

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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## STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT THE 4RS AT THE SPREP OPEN DAY

The PacWastePlus programme team were excited to have spent the day talking to primary and secondary school students during the SPREP Open Day on the importance of waste management.

Together with colleagues from the Waste Management & Pollution Control (WMPC) the team reinforced simple everyday positive habits that students could do to help reduce their waste footprint. This included enhancing the student's knowledge with 4 different booths set up to explain each stage of the 4Rs (refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle) explaining small but meaningful actions that they could do.



The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (S.P.R.E.P) celebrated its 28th anniversary with an open day on Wednesday, June 16 2021. The open day was held at the S.P.R.E.P headquarters premises at Vailima and was attended by seven schools as well as members of the diplomatic corps.

The theme for the celebration was "***we are part of the solution***" with the students and teachers from the different schools having the opportunity to learn more about the regional organisation and the work they do in the Pacific Islands.

WMPC also showcased a plastic recycling initiative by inviting the Plastic Recycling Solutions Samoa (P.R.E.S.S.) to demonstrate to students how certain types of plastic could be recycled and turned into useful products. You can read more about this innovative solution for managing plastic waste in our our Spotlight section of this edition of our newsletter.

The students enjoyed participating in a fun and hands-on exercise, after spending sometime studying posters developed for each type of recyclable plastic type, and were tasked to separate the various types of plastics and to put them in the right plastic type category collection bins to enhance their knowledge on what types of plastic can be recycled.

The PacWastePlus programme encourages similar initiatives for schools and communities.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAMME MANAGER



It is hard to believe that the first six months of 2021 have passed already, but the work of the past few months has paid dividends, as we are excited to see numerous projects taking form. Almost all countries have now developed and submitted their specific country projects, and work has fully commenced on most of the regional actions (details on these activities are included in the newsletter).

I have the great pleasure to inform you all that our continued engagement with the European Union has enabled us to succeed with modifying the PacWastePlus agreement which means exciting things for the region. The project implementation period has extended until July 2024, providing increased time for delivery of activities delayed due to the pandemic, and we have also been able to rearrange some actions that has enabled us to fund additional Technical Assistance for each country (delivered through a partnership with the GEF ISLANDS project).

In the coming weeks we will write directly to all countries formally notifying of the new opportunities and seeking counter-signing of MoU's to enable the implementation of country project actions.

This is an exciting time, and we look forward to continuing to work with our country counterparts to deliver this important work throughout the region.

**Bradley Nolan**  
**PacWastePlus Programme Manager**

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#### Disclaimer

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## 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, 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:

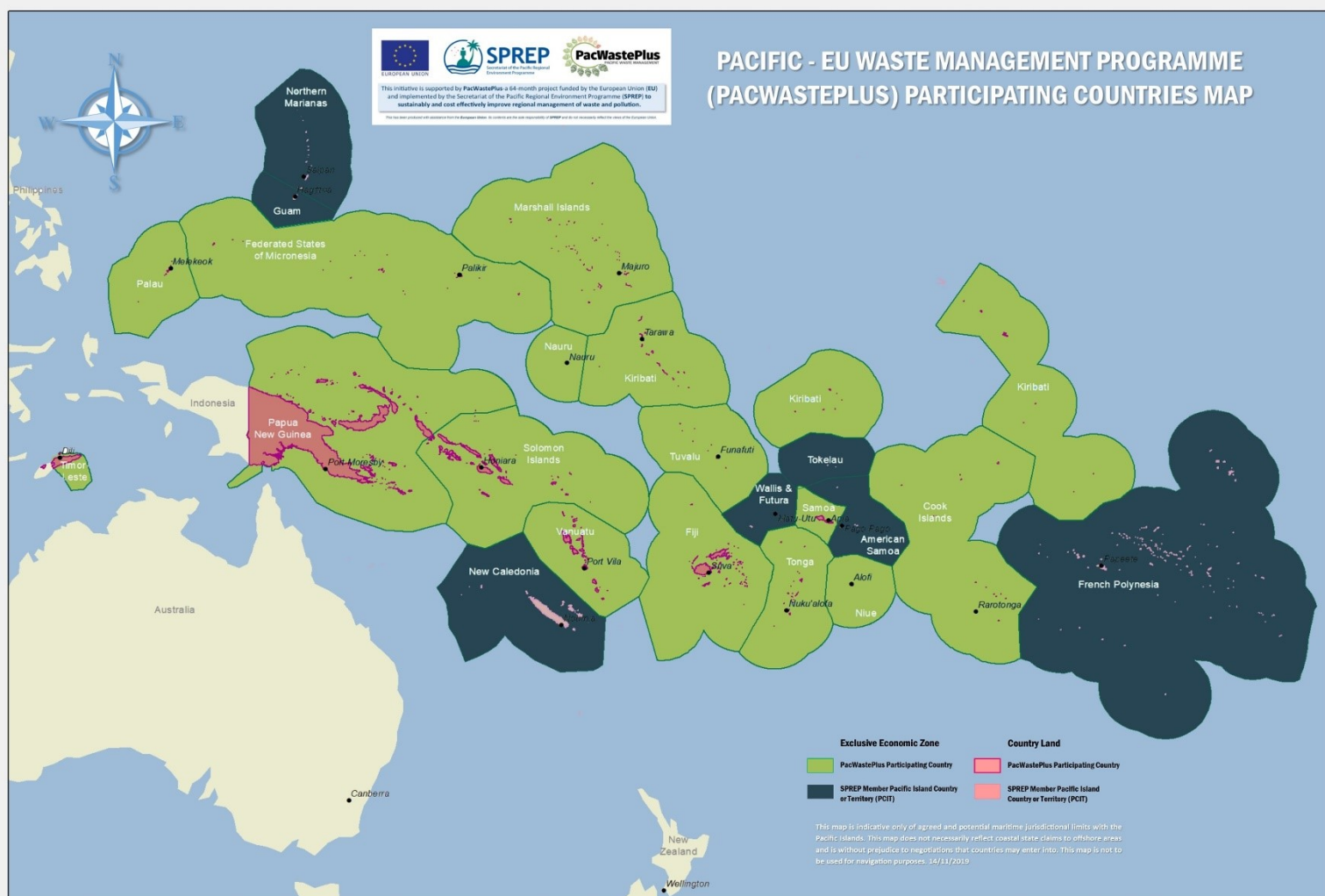
- hazardous wastes (specifically asbestos, E-waste and healthcare waste),
- solid wastes (specifically recyclables, organic waste, disaster waste and bulky waste) and
- Water impacted by solid waste

### Participating Countries

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







## PacWastePlus Virtual Engagements

As part of ongoing country engagement efforts, and as we continue to battle the impacts of COVID, your programme team will continue to explore innovative means of having meaningful engagement using virtual platform initiatives. The team are currently in the process of developing and hosting two interactive webinars this year.

These webinars intend to provide participants with an opportunity to not only engage with our team but also to showcase success stories for projects that they have been working on and utilize available resources to further improve on the design and delivery of current projects and overall design of future projects.

The first of the two webinars will focus on Project Design Thinking – Good practices to ensure sustainable and impactful outcome-based project designs. Turning ideas into bankable projects! We are currently in the process of finalising a meaningful structure for this webinar and look at possibly hosting it on July 28, 2021. This webinar will be implemented in partnership with the SPREP Project Coordination Unit, and other Divisions of SPREP.

The second webinar will be held in late October / early November and will focus on Disaster Waste Management Planning-Building Country Resilience through effective systems and structures to assist preparation and response activities for waste generated from natural disasters. We will partner with JPRISM II and the FRDP Team on this event.

The PacWastePlus programme will also be featuring three side events in the upcoming Clean Pacific Roundtable (CPRT) scheduled from 5-14 October 2021. The programme team are excited to deliver three side events that will focus on major programme activities that will be a strategic focus during the 30th SPREP Meeting in September. Event topics are: (i) Asbestos management and how Pacific countries can progress towards implementing Asbestos bans; (ii) Advanced Recovery Fee and Deposit (ARFD) sustainable financing systems; and (iii) Healthcare waste management.

While internal planning is still underway, we will reach out and provide further confirmed details of event dates, time, structure, panelists and guest speakers that will be featured for these side events and the two webinars.

## Working with Stakeholders on Hazardous Waste Management in the Pacific

The PacWastePlus programme has been working with several stakeholders to guide Asbestos and Healthcare waste management initiatives in the Pacific.

Recently the PacWastePlus Technical Officer for Hazardous Waste, Mr Lance Richman was the guest speaker at a virtual discussion on the global campaign to ban asbestos, and specifically the initiative to achieve this in the Pacific region. The virtual discussion was attended by Australian government agencies and NGO organisations [Council of Trade Unions (ACTU), Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA and the Australian Government - Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency] to promote and achieve an asbestos ban in the Pacific region.

Mr. Richman provided a brief on the Pacific Island Governments endorsement for an asbestos ban in their countries at the 27th and 28th Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Program (SPREP) Meeting of Officials. An overview was also provided on several activities designed to provide guidance, necessary support, and resources to SPREP member countries to execute asbestos bans.

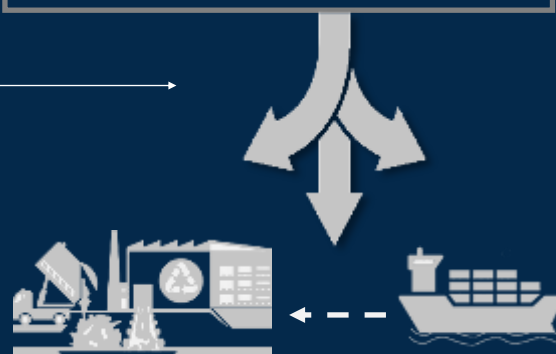
Mr. Richman is also leading a taskforce of development partners to design a regional 'facility' to provide hands on support to healthcare waste facilities throughout the region, to ensure they are always operational and available to manage the various healthcare wastes generated through normal operations. Details of the Facility design were the recent subject of a meeting of the Urban Sustainability Working Group of the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF).





**Many Pacific Island Countries have undertaken collections of commonly recovered products, such as:**

**Pacific Island Countries are seeking opportunities for waste commodities to be sent from the region, to a recovery or disposal**



## Expressions of Interest – Solutions for Waste Management

As we know, Pacific Island Countries are faced with the increasing issue of stockpiles of solid waste, hazardous waste, and low-value recyclable materials. These items are imported into our islands as consumer goods and packaging, building materials, household items, vehicles, electronics, etc. But once they have passed their useful life, we are faced with limited viable options for their recycling in-country or exporting to recycling markets.

As such, the items often get disposed in overflowing landfills, unlined dumps, and vacant land, posing a potential hazard to human health and the environment. To connect member countries with potential solutions and opportunities to consider for the recycling and management of these items, PacWastePlus is establishing two databases:

### **Database of Overseas recycling companies able to receive certain waste/recyclable items from Pacific islands**

This database will provide a list of companies (both within and external to the region) who are certified and able to accept waste/recyclable products from PICs for appropriate recovery or approved disposal and will help with identifying possible markets for waste products.

### **Database of technology solutions for the In-Country management or recycling of waste/recyclable items**

The database will provide a list of proven technology providers that may be able to provide in-country management solutions (i.e., technology for collecting and processing waste products to enable export), or recycling (i.e., technology for recycling or processing/converting item into a new product that has value in region) for various waste/recyclable items. It will help identify technology suitable to recycle problem wastes

Does your company buy or accept waste products for appropriate recovery, recycling, or approved disposal? Or does your company provide waste management and recycling technological support?

We are excited to inform you that programme has released the following Expressions of Interest to assist Pacific Island Countries to manage problems wastes generated in the region.

[EOI – Register of waste management and recycling technologies](#)

[EOI – Register of companies that will accept waste items for recovery or recycling](#)

The creation and maintenance of these registers on our upcoming dedicated programme website will enable member countries, and the waste industry, to access up-to-date information on companies able to provide technological support, or an active market to accept wastes from the region, facilitating the diversion of these products from landfill, and providing more opportunity for countries to access the Moana Taka Partnership to ship these products from the region to a recovery market.

## PacWastePlus Work on the go!

The PacWastePlus Programme Management Unit is currently working on several project with members. We have compiled a quick summary of activity for your information

Key Result Area	Activity	Status	Lead Officer	Date
KRA 1 – Data, Information and Education	EOI-Recovery and Recycling	EOI released and website page being developed to communicate outcomes	Crystal Schwenke	Webpage to be live July 2021
	EOI-Waste Technology	EOI released and website page being developed to communicate outcomes	Crystal Schwenke	Webpage to be live July 2021
	Waste Audits	All PWP funded audits except for Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste are complete.	Sainimili Bulai	July 2021
	Research into alternatives for disposable diapers	Contractor engaged, contract signed	Hilary Boyes	Research to be undertaken between April – July 2021
	Research into used tyre management	Draft report under review	Sainimili Bulai	Recently completed
	Research into landfill impacts	Draft report under review	Sainimili Bulai	Recently completed
	Regional Education and Awareness Plan	Plan under internal review and finalisation	Nitish Narayan	July 2021
KRA 2 – Legislative Frameworks	Feasibility Study of Advance Recovery Fee in Kiribati	Activity commenced	Hilary Boyes	September 2021
	Feasibility Study of Advance Recovery Fee in Nauru	Activity commenced	Hilary Boyes	September 2021
	Feasibility Study of Advance Recovery Fee in Niue	Activity commenced	Hilary Boyes	September 2021
	Feasibility Study of Advance Recovery Fee in Solomon Islands	Activity commenced	Hilary Boyes	September 2021
	Feasibility Study of Advance Recovery Fee in Vanuatu	Activity commenced	Hilary Boyes	September 2021





KRA 2 – Legislative Frameworks	Feasibility Study of Advance Recovery Fee in Papua New Guinea	Activity planned and under negotiation	Hilary Boyes	December 2021
	Development of legislative drafting note to implement an Asbestos Containing Material importation ban	Draft report under review	Lance Richman	Recently completed
	Development of a Regional Asbestos Containing Material Code of Practice	Draft report under review	Lance Richman	Recently completed
KRA 3 – On-ground Activities	Healthcare Waste Management Training and Resource Manual	Draft under review	Lance Richman	Recently completed
	Developing Country Projects	13 of 15 projects plans completed.	Hilary Boyes Lance Richman Sainimili Bulai	July 2021
	Healthcare Waste Incinerator Support Facility Design	Multi-donor meetings held to plan and confirm possibility	Lance Richman	September 2021
	Healthcare Incinerator maintenance (specific units)	Contractor awaiting signing of MOUs and lifting of travel restrictions	Lance Richman	TDB based on travel restrictions
KRA 4 – Capacity Building	Waste Management National Capacity Needs Analysis	PacWastePlus team to engage directly with countries to ground truth findings and complete the needs analysis.	Nitish Narayan	Ongoing
	Design of webinar series for 2021	Project design webinar scheduled for July 2021. Disaster waste management webinar scheduled for October/November 2021	Nitish Narayan	July 2021

Feel free to reach out to the responsible officer for more detail.



## Country Projects at a Glance!

PacWastePlus participating countries are set to implement a variety of local projects – details on these are below:

Country	Focus Stream	Waste	Project summary
Cook Islands	Recyclables		Develop and implement a Sustainable Financing regulation (Advance Recovery Fee and Deposit), including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>legislative and customs support</li> <li>provision of buy-back facility(ies) on all islands in the Cook Islands</li> <li>equipment at the central recovery center</li> <li>communications / awareness activities</li> <li>to enable efficient collection and management of targeted recyclable and bulky items</li> </ul>
Fiji	Organics		Develop and implement a suitable communal organic processing, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>assessment of existing composting programme in the country</li> <li>community education and awareness</li> <li>construction of organic processing facilities in targeted communities</li> </ul>
Federated States of Micronesia	Organics		Develop and implement a suitable organic processing programme, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>assessment of volume and type of organic waste produced in targeted communities in FSM</li> <li>community education and awareness</li> <li>construction of organic processing facilities</li> </ul>
Kiribati	Asbestos		Addressing legacy asbestos containing materials (ACM) on Banaba Island in Kiribati through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>limited ACM abatement and disposal actions in areas of a high risk of exposure</li> <li>establishing appropriate legislation and policies to reduce and eventually eliminate the import and use of ACM</li> </ul>
Nauru	Asbestos		Addressing legacy ACM on Nauru through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the re-packaging and removing of shipping containers of ACM located at the NCR landfill and the Regional Processing centre grounds [limited ACM abatement and disposal action]</li> <li>establishing appropriate legislation and policies to reduce and eventually eliminate the import and use of ACM</li> </ul>
Niue	Recyclables & E-waste		Addressing recyclables and E-waste management in Niue through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>legislative and customs support for the development and implementation of a Sustainable Financing regulation (Advance Recovery Fee and Deposit)</li> <li>equipment and training to enable End-of-Life electronic dismantling and export to overseas markets, and clean-up and export existing electronic waste stockpiles</li> </ul>
Palau	Bulky Waste		Develop and implement a End of Life Tyres (ELT) management programme through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>introduction of legislation</li> <li>establishment of infrastructure to allow in-country recycling of ELT</li> <li>Targeted education and awareness</li> </ul>
Papua New Guinea	New	Asbestos, e-waste, and healthcare waste	Address hazardous wastes through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>creating and adopting plan of action (policies, strategies, and a code of practice) thereby improving the health and welfare of the community,</li> <li>establishing appropriate legislation and policies to reduce and eventually eliminate the import and use of ACM</li> </ul>



Country	Focus Waste Stream	Project summary
Republic of the Marshall Islands	Organics and Paper & card-board	<p>Develop and implement legislatives and customs support for the development and implementation of a Sustainable Financing regulation (Product Stewardship Scheme) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>expand the existing CDS to provide for bulky and electronic items</li> <li>provide equipment and training to enable the diversion organic material from landfill to an existing un-utilised compost facility</li> </ul>
Samoa	E-waste	<p>Develop and implement an E-waste take back system which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>adoption of legislation to allow for the collection of all E-Waste from local communities</li> <li>construction of a dismantling facility</li> <li>facilitation of safe handling and dismantling training</li> <li>targeted education and awareness</li> </ul>
Solomon Islands	Organics and Recyclables	<p>Introduce a resource recovery programme targeting recyclable and organic waste which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>design and implementation of a market waste composting programme in Gizo Central Market.</li> <li>adoption of a Sustainable Financing legislation</li> <li>construct a recycling facility in Gizo to allow for the packing and shipping of recyclable to Honiara for processing</li> <li>targeted education and awareness</li> </ul>
Timor-Leste	Healthcare waste	<p>To drive proper handling, treatment and disposal of healthcare waste through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>revising and adopting updated national policy for the management of healthcare wastes</li> <li>creating local hospital health care waste management plans</li> <li>building capacity through training, proper planning and support for waste transport infrastructure, and the provision of PPE</li> <li>remediation of soils/debris from the improper disposal and land surface burning of medical waste in the fields adjacent to Baucau Hospital</li> </ul>
Tonga	Asbestos	<p>Addressing legacy Asbestos Containing Materials through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>abatement of ACM from a few selected buildings in Tongatapu with the potential for high risk exposure of the public</li> <li>establishing appropriate legislation and policies to reduce and eventually eliminate the import and use of ACM</li> </ul>
Tuvalu	Recyclables and Asbestos	<p>Addressing recyclables and asbestos through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>banning the importation of new Asbestos, and complete an assessment to identify the location and quantity of Asbestos on all Tuvalu islands and make a plan for its removal (which will be completed by another donor)</li> <li>constructing small “Waste Levy Sheds” on islands of Tuvalu so all communities can recycle their items and claim their refunds as part of the existing Sustainable Financing (Waste Levy) scheme</li> </ul>
Vanuatu	Recyclables	<p>Assist with the development and implementation of a Sustainable Financing regulation (Product Stewardship Scheme), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>training and support for the System Operator</li> <li>clean-up of legacy waste</li> <li>communications / awareness activities</li> <li>to enable efficient collection and management of targeted recyclable items.</li> </ul>

In this issue we are featuring **Mr Epu Falenga**, the Director of the Department of Waste Management in **Tuvalu**. Epu says that he has lots of responsibilities and roles to play but one of his main responsibilities is to see that Tuvalu is free of all types of Wastes that bring harm to its Biodiversity.

His personal goal is to make sure Tuvalu is a pristine and healthy country and with a sustainable waste management system in place for our future generation.

Although Epu has recently been appointed as the PacWastePlus programme focal point for Tuvalu, he has been working tirelessly with the PacWastePlus programme team to develop and progress Tuvalu's in country project and activities shares his experiences working with the team.



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

I have been working in waste management related activities for the past 3 years now.

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

Am working as a Focal Point for the project in Tuvalu. As a Focal Point of contact, I correspond with our Samoa based PacWastePlus Team. I can easily call my PacWastePlus family on any developments and to discuss the way forward for the project.

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

Realising how much contribution this project will make towards improving waste management in Tuvalu, especially with regards to recyclables and asbestos. There is a lot of pre-planning and discussions that we've had with the PacWastePlus team to ensure that our country project can be accepted by the EU – and that has been also a learning and rewarding experience for me too. I appreciate all the assistance we've received this far, and thankful to the EU for enabling this work to be undertaken.

**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.**

Unfortunately, I just recently joined the project as its focal point and therefore was not involved in the ESS process. However, I was provided all the information I needed to understand all the hard work that has been undertaken by my previous officers and the PacWastePlus team with regards to this process, and I appreciate that.

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

I hope that PacWastePlus will not only assist us with our in-country project and getting that through to the implementation work, but also stand to provide advice and information on general waste management so we can improve our processes in all aspects of the 8 waste streams. I also look forward to learning from the outcomes of other country projects, and also the output reports from PacWastePlus regional assistance which can help inform our work in the department.

***"I would like to acknowledge the utmost cooperation of the PacWastePlus team in many ways. Their Technical advice, regular communication updates and experiences really helps us mitigate some of the ongoing issues that have been around us from the colonial era."***





In this issue we are also featuring **Ms Claytoncy Taurarii**, the Waste Programme Coordinator at the National Environment Service in the **Cook Islands**. Clay says that she has a number of responsibilities and roles to play which includes developing and maintaining a database for waste quantities and to identify and implement improvements to operational procedures of the facility whilst undertaking annual waste audits. She also contributes significantly towards the development of strategies and policies to reflect the needs of the ICI strategic plan and contributes to the establishment of guidelines, practical monitoring and control methods. Claytoncy also facilitates and contributes to communications actions such as public education and awareness activities. Although, Claytoncy has just recently been appointed as a key PacWastePlus programme focal point for Cook Islands, she has been working excitedly with the PacWastePlus programme team to develop and progress the Cook Islands in country project and activities.

**How long have you been working in waste management:**

I have been in my role with Infrastructure Cook Islands for a month (4weeks) however have been involved in Waste Management since 2016 as Compliance Officer for Public Health, this included hazardous waste such as asbestos and whiteware.

**Could you briefly describe your involvement with the PacWastePlus Programme:**

- Follow up on the policy for ARDF ready for Cabinet to endorse.
- Engaging with relevant stakeholders on the progress of ARDF
- Developing an action plan for the rolling out of the ARDF project in the Cook Islands
- Reviewing of the MoU between SPREP, NES and ICI
- Reviewing of the solid and hazardous waste bill.

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

Meeting with different stakeholders and developing a positive working relationship in country, region and international agencies

**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.**

- Is always available to answer our questions and a quick turn around with the review of documents
- Is flexible to make changes required to suit our country needs
- Personal skills were evident which encourages us to work closely together
- Have connected us to other Pacific contacts in this area

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

Hoping that the project will help change the behaviour of our people towards waste management by being responsible and accountable in their own actions.





## 4th J-PRISM II Joint Coordinating ommittee (JCC) Meeting for Palau, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI)

The 4th J-PRISM II JCC meeting was held virtually for the Micronesian Region (Palau, FSM and RMI) on May 20, 2021. The meeting provided a platform to share the progress of Implementing J-PRISM II in each country and discuss what more can be done to strengthen and improve current practices.

The newly appointed Chief Advisor, Mr Mimura Satoru provided welcoming remarks congratulating the countries for their collaborative hard work since the commencement of the project and expressed his appreciation to the JICA/J-PRISM II Experts team for their remote assistance to the countries amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

The most common issue the countries faced was a solution to handling PET Bottles in the country - some countries such as Palau already have some Recycling activities in place to tackle this problem while other countries are steadily building a ladder to catch up.

There was a clear enthusiasm and show of commitment from the country counterparts to find solutions to the challenges they each faced in their respective countries. Experiences were shared across the region regarding securing funds for landfills, procurement of machinery to conduct daily Solid Waste Management Activities.

Some wonderful progress was shared by Palau, including a new Landfill and a new Glass Center in Koror State for glass recycling. Representatives from other donors and agencies like Asian Development Bank, SPREP, PacWastePlus, Committing to Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific (SWAP) as well as the Embassy of Japan attended the event.

It was great to see a lot of progress in all countries and a big congratulations to all the project directors, managers, and officers for the collective efforts to make it this far.





## Implementation of Committing to Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific (SWAP) Project launched

The first virtual Steering Committee meeting for the Committing to Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific (SWAP) was successfully held in January 2021.

French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna met with the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and other ongoing and pipelined regional waste management projects (J-PRISM II, PacWaste Plus, ISLANDS and POLP) to officially launch the SWAP Project implementation.

At this meeting, chaired by Mr Seumaloisalafai Afelē Faillagi, Assistant Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Samoa, the SWAP Steering Committee approved the project activities that will be conducted in 2021, in accordance with the specific waste management needs and expectations expressed by each partner country and territory. This includes the implementation and monitoring arrangements, work plan and budget.

As the donor, AFD, reminded participants, the challenge of this first year of the SWAP will be to innovate, rethink and reinvent the way of working to achieve the set objectives despite the current COVID-19 context which has not slowed the waste challenges faced across Pacific Region.

Thus, this first year will focus on activities that could be completed virtually, remotely or by involving local partners. Tenders are being drafted to recruit technical assistants to develop national used oil management plans, to support the design of pilot projects, and to conduct a feasibility study to develop a metal waste recovery facility in Wallis and Futuna.

2021 should also include the design and delivery of a Regional Virtual Training Program, including an e-learning platform. This activity should be conducted in collaboration with PacWaste Plus and JPRISMSS II Programmes and benefit all Pacific countries.

Finally, SWAP aims to engage 10 communities among the partner countries and territories to host coastal clean-up activities on International Clean-up Day that will be held on 18 September 2021. The objective of this event is to involve local communities and in particular youth in the preservation of the Pacific Environment to contribute to a sustainable world for us and future generations.

The project team, based at SPREP headquarters, will now work on the development of the SWAP according to the activities and objectives discussed and approved during this Steering Committee.





## Staff training on the use of a simple and robust mobile app for data collection

Staff members of the Department of Environment in the Federated States of Micronesia participated in a virtual training to learn about a tool to use for data collection using a mobile app, KoboToolbox - a free and open data software for collecting and managing data in a resource-constrained environment. According to Mr Skiis Dewey (IT & Communication Officer, FSM Department of Environment) -, "Data collection in FSM is a challenge. With the rising technological advancements, we are very fortunate to turn to mobile data collection where we can collect data anywhere anytime with just one click away".

During the training, participants learned how to download the KoBo Collect app on their android devices and explored different types of data collection survey forms available. A practical exercise was also facilitated virtually by the SREP Inform project team to further demonstrate how the tool works. Using a survey form shared through the app, participants went on a data collection exercise to record waste items found in the vicinity of the department's office using their mobiles. The survey data was immediately available right after it was collected from the exercise capturing: GPS coordinates, different types of litter such as plastic bags and bottles as well as images, which overall presents the advantage of the tool in providing accuracy of data. The data was also visualized instantly by the app through graphs, tables, summaries, and map overviews.

"This tool will be very useful for our ongoing and future projects when it comes to data collection", said Mr Skiis Dewey.

For more information on open data and the mobile data collection app, please visit the Help-page on the Inform Regional Data Portal: <https://pacific-data.sprep.org/dataset/kobotoolbox>

## Virtual meeting held for the Eight Meeting of the Waigani Convention Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC-8)

The COVID-19 pandemic may have stopped international travels but that did not stop the Secretariat and Parties from convening the Eighth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) of the Waigani Convention on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2021 virtually via Zoom.

Established under the Waigani Convention, the primary objective of the Committee is to reduce and eliminate trans-boundary movements of hazardous and radioactive waste, to minimize the production of hazardous and toxic wastes and to ensure that disposal of wastes is completed in an environmentally sound manner in the region.

As a subsidiary body of the Waigani Convention, its role is to assist the work of the Secretariat in pursuing the implementation of the Convention, specifically by:

- examining the information provided by the Parties on measures adopted to implement the Convention;
- working with the Secretariat to develop plans, programmes and measures related to the technical and scientific aspects of the Convention;
- providing guidelines and standards for the environmental sound management of hazardous wastes; and
- assisting in creating coordination between the Waigani and the other regional and global Conventions.

The first meeting of the STAC was held in Samoa from 21 - 23 June 2004 and the Secretariat has since convened a meeting every biennium. Deliberations of the STAC are endorsed by the Conference of the Parties (COP) so it has always been held prior to the COP.

This year's STAC was an important one as it presided over the first ever review of the Waigani Convention which was Commissioned by the STAC and undertaken by the Secretariat. The review produced 14 Recommendations that the STAC has agreed to incorporate into the work of the Secretariat. This will see an increased workload on the Secretariat.

The STAC also had the difficult task of recommending to the COP the most appropriate procedure to adopt the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendments of 2019. With the amendments, the Waigani and Basel Convention now differ in the scope of materials they cover and this could make the Pacific vulnerable to illegal transboundary movements of hazardous plastic wastes. The STAC will look to engage the services of a legal consultant to assist Parties adopt this Amendments to the Waigani Convention so illegal shipments are kept out of the region.





## A study on the Establishment of the Regional Recycling Network for the Pacific starts soon

Pacific island countries have for many years, recognised the need for an improved and effective solid waste management system. Prompted by the needs of its Pacific member countries, development partners working in this area sought the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) assistance to explore the establishment of a regional recycling network in the region.

Waste management continues to be a serious environmental, economic and health concern for the Pacific, and left unaddressed, threatens the sustainable development of island countries and territories. Increasing population and changing lifestyle of Pacific communities account for increasing waste generation which is exacerbated by expanding economic activity and limited land availability.



To address poor waste management, in 2017 PRIF and its partners worked on a concept of a regional resource circulation and recycling network. The initiative identified and quantified the opportunities to improve the resource recovery of 15 common commodities present in the solid waste stream in 15 Pacific island countries. The first phase of the study conducted a material flow analysis of imports and exports, estimated the available materials for recovery and quantified the expected increase in commodities based on various policy interventions. The results were compiled and published as Pacific Island Country and Territory Profiles in the solid waste and recycling sector. The published series of individual country files can be downloaded [from the PRIF website](#). The study found that material flows are too small to be processed feasibly in each country and recommended processing on a regional scale.

Between 2019 and 2021, PRIF, SPREP, and other agencies used the Region's standard [Waste Audit Methodology](#) to conduct waste audits in 14 Pacific countries (and Timor-Leste) and have continued meetings to ensure synergies are maintained, particularly during COVID-19. Currently, PRIF partners have completed waste audits in Cook Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu, (Audits in Fiji are delayed), UNEP completed an audit in Palau, and SPREP with co-funding from PacWastePlus and POLP completed audits in FSM, Nauru, Niue, PNG, RMI, and Vanuatu. The final audits in Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste are expected to be completed in the coming months (COVID-19 depending). The Pacific regional recycling network and pre-feasibility assessment are expected to be extensive work. They will use the 14 country waste audits results to determine total volumes and types of recyclable materials, investment waste management, and recycling facilities in each Pacific country.

PRIF will commence work soon to consider options for a Pacific regional recycling network in the ensuing months and undertake a pre-feasibility assessment of the most favourable option. The recycling network is expected to include local processing centre/s, trans-shipment and recycling facilities and cater for all or some recycling materials in one or more locations in the Pacific region. This work will include all PRIF member countries. The work will include undertaking a demand analysis for recycled wastes and potential markets and identifying possible solutions. Thereafter the prefeasibility assessment will be undertaken for the most favorable option for a regional recycling facility based on technical, environmental, social, financial, and economic assessments.

This is a significant investment by PRIF partners and SPREP to work together and identify a potential solution to waste management challenges in the Pacific. PRIF and the PacWaste team will continue to report on the progress of this work over the coming months.

[PRIF](#) is a multi-partner coordination and technical assistance facility for improved infrastructure in the Pacific. 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.





## ISLANDS Pacific Child Project endorsed

After a long incubation period, the ISLANDS Pacific Child Project was finally endorsed by the donor, GEF in May 2021. The project proposal received great reviews from reviewers at GEF and this allowed the early approval of the project. SPREP would like to congratulate all partners for this milestone, and to thank everyone for their efforts and support during the Project Preparation Grant phase.

The Child Project will be implemented in 14 countries in the Pacific Region (Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu) with a budget of \$20 million.

The inception and the implementation of the project will start in the upcoming weeks, and SPREP will execute its activities. The overall objective is to prevent the build-up of hazardous chemicals and manage and dispose of existing harmful chemicals and wastes across Pacific SIDS, through four components and shares synergies with the PacWastePlus programme. The Project will be implemented until May 2026 and it is estimated to start in September/October 2021 with the recruitment of the Project Manager.

## Preparations underway for 3<sup>rd</sup> Clean Pacific Roundtable (CPRT)

The CPRT Steering the 3rd Clean Pacific Roundtable will be held virtually from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2021, hosted by New Caledonia. With the global pandemic still impacting international travel, the Committee has decided the Roundtable, as per many international events, will be delivered via a virtual conference platform.

With the theme of the 2021 Roundtable being ***“Sustainable innovations for a clean environment, resilient ocean, and healthy communities”***, preparations for the CPRT is progressing well with a focus on circular economy, technological innovations, and behavioural change at the core of the event. The Roundtable is designed to provide the platform for government, industry, community and institutions to discuss waste and pollution issues in the Pacific Region, identify possible solutions, and attract interest from international donors to invest in the continued improvement of waste management in the region.

Technical webinars will be held on the first week of the two-week event, and are designed to inform the more detailed Roundtable discussions. Technical sessions will provide the government, private/industry, tertiary/academic institutions, and civil society to present achievements and discuss challenges to improving management of wastes in the region.

The CPRT provides opportunities for everybody to input and inform discussions on how to establish and support a sustainable waste management and recycling industry in the region despite challenges of isolation, economic volatility, low supply, and high freight costs.

The Roundtable will also include several consultation sessions to inform project design for enhancing recycling in the region. To ensure high standard of online delivery and allow networking to really happen, the event will be supported by an experienced virtual platform provider. It is expected that the platform will provide networking lounges, exhibit galleries, and other interactive features to boost the interest of as many people as possible. Stay tuned for the launch of the official website and platform.

For inquiries about the CPRT please email [CPRT2021@sprep.org](mailto:CPRT2021@sprep.org)

## Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP) update

The Secretariat is pleased to announce the recommencement of the Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP), a AUD 16 Million project, with the Government of Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to address marine litter and micro-plastics and implement the Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan 2018-2025.

SPREP would like to extend our sincere thanks to Mr. Mark Skinner for his conscientious and dedicated work towards the implementation of POLP.





## **PACPLAN Project**

The secretariat is pleased to announce the signing of the three (3) year AUD 2 Million project agreement, Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN) Project, with Government of Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to provide support for Pacific Island Countries (PICs) to prepare and respond to oil spills. The PACPLAN project is a direct result of the Government of Australia's commitment at the 50th Pacific Islands Forum Meeting held in Tuvalu in 2019 to assist PICs deal with threats from oil spills.

This project will assist in meeting the Pacific Leaders' request to establish a regional oil spill response mechanism and support the region to meet its obligations under the international conventions, such as the Noumea Convention and its Emergency Protocols, and the OPRC Convention.

## **Regional Webinar on Ratification and Implementation of the 2012 Cape Town Agreement on the 22nd and 23rd July 2021**

This webinar is designed to provide participants with the information to learn more about the Agreement's importance for fishing vessel safety and to hear lessons from other States that have ratified, or are ratifying, the Agreement.

For more information and registration please refer to the following link:

[https://4lj8i.r.bh.d.sendibt3.com/mk/mr/qMzyKeli9XK\\_iGdIgWltiynatpkMZ4O4qKUq8fJCKcijcqsh19vvlhbVve2\\_6qmCWaYWck7QwJ7ARjk-ibEbzIU5hL7QvCOQsEski4lwPEsTgg](https://4lj8i.r.bh.d.sendibt3.com/mk/mr/qMzyKeli9XK_iGdIgWltiynatpkMZ4O4qKUq8fJCKcijcqsh19vvlhbVve2_6qmCWaYWck7QwJ7ARjk-ibEbzIU5hL7QvCOQsEski4lwPEsTgg)

## **Plastic Protocol**

The purpose of the development of a regional framework to address marine litter and microplastics is to implement Priority Action 1.2 of the Pacific Regional Marine Litter Action Plan 2018-2025 through the lens of the Noumea Convention. The implementation of Priority Action 1.2 fulfils the role of SPREP in assisting PICTs to address environmental and marine pollution issues.

This is recognised through the endorsement of the PMLAP at the 1st SPREP Executive Board Meeting in 2018 and subsequently by the Forum Leaders and reflected in their communique that "waste is critical for the Blue Pacific" in which they have reaffirmed their commitment.

The Forum Leaders also recognized that marine litter is a transboundary issue and noted that globally, we are witnessing an unprecedented focus on waste and pollution issues. They observed that the issue of waste and pollution, particularly plastic, is now of equal prominence for our region, as climate change.

A tender has been advertised for the development of a regional framework to address the issues of marine litter and microplastics <https://www.sprep.org/tender/request-for-tenders-regional-framework-to-address-marine-litter-and-microplastics>

This activity seeks to develop key elements of a protocol under the Convention to address marine litter and microplastics.

The protocol will support the development and implementation of, compliance with, and enforcement of, environmental law on marine litter prevention in the Pacific Region.



## **Think outside the trash and recycle - Fusion Hub**

Success for young entrepreneur Sagufta Janif is finding value in what's hiding in plain sight, and it's helped her create a business that's taking on the global waste problem and advancing women's economic empowerment. In 2017, Sagufta founded Fusion Hub a company that encourages sustainable living through the sale of upcycled and reusable products, in addition to consulting services and advocacy. The challenges Fusion Hub faces are significant, millions of tons of waste are dumped into the oceans each year.

[Read more](#)

## **One tonne of crushed glass for Memorial Garden**

The Samoa Conservation Society (S.C.S) has taken a lead in putting recycling to practical use by using crushed glass to build the new wheelchair access trail at the Art Whistler Memorial Garden. In April the Samoa Recycling and Waste Management Association (S.R.W.M.A) successfully executed its first trial for a project that turns glass bottles into sand. The recycled glass is suitable for use in garden design; the glass-derived sand can also be used to create road surfaces.

[Read more](#)

## **FSM First Lady Edwin Opens Three-Day Plastic Repurposing Training Workshop**

Patricia E. Edwin, First Lady of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), opened the Plastic Repurposing Training Workshop. Co-hosted by both the FSM Department of Resources & Development (R&D) and the South Pacific Tourism Organization (SPTO), the three-day workshop taught participants on how on to reuse pollutants, such as plastic bottles, in a way that will strengthen and promote Micronesian culture. The three-day workshop concluded in Pohnpei on April 29th. The Government will be expanding it into the States of Yap, Chuuk, and Kosrae.

[Read more](#)

## **Consumer Attitudes towards Segregated Waste Management Practices: Policy and Marketing Implications for the National University of Samoa (NUS)**

This research explores consumer attitudes towards segregated waste management practices. It discusses NUS's community waste management initiative, the interim waste management plan, followed by the need for a waste management policy for NUS. This research also deliberates on the predominant role of the University's partnership with the Samoa Recycling and Waste Management Association (SRWMA) for the successful sustainment and marketing of segregated waste management practices at NUS.

[Read more](#)

## **G7 leaders depicted in Mount Recyclemore e-waste sculpture**

Even before the G7 had sat down to begin their Cornish summit, Mount Recyclemore, a sculpture made of discarded electronic waste depicting the visages of the seven leaders, looked bound to be one of the stars of the show. Created by the artist Joe Rush and the tech business musicMaggie, the piece has appeared at Sandy Acres beach, just along the coast from Carbis Bay, where the leaders are meeting. About 15 artists helped create the structure over a frantic six weeks at Rush's scrapyard/studio in south London.

[Read more](#)

## **Singh Re-Appointed Chair of The Regional Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee**

Fiji's Director of Environment, Ms. Sandeep Singh has been re-appointed chair of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC-8) of the Convention to ban the importation of hazardous and radioactive wastes and to control the trans-boundary movement of these wastes within the region- for another two years.

[Read more](#)



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 feature the brilliant initiative of a Samoan Entrepreneur, Mr Andrew Pedrana for the inspiring work being undertaken on plastic recycling in Samoa by the Plastic Recycling Solutions Samoa (P.R.E.S.S.) and to help in the removal of plastics that would have ended up in landfills or in our environment.

## PRESS On

As a business one can gain a number of benefits from recycling their business waste. However, remember that a waste activity such as recycling uses energy so your priority should always be to fuse products that end up as waste or to reduce waste in the first place.

Some advantages of recycling business waste include environmental benefits - recycling business waste means less disposal to landfill and less overall harm to the environment and more importantly environmentally conscious businesses often open themselves up to new opportunities through those practices.

Similarly, a business probably has plenty of clients or customers who care about the environment. So having a recycling program in place can strengthen your reputation with those consumers.

Samoan Entrepreneur Andrew Pedrana started a plastic recycling project two years ago that was initially to recycle plastic for their renowned Coffee Bean Café but his ambitions have since grown to greater heights.

After a great amount of research, Mr Pedrana found a plastic company in Europe that made plastic recycling machines. Not only did he look into excess plastic from the café but other places that could use the service too.

This is how Plastic Recycling Solutions Samoa (P.R.E.S.S.) was born.

In July 2020 the project received its first funding for plastic recycling from the Samoan Civil Society Support Programme after which the business partners had started organising to get the machines as well as starting workshops for other businesses to participate.

Mr Pedrana says that although the plastic project started small it is now gaining momentum he says that now small businesses are interested in collecting their plastic and donating it for use. Since then he has purchased a collection of bins to put in places including the Australian High Commission and the New Zealand High Commission.

“The idea is to change people’s mindset around plastic being a throw away item and promote and raise awareness towards the four R’s of plastic which is refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle” he said.

Mr Pedrana explained that recycling plastic is a complicated undertaking and unfortunately they can’t take all types of plastic such as plastic number 1 which is referred to as PET (polyethylene terephthalate) for example bottles that drinks come in, like sprite bottles or coke bottles those we cannot take. Plastic we can take include Plastic 2, 5 and 6 which include juice and milk bottles, plastic bottle tops or food packaging containers egg cartons.





“The point of the program we are trying to convey is just to educate people on the use of plastic there is more life to plastic other than the one time use... If a recycled comb is broken, anyone could bring it back so we can give it another life- meaning the contents of the plastic can be broken down again and made into a new comb hence ‘giving it another life’ to recycle and reuse instead of buying another comb”

The project is looking for schools, universities, and others to relocate the machines and start working with P.R.E.S.S by providing storage and workshops for communities and schools to create greater awareness on simple yet effective waste management by choosing to refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle.

“We all know we use too much plastic. At PRESS we try to reduce and reuse as much as we can, but eventually you also need to recycle, and that is what we do. We are taking recycling into our own hands with simple machines that our whole community can use to create new, useful products from plastic that would otherwise end up in landfill or in the sea”, said Mr Pedrana.

PRESS has also recently been invited by a number of other organisations, recently to run a workshop as part of the British High Commissions climate change photo exhibition in Savaii, Samoa, where they were able to talk all things recycling and the effect of plastic in our environment.

“These young leaders are a big part of our mission in tackling the rising plastic problem, and we were blown away by their enthusiasm and vision,” he said on his experience during the showcasing of his initiative.

The PRESS team also presented at the Taumasina Island resort, for the Samoan conservation societies members night, where they gave a presentation on what PRESS does and how communities, organisations and businesses can get involved

Most recently PRESS was invited to be part of the SPREP Open Day as part of the Waste Management and Pollution Control departments initiative of showcasing to visiting students the concept of 4Rs (refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle) waste management actions.

“Recycling plastic is only half the solution, shifting people's outlook on plastic waste and how we dispose of it is where the real change starts. We had such a great time with the Waste Management and Pollution Control team at Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme - SPREP Open Day, chatting to kids about which types of plastic you can recycle and how to reduce, refuse and reuse plastic in all aspects of their lives”, said Mr Pedrana.

According to Mr Pedrana plastic waste in the Pacific remains as one of our biggest environmental issues, with nearly 97% of fish species found to have ingested micro plastics. With the 4R's, he says that we can look to greatly reduce our reliance on plastics, and reduce their chance of entering the environment.

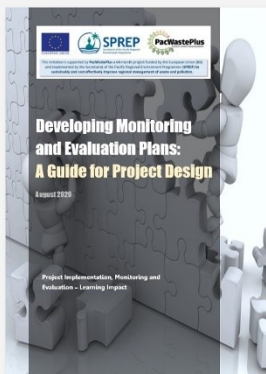
The SPREP “Wananavu” Social Club are also supporting the PRESS initiative as part of the clubs green committee actions by encouraging SPREP staff to bring to the campus used plastic bottles and products as long as they fall under the recyclable plastics of numbers 1, 2, 5 and 6.

These are emptied and cleaned before being placed in sorting bins and will be supplied by the social club to PRESS for the creation of new products such as combs, rulers for schools, pot plant holders and many other items.





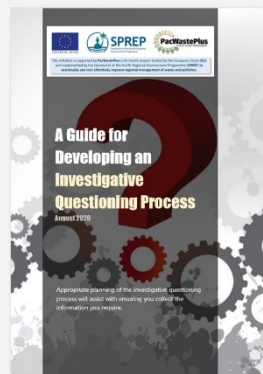
## Project Management Tools



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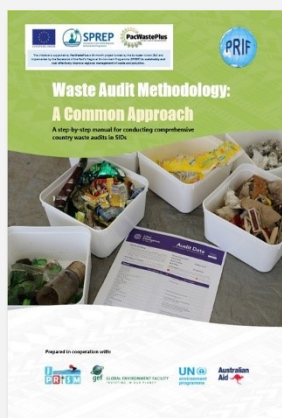


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## Reports



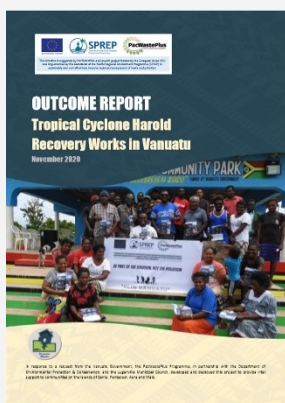
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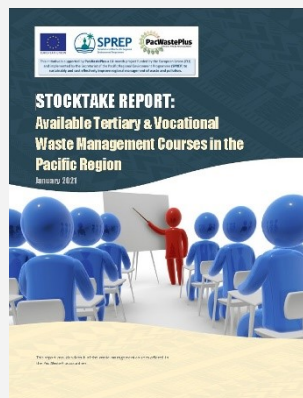
Country Reports as part of the PacWastePlus regional Waste Legislative Review assessment.

1. Assessment of Legislative Frameworks Governing Waste Management Country Reports
2. National Waste Legislation Stocktake Country Reports

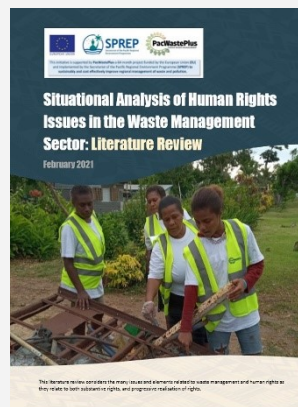
Should you be interested in downloading a particular country report please visit - <https://www.sprep.org/pacwaste-plus>



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[Download Stocktake Report: Available Tertiary & Vocational Waste Management Courses in the Pacific](#)



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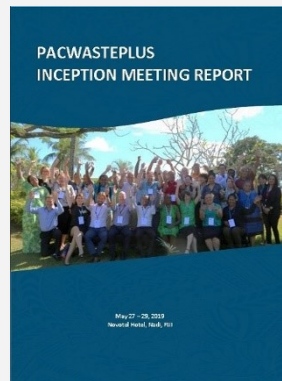
## Project Governance Documents



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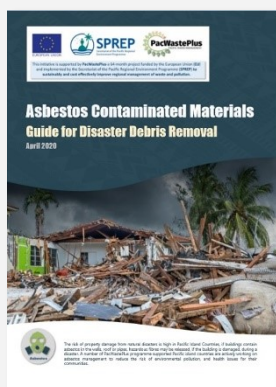


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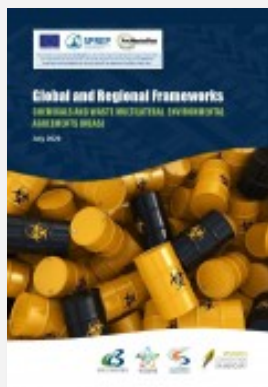


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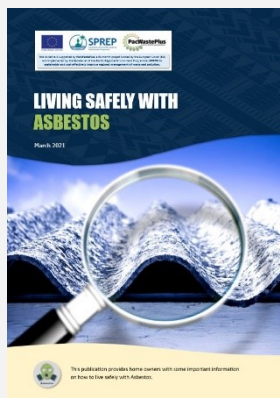
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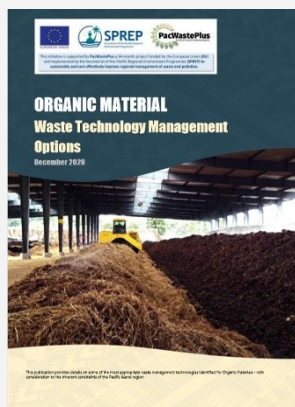
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The programme team are currently working on a number of useful and valuable programme resources that may provide further meaningful assistance to countries and partners. We will continue to share these resources on our website (<https://www.sprep.org/pacwaste-plus>)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