



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



This initiative is supported by **PacWastePlus**-a 64-month project funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to **sustainably and cost effectively improve regional management of waste and pollution.**

The Connection

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Moana Taka Partnership - A Guide for Pacific Island Countries & Territories



We are excited to provide to you our recently developed publication titled Moana Taka Partnership - A Guide for Pacific Island Countries & Territories.

This publication is designed to provide clear and simplified information on the steps required for countries to access the benefits of the Moana Taka Partnership. The Guideline includes the translation of complex shipping terms and waste categories, into common language. We have also included worked scenarios on budget considerations to determine eligibility of utilising the Moana Taka Partnership.

SPREP seeks to increase participation in the Moana Taka Partnership by participating countries and encourages Members to investigate the possibility of using Moana Taka Partnership to move stockpiles of non-commercial waste.

The publication can be downloaded from <https://www.sprep.org/publications/moana-taka-partnership-a-guide-for-pacific-island-countries-territories> and we encourage you to share it widely with your colleagues and within your networks.

Should you like to know how SPREP can assist countries access the MTP services, contact our Waste Management and Pollution Control Actg. Director, Mr. Anthony Talouli at anthonyt@sprep.org

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Disclaimer

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MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAMME MANAGER



As 2020 draws to an end, we would normally look back and reflect on the year, unfortunately this year has not gone as any of us planned or would ever have dreamed. This would be the third edition that I would open with the numbers of fatalities from the global pandemic and the ongoing struggles we are facing. Although the number are sobering, and the impacts real, I would much rather look towards the future, and try to ensure 2021 provides us all much more joy and success.

As we seek to wrap up the activities for 2020 and settle in to share the holidays with loved ones near and far, it is worth remembering that for us in the Pacific, we are entering the Tropical Cyclone season, and have started preparedness actions. The [NIWA and MetService assessment](#) of named tropical cyclone activity indicates 8 to 10 named TCs could occur in the Southwest Pacific basin between November 2020 and April 2021. This seasonal outlook is for normal to below normal activity in terms of overall named cyclone systems in the region. We have included some information in this *Connections* edition to assist your cyclone preparedness efforts.

Despite the ongoing impacts from the pandemic, the PacWastePlus programme Management Unit has continued to deliver outcomes, and has redoubled efforts to actively engage with you all, albeit remotely, we do understand that this has placed new burdens on you all, especially considering other programmes and agencies will have been requesting similar amounts of your time. We appreciate your ongoing commitment to the Programme and hope this edition of *Connections* provides some useful information on action to date, and outcomes that we will be providing in the coming few months.

The Programme Management Unit has continued to work with country focal points to develop and confirm project actions in countries to commence implementation in 2021. A few countries are yet to confirm their actions, and we encourage you all to use the remaining few weeks of 2020 to confirm activities so we can work to get approval and commence activities as early as possible in 2021.

A heartfelt Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your PacWastePlus team.

Bradley, Crystal, Hilary, Lance, Michael, Nitish, Sainimili, Sela, and Vira.

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:

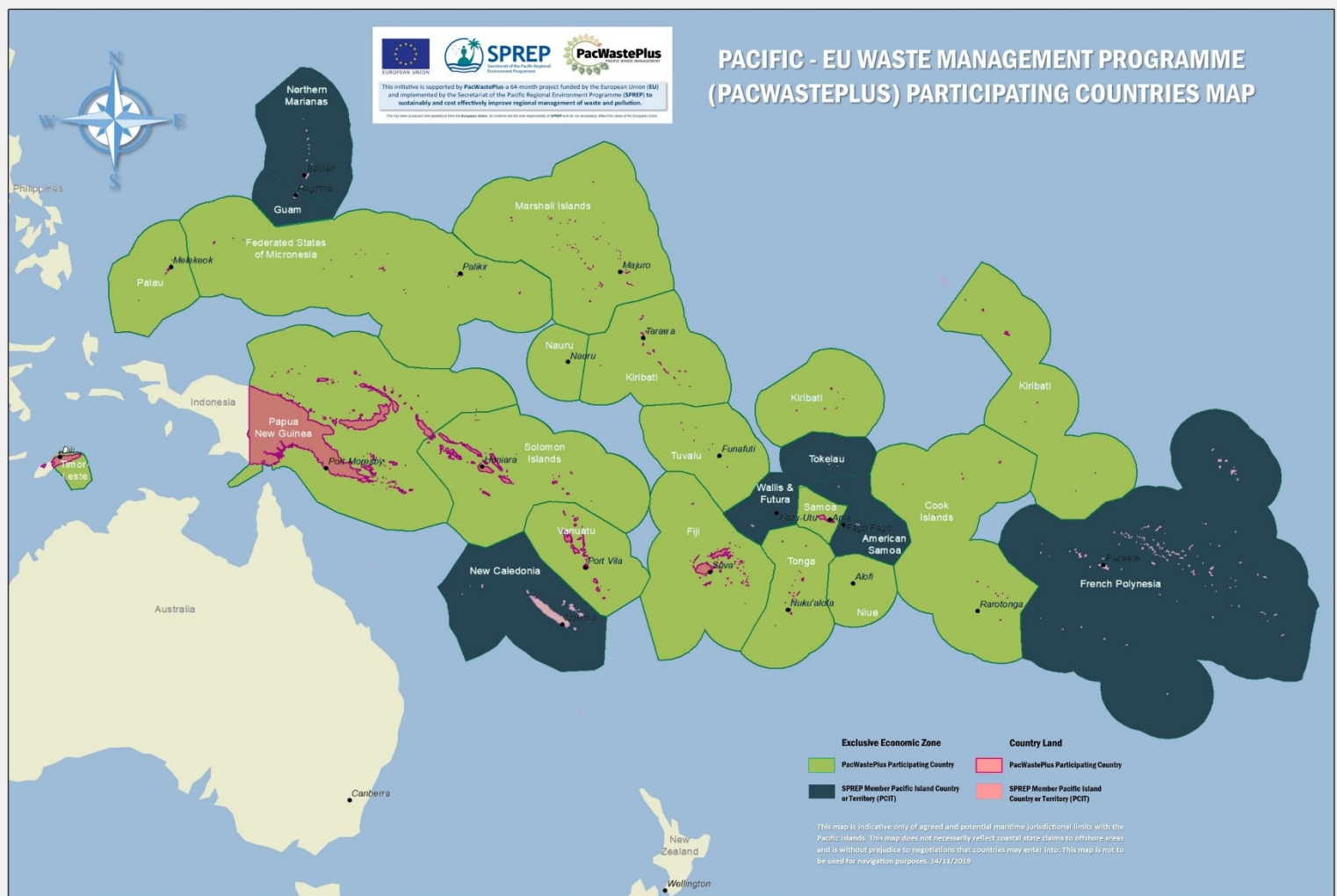
- hazardous wastes (specifically asbestos, E-waste and healthcare waste),
- solid wastes (specifically recyclables, organic waste, disaster waste and bulky waste) and
- Water impacted by solid waste

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.





Tropical Cyclone Harold Response

Effective disaster waste management and planning enables governments to reduce vulnerability and effectively protect persons, communities and countries, their livelihoods, health, cultural heritage, socioeconomic assets, and ecosystems, and thus strengthen their resilience.

Following a request from the Vanuatu Government to provide support for clean-ups of disaster waste from Tropical Cyclone Harold that hit the country in April 2020, the PacWastePlus Programme, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC) implemented a disaster recovery project in nine communities on the islands of Santo, Pentecost, Aore and Malo.

The project not only provided assistance in the removal of disaster waste (some 239m³), it also facilitated community training on disaster waste management and commenced the development of Disaster Waste Management Plans for these communities. The Community Disaster Waste Management Plans outline key activities for action by community, Provincial Government and National Government. Copies of the draft Community Disaster Waste Management plans has been provided to DEPC for further refinement and consultation prior completion and local implementation. Outcome Report for this project is available from the PacWastePlus website.





Disaster Readiness

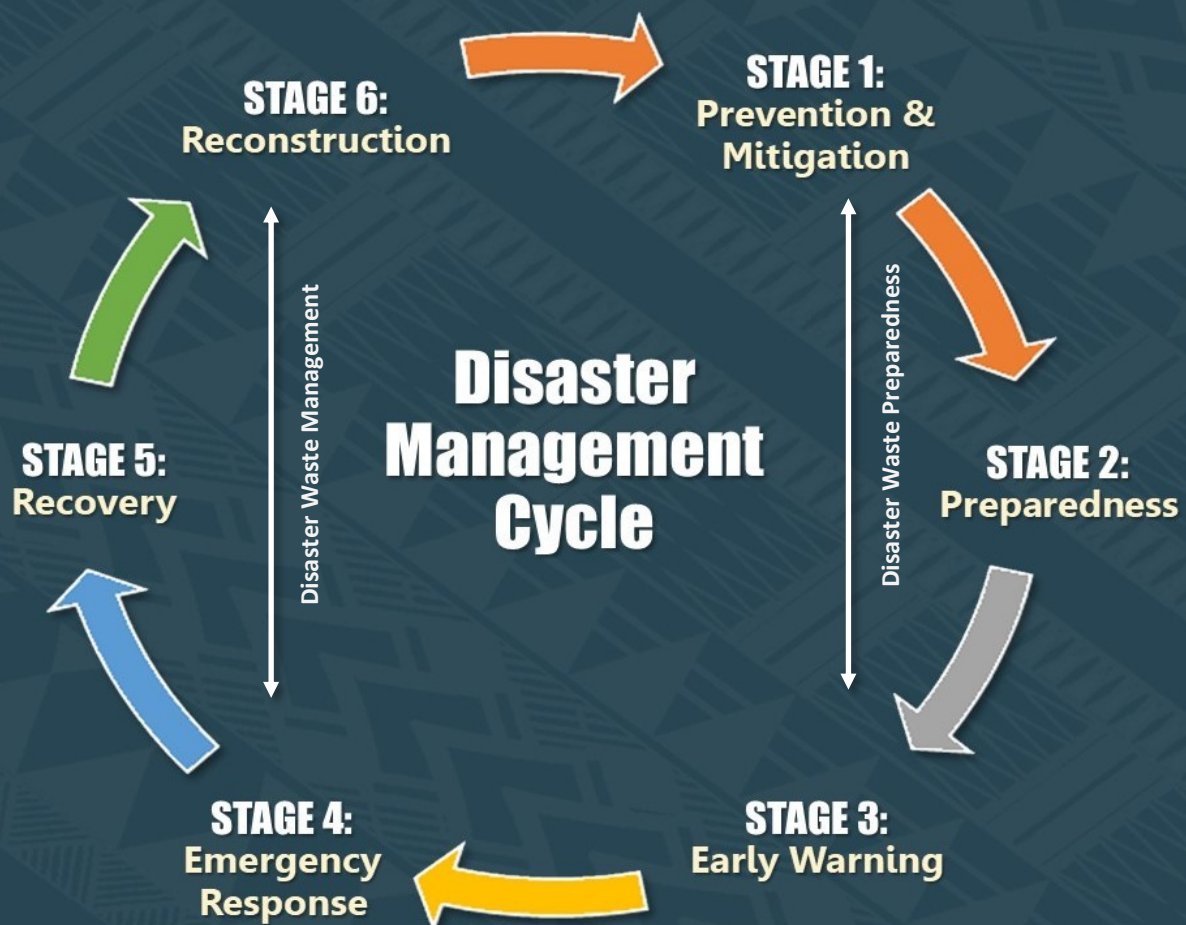
Pacific Island Countries are considered most vulnerable to natural hazards such as floods, droughts, tropical cyclones, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis. Natural hazards generate large quantities of waste that threaten public health, hinder reconstruction, and strains national waste infrastructure. November to April is the Tropical Cyclone Season for the region.

The NIWA and MetService assessment of named tropical cyclone activity indicates 8 to 10 named TCs could occur in the South-west Pacific basin between November 2020 and April 2021. This seasonal outlook is for normal to below normal activity in terms of overall named cyclone systems in the region

As seasoned “Natural Disaster Expert” having lived through numerous events, we know you would all be well advanced in your cyclone preparedness activities at National, State / Provincial, and local levels.

Disaster Waste management Guidance documents from the United Nations, and JPRISM II provide useful guidance on mitigation and preparedness activities that are restated following :

The stages of disaster management are prevention [includes mitigation], preparation, early warning, emergency and response, recovery and reconstruction.



Stage 1 – Prevention and Mitigation – Quick Guide to activities in Stage 1

The main materials that require immediate management in Stages 4 & 5 are organic waste, hazardous waste and emergency supplies.



- **Organic waste**
 - ⇒ Undertake tree trimming or removal activities now, prior to a cyclone striking. If feasible, consider removing trees in close proximity to major roads thinking about if a cyclone hits, will those trees likely fall and create blockages making it difficult to access communities to provide emergency assistance.
 - ⇒ Do you have any controls that govern or guide what species of tree should be allowed to be planted near roads? If not, consider creating such guidance, so species that drop limbs, or have shallow root systems are discouraged.
- **Hazardous Waste**
 - ⇒ Ensure you have an up-to-date register of properties that contain asbestos building materials, and any known storage locations for hazardous chemicals.
 - ⇒ Ensure your Disaster management Office has access to these files, as they may need these when responding to a disaster
 - ⇒ If possible, undertake inspections of premises to ensure correct and safe storage of chemicals.
- **Emergency supplies**
 - ⇒ Consider developing guidance materials on likely emergency supplies that would be acceptable from international donors if a cyclone was to strike. Often, much waste is generated from relief supplies, that send inappropriate supplies (e.g. winter clothes).
 - ⇒ Disseminate this information to regular donors as guidance for what is likely to be needed if a request for support was made.

Stage 2 – Preparedness – Quick Guide to activities in Stage 2

The increase resilience to natural disasters, and increase preparedness, most Countries have established Disaster Management Offices which provide coordination of disaster response services. JPRISM II and SPREP have long advocated for these departments to include disaster waste management as a specific management element of their activities.

Activities that your Disaster Management Offices could undertake now include:

- Convene a Disaster Waste Sub-committee or Taskforce. This group could meet, confirm the possible needs and response activities, and ensure relevant information, resources and staffing can be quickly accessed if a cyclone was to strike
- Review, or if needed, develop a Disaster Management Contingency Plan. Such a Plan would incorporate all elements of disaster management, but should actively include waste management issues including resource needs (staff, skills, equipment, and alternate waste management storage areas if the existing facilities are unable to be accessed due to impacts from the cyclone.
- Conduct any required training or skills refreshers for taskforce staff, or staff that would likely be utilised in disaster response activities.
- Develop a community engagement and awareness programme. The awareness activities could include the following:
 - ⇒ General disaster preparedness activities (how to clean up around your property to reduce possible issues and injury in the event of a cyclone)
 - ⇒ What household supplies should be purchased now in advance of a possible cyclone (medical supplies, spare water, cooking supplies, candles, etc.)
 - ⇒ Locations where communities can go to be safe during a cyclone
 - ⇒ Emergency numbers to call if assistance is required
 - ⇒ How to safely clean up after emergency services have responded to a cyclone event.

Feel free to contact PacWastePlus - pw@sprep.org SPREP - wmpc@sprep.org or JPRISM II for any assistance required during your preparedness activities.



PacWastePlus Work on the go!

The PacWastePlus Programme Management Unit is currently working on a number of project activities that will be communicated with countries in the coming weeks / months. To give you some warning of this work, we have compiled a quick summary of activity!

Key Result Area	Activity	Status	Lead Officer	Expected release
KRA 1 – Data, Information and Education	Assessment of Small-Scale Technology Suitable for Waste Management in the Pacific and Timor-Leste	Full report and Factsheets on Healthcare waste, Plastics and Organics currently being designed	Nitish Narayan	December 2020
	EOI-Recovery and Recycling	EOI released and website page being developed to communicate outcomes	Nitish Narayan	Webpage to be live January 2021
	PacWastePlus country Profiles	Profiles in final stages of development	Hilary Boyes	December 2020
	“Living with Asbestos” Factsheet	Currently completing design and approval	Lance Richman	December 2020
	Waste Audits	Waste audits planned and scheduled for delivery	Sainimili Bulai	February 2021
	Social inclusion in Waste Management Assessment	Final report under development	Hilary Boyes	February 2021
	Research into alternatives for disposable diapers	ToR under released for response	Hilary Boyes	TBD
	Research into used tyre management	ToR under released for response	Sainimili Bulai	TBD
	Research into landfill impacts	ToR under released for response	Sainimili Bulai	TBD
KRA 2 – Legislative Frameworks	Legislative Review Final Reports	Final reports for each country are currently being peer reviewed prior to publication	Bradley Nolan	December 2020 / January 2021
	Feasibility Study of Advance Recovery Fee in Samoa	Report currently being completed	Hilary Boyes	December 2020
	Feasibility Study of Advance Recovery Fee in Cook Islands	Report currently being completed	Hilary Boyes	December 2020
	Feasibility Study of expansion of Advance Recovery Fee in RMI	Report currently being completed	Hilary Boyes	December 2020
	Feasibility Study of Advance Recovery Fee in Solomon Islands	ToR under development	Hilary Boyes	February 2021
	Development of legislative drafting note to implement an Asbestos Containing Material importation ban	Contracts being negotiated	Lance Richman	TBD
	Development of a Regional Asbestos Containing Material Code of Practice	Contracts being negotiated	Lance Richman	TBD
KRA 3 – On-ground Activities	Tropical Cyclone Harold Support Project	Project report to be finalised and published	Sainimili Bulai	November 2020
	Healthcare Waste Management Training	Materials revised and currently being designed. Assessing the possibility of creating on-line training modules	Lance Richman	February 2021
	Developing Country Projects	All 15 countries have commenced project planning activities	Hilary Boyes Lance Richman Sainimili Bulai	Ongoing
	Healthcare Waste Incinerator Assessments	Contractor currently undertaking assessment	Lance Richman	January 2021
	Healthcare Incinerator maintenance (specific units)	Contractor awaiting signing of MOUs and lifting of travel restrictions	Lance Richman	TDB
KRA 4 – Capacity Building	Waste Management Training Stock-take	Report currently under review	Nitish Narayan	December 2020
	Waste Management Training Needs Analysis	USP currently undertaking country consultation	Nitish Narayan	January 2021

Feel free to reach out to the responsible officer for more details- pw@sprep.org

Expression of Interest – Recycling Companies

The PacWastePlus programme, with the support of the SPREP Waste Management & Pollution Control Programme, is implementing an innovative project to assist countries and the waste management industry to increase trades of waste commodities and to access the opportunity for subsidized shipping costs provided by the [Moana Taka Partnership \(MTP\)](#). Our efforts will see the establishment of a register of companies, through an Expression of Interest, that may buy or accept waste commodities for appropriate recovery or approved disposal (both within, and external to the region).

The programme understands that many Pacific Island Countries have undertaken collections of commonly recovered products, such as plastic beverage containers, aluminium cans, glass bottles, e-waste, end-of life vehicles, lead acid batteries, used oil, etc. but do not have a clear understanding of the opportunities available for these products to be sent from the region, to a recovery or disposal market.

The hope is that companies will register their interest to undertake trades in the region, and countries and the waste management industry will benefit from a broader market base than is currently realised. Further details about this Expression of Interest, which we encourage you to share widely within your professional networks, can be found at [PacWastePlus EOI Registration](#) (<https://forms.gle/FpManYZFXQZRJRbU9>)

Should you require further clarification please email the PacWastePlus programme team on pwp@sprep.org

Over the coming weeks the PacWastePlus programme will be promoting this EOI through SPREP website, paid advertisements in Waste Management Associations in Australia, NZ, USA, and promoted through the various waste associations in the Pacific.



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WASTE ITEMS FOR RECOVERY AND RECYCLING

Does your company buy or accept waste products for appropriate recovery, recycling, or approved disposal?

The PacWastePlus programme would like to include your details on a register of companies that will accept waste commodities from the region.

To find out more about this Expression of Interest, and to register your company, visit - <https://www.sprep.org/pacwaste-plus> or email us on pwp@sprep.org

We encourage you to register as soon as possible.

KEY RESULT AREA 1 – DATA, INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Decision Support Tool

The PacWastePlus Programme engaged Ricardo Energy to assist with the development of a Decision Support Tool (DST) suitable for use in a broad range of waste related initiatives, from policy changes, to technological investment, to waste management service implementation and more.

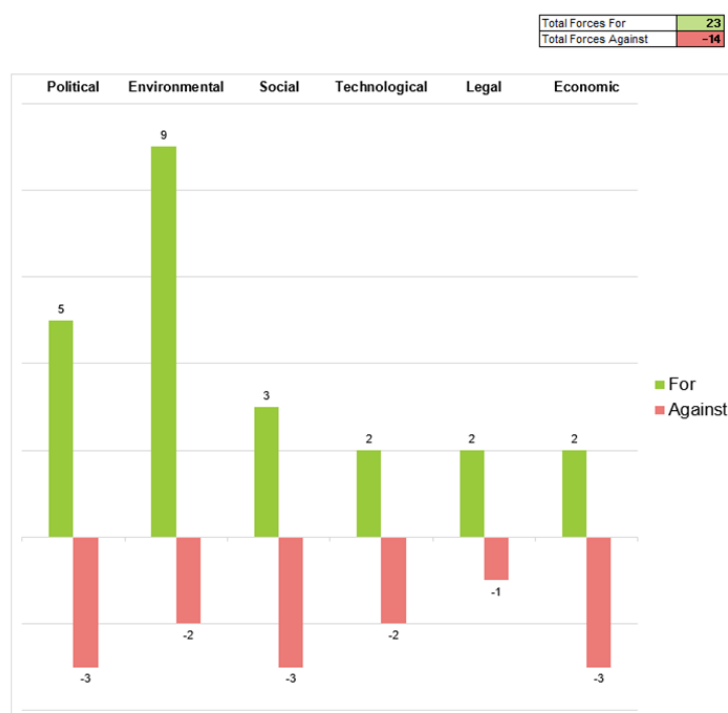
For example:

- Options for management of organic waste and appropriate processing technologies
- Investing in technology to recycle plastic locally instead of exporting overseas.
- Implementing service changes to improve resource recovery and waste diversion to preserve diminishing landfill capacity.
- Creation of a regional code of practice for a coordinated approach to management of problem wastes such as asbestos and end-of-life tyres.
- Implementation of an Advance Disposal Fee to capture the environmental cost of solid waste.
- Establishment of a Recycling Tax-Free Zone to improve national recycling performance.

It is worth noting, the DST does not identify if an initiative should or should not proceed - Instead, the DST provides valuable input into any business case development that occurs after using this tool. The DST should not replace detailed business case investigations, environmental assessments, cost benefit analyses, risk assessments or other detailed studies for proposed waste management interventions, and should not be used as the sole basis for making decisions around changing existing, or introducing new, waste management interventions.

Forces For and Against

The graph below adds the total scores for the forces for and against (FFA) in each PESTLE category as scored by the user. This provides a numerical and visual interpretation of the benefits and constraints of the proposed initiative. Please note that the forces for and against should NOT be used as the sole basis for decision making.



The DST is designed to guide decision-makers through a balanced high-level self-assessment of issues that will influence decision making. The DST poses a series of questions on **Political, Environmental, Social, Technological, Legal and Economic** (PESTLE) factors affecting the initiative in question. Each issue is scored whether the outcomes are positive or negative.

The DST summarises responses and provides a graphical representation of the total forces for and against the initiative for each PESTLE category allowing for a quick and intuitive overview of relative benefits and weaknesses of the initiative.

The DST assists to assess the relative advantages and disadvantages of a particular waste management initiative under consideration and if it meets stakeholder needs and appropriately addresses the issue in question.

The DST has been developed in Microsoft Excel, with a simple user interface that captures inputs, and auto-populates reports and summaries. The DST has been designed as a versatile programme management tool and could be a useful in any stage of project planning, from early project concept phase, to the point of review and decision making.

What are the Pestle Categories?

A PESTLE assessment poses a series of questions for each PESTLE category:



Political

What are the political drivers and barriers to this initiative?
Has there been consultation with key government stakeholders?
Has there been consideration of potential issues



Legal

Does the initiative comply with legislations, regulations, and policies?
Does the initiative contravene any existing or planned laws?
Will the initiative impact other countries?



Environmental

What are the impacts of the initiative on human health, pollution, climate change and the environment?
What is the resilience of the initiative to the Pacific environment and natural hazards?
How will the initiative help meet environmental goals and targets?



Economic

Is the initiative financially sustainable?
Does the initiative have wider economic effects?
What are the financial governance arrangements of the initiative?



Social

Has there been consultation with key community groups?
How is the initiative suitable or applicable to the affected community?
Does the initiative have an impact on cultural heritage and local traditions?



Technological

Is the technology used in the initiative fit for purpose?
What are the resources and technical expertise required to build, operate, and maintain the technology?
Has there been consideration of the waste left over when the technology is decommissioned?

A copy of the DST can be downloaded from the PacWastePlus website- <https://www.sprep.org/pacwaste-plus>

Decision Support Tool FAQs!

- **Will the DST help me identify an initiative or solution to a problem?**
No, the DST should be used to evaluate an initiative that is being proposed as a solution to an existing problem and it will help identify the strengths and barriers of the initiative.
- **Will the DST identify if my initiative should or should not proceed?**
No, the DST does not tell you if the initiative should or should not proceed. Instead, it will provide you with some insight into the benefits, barriers and risks of the initiative that could support in reaching a decision.
- **At what stage of a project should this DST be used?**
The DST can be used at any stage of a planning a project or initiative and can provide value at any point from the conceptual stage, more advanced stages, review stage to the decision-making stage.
- **Will the DST tell me what I need to do to progress the initiative?**
No, the DST does not tell you what you need to do as a next step but can help you identify the areas in which further work is required.
- **Who should use the DST?**
Anyone from analysts, project planners, project managers, reviewers, decision makers, and others.
- **Do I have to answer all the questions in the DST?**
If a question is not relevant to your project, you can disable that question and provide a justification for why it is not relevant. However, it is recommended that you attempt to answer all the questions.

Progress on Regional Waste Audits

PacWastePlus is focused on supporting evidence-based decision making through the collection and analysis of contemporary data. National waste audits are either scheduled or have occurred in the 15 participating PacWastePlus countries, using a standard [Waste Audit Methodology](#). The funding of audits is being shared by several donors and donor programmes:

Country	Donor	Audit date
Cook Islands	ADB	Completed - October 2020
Federated States of Micronesia	PacWastePlus and POLP	Planned for December 2020 / January 2021
Fiji	ADB	Planned for December 2020
Kiribati	World Bank	World Bank to confirm
Nauru	PacWastePlus and POLP	Confirmed for December 2020
Niue	PacWastePlus and POLP	Confirmed for December 2020
Palau	UNEP	Completed – November 2019
Papua New Guinea	PacWastePlus and POLP	Planned for February 2021
Samoa	World Bank	Completed – March 2020
Timor-Leste	PacWastePlus and POLP	Planned for February 2021
Tonga	World Bank	World Bank to confirm
Tuvalu	ADB	Completed – December 2019
Vanuatu	PacWastePlus and POLP	Confirmed for December 2020

Copies of the completed audit reports can be accessed through the Inform [Country Portals](#).

Once all audits are completed, PacWastePlus will engage a data analysis and waste specialist to analyse all results to assist with building a regional prospectus for waste management.

Social Inclusion in Waste Management

Thank you to all who responded to the Social Inclusion questionnaire and forwarded to others. We received 176 responses from a range of stakeholders. The consultant is currently analysing the results and will produce 15 Country-specific reports and 1 regional report. These reports will assist us understand where and how we can improve “social inclusion” in waste projects - i.e., through participation in decision making, delivery of awareness, provision of PPE for waste workers, resolving concerns, etc.

These reports will be provided to country focal points for comment in early 2021.

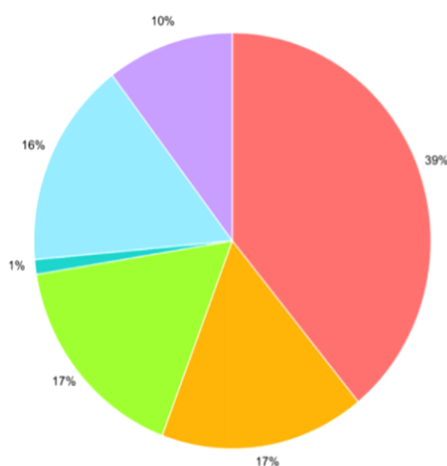
1.4 Sector

Answer

- Government
- NGO
- Private Industry
- Development Donor
- Community Member
- Other

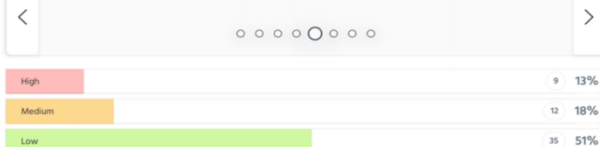
Count

- 68
- 29
- 29
- 2
- 28
- 18



6.2 How would you rate the participation of the following groups in waste-management decision-making in your country?

Rural (non-urban) and outlying island communities

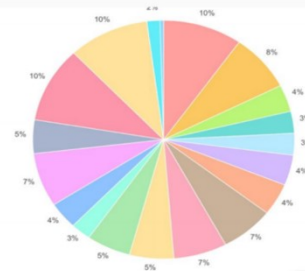


6.3 Which of the following do you believe to be obstacles to individuals sharing their opinion and participating in public meetings?

- They were not aware of a community session
- The meeting was held when/where not available to attend
- They are not a land owner
- They are a woman
- They are not an elder
- They are a child
- They are a minority
- They don't trust their opinion will make a difference
- They trust others to make the right decision
- They cannot go against the opinion of their family or community

Count

- 43
- 34
- 16
- 13
- 13
- 18
- 19
- 29
- 29
- 24



KEY RESULT AREA 2 – LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS

Regional Legislative Review

Final country reports incorporating outcomes of the Stocktake of existing legislation, pipeline activities, legislative assessment and capacity assessment are undergoing peer review at present and are hoped to be published early in 2021. Individual reports for each of the 15 PacWastePluys participating countries are being developed.

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

PacWastePlus continuing engagements in Legislation and Policy to address Asbestos Containing Materials

PacWastePlus is undertaking aggressive actions to support the commitment made by SPREP member countries in the 27th & 28th SPREP Meetings to execute a ban of asbestos containing materials in the region. Under Contract this month are two initiatives in support of those commitments.

The first is the creation of an asbestos legislative ban **Policy Note**. The second is an asbestos **Code of Practice** for Pacific Island Countries.

Country Specific Requests for Legislative Support

Cook Islands

Requested support to undertake a feasibility study on the introduction of an Advance Recovery Fee to be applied to beverage containers (plastic and aluminium), vehicles, whiteware, tyres, electronics, and nappies (disposal).

Kiribati

Discussions underway to commence a feasibility study on the introduction of an Advance Recovery Fee to extend their existing Container Deposit to include vehicles, whiteware, tyres, and electronics.

Nauru

Discussions underway to commence a feasibility study on the introduction of an Advance Recovery Fee to be applied to beverage containers (plastic, aluminium and glass), vehicles, motorbikes, whiteware, solar and car batteries, and nappies (disposal).

Niue

Discussions underway to commence a feasibility study on the introduction of an Advance Recovery Fee to be applied to beverage containers (plastic, aluminium and glass), and potentially other items.

Republic of Marshall Islands

Requested support to undertake a feasibility study to extend their existing Deposit Legislation to bulky waste and e-waste.

Samoa

Requested support to undertake a feasibility study on the introduction of an Advance Recovery Fee to be applied to beverage containers (plastic and aluminium), vehicles, whiteware, electronics, car batteries, and tyres.

Solomon Islands

Discussions underway to commence a feasibility study on the introduction of an Advance Recovery Fee to be applied to beverage containers (plastic, aluminium and glass), electronics, and other potentially other items.

Vanuatu

Discussions underway to commence a feasibility study on the introduction of an Advance Recovery Fee to be applied to beverage containers (plastic, aluminium and glass), electronics, and other potentially other items.

KEY RESULT AREA 3– ON-GROUND ACTIVITIES

Country Project development

Summary of the country project areas of activity are detailed below.

Country	Project Activity
Cook Islands	Provide for sustainable financing for waste through the implementation of an Advance Recovery Fee & Deposit (ARF&D) System
Federated States of Micronesia	TBD
Fiji	Project under development, with a focus on KRA 3.1 - Assist countries in solid waste management through the implementation of prevention and reduction programmes that promote schemes to minimise the waste generated from imported products and nearly expiring perishable products.
Kiribati	Asbestos management and removal
Nauru	Asbestos management and removal
Niue	TBD
Palau	Project under development, with a focus on used tyre management
Papua New Guinea	Hazardous Waste Management
Republic of Marshall Islands	Project under development, with potential focus on implementation of ARF&D on bulky and electronic waste
Samoa	E-waste collection and processing Requested PacWastePlus legal assistance for feasibility and legislative assistance for ARF&D
Solomon Islands	Organic waste recovery and processing & recyclable collection on Gizo
Timor-Leste	Healthcare waste management through National Policy, local plans and land rehabilitation
Tonga	Asbestos management and removal
Tuvalu	Asbestos assessment on outer islands & expansion of the Waste Levy system to outer islands
Vanuatu	Project under development, with potential focus on organics management or implementation of a sustainable financing / ARF&D system

Ways to avoid waste this Christmas

These simple tips will help you to cut back on your waste and show our environment a little bit of love this Christmas time.

Use recycled paper for present wrapping

Instead of buying more and more wrapping paper, only for it to be ripped up and thrown in the bin, get creative and use old newspapers or left-over brown paper for wrapping instead.

Buy reusable items

Bottles can be reused again and again, whereas cans cannot. Try to buy items you can reuse once you've finished with the contents. Ice cream tubs make for great food storage boxes and empty drinks bottles are always handy for keeping tap water cool in the fridge.



Buy items with less packaging

It's time to get savvy in the supermarket and stop buying products which are excessively packaged. You're only going to unwrap them and put them on the table anyway.

Upcycle

Instead of mindlessly throwing things away, think about how you could turn them into something different. A little bit of creativity goes a long way: Jam jars make excellent candleholders, while empty yogurt pots are great for germinating seedlings!

Turn old rubbish into beautiful decorations

Spend an afternoon sitting cozily, crafting decorations from recycled packaging. Old Christmas cards are perfect for making garlands, or Christmas themed bunting, while old lightbulbs make elegant baubles.

Recycle

Sort through any rubbish and recycle all that you can (which is an awful lot!). Plastic containers, aluminium cans and tins, glass, cardboard, plastic bottles – your recycling bin loves all these things!

Home composting

This Christmas, instead of throwing all your vegetable peelings in the bin, put them to good use and turn them into compost. It's great for your garden and even better for the environment. Egg boxes, scrunched up newspapers, tea bags, fruit scraps and veggie peelings can all be composted. Your garden will never have looked so good! Your garden is an untapped resource - full of greenery to adorn the house with at Christmas time. Twigs can be used to make rustic Christmas trees. Then, when Christmas is over, it can all go into your compost heap and back into the soil. Zero waste!

Delivery of Approved PacWastePlus Activities

Summary of the approved PacWaste project activities are detailed below.

Country	Project Activity	Status
Timor-Leste	Healthcare waste training in 4 hospitals	<p>PacWastePlus has engaged the healthcare waste management trainer developed the materials to review and update them as required. The materials are being re-designed to achieve two outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed as a train-the-trainer course • Developed as a general course. <p>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. Investigations into the possibility of creating on-line training modules is ongoing.</p>
Kiribati (Tungaru Hospital), Palau (Belau Hospital), Solomon Islands (Honiara Hospital & Helana Goldie), Vanuatu (Norsup Hospital), Tonga (Prince Ngu)	Incinerator repair and assessments	<p>Under the direction of the European Union, PacWastePlus is providing corrective actions and repairs for several healthcare incinerators deployed by the PacWaste project. PacWastePlus has engaged a consultant to undertake the repair work, but the activity cannot be completed until the current travel restrictions are lifted.</p>
Niue	Niue Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) abatement (removal) work	<p>PacWastePlus, as directed by the European Union, is completing the asbestos removal activity commenced by PacWaste Niue's asbestos pilot. The work under contract is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 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, and 2) Packaging, shipment and disposal of ACM stored in bags located at the Huihui temporary recycling center and at the Niue warehouse facility. <p>At the present time a Contractor is being procured and work will begin once travel restrictions under the COVID19 pandemic are lifted.</p>

KEY RESULT AREA 4 – Enhanced Human Capacity

National Capacity Needs Assessment and Stocktake

The University of the South Pacific (USP) is currently consulting with countries on their capacity building needs. Following the development of minimum standards for waste management, USP is now working with countries to determine which standards are not currently being supported by countries, and therefore identify where capacity building opportunities exist. Outcomes of the consultation is due early in 2021.

USP has completed undertaking the first ever stocktake of waste management training courses in the Pacific, which describes 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. A detailed report is currently being produced and will be available from the PacWastePlus website in December 2020.

In this issue we are feature **Ms. Patricia Pedrus (Patti)**, the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Waste Management & Pollution Control based at the Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) National Government in Pohnpei.

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



How long have you been working in waste management?

I recently took up the Deputy Assistant Secretary role last year after serving 7 years as the Sustainable Development Planner. My role as the DAS is to work with the states and facilitate their efforts in waste management work

Could you briefly describe your involvement with the PacWastePlus Programme?

FSM is one of the member countries of SPREP and because of our membership, we have opportunities to participate in projects that are implemented by SPREP. FSM is fortunate to be part of the PacWastePlus programme since its inception. PacWastePlus has been instrumental in coordinating efforts with FSM and other member countries. The activities supported under PacWastePlus are so relevant to the member countries. In fact, since the inception meeting of the PacWastePlus Project, FSM has participated in non-virtual and virtual meetings to address its waste issues. There has been a number of meetings between PWP and the four FSM states since waste management is implemented at the state level. These meetings have not only opened communications between FSM and PWP, but have provided a medium for further development of needed projects. The activities supported under the PacWastePlus Project are relevant to FSM.

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

The most exciting and most rewarding experience is meeting people who have a clear vision of building better waste management systems. The PacWastePlus programme team are professionals who have clear objectives and the passion to assist countries move toward a sustainable future. Also building relevant network among member countries is a truly rewarding experience.

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.

Communication is key in building relationships so that work is efficiently carried out. The PacWastePlus team are professionals who carry out their mission with clear communication. Sometimes, member countries do not respond but the PWP team has always persistently followed up and tried to accommodate their needs. In addition, through the development of project proposals with our state counterparts, we have complied with certain requirements that promote Environment and Social Safeguards.

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

There is so much to be done and we hope that the PacWastePlus team can assist in our efforts to build resilient waste management systems; systems that can encourage everyone to minimize waste and turn waste into something useful.



We are also featuring **Mr. Taulehia Pulefou**, Program Manager, overseeing matters related to solid, chemical and hazardous waste management based at the Chemical and Waste Management Unit of the Environment and Conservation Division, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development of the Kiribati Government.

Taulehia who has been working continuously with the programme team to progress Kiribati's in - country projects and activities shares his experiences working with the programme team.

How long have you been working in waste management?

Over 10 years

Could you briefly describe your involvement with the PacWastePlus Programme?

I'm assisting with all matters related to PacWastePlus implementation in Kiribati especially with the development of the country project to address asbestos issues facing Banaba formerly known as Ocean island in Kiribati.

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

Working with the PacWastePlus team at SPREP on completing the XL spreadsheet for country projects. I find this work very exciting with lots of lessons learnt/experience in project proposal development in particular the important principles to be considered in project development and design.

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.

It has been very positive, the commitment and guidance provided by the PacWastePlus team has been very good. The programme does not only provide guidance on how the project should be implemented but also in building national capacity in project proposal development which covers key elements of project management principles including providing technical guidance on solid and hazardous waste management

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

Kiribati has developed its national waste management and resource recovery strategy(2020-2030) that has been endorsed by Cabinet in October of this year 2020. The strategy identified 12 different priority waste streams that are aligned well with the pwp priority waste streams. It is our hope for the pwp to assist Kiribati with the national implementation of the strategy over the next 4 years or so.

"I wish to acknowledge the technical support provided so far by SPREP's waste team through the PacWastePlus program manager and his technical team on the development of the Kiribati waste management and resource recovery strategy (2020-2030) and the country project proposal to address ACM in Banaba island. We look forward to the outcome of this proposal and most importantly to continue this good working relationship throughout the entire life of the project."



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

Plastic Free Pacific & Global Treaty to tackle plastic pollution

More than two-thirds of UN member states have declared they are open to a new agreement to stem the rising tide of plastic waste!

Original story from The Guardian November 16 2020.

Support is growing internationally for a new global treaty to tackle the plastic pollution crisis, it has emerged. A UN working group on marine litter and microplastics recently met at a virtual conference to discuss the issue.

More than two-thirds of UN member states, including African, Baltic, Caribbean, Nordic and Pacific states, as well as the EU and UK, have declared they are open to considering the option of a new agreement.



The treaty would be akin to the Paris climate agreement or the Montreal protocol to prevent ozone depletion. Neither the UK nor the US have declared their desire for a new agreement. The US has so far opposed an international agreement on plastic waste.

The UN environment assembly, which set up the ad hoc working group (AHEG) on marine plastics in 2017, concluded that the existing international legal framework governing plastic pollution, including the Stockholm and the Basel conventions, is fragmented and ineffective.

The flow of plastic into the ocean is expected to triple by 2040 if current trends continue, up to 29m tonnes a year – the equivalent of 50kg for every metre of coastline in the world. All efforts made and announced so far to curb plastic waste are expected to reduce the volume by only 7%. Once in the sea, it breaks down into microplastics, to be ingested by marine life.

Political momentum for a global agreement to address the full lifecycle of plastic has been growing, with several high-level ministerial declarations in favour.

In November, a resolution calling for the world community to agree to a binding global agreement was adopted by International Union for the Conservation of Nature members, and 2 million people have signed a petition calling for one to be adopted.



At the AHEG group, which will feed into UNEA's 5th conference in 2021 and 2022, many delegates expressed concern that the crisis was being exacerbated by excess plastic pollution linked to personal protective equipment necessary to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

Several delegations voiced support of a new global agreement, although there was no consensus on whether it would only address marine plastic litter or go further to tackle plastics pollution as a whole and if it would be legally binding.

Ayub Macharia, the director of the National Environment Agency in Kenya, said the world required a global agreement to protect a "common heritage, our planet Earth". He told delegates: "Kenya is on record in issuing a ban on polythene bags in 2017 and in single use plastic bags in protected areas in 2019."

Without international backup, however, Kenya's actions alone did not reduce waste, Macharia said, declaring that "because of our porous borders which allow the illegal trafficking of plastic," it was merely pushed across Kenya's borders to other countries.

Some industries that manufactured plastic bags in Kenya simply migrated to neighbouring countries, he said.

Roxanne Blesam, chief executive officer of Palau's environmental quality protection board, said the republic joined the "overwhelming majority of AHEG experts who have indicated support for a binding global agreement", and supported a proposition put forward by the EU for an intergovernmental negotiating committee to start work on it.

Hugo-Maria Schally, head of the multilateral environmental cooperation unit at the European commission, claimed the EU had been a proponent of a stronger global framework to address marine litter and marine plastic pollution for some time, and that the lack of participation so far by the US remained a huge obstacle.

"We see moves by the US to come to some kind of understanding, but I'm not sure that the difficulties can be bridged," Schally said.

Many NGOs believe that an international agreement is the only viable option to tackle plastic waste. One model for such a treaty, drawn by the Environmental Investigations Agency (EIA), involves four key pillars: monitoring and reporting, to examine the extent of the problem; prevention; coordination; and technical and financial support, for example aid to developing countries.

"Maintaining the status quo is not only untenable, it would have catastrophic implications for planet Earth," said Christina Dixon, senior ocean campaigner at EIA. "It's therefore heartening to see such growing convergence around a global and legally binding treaty to combat plastic pollution."

Tim Grabiell, senior lawyer at EIA, said: "Support for a global treaty on plastic pollution is a critical action that the Biden administration can take to correct the wrongs of the Trump era. Over the last four years, we have continually encountered opposition from the Trump administration to truly address plastic pollution, slowing down progress and watering down international efforts. We are hopeful that, with a change in leadership at the top, the US will join its allies and support a global treaty on plastic pollution at UNEA-5."

In the UK, a Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs spokesperson said: "We are working with partners across the Commonwealth to prevent plastic waste from reaching the ocean, and have committed to establishing a £500m 'Blue Planet Fund' that will support developing nations to protect the marine environment and reduce poverty."

Further information from the last meeting of the AHED group can be found [here](#).





International Maritime Organisation (IMO) GloFouling Partnership Project

While it may seem innocent enough, hull fouling from ships is a growing environmental concern for Pacific nations as a means to spread invasive species within the region. The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is working with member countries to help manage invasive species in the region, including those transmitted through shipping. Invasive species can affect local livelihoods and economies through their impact upon fisheries and fish stocks and can even pose a health threat to the communities affected.

Ships have the ability to spread invasive marine species in two ways:

- **ballast water** - Ships ballast water management is regulated by the Ballast Water Management Convention (full name International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004).
- **hull bio-fouling** - the IMO have established the Guidelines for the Management of hull bio-fouling

A global partnership project to manage and control the environment impacts of hull bio-fouling is currently being implemented by the IMO. The five year GEF6 **GloFouling Partnership (GloFouling)** project will assist countries implement the IMO Guidelines for the management of hull bio-fouling.

Fiji and Tonga are Participating Lead Countries (PLC) and SPREP is a Regional Coordinating Organisation (RCO) for GloFouling. The IMO have developed a '**Guide on National Status Assessment (unpublished version)**' ([link to doc](#)) and a '**Self-Assessment Tool**' ([link to doc](#)) to assist countries such as Fiji and Tonga carry out a **national status assessment** of the risk from hull bio-fouling.

Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific (SWAP)

Getting ready to roll out the SWAP Project

The virtual inception meeting for the Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific (SWAP) Project will occur in December 2020. SWAP will provide participating countries the opportunity to improve on their waste and pollution management practices. Funded through the Agence française de développement (AFD), SWAP activities will focus on three priority waste streams: **used oil, disaster waste, and marine debris**. A particular focus of the project will be on sustainable financing mechanisms. The project will run until 2023.

Participating Countries are: Fiji, French Polynesia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna.

Project Structure

A. Capacity building to ensure sustainable waste actions

Addressing all the targeted thematic areas, a training programme will be designed to provide practical solutions from existing Regional Waste Management Training modules utilised in the AFD-funded Solid Waste Initiative Project and the GEFPAS uPOPs Reduction Project (These programmes were conducted over seven courses with over one hundred trainees).

Trainees will be upskilled on the various elements of the project, through the presentation of successful case studies and demonstration of best practices from the Pacific and other countries with similar conditions, as well as refresher training on waste management.

B. Piloting actions to address thematic issues

The activities will range from development of management plans to undertaking waste disposal. Focus activities will include:

- Sustainable financing mechanisms such as, Container Deposit Programmes (Advance Recovery Deposits & Fees) and Extended Producer Responsibility will be explored.
- Specific small-scale technologies to assist in managing disaster waste and used oil issues will be trialled and showcased.
- Awareness on marine litter will be advocated through coastal clean-ups and data collection and analysis. To ensure sustainability, continuous monitoring systems will be established.

C. Swapping knowledge in a Community of Practice setting

While there has been significant information available to advance waste and pollution management in the Pacific, a regional Community of Practice will be established to share practical. The Community of Practice will bring together experts and practitioners in the relevant areas of the project. The Clean Pacific Roundtable will be used to host the gathering of these experts and practitioners.



Collaborating for a cleaner, safer Pacific environment



Cleaner Pacific Roundtable

The Cleaner Pacific Roundtable was originally scheduled for October 2020, but with the ongoing impacts from the global pandemic, the Steering Committee determined the most appropriate course of action was to postpone the event until early 2021.

A subsequent Steering Committee Meeting has since decided the event should be held as a virtual Roundtable, and as such the Steering Committee is now confirming the size and scope of the event. Likely to be held over a number of 1.5 hour - 2.5 hour events, the **Cleaner Pacific Roundtable 2021 events will be scheduled between April and June 2021.**

More details on the event schedule will be released as soon as confirmed by the Steering Committee.

Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial (FOSS4G) State of the Map (SotM) 2020 Ocean Conference

A one-day conference aiming to raise awareness on the importance and power of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), open data, open source software, spatial data sharing, and data standards was held in Samoa on Friday 20th November, bringing together GIS stakeholders and practitioners to share their use cases and experience.

The conference titled, 'Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial (FOSS4G) State of the Map (SotM) 2020 Ocean Conference' is a hybrid event with participants attending at a local hub venue organised by in-country GIS practitioners which feeding into the regional livestream broadcasted FSS4G 2020 Oceania Conference: <https://2020.foss4g-oceania.org/>

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) through the Inform project, has partnered with SkyEye Pacific to host the Apia Hub. It is the Pacific region's chapter of a larger global community which forms the FOSS4G, an annual recurring global event hosted by the Open Source Geospatial Foundation with a mission to foster and promote the adoption of open sourced geospatial technology, and the SotM. One important session in particular allowed participants to hear from representatives of Electric Power Corporation (EPC), Ministry of Agriculture (MAF), and SkyEye Pacific on their GIS use cases and application which further highlighted the need for developing national standards for spatial data to ensure quality data collection, storage and sharing for all.

The conference also provided an important opportunity for the revival of the GIS Users' Group in Samoa, where time was set aside for the group to convene for the first time in with a large turnout, for one hour during the conference. The SPREP regional Inform project shared GIS applications and user cases from the regional perspective and provided a brief introduction on the Samoa Environment Portal, showcasing freely available OpenStreetMap data for Samoa and the rest of the Pacific.

The SPREP Inform project is a four-year Global Environment Facility-funded project, implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme and executed by SPREP in 14 Pacific island countries, including Samoa.

Innovation in Implementation: MIA Project in KIRIBATI

One of the challenges of project implementation across the Pacific Region in the wake of COVID 19 has been the inability of participating countries to hire local or foreign consultants to deliver project outcomes in person.

The Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) Project is one such project that has faced this challenge as it was initially designed to be implemented largely by an international consultant working with local counterparts. The project required participating countries to hire national consultants to carry out the National Mercury Data Inventory Analysis and the Legal, Policy and Institutional Gap Analysis. Fortunately some countries had a pool of technical personnel in chemicals and hazardous waste management that could be called upon. However, as all this expertise is engaged in the public service, contracting them individually was difficult. To navigate around this challenge, Kiribati opted to form two (2) technical working groups (TWG) from within the public service to undertake the above-mentioned tasks.

This arrangement also had the added benefits of:

- Nationalising the project activities so it adds value to the broader effort on improving the sound management of chemicals nationally.
- Promoting synergies with other programmes and projects.
- Ensures sustainability of project activities following the project lifespan.
- Taking full ownership of the project with cooperation between key project stakeholders under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development (MELAD).

This innovative approach to project implementation has resulted in Kiribati leading the way in being the first country to submit their first draft report on their National Mercury Data Inventory Analysis and the Legal, Policy and Institutional Gap Analysis for further comments from SPREP and its international consultant, BRI. SPREP is confident that the TWGs will continue the great momentum they have created and ultimately complete Kiribati's initial assessment as a key obligation under the Minamata Convention. The approach taken by Kiribati mirrors the spirit of the people of the Pacific. Despite the many challenges we face, we continue to find ways to forge ahead in life.

The National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention (NIPS) Project – Tuvalu Updates

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have harmful impacts on human health or on the environment. All SPREP's fourteen (14) Member Countries are Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Amongst other obligations, the Convention requires Parties to develop and implement plans on measures to eliminate or reduce the release of POPs into the environment. Where these plans already exist, the Convention requires that they be reviewed and updated regularly to keep them on par with changes and decisions made by the Conference of the Parties (COPs). SPREP has been assisting Fiji, Tonga, Tuvalu and Marshall Islands to review and update their National Implementation Plans (NIPs) since 2019. Fiji, Tonga and Tuvalu have progressed well with the updating of its NIPs to cover amendments made at COP4, COP5, COP6, COP7, COP8 and COP9.

Tuvalu has gone a step ahead and had its NIPs approved and endorsed by its government which focused on:

- Developing a comprehensive country driven NIP for the reduction and elimination of POPs in compliance of the provisions of the Stockholm Convention
- Preparing the ground for implementation of the Convention in Tuvalu
- Achieving a high level of awareness of the POPs issue and sustained ownership of the NIP among all stakeholder
- Assisting Tuvalu in meeting its reporting and other obligations under the Convention; and
- Strengthening Tuvalu's national capacity to manage POPs and chemicals generally

The Hon. Tavau Teii, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Natural Resources and Environment, Tuvalu in his foreword address stated that,

"Tuvalu's National Implementation Plan represents the first stepping stone for Tuvalu, in the long path of dealing with POPs and more generally chemicals management. It includes an introduction which outlines the purposes of the NIP, the country background, as well as those involved in the preparation of the NIP and the suggested strategies and proposed work plan to meet Tuvalu's obligations under the Stockholm Convention Tuvalu NIP".

Tuvalu's endorsed NIP has since been lodged with the Stockholm Convention Secretariat for official registration before implementation can begin. SPREP looks forward to continuing to support Tuvalu to implement its NIP in order to protect the country and its people from the harmful effects of POPs.



GEF ISLANDS

Programme and Pacific Child Project update

UNEP and SPREP have continued to make excellent progress on the development and submission of the Pacific child project under the GEF ISLANDS Programme (\$20 million over five years). The project document is now complete and has been reviewed by Pacific colleagues, SPREP staff and through the UNEP peer review process. The project is now being submitted to the GEF for review and we expect comments late December, early January. It is envisaged the project will be approved in the first quarter of 2021, and begin in the second.

During October, two virtual validation workshops were convened, with Pacific focal points, GEF representatives and SPREP colleagues. We were also joined by colleagues from Pacwaste Plus, JICA, and Swire Shipping. During the meeting the key project activities were presented. Both workshops witnessed excellent engagement from all participants and provided significant insights on current context.

Key regional activities agreed under the project include:

- End of life vehicles recovery and disposal partnership with Swire shipping. This includes the collection, dismantling, safe disposal of POPs containing parts.
- Healthcare waste technical backstopping facility (with other donors). This will involve the provision of technical support to Pacific countries to maintain and operate healthcare waste facilities.
- Re-making workshop – pilot activity. The pilot activity will take place in Samoa. A workshop for repairing electronic equipment will be accessible to community groups and individuals to learn how to repair electronic products and therefore decrease e-waste.
- Mercury free Pacific Campaign. This activity will be launched to phase out mercury containing products in the region.
- Youth/community engagement – Tide Turners Plastic Challenge. This activity will target youth groups in each country and engage them in environmental protection activities based around reducing the use of single use plastics.

From all of us at UNEP, we want to thank you once again for your continued enthusiasm and excellent collaboration over 2020. It's been an odd year, and one where we've had to learn to work virtually. Despite a few connectivity challenges the bilateral and multilateral consultations we convened with all of you provided many insights, and greatly assisted us in formulating robust national and regional activities.

Wishing you a wonderful end to the year and looking forward to moving into the execution phase of ISLANDS in 2021.

For further information please contact, Ms. Irene Galan: irene.galan@un.org

PRIF Regional Waste Hub

The Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) and SPREP identify areas for potential collaboration

In early November, PRIF and SPREP held talks to discuss areas of common interest and opportunities to enhance cooperation to deliver more for the people of the Pacific region. SPREP's Director-General, Mr Kosi, Latu and PRIF Coordination Office Team Leader, Mr Sean O'Sullivan presented an overview of their respective programs and considered COVID-19 and prospective areas of future work.

PRIF functions as a coordination mechanism for its eight PRIF development partners who are supporting infrastructure in the Pacific region. PRIF also provides technical assistance and acts as a knowledge hub and help its Pacific member countries plan infrastructure and implement best practices and find technology solutions to infrastructure issues.

The PRIF development partners are the Asian Development Bank, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, European Union, European Investment Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency, New Zealand Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade, United States Department of State and the World Bank Group. PRIF Phase IV (2020-2023) seeks to boost its collaboration and engagement with regional agencies, including SPREP to address common challenges and promote national interest through cooperation and dialogue. PRIF and SPREP share a common membership and have complementary roles across several areas including environment and safeguards, building resilience and waste management.

The talks identified potential areas for PRIF and SPREP collaboration. They included the Pacific regional recycling network and the continuing country waste audits, the Pacific Climate Change Impact Scenarios for infrastructure planning study, the 2020 Pacific Infrastructure Performance Indicators, building capacity in environmental impact assessments and the application of the shared approach. Of particular interest is to increase engagement with the Pacific Climate Change Center to share knowledge products, including the climate-resilient building codes.

For further information please contact: enquiries@theprif.org



JPRISM II assistance to enhance Vanuatu's capacity on Disaster Waste Management

The Handover Ceremony of Disaster Waste Management equipment and tools donated by JICA Vanuatu Office under the Japan Regional Technical Cooperation Project on Promotion of Regional Initiatives on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries (JPRISM II), took place on the 6th November 2020, at the Department of Environment Protection and Conservation (DEPC) Office.

Mr. Takechi Naoki, the Residence Representative of JICA Vanuatu Office presented the sets of equipment and tools like electronic tablets (for data recording during waste assessment tasks), chainsaws and full sets of Personal Protection Equipment (Overalls, safety boots, ear protection gears, goggles, helmets and gloves).

In April 2020, Vanuatu was hit by Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Harold, causing widespread damages in the country. J-PRISM II in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and PacWastePlus (PWP) provided technical support on the assessment of the generated waste, as well as the follow up development of Draft Disaster Waste Management Plans at the National, Provincial and Community levels. These plans when completed will provide clear directions on the management of disaster waste in the future. Ongoing consultation has also been made with DEPC and the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) in an effort to recognize waste management as one of the priorities under the National Disaster Management Plan for better coordination of preparedness, response and recovery operations in the future.

With the approaching cyclone season towards the end of the year, the provided support boosts Vanuatu's preparedness to respond to disaster waste, when the time comes.





Waste Management Highlights from the 10th Nature Conservation Conference

The recent 10th Nature Conservation Conference included several presentations and session on waste management and impacts of waste on oceans and ecosystems. Outcomes from a recent project were presented, and a short video of the research was presented at the conference.

You can watch the video here - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d43HmYph_cA&feature=youtu.be

Global Plastic Action Partnership Examines Role of Trade in Tackling Plastic Waste

The role of trade policy in tackling plastic waste pollution took center stage at an event organized by the UK with the Global Plastic Action Partnership – a multi-stakeholder collaboration organized by the World Economic Forum (WEF). The session, held on 18 November as part of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade and Environment Week, came one day after a group of WTO members announced an informal dialogue on trade and plastic pollution – an effort led by China and Fiji.

Read more: <https://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/policy-briefs/global-plastic-action-partnership-examines-role-of-trade-in-tackling-plastic-waste/>

SRWMA combine forces with APTC and NUS to tackle Waste Management in the Community

The Samoa Recycling and Waste Management Association (SRWMA) are leading a community focused initiative to promote proper waste management practices in collaboration with the National University of Samoa (NUS) and the Australian Pacific Training Collation (APTC).

Read more: <https://nus.edu.ws/srwma-combine-forces-with-aptc-and-nus-to-tackle-waste-management-in-the-comunity/?fbclid=IwAR0iJrRikAYTq9WDNQc75OIVeJ0MLo6GcxEzbLiloTHKVKjfQdYGKrVDkQ>

What is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch?

Somewhere between Hawaii and California, in the temperate waters of the Pacific Ocean, lies an island that has scarcely been visited by humans. It is one of the few man-made locations on the globe that has yet to be colonized. Contrary to other secluded must-visit islands in the Pacific ocean, the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is not a luxurious get-away spot. Spanning approximately 1.6 million square kilometres, or twice the size of Texas, the Great Pacific Garbage patch is a build up of plastics and other debris.

Read more: <http://theconcordian.com/2020/11/what-is-the-great-pacific-garbage-patch/>

Why reusable cloth could consign Christmas gift wrap to the bin

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without mountains of glittery wrapping paper covering the floor on 25 December. Or would it? A rise in interest in crafting, coupled with a greater awareness of the environment under lockdown, has led to a surge in interest in furoshiki – the Japanese art of fabric wrapping – this year.

Read more: https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2020/nov/15/why-reusable-cloth-could-consign-christmas-gift-wrap-to-the-bin?utm_term=d73ce4b4331e30d0a5b62f79f4d024cd&utm_campaign=GuardianTodayUK&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=GTUK_email&fbclid=IwAR14iEKxgXnl0e9H2rOjCSshU63kIEE_44UXOVbkBU7fwWS4V5P2oJNpiLs

New device collects 90kg of rubbish from Creek

90 kilogrammes of rubbish was collected from the Elevuka Creek in Ba, Fiji following the installation of the Riverlution litter boom. Ba Town Council Chief Executive Priya Singh says the council launched the project 6 weeks ago together with local start-up company MODUS Fiji.

Read more: <https://www.fbcnews.com.fj/news/new-device-collects-90kg-of-rubbish-from-elevuka-creek/>

Small islands more vulnerable to environmental degradation

Small islands face a specific set of water and waste disposal challenges, related to their extreme fragility, anthropogenic impacts, climate change, lack of scale and isolation. Most modern water and waste management paradigms applied elsewhere need careful reconsideration in small islands.

Read more: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1591159/small-islands-more-vulnerable-to-environmental-degradation>

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

Active

[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.

[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.

[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.

[Healthcare Incinerator repair maintenance for the PacWastePlus Programme](#)

This engagement seeks to undertake repair and maintenance activities required to ensure healthcare waste incinerators deployed by the PacWaste programme operate optimally. This is be a targeted intervention to identified hospital sites in Tonga, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Palau and Vanuatu.

[Conduct Baseline Data Assessment Through Waste Audits In Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste For The PacWaste Plus Programme](#)

The PacWastePlus programme has engaged a consultant team to implement and manage a standard methodology for conducting waste audits in the 4 Pacific island countries identified. Waste audits will include representative samples of urban, periurban, and rural areas of each country in co-operation with local government authorities. Audits are expected to include household interviews, sampling of household waste production, sampling of commercial premises waste, landfill waste samples and import/export waste samples.

[National capacity needs assessment](#)

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

[Conducting baseline data assessments through waste audits in FSM, Marshall Islands, Nauru and Vanuatu](#)

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.

In Procurement process (development/advertisement/evaluation/contract negotiations)

- Solomon Islands Waste Audit
- ACM Code of Practice
- Literature Review on Used Tyres
- Website Development
- Literature Review of Landfill
- Asbestos Ban Policy Note Drafting
- Removal And Disposal Of Asbestos Contaminated Material (ACM), As Part Of Niue's Asbestos Pilot Project.

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 renowned Pacific poet, [Peter Sipeli](#) highlights the inspiring work of Pacific artists work on waste-to-art projects!

The Undertakers of the Afterlife

[The Afterlife of Things](#) was an art project created using ocean waste collected from the beaches of a small private island resort in Fiji, Leleuvia. The project visually documented the waste collected through curated placement of the waste collected, utilising item that had creative appeal, along with accompanying poetry that tells the story of the discarded object.



DECAPITATION



POISON GAS



LAND MINE



BOMBED

FALLEN PEG SOLDIERS THE AFTERLIFE OF THINGS



Leleuvia
ISLAND RESORT

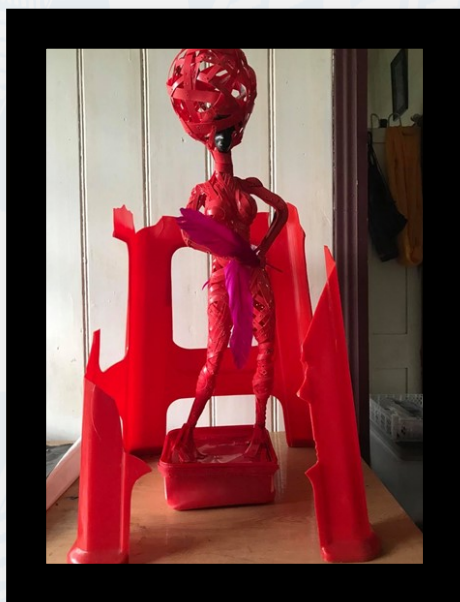


The artists believe that in order to have a conversation with any kind of resonance about ocean waste in Fiji, or the region, the conversation must shift into one that can be had by all sectors of the community, using the universal language or art, allows this to happen.

Creating the exhibition was an activist approach to look at the repurposing of these discarded objects as art content, to bring emotionality to these inanimate objects. The project sought to create a new conversation around ocean waste, and how through art, there can be a holistic approach to talking about this problem. It seems the problem that we have ends up being a community and government issue, the businesses and the corporate agencies that make these products and services are outside of these discourses and actions.

Following the exhibition, the artists will identify people, artists, collectives from across the region that are repurposing these found waste objects.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: *As a Fijian, I have worked with or know of the work of these artists that have all made great contributions to recycling and repurposing materials, and in this issue we honour these 5 artists who are working in their communities to deal with ocean waste. This issue features artists from Fiji and we hope subsequent issues will be able to showcase artistic work from all countries in the region that are actively contributing towards upcycling and repurposing by using items that would usually end up in landfills or in our blue pacific ocean.*



**Stanley Joseph Waradi, Nadi,
Fiji Islands, Age 27**

Recycled plastic sculptures and mix media - the red lady is made of ice cream containers cut into strips and woven into the form of a Fijian maiden.



**Warwick Marlow, Suva,
Fiji Islands, Age 54**

Marlow is a leading artist in the repurposing of PET bottles, and has been recycling them into usable objects, into decor and other adornments for the body and the home.



**Katrina Brown, Savusavu, Vanua Levu,
Fiji, Age 53**

The doves are endemic to Northern Viti Levu and made with rescued timber and tiles and from an old building site in Savusavu town.



**Lambert Ho, Suva, Fiji Islands,
Age 50**

Lambert is a visual artist and innovator that makes wearable arts with found waste objects.



**John Elvis Singh, Lami, Fiji Islands,
Age 58**

An upcoming artist that works with ocean waste and found objects and turns them into home or garden décor.

We all need to demand better products, products that are biodegradable, products that are made with ethical ideologies. The is the crux of the project to create these kinds of discourses.

In the next edition I will bring to you more interesting waste-to-art projects from the Pacific!

PACIFIC POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH WEBINAR



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA



SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

Building Climate, Community and Ecosystem
Resilience through Invasive Species
Management

Developing Ecosystem Based Adaptation
Modelling Tools for Fiji's Dreketi Region

Addressing Ocean Acidification through Coral
Restoration in Tokelau and Kiribati

Bioremediation of Oil from WWII Shipwrecks

Microplastic Pollution in Fiji and its Impacts on
Human Health

FRIDAY DECEMBER 11, 2020

8:30AM – 10:30AM (AEST) | 11:30AM – 1:30PM (APIA)

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Research for the Pacific by young Pacific leaders



Carrol Chan



William Young



Siosina Katoa



Mildred Kelokelo



Make Movono

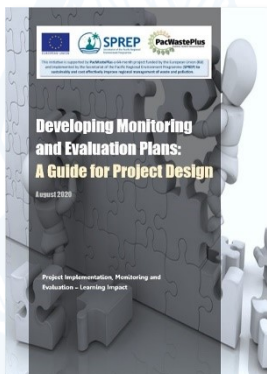


Awei Bainvalu



Malelili Rokomatu

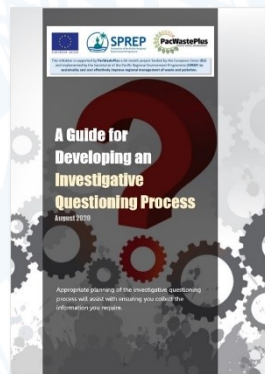
Project Management Tools



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



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

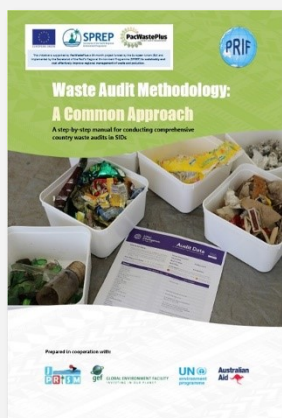


[Download A Guide for Developing an Investigative Questioning Process](#)



[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.

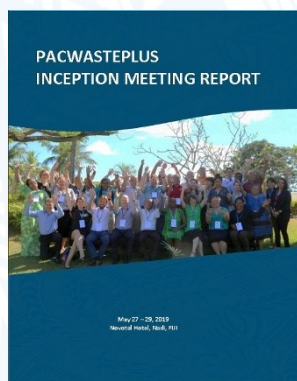
Should you be interested in downloading a particular country report please visit -

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

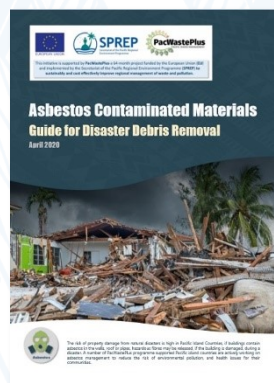
Project Governance Documents



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



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



[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](#)



[Download - The Connection - Issue 3](#)

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:

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PacWastePlus Communications Officer
email: 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](#).