and Pacific Island countries to plan and successfully implement measures to reduce single-use plastics by providing assistance to achieve a number of agreed outcomes.

- AUS 16M
- Plastic Pollution (MLAP)
- 14 PICs



J-PRISM II

The "Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management, Phase II (J-PRISM II)" is focussed on strengthening the human and institutional capacity base for sustainable Solid Waste management in the Pacific Region through the implementation of the "Cleaner Pacific 2025" Strategy.

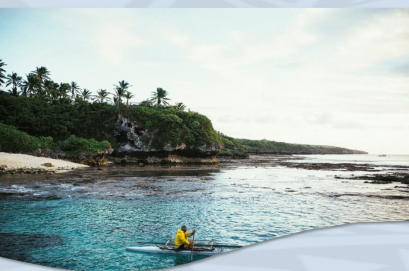
- US 15 M
- Solid Waste
- 4 focal areas: Capacity Development, Data Management, Disaster Waste and 3Rs+Return
- 9 PICs



IMO Projects

Marine Pollution activities are mostly funded by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The SPREP/IMO relationship is detailed in a memorandum of understanding with the activities outlined in a biannual ITCP. The current ITCP focuses on capacity building related activities to be implemented in 14 PICs covering oil spill management, ballast water and hull management and compensation and liability training.

- US 100,000
- Marine pollution (PacPlan)
- 14 PICs



UN Environment-Chem/Pollution

This project has an execution timeframe of 5 years (July 2020 – July 2025) and will complement other regional waste activities. It will include regional and national level activities that are focused on preventing the future build-up of waste along with safe management and disposal of chemicals in the SIDS environment.

- GEF ISLANDS – US 20 M, all PICs
- MIA – 5 PICs
- GEPPAs – US 3.75 M/5years



Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) Scoping Study

The PRIF project is seeking to expand the knowledge to identify and quantify the opportunity to improve the resource recovery actions of common commodities (wastes) present in the solid waste stream in Southern Pacific region.

- US 250,000
- Regional Recycling
- Southern Pacific (Pilot)



Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

The Pacific - AFD Waste Management Programme, will address cost effective and sustainable management of waste and pollution and focus on hands on training and projects – used oil; marine debris (clean-ups); sustainable financing; and disaster waste. It will contribute to the regional delivery of the Cleaner Pacific 2025 and builds on, enhances and strengthens parallel initiatives under existing regional waste projects.

- EURO 3M
- Solid and Disaster Waste, Used Oil, Plastics
- Focus - French Territories



Building Partnerships

A number of MOUs and small projects have been forged with academia (e.g. University of Newcastle-PhD scholarships), private sector (Swire Shipping) and non-traditional agencies (CEFAS, DEFRA, Canada) as part of WMPC initiatives to strengthen sustainable management of waste and pollution in the Pacific.

- WMPC
- 14 PICs & territories (variable)

Country focal points are requested to provide the necessary assistance and courtesy to consultants undertaking these tasks.

Active

- **Legislative Review and Assessment of Environmental and Waste Legislative Environment in 15 Pacific island countries for the PacWastePlus Programme –Tender Advertisement closed and under assessment**

*This engagement seeks to gain a comprehensive understanding of the legislative environment governing the environment (with a focus on waste management) in each of the participating PacWastePlus countries. We also seek to gain an understanding of the likely project interventions that will assist each country to improve waste management outcomes, and an assessment of the regional alignment to relevant frameworks. **More info** [here](#)*

- **National Capacity Needs Assessment for Waste in 14 Pacific Island Countries and Timor-Leste for the PacWastePlus Programme – Tender Advertisement closes 15 November 2019**

*This engagement seeks to gain an understanding of capacity needs (with a focus on waste management) in each of the participating countries to identify the current standards being implemented with respect to: Governance; management; and enforcement of waste management issues related to the eight waste streams being addressed by PacWastePlus (asbestos, healthcare waste, e-waste, recyclables, organics, bulky waste, disaster waste, water impacted by solid waste). **More information** [here](#)*

- **Timor-Leste Healthcare Management Training for the PacWaste Programme – Tender Advertisement closes 22nd November 2019**

*The objectives of this engagement are to review and update training materials, translate all materials into local language of Timor-Leste (Tetun) and deliver training as “train the trainer” to the Ministry of Health, Timor-Leste. **More information** [here](#)*

- **Healthcare Incinerator Repair Maintenance for the PacWastePlus programme – Tender Advertisement closes 4th December**

*Specifically, this engagement seeks to undertake repair and maintenance activities required to ensure healthcare waste incinerators deployed by the PacWaste programme operate optimally. This is be a targeted intervention to identified hospital sites in Tonga, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Palau and Vanuatu. **More information** [here](#)*

- **Technical Assistance – Tender will be posted for advertisement by Wednesday 13th November 2019**

*In-country interventions under the PacWastePlus (PWP) programme will require country counterparts to identify which of the eight priority waste streams are to be supported, through the submission of a detailed and concise project proposal. The objective of this engagement is to engage technical experts on a retainer arrangement, available for PWP participating countries to call upon for assistance in the development of in-country project proposals. The selected consultants will be available on an “on call” basis to support countries on the development of project concepts to access funding support from the programme for in-country interventions. Each country will be allowed to seek up to 10 hours of consultant support (these 10 hours may be sourced from multiple consultants where required). **More information** [here](#)*

Upcoming Tenders in 2020

- Baseline data collection and assessments through Waste Audits
- Waste Management Capacity Building Stocktake (tertiary and Vocational training availability assessment)
- Human Rights based approach situational analysis
- Timor-Leste Inform portal establishment
- PacWastePlus Website Design

For more information or to submit articles, photographs and events for our newsletter please contact:

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