



**Fourth SPREP Executive Board Meeting**  
**4 – 6 September 2024**  
 Hybrid Platforms  
**12:00pm – 5:00pm Samoa Standard Time**

**Agenda item 9.3: Overview of Regional Goal 3: Pacific people benefit from improved waste management and pollution control**

**Purpose:**

1. To provide an update and overview of key priorities to support the implementation and achievement of Regional Goal 3 for 2024 and 2025 respectively.

**Background:**

2. The 31 SPREP Meeting endorsed the key priorities to support the implementation and achievement of Regional Goal 3 for the PIP4 biennial period 2024-25. The Secretariat is pleased to provide an update of key priorities for the year 2024 of PIP4 and will continue to work closely with Members, development partners and others to progress evidence-based strategic planning, facilitate technical cooperation and deliver training and capacity building initiatives to improve waste management and pollution control in the region.

**Regional Objective 3.1 Minimise the adverse impacts of chemicals and all wastes on human health and the environment via environmentally sound life-cycle management in accordance with agreed regional and international frameworks, including Cleaner Pacific 2025, and significantly reduce the release to air, water and soil.**

3. Continue the implementation of the Cleaner Pacific 2025: Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy and activities identified at the 2021 Cleaner Pacific Roundtable meeting, specifically management of the following projects:
  - a. Implementation of the EU EDF11 funded PacWastePlus Programme (PWP) through its final 18 months.
  - b. Management review and reset of the UNEP-GEF funded ISLANDS Pacific Child Project (ISLANDS) that will now conclude in 2028.
  - c. Implementation of the Australian Government funded Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP), PACPLAN Resilience Project (PACPLAN Resilience) through its final 15 months, WWII Wreck Project in Chuuk FSM through its final 18 months and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee project (INC) that concludes in 2024 with the diplomatic conference scheduled for 2025.
  - d. Implementation of the final year of the AFD funded Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific (SWAP) and a feasibility study for a phase 2 that will commence in 2025 that will include an increase in funding, coverage and scope.
4. Implement high priority actions to address marine litter, guided by the Pacific Regional Marine Litter Action Plan 2018-2025 including assisting PICTs in the negotiations of an international legally binding instrument to INC-4, INC-5 and the Diplomatic Conference in 2025, the conclusion of the review of the regional framework to address marine litter and plastic pollution. Implementation of the WCPFC CMM 2017-04 on marine pollution with FFA Members and the Ports Recognition Framework and Pacific Regional Reception Facilities Plan with the SPC.

5. Progressing the development of a draft Regional Circular Economy Policy Framework based on other frameworks used in other Regions/Countries.
6. Assist in the implementation of agreed regional and international frameworks such as the Waigani Convention Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee as well as subsidiary meetings for the Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

**Regional Objective 3.2 Strengthen national, regional, and international mechanisms for waste management including for chemicals, hazardous wastes, ship and aircraft generated waste, marine plastic litter, and other marine debris.**

7. Progress the development of a new Cleaner Pacific 2026-2035 including consultations with Members at various regional forums.
8. Progress the development of a new PACPOL 2026-2035 as it presents a significant opportunity for Pacific Island countries to continue to take major step forward to protect our ocean from marine pollution.
9. Progress the development of the Pacific Regional Outlook on Hazardous Waste and Chemicals and guidance to assist Members with management of new waste streams.
10. Development of a Regional Action Plan on Mercury.
11. Development of a Regional Codes of Practice on Hazardous Wastes.
12. Assist Member states to adopt the technical guidelines developed by the Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention (BRS) on ESM of hazardous waste.
13. Progress and work with the Nuclear Task Force led by PIFS to carry out an assessment of capacity to coordinate the monitoring of the Pacific marine environment for radioactive contamination in collaboration with expert groups including CROP agencies, and research institutions.
14. Assist countries to develop baselines surveys and monitoring systems for single use plastic, as well as policies and legislation and strategies.
15. Assist countries to utilise template legislative mechanisms, and drafting guidance for legislative mechanisms, developed by projects (e.g., asbestos ban, Asbestos Management Code of Practice, sustainable financing development guidance, importation bans and restrictions for waste products, waste licencing systems, environmental monitoring guidelines, disaster waste management taskforces).
16. Assist countries in developing capability for implementation of national plans and strategies under PACPOL as well as PACPLAN Resilience Project.
17. Assist countries with capacity development for waste and pollution management

**Regional Objective 3.3 Recover resources from waste and pollutants through composting (nutrient recovery), recycling (material recovery), energy recovery, and other measures in order to minimise waste and contribute to economic and social development.**

18. Promote and assist in the implementation of recycling activities such as recyclables and organic waste, end-of-life vehicles, scrap metal and used lead acid batteries, mercury along with other hazardous chemicals and waste to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

19. Assist in managing and reducing agricultural (e.g. piggery effluent), green and organic waste.
20. Assist in improving existing and developing new sustainable financing mechanisms for resource recovery enterprises.
21. Assist with the construction and commissioning of waste management and resource recovery infrastructure through donor funded project support.
22. Assist countries to establish national waste management and recycling associations to provide an avenue for public private partnerships.

**Regional Objective 3.4 Improve waste and pollution monitoring of receiving environments to enable informed decision-making on appropriate measures to protect human health and the environment and to reduce associated environmental damage.**

23. Implementation of the Regional Waste Monitoring System and the regional ACP-MEA III and Inform projects.
24. Assist SPREP Members to monitor the health of receiving environments for input of information into the Regional Waste Monitoring System to enable informed decision-making measures that protect human health and reduce environmental damage.
25. Convene a 2024 Clean Pacific Roundtable meeting to monitor and assess progress towards the Cleaner Pacific 2025 and implementation plan 2021-2025.

**Challenges and opportunities**

26. Although the region is seeing the greatest financial support for waste and pollution management activities, this is nowhere near the finance that is needed to assist member states to address the vast array of waste and pollution issues. Therefore, the ability for the region to access funding support for waste management and pollution control programmes for Member States is a challenge as well as the capacity of the Secretariat to support development of proposals to access these finance.
27. The opportunities lie through the integrated approach of addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and waste and pollution, to develop integrated programmatic approaches that allow for long term strategic planning and using project approaches in its implementation as well as the three-pronged implementation approach of geographic, thematic and strategic areas as outlined in the CTSPF.

**Recommendation:**

28. The Executive Board Meeting is invited to:
    - 1) **Note** and **endorse** progress in the implementation of Regional Goal 3 activities for the biennial period 2024 to 2025.
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