



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 quarterly newsletter of the PacWastePlus Programme  
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## GLOBAL AND REGIONAL FRAMEWORKS – CHEMICALS AND WASTE MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS (MEAs) PUBLICATION

The PacWastePlus programme has produced a [publication](#) which is designed to provide clear and concise information on the various MEAs developed to reduce the impacts of waste and chemicals by establishing agreed international frameworks that significantly reduce pollution of the air, water and soil in order to minimise adverse impacts on human health and the environment. MEAs provide strong foundations to support and guide Pacific islands in management of impacts from waste, controlling the transboundary movement of waste, and supports countries to implement the SDGs and a secure a healthier environment for their people.

SPREP, through the implementation of the [Cleaner Pacific 2025 \(CP2025\) Strategy](#), is working with international donors to implement a series of Programmes and Projects to deliver the Strategic outcomes of the CP2025 – all of which align with the actions of these Chemical and Waste MEAs. Work undertaken in 2020 by PacWastePlus reviewed legislative arrangements in participating countries to identify areas where strengthening of legislative arrangements to assure countries they are able to ratify the MEA, or ensure compliance with any MEA they are a party to.

Additionally, PacWastePlus and [GEF ISLANDS](#) are investing in, country specific projects that may support MEA requirements. Both the PacWastePlus and GEF ISLANDS project are available to assist countries to accede to MEAs and continue to work towards securing the safe and sustainable management of waste with due regard for the conservation of biodiversity, health and wellbeing of Pacific island communities, climate change mitigation and adaptation requirements.

Should you like to know how SPREP and PacWastePlus can assist countries to accede and comply with the requirements of MEAs, contact the PacWastePlus Programme Manager, Mr. Bradley Nolan at [bradley@sprep.org](mailto:bradley@sprep.org) or Mr. Joshua Sam, the Hazardous Waste Management Adviser, Waste Management & Pollution Control Unit of SPREP at [joshuas@sprep.org](mailto:joshuas@sprep.org)

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#### Disclaimer

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAMME MANAGER



As we move into the October – December quarter of 2020, so much seems the same, but so much is different! The impact from the Global COVID-19 pandemic is still being felt throughout the region, with travel remaining heavily restricted, and largely only available for freight or repatriation flights. Normal business travel of government officials, projects and service consultancies remain on hold, and therefore most development projects are seeking to modify delivery of actions to remote services wherever possible.

At the time of drafting this introduction, the global statistics for the pandemic are 33,832,711 cases, with over a million tragic deaths. The story in the Pacific region is somewhat more hopeful, with only three participating PacWastePlus countries experiencing any cases inside their borders. We wish Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste well with their pandemic response programmes, and pray for all your people to remain safe and healthy.

Despite the impact of COVID-19, the PacWastePlus team have continued working diligently to modify and deliver a quality outcome for our participating countries. Even without the ability to travel to your countries, meet you teams and communities and work across a table to develop and commence implementation of your projects, the team has been able to assist (remotely) with the development of projects and activities.

During the past 3 months, we have actively worked with consultants to identify where projects can be modified and delivered remotely, meaning the only activities that remain 'on hold' are those requiring specialist technical knowledge associated with hazardous waste activities. Additionally, we are about to submit the first round of country projects to the European Union for their approval to commence implementation. In this third issue of The Connection we will show case these projects and some of the staff involved in their development, along with work from several other regional waste management projects.

We encourage all PacWastePlus participating countries to actively engage with the Programme team, so you too can have your country project confirmed and implementation can commence.

*God Bless*

Bradley & the PWP Team.

## 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), a EUR 16.5 million programme, will generate improved economic, social, health and environmental benefits by enhancing existing activities and building capacity and sustainability into waste management practices.

### Priority Waste Streams

PWP is focussing efforts on the following priority waste streams:

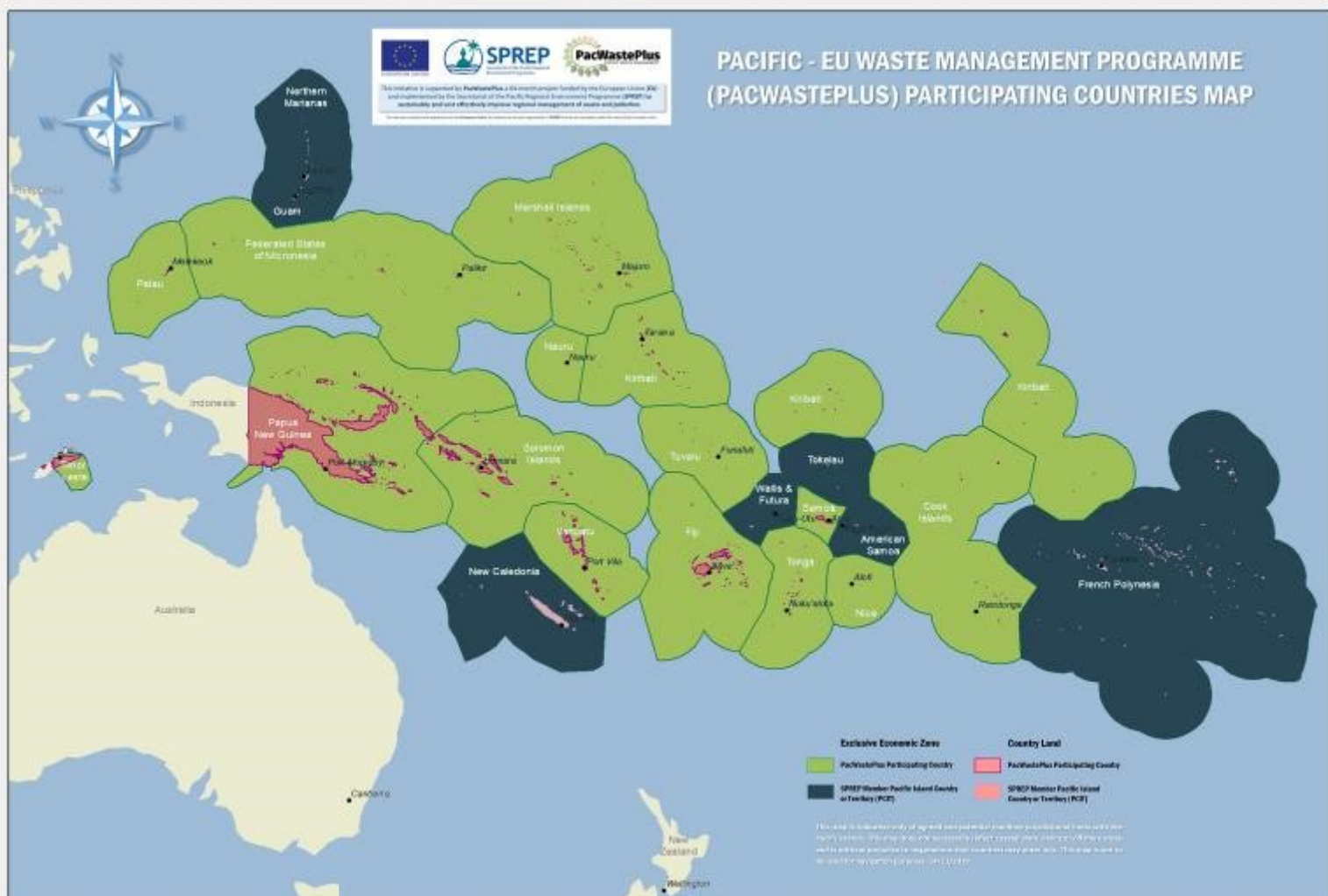
- hazardous wastes (specifically asbestos, E-waste and healthcare waste),
- solid wastes (specifically recyclables, organic waste, disaster waste and bulky waste) and
- Water impacted by solid waste

### Participating Countries

PWP is partnering with 15 countries to deliver positive social and environmental outcomes related from the effective management of waste in the Pacific: *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.

### 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.





## Online Facilitation Skills Training for PacWastePlus staff

The PacWastePlus team, recognising that COVID-19 travel restrictions would continue for the foreseeable future, identified the need to not only change how we would engage with countries, but undertook some training on how to most effectively work with country contacts and consultants in an on-line environment.

The 'Online Facilitation Skills Workshop' provided skills transfer for the planning and facilitation of online meetings and workshops, with the intent of making them interactive, enjoyable, constructive, and beneficial for all. The training was delivered utilising the 'Zoom' meeting platform, but the techniques and activities are transferrable to any online meeting platform.

## PacWastePlus Monitoring & Evaluation Plan

Over the past few months, the PacWastePlus team has, with the help of Asia Pacific Waste Consultants (APWC), reviewed and reworked the programmes Monitoring & Evaluation Plan so it is more meaningful to the work to be implemented, and provides the appropriate framework for the country specific Monitoring Plans to feed into the Programme and assist with reporting on deliverables, outputs and impact from the investment by the European Union.

The revised Plan, and associated Project Logic takes into account the various country projects that have been identified by participating countries, and the recent review and modification to the *Cleaner Pacific 2025: Pacific Regional Waste And Pollution Management Strategy* (CP2025). The proposed modifications, now more clearly align with the CP2025, and this should assist countries to be able to use the PacWastePlus activities to report on many of their responsibilities included in the CP2025 Implementation Plan.

The revised Monitoring & Evaluation Plan supports a revised Project Logic, and will be provided to the European Union for review and approval in the coming weeks.

The 'Online Facilitation Skills Workshop' provided skills transfer for the planning and facilitation of online meetings and workshops, with the intent of making them interactive, enjoyable, constructive, and beneficial for all. The training was delivered utilising the 'Zoom' meeting platform, but the techniques and activities are transferrable to any online meeting platform.

## Gender Equality & Social Inclusion Training

Social life in Pacific Island often assigns specific roles for men, woman, boys, girls, those who are able bodied, and those who fall outside these categories. It is important for the PacWastePlus programme that all of the country projects delivered through PacWastePlus funding provide equality for all these groups.

Recently the PacWastePlus team participated in a series of workshops led by a Monitoring & Evaluation and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) professional, to enhance our knowledge of equality and inclusion considerations and how they can be built into the PacWastePlus programme – The intent being that we can then work with country focal points to assist with the inclusion of GESI considerations into the design and implementation of country projects.

GESI is not simply about woman driving rubbish trucks, it is about ensuring that projects are designed to provide equality for employment (for example, by ensuring job postings encourage all people to apply and by providing services such as lockable women’s bathrooms), equality for access to waste facilities (for example, by having inclusive opening hours and locations so all members of the population can access them – despite their employment situation, methods of transport, ability level etc), and inclusive consultation and decision making (for example, by ensuring all individuals and groups are invited to attend and be involved in consultation sessions).


Using our enhanced knowledge of these considerations, the team will work with Focal Points to ensure we all understand the importance of these GESI factors and so the projects we are designing incorporate and mainstream GESI features to make them inclusive and provide for equality – and so you know how to incorporate them for next time too.

## Managing Healthcare Waste for COVID 19 Webinar

Representatives from PacWastePlus participated in a World Health Organisation (WHO) webinar on healthcare waste management where they reminded participants that any waste that had been in contact with a facility that is housing a COVID-19 patient or a person who has been exposed to the coronavirus, should be treated as medical waste.

Upon a request, to be part of the Webinar as panelists, organized by the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Cell of the COVID-19 Joint Incident Management Team for the Pacific (JIMT), The Pacific Community (SPC) and (WHO) in collaboration with SPREP, the programme team provided an overview of the existing programmes and strategies on healthcare waste management in the Pacific island countries and Timor-Leste.

The PacWastePlus team highlighted that as an immediate response to Pacific island country needs, the programme produced a useful medical waste alert on how to manage COVID-19 healthcare waste to assist the effective management of healthcare waste during the current pandemic. It is an easy-to-read, practical guide for the Pacific setting with additional links to more resources. The participants were informed that the PacWastePlus and partner programmes continue to work with Ministries and Hospitals on long-term sustainable solutions for healthcare waste management in the Pacific.



**“ Medical waste coming from healthcare facilities treating COVID-19 patients is no different than waste coming from facilities without COVID-19 patients”**

Mr. Lance Richman  
Technical Waste Project Officer Hazardous Waste,  
PacWastePlus Programme  
WHO COVID-19 Healthcare Waste Management  
Webinar  
30 July 2020



## KEY RESULT AREA 1 – IMPROVED DATA COLLECTION, INFORMATION SHARING, & EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

### Project Design Publications

The PacWastePlus team is very excited to have recently published a series of project design publications that are a valuable resource to those of you designing country projects for PacWastePlus, or in fact, any project! The publications are currently live on the [PacWastePlus website](#), the SPREP Library, and have recently been included in the suite of project design documents utilised by the BRS Secretariat for projects to be designed and supported by this global organisation. The guides included in the current publications suite are:



#### [A guide to Developing SMART Objectives](#)

This short (4-page) guide provides simple guidance on how to develop project objectives using the SMART principle, i.e. making sure your project objectives are:

- Specific - State exactly what you want to accomplish
- Measurable – articulate what is to be measured to determine project success
- Achievable - Make your objectives reasonable
- Realistic – ensuring it is possible for the objective to be reached
- Timely – objective to be bound by a timeframe for implementation



#### [A guide to Developing A Project Logic: A Guide for Project Design](#)

This guide describes a process for developing project logic in participation with your colleagues. It is always better to build project logic in a group with a participatory process. More and informed perspectives make a stronger logic. You could build a ‘straw man’ (draft) project logic with your core team and then test it with your partners and stakeholders. Building project logic is a dynamic thinking process best done over several sessions when minds are alert and focused, with good breaks between sessions. Project logic is defined as a conceptual framework of how a program or project is understood, or intended, to contribute to its specified outcomes. It focuses on outcomes rather than process. It demonstrates the causal links between inputs, activities, outputs, and outcomes.



#### [A guide to Developing Monitoring and Evaluation Plan: A Guide for Project Designs](#)

Building a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan for a project assists to deliver the intended outcome, and if not, it should help you understand which elements should be modified to assist with delivering a successful project. This publication provides guidance on how to develop a M&E plan for not only PacWastePlus country projects but can also be used as a resource tool during the development of other donor funded country projects as well.



#### [A guide to Developing an Investigative Questioning Process](#)

The process of investigative questioning, or inquiry, assists project managers to ask questions of individuals or groups, who know something, or a lot, about a particular area of interest to the inter viewer. It is also about finding out information or needs on a subject which can be used to benefit those stakeholders / individuals e.g. through a project planning process. This publication provides initial guidance on the various investigative questioning processes that can be utilised. The ideas presented are equally relevant for: to conduct situation analysis, undertake project evaluation, conduct social research, planning or just host interviews, focus groups, or workshops.

Those countries still working on their PacWastePlus country project will, with the help of the PacWastePlus team, utilise these tools to develop and document the project design process.

### Waste Management Decision Support Tool

The PacWastePlus team has engaged Ricard Consulting to assist with the design of a decision support tool, as a guide for countries to make informed, transparent decisions about waste management activities. In an age where there is so much information available, and many companies contacting countries with various technological solutions to waste management issues, the provision of a Decision Support Tool to assist staff to appropriately assess opportunities, and ensure clear, transparent and evidence based decisions are made is imperative. The tool is being developed using a PESTLE and Force Field analysis process:

- PESTLE represents a process for identifying issues in the context of several influential actions: Political, Environmental, Social, Technological, Legislative, and Economical.
- A Force Field assessment requires details on the ‘forces for’ and activity and ‘forces against’ and activity, that then allow consideration of the various issues and considerations that face an officer when deciding on a course of action.

The Decision Support Tool is intended to be an interactive tool and should be published prior to Christmas.

## Regional Assessment of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Waste Management

The PacWastePlus programme is undertaking a study to gain an understanding of how issues of social inclusion, equality and cultural awareness (including traditional knowledge) are currently being considered and incorporated into waste and environmental programme management. The outcome of this analysis is to inform country focal points on how social inclusion can be strengthened through the country and regional activities implemented through PacWastePlus investment.

In the coming weeks, country Focal Points will be sent an online survey asking a series of questions around data collection, risk management, marginalised groups, traditional culture and knowledge, and public participation. The answers to these questions will enable the understanding of where and how our projects might be able provide more inclusive social benefits. It would be appreciated if you could complete the questionnaire and share it with your other ministries and agencies such as health, women’s affairs, culture and public works.

## Regional Waste Audits

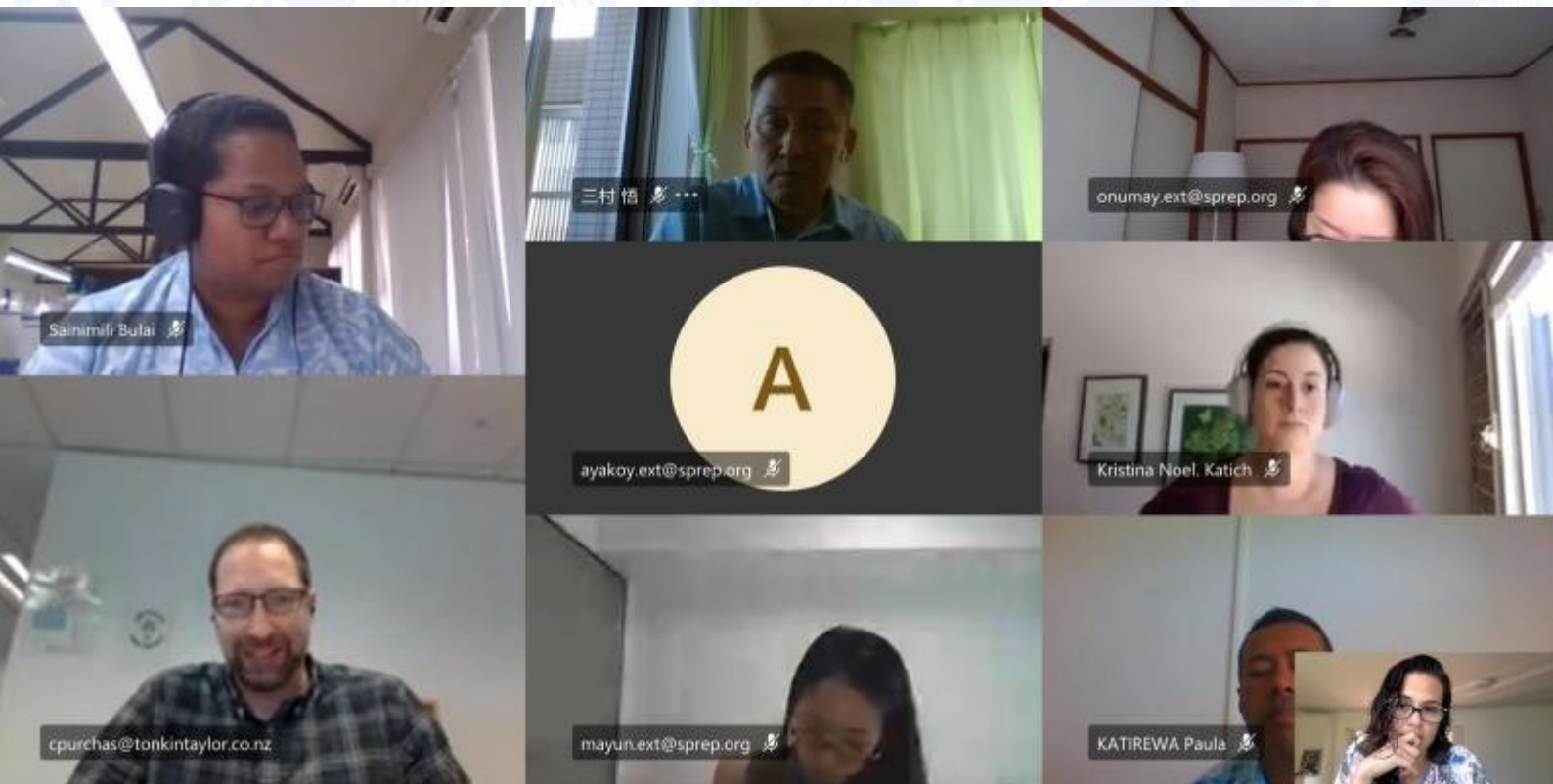
PacWastePlus Programme aims to support national decision making by providing accurate data necessary for sound waste management policies. There are several donor agencies currently working in the region with similar requirements for waste data. PacWastePlus has partnered with PRIF, ADB, World Bank, POLP, AFD, JPRISM II and UNEP to deliver a series of waste audits throughout the Pacific island countries and Timor-Leste and ensure the consistent collection of the data. The funding of audits is being shared by a number of donors and donor programmes:

- The World Bank is funding audits in Samoa, Kiribati, and Tonga
- ADB is funding audits in Fiji, Cook Islands and Tuvalu
- UNEP has funded an audit in Palau
- PacWastePlus with co-financing support of POLP will fund audits in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), Vanuatu, Niue, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Islands.

Letters of introduction for the consultants that will lead the PacWastePlus/POLP audits are being developed and distributed at present, and requests for inception meetings and country planning should have been booked (if not delivered already). The Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility (PRIF).

With the support from PacWastePlus PMU have established a regional waste audit Steering Committee which includes representatives all partners.

The Steering Committee will ensure that all waste audits undertaken in the region is consistent and meet the data need necessary for effective policy development.

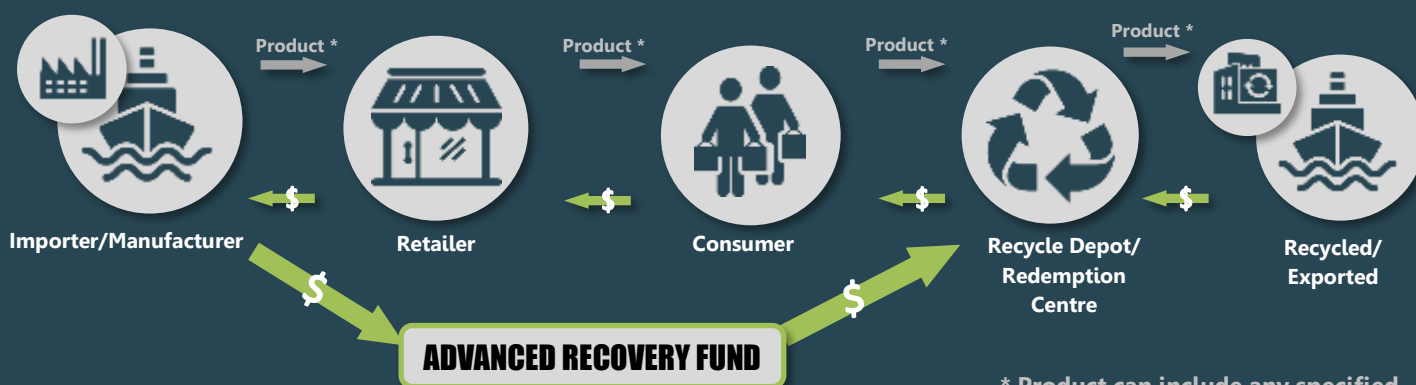


## Advance Recovery Fee & Deposit Systems

Advanced Recovery Fee & Deposit Systems are legislative instruments designed to create a way to sustainably finance waste management and recycling. In the Pacific, Advanced Recovery Fee & Deposit systems currently operating are called a Container Deposit, Beverage Deposit, Advanced Disposal Fee, or a Waste Levy.

These systems create a legal framework that provides households an incentive to recycle, as a deposit is placed on products on import or manufacture, typically included in the sale price. When the item is returned to a deposit location, a redemption of the initial deposit is paid back to the consumer. A small portion of the deposit is retained by the government to fund the collection, transport and processing of the item.

These systems have proven successful around the world to encourage recovery of end-of-life products, and to ensure governments have access to enough funding to ensure these items are diverted from landfill and successfully recovered for recycling.



\* Product can include any specified item (containers, packaging, electronics, vehicles, etc.)

Country	Status / agency assisting	Products included / being considered
<b>Systems in Operation</b>		
Kiribati	Implemented / MFAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aluminium cans:</li> <li>PET beverage and cooking oil</li> <li>Lead acid battery</li> </ul>
RMI	Implemented* / J-Prism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aluminium cans:</li> <li>PET beverage containers</li> <li>Glass beverage containers</li> </ul>
Kosrae	Implemented / J-Prism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aluminium cans:</li> <li>PET beverage and cooking oil</li> <li>Glass beverage containers</li> <li>Lead acid battery</li> </ul>
Pohnpei	Implemented / J-Prism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aluminium cans</li> </ul>
Yap	Implemented / J-Prism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aluminium cans:</li> <li>PET beverage and cooking oil</li> <li>Glass beverage containers</li> </ul>
Palau	Implemented / J-Prism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All beverage containers -</li> <li>Aluminium cans, PET bottles, glass, tetra-pac</li> </ul>
Tuvalu	Implemented -Phase 1 / EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PET bottles</li> <li>Aluminium cans</li> <li>Glass bottles</li> <li>Lubricating Oil</li> <li>Nappy</li> <li>Whiteware</li> <li>Construction Equipment</li> <li>Vehicles</li> <li>Motorbikes</li> <li>Batteries (motorbike, vehicle/ equipment, solar panel)</li> </ul>

There are a number of Pacific island countries that have established advance recovery fee (ARF) and deposit systems in operation. Other countries such as Cook Islands, FSM, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are considering the feasibility of establishing ARF systems.

SPREP through partnerships with a number of regional projects (e.g. European Union/PacWastePlus, United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility (GEF ISLANDS), Japan International Cooperation Agency/Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management Phase II (JPRISM II), Australian Aid/Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP) are well placed to provide direct support to countries wishing to introduce or expand their implementation of sustainable waste systems.

To discuss the possibility, please contact Hilary Boyes, Technical Officer at PacWastePlus - [hilaryb@sprep.org](mailto:hilaryb@sprep.org) - [hilaryb@sprep.org](mailto:hilaryb@sprep.org)



**KEY RESULT AREA 2 – POLICIES AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED****Regional Legislative Review**

The University of Melbourne (UoM) has completed the PacWastePlus Waste Legislative Review, and the PacWastePlus team is currently reviewing the numerous reports produced to develop a suite of outputs that are of relevance to member countries. To date a number of output reports have been produced:

- Country specific reports of the legislative Stocktake and pipeline legislation governing waste management in the participating countries (these reports were provided directly to country Focal Points and are available from the PacWaste Plus website (<https://www.sprep.org/pacwaste-plus>))
- Country specific Legislative Options and Opportunities reports (provided directly to the Country project focal points)
- A further country specific series of reports are under development and will hopefully be published early in the next quarter, these reports will provide the consultants findings of the legislative capacity and the countries capacity to implement the legislative framework.

The three reports, when considered holistically, will provide each country with the view of the consultants on where possible opportunities exist to utilise legislative instruments to assist with achieving your national waste management goals. If you have any questions about the review, or how to engage in the project, please contact Mr. Lance Richman, PWP Hazardous Waste Project Officer - [lancer@sprep.org](mailto:lancer@sprep.org)

**Draft Asbestos Importation Ban**

Most countries in the Pacific and Timor-Leste are faced with the management of legacy asbestos containing materials that were historically used for various applications associated with building materials (walls, roofs, pipes, etc.). We now understand that asbestos is a carcinogen (a substance that causes cancer) and inhalation of air-bourn asbestos fibres can cause serious lung disease, and countries are working independently, and with donor support to manage this legacy issue.

In an attempt to ensure no further asbestos is imported into countries, the PaCWastePlus programme is seeking to engage consultants to develop a policy note intended to guide countries to create and implement legislation / regulations which effectively ban asbestos and asbestos containing material from being imported to countries. The consultancy support is expected to:

- Compile a set of principles to be applied when crafting the necessary legislation and/or regulations to ban the manufacture, use, reuse, import, transport, storage, or sale of all forms of asbestos and asbestos containing materials.
- Develop a policy note to guide countries to create and put into effect legislative language and regulations to ban asbestos and asbestos containing material.

Work is yet to commence on the Policy note, but an output is expected by December 2020.

**Draft Asbestos Code of Practice**

In addition to the development of a Policy Guidance note on implementing a controls over the manufacture, use, reuse, import, transport, storage, or sale of all forms of asbestos and asbestos containing materials, it is recognised that countries may benefit from the development and provision of a draft Asbestos Management Code of Practice which would detail how to manage, control and, if needed, safely remove and transport asbestos and asbestos contaminated materials. The Draft Code of Practice will be designed to be suitable for use in Pacific Island Countries.

A code of practice is a set of written rules which explains how people working in a profession should behave. Codes are intended to be read by a person conducting a business or activity on how to manage risks associated with asbestos, asbestos containing materials (ACM) and asbestos-contaminated dust or debris at the workplace and thereby minimise the incidence of asbestos-related diseases such as mesothelioma, asbestosis and lung cancer.

The Code will provide specific guidance on identifying asbestos and ACM (including where work is being carried at a residential premise), determining whether removal is the best control option and, if removing asbestos is not the most appropriate action to take, implementing other control measures that eliminate or minimise the risk of exposure to airborne asbestos fibres.

The Code will also describe how to safely remove, handle and transport asbestos and ACM, and shall provide further guidance for asbestos abatement crews so asbestos can be removed while minimising or eliminating (where possible) exposure of workers and other persons to airborne asbestos.

## KEY RESULT AREA 3 – Best practices including enhanced private sector engagement and infrastructure development implemented

### Country Project development

It is with great excitement that we provide a snapshot of the first PacWastePlus country projects that have been developed and presented to SPREP for their Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) screening. The first three countries to complete their project designs have included details following of the activities they are seeking PacWastePlus support to implement. We congratulate these countries for their on-going commitment to the PacWastePlus project and look forward to presenting details of the other country projects in our next Issue of The Connection.

#### Cook Islands project

The Cook Islands current waste priority to improve Recycling (and therefore reduce waste to landfill) and has requested PacWastePlus assistance to design and implement an Advance Recovery Fee & Deposit Systems (ARF&D) (known in the Cook Islands as an Advance Disposal Fee – ADF).

For several years, ADF has been viewed as the most effective way to improve the collection, management and recycling of items entering the Cook Islands. An ADF will provide for the long-term self-funding for recycling and export of nominated items, improve recycling rates and reduce litter, provide for the shift in mentality to transform waste behaviour (i.e., by putting a dollar value on waste), and provide social benefits such as allowing groups and individuals in need to “cash-in” ADF items to supplement their incomes.

The PacWastePlus funds will be used to provide expert consultant assistance, equipment and facilities to design and implement the ADF. This will build on results from a feasibility study currently underway utilising PacWastePlus legislative support which will obtain necessary background information for an ADF system, present options for ADF implementation, and provide text for legal drafting.

The project includes the following key activities:

- Develop national ADF regulation to allow for the collection of a Recycling Fee and Deposit on select items (likely to include cans, bottles, vehicles, tyres, whiteware, etc) upon import or manufacture in the Cook Islands
- Design an ADF system where community members and business can conveniently hand in their ADF materials and receive their deposit back
- Procure and install equipment and facilities for Collection Depots (fixed and/or mobile points for ADF items to be dropped-off and refunds claimed) to enable the efficient collection of ADF items and establish agreements with a System Operator
- Procure and install equipment to improve material flow and efficiency at the existing Resource Recovery Centre to enable the management, processing, and recycling/export of ADF items from the Cook Islands

Additionally, the project will involve the development of education and awareness actions for Government Staff, and the general community on the importance of waste management and recycling, and how to participate in the ADF.

#### Nauru country project

Nauru has noted they would like to work with PacWastePlus to continue the activities started during the PacWaste project, as such the focus of the country activities will be on Asbestos Management.

PacWaste undertook regional and national asbestos assessments, and Nauru is utilising this assessment information as the basis for the project activities. Nauru has identified a number of public buildings and infrastructure that have asbestos containing materials, and pose a risk to the community, and have designed a project that seeks to reduce this exposure risk.

The project has several key activities:

- Develop national legislation (Control Order for the Banning of asbestos in Nauru) to ban the importation and use of asbestos to ensure no more asbestos materials will arrive in Nauru. Developing a code of practice on the management of asbestos and training on best practices for the proper handling and storage of asbestos in Nauru. This action will utilise the outcome of the regional policy guidance discussed in Section KRA 2.
- Deliver training to government staff and approved contractors to ensure they enact proper handling, storage, disposal and import ban of ACM in Nauru.
- Methodically work through the process of re-packaging and removing of shipping containers of ACM located at the NCR landfill and the Regional Processing Centre grounds. This activity will be used as a “real-life” training exercise for key stakeholders to highlight best practices for ACM packaging, labelling and offsite shipment/disposal.

Additionally, the project will involve the development of education and awareness actions for Government Staff, the building industry, and the general community on how to reduce interaction and exposure to asbestos fibres.

## **Samoa Country project**

Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) is seeking to introduce an e-waste take back system to prevent environment contamination from hazardous components of discarded e-waste. This project seeks to introduce a Regulation that will establish in law, how the collection and processing of e-waste should occur, and set a deposit and redemption system to incentivise consumers to return their electronic goods for recycling (not unlike a container deposit legislation). To ensure the returned e-waste can be effectively managed, the construction of a facility is included in the project implementation activities.

Additionally, the project will draft a National e-waste policy to guide Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment achieve its long-term goal on effective e-waste management in the future after PacWastePlus Programme closure. The project will also enable the development and continual delivery of an awareness campaign and will host re-use and repair workshops for community members to participate in, in the hope that electronic items can have a prolonged life before needing to be managed through the e-waste recovery system.

## **Solomon Islands**

Solomon Islands' Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology is working with PacWastePlus to introduce an organic waste processing system in Honiara to divert all organic waste produced in the Honiara Market from landfill and into an organic waste processing facility.

A CEFAS Waste Audit in 2019 found that 63% of Solomon Islands waste stream was organic waste. With landfill space becoming increasingly rare in Honiara, the diversion of organics from landfill will add life to the landfill, reduce costs for management of the site (leachate etc.) and will see almost 8tonnes of organics diverted to an organics processing facility each day (well over 2,000 tonnes per year). The project is looking to also capture organic materials from the municipal solid waste stream, which would double this expected diversion amount.

An additional project looking to support recovery of recyclable items from Gizo is also in development.

## **The Kingdom of Tonga project**

Like the activities of Nauru, The Kingdom have decided their PacWastePlus country project should focus on continuing the asbestos abatement efforts undertaken during the initial PacWaste Project.

The PacWaste assessment identified a number of government buildings that contain asbestos, and as such the government is seeking to utilise PacWastePlus investment to better understand this risk, and where possible, undertake abatement activities to remove this risk from these buildings.

Specific project activities are proposed as:

- Develop a national legislation to ban the importation of asbestos to ensure no more asbestos materials will arrive in Tonga. This activity will utilise the output of the PacWastePlus regional Policy guidance.
- Conduct consultations in Tongatapu and the outer islands of Vava'u, Ha'apai, and 'Eua, on the draft legislation, and engage the media (TV ads, radio programs) to widely promote the consultations, and create awareness on ACM (i.e. asbestos health risks, how to manage ACM, living safely with ACM etc.). Factsheets will be translated into the local language and disseminated widely during the consultations.
- Provide training to customs and border protection staff, and provide education materials (e.g. inventory, charts) needed to enact and enforce ACM importation ban.
- Provide an educational program to raise public awareness of asbestos and how to interact with it safely
- Update and revise the current asbestos Code of Practice to guide the management and handling of asbestos. This activity will utilise the outcomes of the Regional Code of Practice development discussed in KRA 2.
- Complete training on asbestos removal abatement work (handling and disposal).
- Removal of ACM from selected buildings in Tongatapu. All abatement work will be conducted in a safe manner consistent with international agreed standards, reflected in the revised Code of Practice, and all trained workers at the site will wear proper PPE. After the ACM materials are tightly sealed and labelled, they will be transported to Tapuhia landfill (licensed for ACM disposal) and disposed at an area marked for hazardous waste disposal.

The proposed project aligns with the Kingdom's Hazardous Waste and Chemicals Act 2010, the Waste Management Act 2005, and the Tonga Strategic Development Framework II.

## Tuvalu asbestos project

Tuvalu, similar to Nauru, has solicited PacWastePlus support to continue the activities started during the PacWaste project and focus on Asbestos. PacWaste undertook regional and national asbestos assessments, including the assessment of buildings on Tuvalu’s capital island, Funafuti. This report identified asbestos in approximately 18% of buildings and recommended an action to, where resources permit, identify and confirm asbestos in all of Tuvalu’s nine islands - and remove (or encapsulate) those that test positive. Tuvalu has chosen to action the first part of this recommendation through PacWastePlus. The project includes the following key activities:

- Develop national legislation (Control Order for the Banning of asbestos in Tuvalu) to ban the importation and use of asbestos to ensure no more asbestos materials will arrive in Tuvalu. This action will utilise the outcome of the regional policy guidance discussed in Section KRA 2.
- Contract an asbestos expert who will travel to the eight outer islands to complete a wide-reaching audit of all buildings to identify location and quantity of asbestos
- Provide specific solutions for each island for the short-term management of asbestos – such as providing factsheet and community consultation on how to live safely with asbestos
- From the findings from the asbestos investigation, develop a Strategic Action Plan to detail steps and budget required for the safe removal and disposal of asbestos and recladding of affected buildings (the removal, disposal and recladding of asbestos will be delivered following the PacWastePlus project, by an additional funding source).

Additionally, the project will involve the development of education and awareness actions for national and local (Kaupule) Government Staff, and the general community on how to reduce interaction and exposure to asbestos fibres.

## Tuvalu recycling project

Tuvalu has chosen to develop a project focusing on improving Recycling from its eight outer islands. Currently, the primary waste management method currently available for these communities is disposal in unlined, un-engineered open dumps. Tuvalu has recently passed legislation for an Advance Recovery Fee & Deposit Systems (ARF&D) (known in Tuvalu as the “Waste Levy”) which is in operation in the capital, Funafuti, collecting a waste handling fee and deposit from cans, bottles, and car batteries (legislation also provides for heavy equipment, vehicles, motorbikes, whiteware, which will be implemented in Phase II).

Tuvalu requested to work with PacWastePlus to expand the Waste Levy system to allow participation by communities in the outer islands. The project includes the following key activities:

- finalising Island Waste Management Plans (WMP) and updating island by-laws to reflect new requirements for management of waste and the operation of the Waste Levy
- construct Waste Levy “Collection Depots” on each outer island – small 7x3m sheds attached to existing waste management facilities – and provide equipment for the collection and processing of the Waste Levy items.
- establish agreements and provide training with the Department of Marine regarding roles and responsibilities for safe shipping of Waste Levy items (particularly for hazardous materials such as car batteries).

Additionally, the project will involve the development of education and awareness actions for the general community and relevant departments on each island on the importance of waste management and recycling, and how to participate in the Waste Levy.



Did you know?

## RECYCLING SAVES ENERGY

EVERY TIME A NEW PRODUCT IS MADE FROM RAW MATERIALS, LARGE AMOUNTS OF ENERGY ARE CONSUMED. RECYCLING PRODUCTS DECREASES THE AMOUNT OF ENERGY IT TAKES TO PRODUCE THESE ITEMS.

WHY SHOULD WE CARE?



Recycling uses LESS energy



so FEWER fossil fuels are burned



which REDUCES carbon dioxide in the atmosphere



and DECREASES greenhouse gases



which DECREASES global warming.





## Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) screening

In late 2019, SPREP updated its Environmental & Social Safeguard (ESS) Policy. The intent of the Policy is to ensure any project supported or implemented by SPREP includes a systematic approach to managing environmental and social risks and impacts potentially caused by implementing the project. This can be achieved through the development of an Environmental Safeguards Management Strategy (ESMS) or Project risk Management Plan that adequately addresses the potential risks. The Management Plan is to be designed to incorporate the management of environmental and social risks and impacts into the business processes and procedure of SPREP.

The PacWastePlus Programme, as with all SPREP implemented projects, is required to:

- consider ESS implications, and ensure all appropriate design, and implementation activities appropriately consider these risks
- where possible be modified to not trigger any safeguards
- where safeguards are triggered, ensure the project does not cause significant harm to environments or communities.
- where a project screening identifies the ESS risks are too high to be appropriately managed, these projects are unable to be implemented by SPREP.

The PacWastePlus programme team is working closely with countries during the project design to determine any ESS issues early in the project design, and advise on ways to modify the project, so the risks to environment and communities are eliminated, or heavily mitigated.

To date, four country projects have undergone ESS Screenings, all noting some minor risk, but have been advised they can be implemented under SPREPs rules. A further four country projects are ready for ESS screening in the coming week, and we hope to have several more projects screened within the next two-months.



## KEY RESULT AREA 4 – Enhanced Human Capacity

### Health risks



Biomedical waste contains potentially harmful microorganisms which could infect people

### Sharps-related



The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 40% of hepatitis cases and 2,5% of HIV cases worldwide are caused by occupational exposure

### Environmental Impact



Treatment and disposal of healthcare waste may release pathogens and toxic pollutants

#### Healthcare Waste Management Training for Hospital Staff

Timor-Leste unfortunately did not receive any hospital staff training on healthcare waste management during the PacWaste project. This will be remedied early in 2021 (once travel restrictions are lifted). Additionally, the delivery of this training provides value to all PacWastePlus participating countries, as to deliver this training to the hospital staff in Timor-Leste a number of activities are underway that will ensure this outcome is shared with all PacWastePlus countries.

PacWastePlus has engaged the original healthcare waste management trainer who worked on PacWaste to review and update the training materials. In addition, the materials are being designed to achieve two outcomes:

- Developed as a train-the-trainer course
- Developed as a general course.

The intent is that staff from the Timor-Leste Ministry of Health will participate in a train-the-trainer course and receive the necessary tools and resources to then deliver the training to hospital staff throughout the country.

The contractor is currently completing the review of materials and development of the train-the-trainer modules and materials. All outputs from the activity will be published on the PacWastePlus website, and countries could seek to receive training in their countries through capacity building support, or their country projects.

#### National Capacity Needs Assessment and Stock take

The University of the South Pacific's (USP) Institute of Applied Sciences (IAS) has commenced work on developing a sustainable capacity building program for waste management in the Pacific. Is currently confirming a minimum standard for training in the eight target programme waste streams, and will then undertake a national training capacity needs assessment, and conduct a stocktake of available waste management training throughout the Pacific region.

The national training capacity needs assessment will identify what skills countries feel their staff and waste management workers should have and will identify previous training courses delivered, which has helped to provide the up-skilling they seek.

IAS are also undertaking the first ever stocktake of waste management training courses in the Pacific. This will describe the status of waste management skills and competencies training available in the Pacific and inform the development of academic and professional waste management training needs in the Pacific island countries. The stocktake seeks to identify and undertake an initial assessment of available courses in the management of PacWastePlus programme focused priority waste streams of; 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).

The Training Stocktake will be analysed against the training needs of countries, and will enable PacWastePlus to identify any training gaps, invest in existing courses to benefit members, or seek to develop new courses to fill any identified gaps.

## Tropical Cyclone Harold – Request for Response Assistance

The World Risk Index systematically considers a country's vulnerability and its exposure to natural hazards to determine a ranking of countries around the world based on their natural disaster risk. According to the World Risk Index, Vanuatu is considered as one of the most vulnerable countries, with very high chance of a disaster occurring.

Tropical Cyclone Harold first hit Solomon Islands with a Category 1 rating on 2-3 April 2020, before progressing to Vanuatu on 5 April, where it escalated to a Category 5. In Vanuatu, more than 159,000 people were affected by the cyclone. The northern islands were worst hit, including the main town of Luganville, Espiritu Santo.

PacWastePlus, in collaboration with Vanuatu's Department of Environment Protection and Luganville Municipal Council, deployed a disaster response project on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020 to assist with the final clean-up activities of general waste items on the islands of Pentecost, Santo, Malo and Aore.

The project delivered Disaster Management training to local communities on appropriate pre-disaster preparedness measures and timely post-disaster responses for any future disaster. As well as providing assistance, resources and direction to these communities to undertake clean-up activities in and around their local areas.

PacWastePlus staff, along with Officers from the Vanuatu Department of Environmental Protection & Conservation, and each community's Disaster and Climate Change Committee, to establish a community Disaster Waste Management Plan to guide the disaster preparedness measures and timely post-disaster responses for any future natural disaster.



In this issue we are featuring Ms. Fiasosoitamalii Siaosi, the Principal Chemical & Hazardous Waste Officer based at the Division of Environment and Conservation with the Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

Ms. Siasosi has been working tirelessly with the PacWastePlus programme team to develop and progress Samoa's in-country projects and activities shares her experiences working with the team.



**Ms. Fiasosoitamalii Siasosi**  
**SAMOA**

#### **Roles and Responsibilities:**

- To coordinate, monitor and implement the management of chemical and hazardous wastes in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders in Samoa. Also to ensure that the functions and activities of the section are implemented effectively and efficiently.
- To prepare, coordinate and implement national implementation plans of chemical and hazardous waste projects
- Oversee and manage workplans, set activities and resources of the chemical and hazardous waste management unit.
- Prepare progress reports and efficient delivery of the section outputs and activities
- Develop project proposals relating to chemicals and hazardous waste management
- Establish linkages, networks and work closely with national, regional and international experts to improve effective waste management implementation
- Plan and facilitate workshops, consultations meetings relating to chemicals and hazardous waste management
- Implement activities and prepare reporting on compliance level and progress of Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) in particular Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, Minamata and Waigani Conventions and SAICM programs at the national, regional and international level.

#### **How long have you been working in waste management?**

I have been involved in waste management for the past five years but have had an active interest for improving the way we manage waste for a number of years.

#### **Could you briefly describe your involvement with the PacWastePlus Programme?**

As Samoa has prioritised e-waste management under this project, and as I am responsible for the management of e-waste within our Ministry, I was assigned the responsibility to work with the PacWastePlus team. E-waste is identified as hazardous wastes because of its risks and impacts posed on the environment and health of the Samoan people. I am working with the PacWastePlus team to develop our national proposal for this project and related activities.

#### **What has been the most exciting and rewarding experience that you have had so far while developing your PacWastePlus country project?**

Having regular meetings with PacWastePlus team gives me so much knowledge on the project as it paints a big picture of what exactly we are going to get from this project. I guess the not so much exciting experience was the safeguarding screening of our proposed project activities but I now understand why it is also important to have this done as well.

#### **Please describe how the PacWastePlus programme team has assisted in building your capacity and helped mainstream into waste management interventions elements of innovative project planning, ensuring that projects meet required Environment and Social Safeguards and consider Gender Equity and Social Inclusion principles.**

I would like to thank the team at PacWastePlus for providing to me continued guidance, whenever I need it. The team have always made time to answer my many questions and clarifications and have been accommodating to all our requests. Spending time with the PacWastePlus team developing our national projects has helped me improve my technical knowledge and also enabled me to look at waste management holistically. I have also learnt that this project has consideration on social safeguarding, social inclusion and gender equity of communities, who are involved and may be impacted by this project. At times when projects are developed we don't look at how it can impact the disadvantaged in the community but with this project we took into consideration all aspects to make it an inclusive and meaningful project.

#### **What are you hoping that PacWastePlus will help you and your colleagues to achieve in your country?**

The successful implementation of our National Project activities, to upskill our team at MNRE through capacity building and experience sharing so that we can apply them to better management of other waste streams. I hope at the end of this project, there would be no more stockpiling of e-wastes, and effective management of e-waste is in place to make Samoa green and clean.



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 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](mailto:nitishn@sprep.org)

## Waste Management and Pollution Control Unit - SPREP

### Updated Cleaner Pacific 2025 Implementation Plan

The new Implementation Plan for the remainder period of the Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy (Cleaner Pacific 2025) was endorsed in principle at the September 2020 SPREP Executive Board meeting. The Board commended SPREP and member country for their efforts in conducting the mid-term review, and modifying the Implementation Plan.

Funded through UN Environment, a review of the progress of the first half of the implementation of the [Cleaner Pacific 2025](#) paved the way to develop the new Implementation Plan to cover the period 2021 to 2025. The major recommendation considered from the review is the streamlining of the activities. From a long list of 124 activities, the Plan was reduced to 32 activities with cross-cutting strategic actions embedded into the activities. This will enable a simpler progress monitoring mechanism through to the end of the period of the Strategy using a set of suitable performance indicators.

The vision towards a cleaner Pacific environment and the mission of implementing practical and sustainable solutions in the Strategy remain unchanged while monitoring of the activities was made a strategic goal in addition to the monitoring of the receiving environment as defined in the Strategy. As all stakeholders in the sector own this Plan, the SPREP member countries and partners were consulted at the national and sub-regional levels with the intent of refining the Plan for endorsement at the regional level during the Executive Board meeting of SPREP.

To ensure national and regional priorities are widely considered, SPREP is circulating the Plan again so that members and partners can still provide submissions until the 23rd of October 2020 prior to its publication. Further details will be sent through a circular.

The new Implementation Plan defines priority actions to manage waste and pollution in the region. This will provide the roadmap to ensure that the comprehensive blueprint in the Regional Strategy to improve the management of waste and pollution from 2016 – 2025 will be realised.

### Aiming for Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific

A €3 million project was approved to be implemented through SPREP with funding from the French donor, Agence Française de Développement (AFD). The project is expected to assist selected Pacific Island countries and French territories to address a number of priority waste issues in the region. The signing of the Agreement took place in Noumea in February 2020 with SPREP Director General Kosi Latu and AFD Director Philippe Renault representing the two parties.

The Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific (SWAP) Project will explore interventions for used oil, disaster waste, marine debris, and sustainable financing. Interventions will range from training programmes to in-country pilot projects. Capping the interventions will be a community of practice where experts and practitioners will gather to discuss issues surrounding the waste sector and showcase and share best practices to further build the capacity of the region.

The SWAP project builds on the work undertaken by the previous AFD funded Solid Waste Management Initiative in the Pacific, and will contribute to the regional delivery of the Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy 2016 – 2025 (Cleaner Pacific 2025) and enhances and strengthens parallel initiatives under existing regional waste projects such as SWAP, J-PRISM2 and pipeline projects including the Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP) and the GEF7 ISLANDS Project.

Seven countries and territories will directly benefit from this project which include Fiji, French Polynesia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna. The collaboration among these Pacific Island countries and overseas territories is expected to enhance engagement between the countries and territories in the region and build on the best practices, lessons and challenges faced across the region. The project will seek to achieve its deliverables within a 4-year period. A Project Inception meeting will be scheduled soon to commence the project.

## Moving Forward in the MIA Project

The Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) project conducted its first Virtual Inception Workshop on the 26th August 2020. The main objective of the inception workshop was to bring together focal points and national stakeholders from Pacific island countries involved in the MIA project, to inform them of the efforts to be undertaken in the context of the project and to ensure its efficient implementation.

The MIA project's main goal is to assist the governments of Cook Islands, Republic of Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Kiribati, Tonga, Vanuatu, and Tuvalu, to develop national profiles of mercury. This is a key step in early preparations for acceding to and effectively implementing the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

The Minamata Convention is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury and entered into force on 16 August 2017. The Convention draws special attention to a global and ubiquitous metal that, while naturally occurring, has broad uses in everyday products - and is released to the atmosphere, soil, and water from a variety of sources.

The MIA project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as the Implementing Agency. The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is the project's Executing Agency, and will execute, manage, and be responsible for the project and its activities on a day-to-day basis.

Due to the effects of COVID19, travel restrictions around the Pacific region have prohibited SPREP and BRI to travel to each country to conduct Inception workshops. Therefore, it was decided that it was best to host such meetings virtually. The purpose of the Workshop was to include all the countries participating in the MIA Project and discuss some of the issues for the project to progress further. Addressing the efforts to be undertaken regarding the various components of the project, to ensure enhanced engagement with the stakeholder agencies.

Although, inception workshops had already taken place for Cook Islands, Vanuatu, Tonga, Kiribati, and Palau. Including all the participating countries was very beneficial for the newly included countries to the project, Republic of Marshall Islands, Niue, and Tuvalu.

## The NIPS Project

The NIPS Project as commonly known in the Pacific region, is a project catered for the Review and the Update of the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in the Pacific.

The Stockholm Convention is an international treaty to protect human health and the environment from POPs impacts. The Convention was adopted in May 2001 and entered into force in May 2004, then it was amended again in 2009.

POPs are a group of toxic chemicals that do not break down easily in the environment. They can be intentionally produced for use in agriculture, disease and pest control, manufacturing, and industry. POPs can also be unintentionally produced during some industrial processes and from waste incineration, backyard rubbish burning, cigarette smoke, and vehicle exhaust.

The NIPS Project is backed by funds provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as the Implementing Agency. The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is the project's Executing Agency, responsible for the everyday managing of the project activities.

The six participating countries include Tuvalu, Tonga, Fiji, RMI and Vanuatu and Niue who are the recently included members to the project.

The main objective of the project is to:

1. Comply with Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention by updating the National Implementation Plans (NIPS) on POPs
2. Build capacity to Update NIPS.
3. Strengthen the coordination at the National and International level.

Article 7 of the Convention states that the Parties shall "Review and Update, as appropriate, its implementation plan on a periodic basis and in a manner to be specified by the decision of the Conference of the Parties".

Works and activities for the project have been completed for Tonga, Fiji and Tuvalu. Tuvalu successfully held their Validation workshop on the 15th September 2020 to provide awareness to the various stakeholders of the importance and plan going forward for Tuvalu under the NIPS Project. RMI, Vanuatu and Niue have postponed all works to 2021 due to the effects of COVID 19, particularly the inability of the Consultant to travel to the Island Countries.

## The OSRL Membership Agreement – A regional oil spill response mechanism.

It is a sad reality that our Pacific Islands, our People, rely on fossil fuel as one of the key drivers of the economy. This reality comes with the risk of fossil fuel as a 'hazard'. A 'hazard' that can, if poorly managed, contaminate our land, our rivers' and our Ocean.

Our people have experienced the consequences many times. MV Solomon Trader (2019), MV Kea Trader (2018), MV Southern Phoenix (2017), Ping Da 7 (2015), MV Forum Samoa II (2009) to name a few. Other more renowned oil spill incidents are the MV Rena (2011), Montara – Australia (2009), Macondo - Gulf of Mexico (2010) and the infamous Exxon Valdez (1989). A commonality with all these incidents is that it is very costly and required multi-country assistance. To this end the Pacific Leaders Forum 2019 in Tuvalu called for the establishment of a 'Regional Oil spill Response Mechanism' to assist in the planning, preparedness and response to oil spillages, to this hazard.

In response the Pacific islands endorsed the *Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan 2019 (PACPLAN 2019)* and have been presented with an industry oil spill response arrangement to compliment the PACPLAN 2019. It was also determined that the region should become an associate member of Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL).



### Who is OSRL?

OSRL is an industry oil spill response provider. It is a cooperation owned by 39 major oil industry company members, and there are over a hundred associate members including New Zealand and Australia. Each member recognises the consequences of an oil spill incident, that not one member, one company, one country is able to equip, maintain and sustain the necessary oil spill response capability and as such the value of sharing resources, sharing the risk in such a cooperation.

### Who is involved in this Pacific Islands – OSRL membership?

New Zealand is the Sponsor for the region's membership to OSRL. The Funder is NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (NZ MFAT) who are providing the financial assistance for all 21 PICTs to be associate members of OSRL for 3 years. The Administrator is SPREP. The Provider of the service is OSRL. The Beneficiaries are the 21 PICTs.

### What does OSRL membership provide?

Membership provides a safety net for PICTs so they can mobilise OSRL to respond to an oil spill incident. There are several services that are free of charge to members, whilst and other charges must be covered by the oil spill owner/creator.

Members receive, free of charge, 5 personnel for 5 days of assistance when the request OSRL to be mobilised after an incident is reported. Members can also access technical advice from OSRL free of charge, such as contingency planning through risk assessments, environment sensitivity mapping; review of capabilities such as equipment and management; secondments long term and short term specialist support and many others.

After the initial free assistance, if the incident owner requests the continued use of personnel and equipment, fees are charged at the OSRL standard rate (agreed to annually by the 39 members of OSRL) thereby embedding a polluter pays principle into the services.

SPREP would like to thank NZ MFAT and Maritime NZ for their funding and sponsorship which provides access to this complementary solution supporting the PACPLAN 2019 through provision of the regional oil spill response mechanism.

For more information contact [anthonyt@sprep.org](mailto:anthonyt@sprep.org)

## Moana Taka Partnership

Cost and availability of shipping is a common barrier to recycling and safe disposal of hazardous waste from the Pacific. Moana Taka is a partnership between China Navigation Company Ltd./ Swire Shipping Agencies, and SPREP to provide away around this barrier by providing free container hire and free shipment of eligible waste between relevant ports.

PacWastePlus seeks to increase participation in the Moana Taka by participating countries.

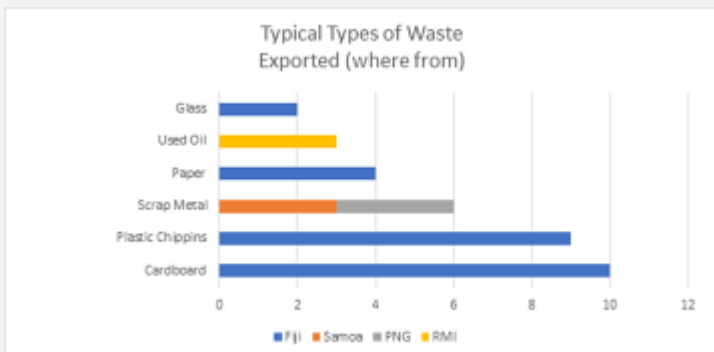
A Factsheet will be released shortly which will “demystify” the Moana Taka by providing:

- simplified information on the steps required for countries to be involved;
- new definitions of complex shipping terms and waste categories into common language;
- information on budget considerations – detailing what items is covered by Moana Taka and what items countries/ recyclers need to budget for themselves; and
- real examples and case studies.

As a “sneak peak” into the upcoming Factsheet, the 47 waste categories detailed in the MTP partnership agreement have been redefined into these 14 easy-to-understand waste categories:

 <b>Medical and pharmaceutical waste</b>	 <b>Waste chemicals</b> including: • timber/wood treatment • clothing manufacture • carpentry and woodwork • photography • industrial processing	 <b>E-Waste</b>	 <b>Explosive substance</b>	 <b>Asbestos</b>
 <b>Waste Oil</b>		 <b>End-of-Life Vehicles and equipment</b>	 <b>Sewage and sewage sludge</b>	 <b>Low value scrap metal</b>
 <b>Expired pesticides</b>	 <b>Expired fire suppression equipment</b>	 <b>Flammable liquids</b>	 <b>Incineration ash</b>	 <b>Low value scrap metal</b> including: • Plastic • Cardboard • Paper • Glass

In 2019, the Moana Taka was used by Fiji, RMI, Samoa and PNG for these shipments:



If you have these items in stockpiles, you might be eligible for Moana Taka assistance to help them reach a recycle market.

SPREP and the MPT are here to help, contact: [anthonyt@sprep.org](mailto:anthonyt@sprep.org) for more information.

Watch [Video on the Moana Taka Partnership](#)





## JPRISM II Disaster Waste Management Support to Fiji

JPRISM II responded to a request from the Fiji Government through JICA Fiji Office to support its National Cleaning Up Campaign, as part of the Tropical Cyclone (TC) Harold Recovery Operations in May 2020. The government initiative intended to contain the spread of the Dengue Fever and Typhoid diseases. These diseases were reported earlier before TC Harold hit Fiji on the 7th and 8th April 2020. With the overwhelming generated waste by TC Harold, it created favourable conditions for these diseases to spread through mosquitoes.

JPRISM II joint Nasinu Town Council (NTC), Fiji Army, Ministry of Health and others in the collection and removal of waste stockpiles within the Nasinu area. JPRISM II contributed by removing and disposing of about 220 truckloads of waste, which is equivalent to 848 tonnes in 22 full days. The total cost of the provided assistance is FJ\$99,600.

The Fiji Government's response reiterates the importance of prioritising waste management as part of national disaster management. The lessons learnt from the project raises several issues for future consideration. While some form of plan is in place for the daily general waste management, Fiji does not have a contingency plan as plan B to activate when disaster strikes to guide the management of the generated abnormal large volume of waste. As way forward, the Ministry of Local Government, is planning a workshop to share the lessons learnt from TC Harold, and to discuss how to improve the Councils response in the future with financial support by JPRISM II. JPRISM II in partnership with SPREP and PacWastePlus will continue to promote disaster waste management measures and practices in line the [Pacific Regional Disaster Waste Management Guideline](#).

Stockpiles of waste at Nasinu (fijivillage, 19 May 2020, [https://www.fijivillage.com/news/Rubbish-piles-grow-with-some-Nasinu-residents-now-burning-rubbish-in-skip-bins-on-the-roadside-85fx4r/?fbclid=IwAR0z9JdtVdLlmgG2rhbr\\_d75cLtS8v5N5b5o27rtKjt1GnLQfjLPEfjilQY#.XsNpS9v6eZc.facebook](https://www.fijivillage.com/news/Rubbish-piles-grow-with-some-Nasinu-residents-now-burning-rubbish-in-skip-bins-on-the-roadside-85fx4r/?fbclid=IwAR0z9JdtVdLlmgG2rhbr_d75cLtS8v5N5b5o27rtKjt1GnLQfjLPEfjilQY#.XsNpS9v6eZc.facebook))

## JPRISM II Staff (Appointment, farewell, and the current deployment)

Mr. Nobuaki Miyata, Chief Advisor of J-PRISM II, will complete his assignment on the 25th Sep 2020. Miyata-san has been working for J-PRISM II for 2 years and worked closely with WMPC team including PacWastePlus team at SPREP.

As his successor, Mr. Satoru Mimura has been appointed to new Chief Advisor position. Mimura-san has been working for JICA for 25 years and used to work in Samoa as representative of JICA Samoa office for 3 years in the past. His professional carriers in the fields of Global Environment, Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development of Pacific Islands.

The J-PRISM II team (Mr. Mimura, Ms. Yoko Onuma, Ms. Mayu Nomura and Ms. Ayako Yoshida) are working from Japan remotely due to JICA's operation on COVID-19.

The team will return to Samoa once international travel restrictions are removed.



Mr. Nobuaki Miyata



Mr. Satoru Mimura

## GEF ISLANDS

GEF ISLANDS funded the midterm evaluation of the Cleaner Pacific 2025. This work was completed by Dr. Melanie Bradley. Dr. Bradley was in touch with many of you regarding progress toward reaching the goals outlined in the Cleaner Pacific 2025. She produced detailed national assessments noting progress, and areas for further work. Please contact Ma Bella Guinto, [bellag@sprep.org](mailto:bellag@sprep.org) for a copy of national assessments. The review provides a comprehensive assessment of regional progress and clearly illuminates where more assistance is needed. UNEP used this information to formulate the national baseline presented in the project document.

Progress on the Pacific Child Project development has continued over the last three months. In recent weeks, together with SPREP and PacWastePlus, efforts have been focused on completing national consultations on priorities under ISLANDS. These consultations have provided a wonderful opportunity to engage directly with countries, and to gather information of the nature of specific interventions to be undertaken. Thanks to all who have agreed to stay up late, or rise early in order to accommodate the challenge of coordinating from different areas of the planet. In the coming weeks a few more consultations to complete – if your country has not yet scheduled a consultation, please do so as soon as possible with Joshua Sam [joshuas@sprep.org](mailto:joshuas@sprep.org)

The GEF Islands team are nearing completion of the project document and are currently preparing for internal review (at UNEP). During the review period a regional Zoom webinar will be convened to outline the project document to country counterparts. As it may not be possible for everyone to join – due to time zones, the sessions will be recorded.

The team are on track for submission of the project to GEF SEC by early November, with the project expected to begin in early 2021. Thanks to all for the brilliant collaboration. The team at GEF Islands are very excited about submitting the project and then transitioning to the execution phase.

**For further information please contact, Ms. Melanie Ashton:** [melanie.ashton@un.org](mailto:melanie.ashton@un.org)

## PRIF Regional Waste Hub

A critical part of setting up a regional waste management and recycling network for the Pacific is carrying out waste audits in each country. PRIF donor partners have significant investment in waste management throughout the Pacific and see the benefits to countries and partners working together for the achievement of shared goals.

The establishment of a regional network would reduce the risk of plastic and toxic pollution from solid wastes and lead to improved health of the Pacific Island communities. Accordingly, a PRIF funded Technical Assistance has commenced the Pacific waste audit in the Cook Islands and Fiji to provide data on the quantities of recycling material. This effort will involve the collection and sorting of household and business refuse from 250 randomly selected homes and businesses on Rarotonga and Aitutaki. The Cook Islands follows Tuvalu, and Palau, in carrying out this work and have received tremendous government and community support.

PRIF has commissioned engineering firm Tonkin & Taylor International to implement the audit alongside Infrastructure Cook Islands and National Environment Service. The audit uses a standard waste audit methodology to allow for data aggregation when undertaking the feasibility analysis for movement and processing of material at a potential network hub location.

PRIF donor partners, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is supporting the waste audit activity in Pacific countries including, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Kiribati, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Timor-Leste. Through the PRIF coordination mechanism, partners will share information on their waste audit activity to avoid duplication and ensure a standard approach to waste audit is adopted.

The Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility is a multi-partner coordination and technical assistance facility for improved infrastructure in the Pacific. Its partners include the Asian Development Bank, Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, European Investment Bank, European Union, Japan International Cooperation Agency, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, US State Department and the World Bank Group.

**For further information please contact:** [enquiries@theprif.org](mailto:enquiries@theprif.org)

## OpenStreetMap Data Available to Serve Pacific Islands

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), through the [Inform project](#), has made data from OpenStreetMap (OSM) available through the Pacific Environment Portal to enable users to directly download OSM data.

OSM is a free map of the world that people can use and contribute to. It is built by “a community of mappers that contribute and maintain data about buildings, roads, trails, waterways, cafés, railway stations, and much more, all over the world.”

The resource emphasizes local knowledge, is community driven, and is “open data,” meaning that anyone can use it for any purpose if OSM is credited.

OSM data that can be accessed through the Pacific Environment Portal, comes as a bundle of individual Geographic Information System (GIS) layers, pre-styled in a Quantum Geographic Information System (QGIS) project, which people can use as a base map or combine with other spatial datasets.

Datasets like buildings, roads, rivers, and points of interest are available for all 14 Pacific Island countries involved in the Inform Project.

The goal is to increase awareness among Pacific GIS users of the richness of OSM data in Pacific countries, as well as potential gaps, so that they can take advantage of the tool and contribute to it by joining the OSM global community.

## OpenStreetMap Data

for 14 Pacific Island Countries

OpenStreetMap data and QGIS projects bundled for Pacific GIS users

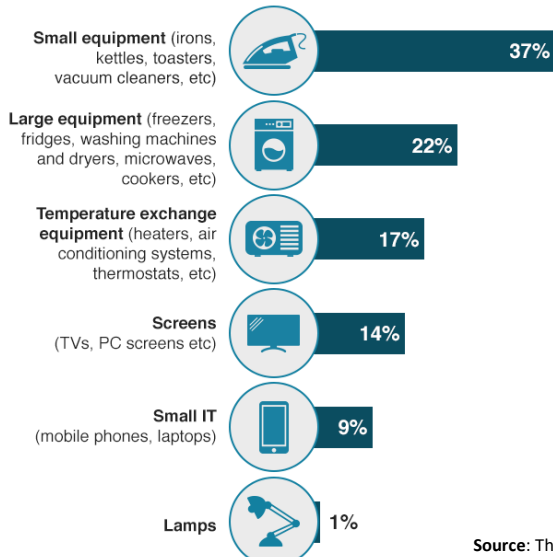


Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu



Highlighting the usefulness of this data a representative from Kiribati has said ***“the available OpenStreetMap data was well received by the newly established GIS Unit from the Environment and Conservation Division (Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development) in Kiribati. The unit explored the use of the OSM map of Tarawa as a base map for our ongoing waste management map project, particularly for the densely populated urban areas. Over the course of time, staff plan to make some adjustments, map additions and corrections to the OSM project, at least for Tarawa. The good quality of the OSM project could have other benefits for our project reports and presentations in the future.”***

### Global e-waste in 2020



As of October 2019, 71% of the world's population was covered by a national e-waste policy, legislation, or regulation. Improvements have been made since 2014 when only 44% of the population was covered. The high coverage rate is affected by the fact that the most populous countries, such as China and India, have national legal instruments in place. However, this population coverage equates to only 78 of the 193 countries. Thus, less than half of all countries in the world are currently covered by a policy, legislation, or regulation.



Source: The Global E-waste Monitor 2020

### Plastic Pollution Prevention in the Pacific

The Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) has recently released the report, 'Plastic Pollution Prevention in Pacific Island Countries: Gap analysis of current legislation'. The research for this report was undertaken by a team made up of Dr Trisia Farrelly (Massey University), Dr Stephanie Borrelle (Toronto University) and Dr Sascha Fuller (University of Newcastle). It takes the first fundamental steps towards analysing the plastic pollution prevention gaps in the region and makes concrete recommendations for how these challenges can be overcome through strategic and ambitious policymaking.

**Read more:** <https://reports.eia-international.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2020/09/Plastic-Prevention-Gap-Analysis-2020.pdf>

### Behaviour towards Waste Generation needs to change

To address the increasing rate of litter and to explore litter management and material recovery, the Fiji Ministry of Environment launched a "Litter free Fiji "Think Tank" to combat litter. The "litter-free Fiji "Think Tank" is an initiative of the Ministry of Environment with the Private sector, Non-Government Organizations (NGO's), and academics who will work collaboratively to establish a pathway for effective application of monitoring compliance and penal measures to combat litter.

**Read more:** <https://www.fbcnews.com.fj/news/behaviour-towards-waste-generation-needs-to-change-2/>

### International E-Waste Day aims to promote proper E-waste disposal and increase re-use

Following its success in 2019, the third International E-Waste Day will be held on October 14th 2020 to promote the correct disposal of e-waste throughout the world. International E-Waste Day has been developed by the WEEE Forum, an international association of e-waste collection schemes, and its members. It is used to highlight to consumers the importance of repairing or correctly disposing of their used appliances with the aim to increase re-use, recovery and recycling rates.

**Read more:** <https://www.recyclingproductnews.com/article/34452/international-e-waste-day-aims-to-promote-proper-e-waste-disposal-and-increase-re-use>

### Container Deposit Legislation being developed

The Fijian Government in collaboration with Ministry of Environment and other relevant stakeholders is developing a container deposit legislation. This is an effort aimed at a greener Fiji. The container deposit legislation is a law that requires the collection of a monetary deposit on beverage containers at the point of sale.

**Read more:** <https://www.fbcnews.com.fj/news/container-deposit-legislation-being-developed/>

### Port Moresby: A year of Waste Management at Don Bosco Technological Institute

An article released on the website of the Episcopal Conference of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands explains that the year of Integrated Waste Management at Salesian Don Bosco Technological Institute (DBTI) is motivated by Pope Francis's Laudato Si' year, which began on 24 May. In addition, it emphasises "concrete initiatives for the care of the environment as practical ways of exemplifying being upright citizens".

**Read more:** <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2020-08/port-moresby-technological-institute-laudato-si-year-waste.html>

### EU Supporting efforts to improve wastewater management in Cook Islands

Since 2014, the EU has been supporting the efforts of the Government of Cook Islands in the water, sanitation and hygiene sectors to improve service delivery to its citizens in addition to supporting the competitiveness of the Cook Islands tourism sector- the nation's largest contributor to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

**Read more:** [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/fiji/82544/eu-supporting-efforts-improve-wastewater-management-cook-islands\\_en?fbclid=IwAR1HnnaDfxk-wik1QM5H1gTNLokCiudqb-7t4p1fIEzSqWYbQ79F-n6ujHl](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/fiji/82544/eu-supporting-efforts-improve-wastewater-management-cook-islands_en?fbclid=IwAR1HnnaDfxk-wik1QM5H1gTNLokCiudqb-7t4p1fIEzSqWYbQ79F-n6ujHl)

### The Global E-waste Monitor 2020

A record 53.6 million metric tonnes (Mt) of electronic waste was generated worldwide in 2019, up 21 per cent in just five years, according to the UN's Global E-waste Monitor 2020. The new report also predicts global e-waste - discarded products with a battery or plug - will reach 74 Mt by 2030, almost a doubling of e-waste in just 16 years. This makes e-waste the world's fastest-growing domestic waste stream, fuelled mainly by higher consumption rates of electric and electronic equipment, short life cycles, and few options for repair.

**Read more:** [http://ewastemonitor.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/GEM\\_2020\\_def\\_july1\\_low.pdf](http://ewastemonitor.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/GEM_2020_def_july1_low.pdf)



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

### Active

#### [Removal And Disposal Of Asbestos Contaminated Material \(ACM\), Asbestos Lagging, From Six \(6\) Bitumen Tanks And Other Stored ACM As Part Of Niue's Asbestos Pilot Project.](#)

This activity will assist the PacWastePlus Programme to deliver ACM abatement through the removal and disposal of ACM – asbestos lagging – from six (6) bitumen tanks located at the Old Quarry Pit (Kaimiti) and at the Huihui Temporary Recycling Center. It will also look at packaging, shipment, and disposal of ACM stored in bags located at the Huihui Temporary Recycling Center and at the Niue warehouse facility.

#### [Timor-Leste Healthcare Management Training For The PacWaste Plus Programme](#)

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

#### [Assessment of Healthcare Incinerators in Timor-Leste and Kiribati \(Kiritmati Island\)](#)

The activity seeks to engage a consultant to investigate and assess the current state of healthcare incinerators identified in Timor-Leste and Kiribati and develop the scope of works required to ensure each healthcare waste incinerator can be made operational to the minimum standards of the manufacturer.

#### [Technical Assistance To Support The Development Of A Waste Deposit Levy For Samoa](#)

This tender seeks to engage a Consultant to conduct a Feasibility Study into the introduction of a Waste Deposit Regulation for Samoa and complete a Technical Guidance Note for the drafting of a legal framework for Samoa’s proposed Waste Deposit Regulation. The Consultant will work directly with the Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) in the development of these documents.

#### [Development of Decision Support Tool for the improvement of Waste Management in the Pacific Region](#)

This engagement seeks the development of a decision support tool that will assist PacWastePlus participating countries to assess the suitability of waste management projects for their national context, and against the waste hierarchy. The intent of the decision-support tool will be to assist in transparent decision making, and ensure appropriate consideration to national priorities, stated policy positions, and best value use of resources when waste management projects are being developed.

#### [Technical Assistance To Support The Development Of An Advanced Disposal Fee/Waste Deposit Regulation For The Cook Islands](#)

The PacWastePlus programme seeks to engage a Consultant to conduct (i) a Feasibility Study into the introduction of a Advanced Disposal Fee/ Waste Deposit Regulation (ADF) for the Cook Islands and (ii) complete a Technical Guidance Note for the drafting of a legal framework for the Cook Islands proposed ADF. The Consultant will work directly with the Cook Islands Ministry of Infrastructure (ICI) in the development of these documents.

#### [Technical Assistance to support the expansion of the existing Deposit Legislation for the Republic of Marshall Islands](#)

This activity seeks a consultant to undertake a feasibility study for the expansion of the Deposit Legislation in RMI and develop a Technical Guidance Note for the drafting of a legal framework for Deposit Legislation expansion in RMI.

#### [Conducting baseline data assessment through waste audit in Niue for the PacWastePlus Programme](#)

This activity seeks to engage a consultant team to implement and manage a standard methodology for conducting waste audits. Waste audits will include representative samples of urban, peri-urban, and rural areas of each country (where required) in co-operation with local government authorities.

#### [Situational Analysis of Human Rights Issues in the Waste Management Sector for the PacWaste Plus Programme](#)

The objectives of this activity are to identify and understand the current human rights actions and management in each country, identify and understand how the PacWastePlus programme countries currently integrate a human rights-based approach into waste and environmental management projects and identify opportunities to strengthen the way each country manages the inclusion of a human rights-based approach to program design and implementation. This is with specific consideration to the 8 PacWastePlus target waste streams, as well as understanding of issues around human rights in waste management in general. It will also assess how cultural sensitivities and traditional knowledge (or traditional laws) may strengthen waste management activities and community engagement as they can be utilised on a waste management activity.

#### [Literature Review And Assessment Of Small-Scale Waste Management Technology Options](#)

This activity seeks to gain an understanding of available small-scale waste management technology options that are suitable for use in the Pacific region and remote communities to manage waste and also to gain an understanding of the viability of each technology in the project countries given the unique geographical settings.

### Under Assessment

- Solomon Islands Waste Audit
- ACM Code of Practice
- Literature Review on Used Tyres
- Solomon Islands CDL Assistance

In our spotlight section, we highlight stories on individuals or on ground actions that demonstrate a true passion for the environment and bring to you how they are making a difference to the communities in terms of bringing about constructive action on waste management. In this edition we highlight the inspiring work of renowned Pacific poet, Peter Sipeli who curated an exhibition on waste management.

'[The Afterlife of Things](#)' exhibition, held on August 20, 2020, centred around rubbish collected on the beaches of Leleuvia Island in Fiji. Using photography and poetry, the project visually documented daily collections and from the collections objected were developed into postcards. Conceptualized by [ARTalk Fiji](#), this project seeks to create a new conversation about rubbish and attempts to ask questions about the way we discard objects and things when these objects have served their purpose.

Since June, the project has posted 4 postcards weekly and has seen a total of 68 postcards posted to Facebook. Attempting to create a holistic conversation around trash and waste management, through the online publishing of postcards the project simply seeks to make people more aware of the products we use daily that end up as rubbish in our rivers and oceans, and the overwhelming use of plastics that is killing marine life and now evident in our bodies.

The 60 exhibited images are made-up postcards and of the trash daily collections. Please note all photographs used in this article is accredited to ARTalk Fiji and any use of imagery can only be done with permission from the them.



## FALLEN PEG SOLDIERS THE AFTERLIFE OF THINGS



Leleuvia  
ISLAND RESORT



### Q&A with Peter Sipeli on The "Afterlife of Things Exhibition"

#### Could you please briefly explain how and why the concept of the exhibition was envisioned?

When I returned from Hong Kong, from what was supposed to be the one of the biggest years of my arts career as I had art residencies in about 4 different countries till mid-2021, I was incredibly frustrated and after my 28 day quarantine. I was invited to go and stay on Leleuvia Island Resort, where the project began. I would begin each day collecting rubbish that washed up on the beaches of Leleuvia and by the second week of me doing that daily collection. I realized that all the objects I collected were small everyday household, domestic products and because I was in the depths of frustration and resentment toward the whole mess of the closed world COVID space, to help me settle I began to think about the stories of the objects. I wondered whose mouth the old discarded toothbrush cleaned. Who owned this old worn shoe, and that is where the concept began! I began talking to Joshua Dean, my co-creator on all my creative projects about this idea of the afterlife of things, as that what these objects were. They had a previous life, a life where these objects had purpose and once they were no longer useful they became trash and over a series of conversations, we arrived at the idea and presented to friends that were on the island at the time. The Director of Pacific Building Solutions Rob Seeman, his spouse and politician Linda Tabuya, Christophe Wagner Director of Cooperation at the EU, and his family. The managers of Leleuvia Island Resort Leanne Lee and Colin Philp said they loved and would support it and the project was born.



**Could you elaborate more on the theme – ‘The Afterlife of Things’**

I think we when talk about waste management, litter, ocean plastics, rubbish, trash ... we talk about it like it's some inanimate thing, like it's some entity all to its own, we don't think of it as extensions of us and we seem to not remember where it came from and what kind of previous life it served. I believe if we can give it these kinds of emotive, human traits we can rescue it from this idea of it being another kind of entity and we might just take ownership it and began to have a deeper conversation about us and our need for things and how we are where this problem begins.

**Who is the main audience of the exhibition?**

The role of the arts is to make compelling content. I must say, I made the work to appeal to people, I didn't think what kind of people, I think I'd like to and I'm not sure I have the means to, is to take it to schools and talk about the ideas of the project to kids and get their feedback. I didn't think about a target audience and I don't think that's my job, my job is to make compelling work, I think the better question might be how we engage arts and how we and especially development agencies and CSO work better together so we can capture these kind of arts responses to the issue of waste and work to make the work resonate to different target audiences.

**What is the main message that this exhibition is trying to create and disseminate?**

The projects seek to create new language around the problem of littering, rubbish, waste and to think deeper about this problem, that the problem is the products that we use are destroying our environments. To create a level of conversation whereby our people can demand from the companies that market the goods and services that we need to make better, greener, perishable so we do not end up with so much waste. I believe the only way to engage people and attempt to change behavior is to appeal to people emotionally and that is what the exhibition does.

**What behaviour change do you think may occur from people/communities after viewing this exhibition?**

I want pacific consumers to not allow blame to be laid on them by so many levels of authority, we need to understand we buy products that end up in the ocean, we need to have better products that don't do that, and to also know that these businesses and multinationals that sell us these goods and services they need to sit at the table with us trying to solve the problems, this is a citizenry and govt only problem. We need to bring the ones that are producing the goods and services to sit alongside side us and help us solve this problem, together!

**Who are the major funders and supporters of this initiative?**

My community, the seed money was given to me by the Wagner family and by Virisila Buadromo a very well-known gender advocate, and her husband Arshad Daud. The Alliance Francaise de Suva provided PR support and gallery space, a company called Out of the Box Solutions printed the images for the exhibition for free. Craig Marlow a very well-known local artist and advocate for repurposing trash to art hung the exhibition and I got friends to give him a small fee and some lunch. It was grass roots community organizing kind-of drive.

**Why is it valuable to use art in creating awareness on waste management issues?**

Art is a powerful as it has the potential to appeal in a way that many other approaches cannot, it has the power to affect emotion, it has resonance that connects to a deeper level of knowing. Art when used effectively enables young people to really connect to, using media and online approaches with art intent has incredible implications.

**How does it engage the communities any different from donor funded or relevant Government ministry programmes?**

This project uses a very "Instagram" approach, I don't think Government, donor, or CSOs are using Instagram to its full potential, the power of imagery and text to inform people is something that young people know, especially in the Pacific and this project capitalizes on that point of reference. Mapping change is difficult... online resonance is one thing; change is difficult to affect and to map.

THE AFTERLIFE OF THINGS — Leleuvia ARTS

### What were some of the challenges that you encountered while working on this initiative?

I think the agencies that work in this space were not engaged and when I tried to, were not interested in the project. Most communications desks are managed by former journalists who do not understand or are interested in arts approaches so for me the greatest challenge was engaging the actors in the space. I reached out but to no response and I wish there was an inter-agency space that could facilitate that to be able to give me feedback and we can talk about what they are doing and how we might find points that our work pathways complement each other.

### Do you intend to have more of such initiatives to create greater awareness and community engagement in Fiji or other parts of the Pacific?

The first part of the second phase is creating a space where creative that are working 'Afterlife of Things that are repurposing discarded objects and turning into new objects with new purpose can talk and discuss their work and maybe just create a network I am able to understand the level of those working in 'The Afterlife of Things' as I understand that there are many of them. I would like to find out if they are critical about their contribution towards this larger problem of waste management and reduction. I do hope this work and project has great Pacific appeal, I think there needs to be better networking, sharing of information, local mapping of creative actors in the space, creative ways of documenting rubbish at family, community and divisional level.

### Has there been much interest from communities on the exhibition?

There was a huge exhibition opening with over 100 people, which can be a little concerning with the health implications of our time. We have had two schools visit the exhibition and this coming week we got another two schools visiting, and these schools visits require a different approach as we can't just be lazy and let the kids just view the exhibition, I believe that working with kids we need to be present and talk about where the concept began and talk deeply and in a way that truly allows connection between art and audience to occur. I think facilitating this component is the key to connecting these kinds of art experience to younger audiences.

### What would your advice be for the communities based on the theme of the exhibition?

Try and document your trash so you can see the amount of trash we produce and probably be a tipping in enacting change to occur to make people buy less plastics. Largely rubbish is based on what we purchase and the goods and services that we use daily. We'd all like to produce less rubbish individually, as a family and as a community but that move takes radical approaches and starts with each of us making better decisions about the toothbrush that we use, the takeaway single use styrofoam containers that we buy our food in, the habit of always having a bag on you and the courage to ask the companies that we buy products from to make environmentally safe packing and products.

### Please feel to share your thoughts on the use of art, especially poetry and visual arts for creating awareness of waste issues in the Pacific and why it works well?

In the Pacific the responses to most things especially in the development sector is arts used purposefully and facilitated in such a way that it resonates across different silos of knowledge, I think this project offers us an opportunity to create a case study of how best we can create arts responses to issues like the one this one is attempting to tackle and to create a space that the different agencies can come to the table without fear or politics.



GRENADE ATTACK



HEAD WOUND



BOOBY TRAP



SNIPER

FALLEN PEG SOLDIERS  
THE AFTERLIFE OF THINGS



Leleuvia  
ISLAND RESORT



## Project Management Tools



[Download Developing Monitoring and Evaluation Plan: A Guide for Project Designs](#)



[Download Developing A Project Logic: A Guide for Project Design](#)



[Download A Guide for Developing an Investigative Questioning Process](#)



[Download SMART Objectives factsheet](#)

## Reports



[Download Waste Audit Methodology\\_SIDs](#)



### National Waste Legislation Stocktake - Country Reports

15 Country Reports as part of the PacWastePlus regional Waste Legislative Review assessment.

Should you be interested in downloading a particular country report please visit -

<https://www.sprep.org/pacwaste-plus>

## Project Governance Documents



[Download - PacWastePlus 2020 Steering Committee Report](#)

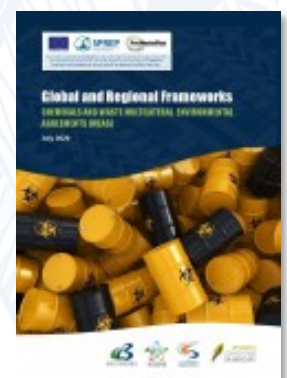


[Download - PacWastePlus 2019 Inception Meeting Report](#)

## Booklets



[Download - Asbestos contaminated materials: Guide for disaster debris removal](#)



[Download - Global and Regional framework - Chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreements \(MEAs\)](#)

## Factsheets



[Download - Medical Waste Alert - How to manage COVID-19 Healthcare waste](#)



[Download - Advanced recovery fee & deposit systems - Factsheet](#)



[Download - National disaster Waste Management Plans: Benefits of having disaster waste management plans and planning to Pacific islands](#)



[Download - Managing Disaster Waste: A Guide for Communities](#)



[Download - In-country National Education and Awareness Plans \(NEAPs\)](#)

## Programme Newsletters



[Download - The Connection - Issue 1](#)



[Download - The Connection - Issue 2](#)

## Country Technical Assistance



[Download Technical Assistance Register](#)

The programme team are currently working on a number of useful and valuable programme resources that may provide further meaningful assistance to countries and partners. We will continue to share these resources on our website (<https://www.sprep.org/pacwaste-plus>) and in our newsletter as well.

The team at PacWastePlus will be glad to develop additional resources that you may require. If you feel that a particular publication will be helpful let us know:

1. What would you like your resource product to focus on and why is it valuable ?
2. Why is there a need for this particular resource to be developed?
3. Who will most likely use this resource product?

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

Nitish Narayan  
 PacWastePlus Communications Officer  
 email: [nitishn@sprep.org](mailto:nitishn@sprep.org)  
<https://www.sprep.org/pacwaste-plus>



We would love to hear from you to make our newsletter more meaningful, informative, and enjoyable for your reading. May we request for a few minutes of your valuable time to take a short survey? If you agree please click [here](#).