

J-PRISM II HIGHLIGHTS

Vanuatu



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries Phase II (J-PRISM II)

J-PRISM II is the five-and-a-half-year Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management (2017–2022), assisting nine member countries (Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu) in the Pacific Region in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The project was commenced in February 2017, following the previous phase from 2011 to 2016.

Capacity Development through Implementation of the National Waste Management and Pollution Control Strategy (NWMPCS) 2016–2020

Vanuatu is located approximately 1,800 km east of Australia. It belongs to a group of islands in the South Pacific Ocean comprising 83 islands spread over approximately 1,200 km from north to south. Port Vila City on the island of Efate is the capital city of Vanuatu. There are six provinces and three municipalities in Vanuatu. The land area is approximately 12,200 km² and the total population is approximately 270,000 (2016). In addition to the central New Hebrides, there are the Banks and Torres Islands.

History of Solid Waste Management (SWM) in Port Vila

The activities in Vanuatu implemented during the previous phase of J-PRISM focused on enhancing the waste management capacity of staff belonging to the Port Vila City Council (PVCC). Through the project's support, PVCC staff developed to the point of serving as lecturers on south-to-south cooperation in the Pacific Island Countries (PICs), and the maintenance of the Bouffa Landfill became

famous as a good example for other PICs. However, in 2015 the city council was reorganized and the departure of key waste management personnel caused waste management in the city to suddenly deteriorate. Problems such as insufficient human resources and frequent turnover due to staff leaving or being reassigned are common, not only in Vanuatu but also in the other PICs.

Creating a Forum to Facilitate Communication on SWM

Under such circumstances, J-PRISM II focused not only on technical transfer to individuals, but also on developing mechanisms to pass on knowledge and experience as an organization. Specifically, a working group comprising the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC) as the supervisor, PVCC, and the Luganville Municipality Council (LMC), was organized to achieve the Vanuatu National Waste Management and Pollution Control Strategy (NWMPCS) 2016–2020. Thus, a forum was created to share knowledge and experience of waste management, and on-site issues.

Understanding and Directing Waste Management on the Frontlines

Hardly any of the working group members had experience in waste management at first. Accordingly, they started by learning the lessons of activities conducted during the previous phase of J-PRISM. By conducting a series of surveys on waste amount and composition, public awareness, and incoming vehicles at the landfill site, they gradually came to understand the importance of waste management. This fostered a sense of ownership among the working group members as public servants in charge of SWM.



Public awareness survey



Waste amount and composition survey

Baseline surveys were conducted by PVCC staff to comprehend the current waste management situation (2017)

J-PRISM II's Role is to be a Running Partner

J-PRISM II played the role of a running partner during this series of activities. The working group members and the team of Japanese experts started by utilizing local resources to do whatever they could on the frontlines. As small, visible results accumulated, a relationship of trust and cooperation was gradually built between the national and local governments.

Priority Activities and Monitoring

The working group monitors the progress of the NW-MPCS every year, and selects and implements priority activities based on the results of its monitoring to establish a PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) cycle.

Working group priority activities in 2020

1. Enhancing annual SWM planning, and the monitoring system, in provincial and municipal government councils
2. Supporting the detailed planning and initial setup of a Container Deposit Scheme (CDS)
3. Developing and endorsing a national waste minimization plan for 2021–2025
4. Promoting environmental education in schools

Nationwide Expansion of Activities

The working group's activities are expanding in collaboration with the Department of Local Authorities (DLA) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which oversees provinces and municipalities. Moreover, the working group publishes waste-related data on the DEPC website to enhance information disclosure.

(URL: <https://environment.gov.vu/>)

Development of a Solid Waste Management Plan for Port Vila City (2021–2030)

Improvement of SWM System in PVCC

The working group encouraged PVCC officials to make organizational improvements to facilitate waste management. As a result, a waste management officer was assigned in August 2018 and an annual waste management plan for 2019 was approved in October 2018. Subsequently, J-PRISM II supported PVCC in developing a solid waste management plan for 2021 to 2030, including a long-term plan for improvement and expansion of the Bouffa Landfill. PVCC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Shefa Province to formulate the plan jointly.

Verification of Effectiveness through Pilot Projects

As part of the planning process, eight pilot projects were implemented to verify the effectiveness and feasibility of the plan. Some of the pilot projects are shown in the pictures below.



Implementing pilot projects for the SWM plan (2020)



Monitoring of collection



Survey of waste pickers

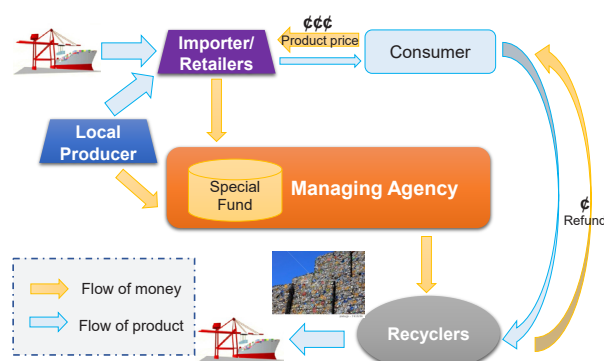


Environmental education

Implementing pilot projects for the SWM plan (2020)

Support for Introduction of a Container Deposit Scheme (CDS)

In response to increasing social interest in the issue of international marine plastic waste, Vanuatu started to regulate single-use plastic bags in July 2018. In light of this, J-PRISM II conducted a preliminary feasibility study on a Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) for recycling beverage containers in March 2019. The results indicated the possibility of introducing a CDS employing the managing agency model, which would be the first of its kind in the PICs. Introduction of a CDS in principle was officially decided by the Council of Ministers in October 2019. Then,



Example of the CDS using the managing agency model

in December 2020, the CDS technical working group was established, including government agencies, manufacturers, importers, and civil society organizations. Detailed planning and legal arrangements are currently underway, reflecting the opinions of each stakeholder.

Disaster Waste Management (DWM)

Regional Consultation Workshop in Samoa, October 2018

At the regional stakeholders' consultation workshop conducted in Samoa in October 2018 to develop the regional DWM guideline, Vanuatu was represented by officials from the DEPC and Port Vila Municipality. This consultation workshop was organized and conducted by J-PRISM II in collaboration with SPREP and the team that developed the Disaster Waste Management Guideline for Asia and the Pacific. Vanuatu delivered a presentation on the DWM situation in Vanuatu as required for the development of the regional DWM guideline.

Pilot DWM Training in Vanuatu, November 2019

In collaboration with SPREP and the University of Newcastle, Australia, a workshop was conducted in Port Vila with funding from the Government of Canada to test a DWM training manual based on the regional DWM guideline developed by J-PRISM II and SPREP. The intention was to use the manual as the standard approach for promoting DWM awareness in the region.

Follow-up Workshop for Development of DWM Contingency Plans, February 2020

As requested by Vanuatu during the training in November 2019, J-PRISM II conducted a workshop to provide technical assistance for the development of Vanuatu's



DWM contingency plans. The draft DWM contingency plans have been drawn up and will be finalized soon.

Assistance following Tropical Cyclone Harold, 2020

J-PRISM II provided technical and funding support to Vanuatu with the provision of tablet devices to be used for rapid assessment of DWM needs, as well as chainsaws and personal protection equipment for officials of DEPC, Port Vila municipality, and Luganville municipality. Technical support was also provided with regard to response and recovery measures.

J-PRISM II – Vanuatu Recyclers and Waste Management Association (VRWMA)

- Supported members of Samoa's recycling association (SRWMA) in visiting Vanuatu and supporting those interested in establishing VRWMA in 2018
- Provided guidance and support for the establishment of VRWMA based on experience with the establishment of Samoa's recycling association
- Provided funding support for the SRWMA president's participation in the Regional J-PRISM II Steering Committee Meeting as a side-event of the SPREP Meeting in 2019

mittee Meeting as a side-event of the SPREP Meeting in 2019

- Provided funding support for the launch of VRWMA in November 2019
- Offered technical assistance to VRWMA for the development of its Strategic Plan in 2020
- The association will hold a public consultation session to give community members an opportunity to find out more about its activities, and to support the creation of a waste recycling-related legal framework with DEPC.

*1 <https://www.env.go.jp/press/files/jp/110165.pdf>



Launch of the Vanuatu Recyclers and Waste Management Association

25th November 2019, 6PM-8PM, Ramada Resort Port Vila

About Us: J-PRISM II in Vanuatu

In Vanuatu, day-to-day activities have been conducted in line with the project framework below in close cooperation with the counterpart agencies:

- Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC)
- Port Vila City Council (PVCC)
- Luganville Municipal Council (LMC)
- Shefa Province

Country Activities in Vanuatu

Purpose	A foundation of implementing and monitoring SWM activities in line with the Vanuatu National Waste Management and Pollution Control Strategy (NWMPCS) is built.
Output 1	Institutional capacity of DEPC to implement NWMPCS is enhanced with the cooperation of the Working Group.
Output 2	SWM activities of PVCC are properly implemented and monitored in line with the SWM Plan.
Output 3	Economic incentive scheme is initiated for promotion of 3R + Return in Vanuatu.

All the member countries are also assisted under the regional project framework to enhance the regional monitoring mechanism, south-to-south cooperation, disaster waste management, and the 3R+Return system in the region.

Regional Activities including Vanuatu

- Output1: Monitoring mechanism for solid waste management in line with Cleaner Pacific 2025 is strengthened
- Output2: Regional cooperation is organized and promoted by utilizing regional human resource and sharing good practices in the region
- Output3: Regional capacity of disaster waste management is strengthened
- Output4: Practical and sustainable 3R+Return system is examined

Contact Us:

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