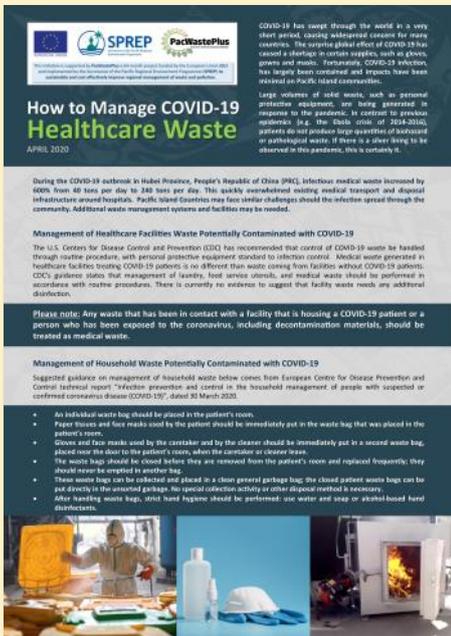


This initiative is supported by **PacWastePlus**-a 64-month project funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to sustainably and cost effectively **improve regional management of waste and pollution.**

# The Connection

A quarterly newsletter of the PacWastePlus Programme

Issue 2 2020

**How to Manage COVID-19 Healthcare Waste**  
APRIL 2020

COVID-19 has swept through the world in a very short period, causing widespread concern for many countries. The current global effect of COVID-19 has raised a challenge in certain aspects, such as gloves, gowns and masks. Fortunately, COVID-19 infection, has largely been contained and reports have been received on Pacific Island containment.

Large volumes of solid waste, such as personal protective equipment, are being generated in response to the pandemic. In contrast to previous epidemics (eg. the H5N1 crisis of 2004-2005), patients do not produce large quantities of biohazard or pathological waste. If there is a silver lining to be observed in this pandemic, this is certainly it.

During the COVID-19 outbreak in Hubei Province, People's Republic of China (PRC), infectious medical waste increased by 6000 from 40 tons per day to 240 tons per day. This quickly overwhelmed existing medical transport and disposal infrastructure around hospitals. Pacific Island Countries may face similar challenges should the infection spread through the community. Additional waste management systems and facilities may be needed.

**Management of Healthcare Facilities Waste Potentially Contaminated with COVID-19**

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that control of COVID-19 waste be handled through routine procedure, with personal protective equipment standard to infection control. Medical waste generated in healthcare facilities treating COVID-19 patients is no different than waste coming from facilities without COVID-19 patients. CDC's guidance states that management of laundry, food service chemicals, and medical waste should be performed in accordance with routine procedures. There is currently no evidence to suggest that facility waste needs any additional disinfection.

**Please note:** Any waste that has been in contact with a facility that is housing a COVID-19 patient or a person who has been exposed to the coronavirus, including decontamination materials, should be treated as medical waste.

**Management of Household Waste Potentially Contaminated with COVID-19**

Suggested guidance on management of household waste below comes from European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control technical report "Infection prevention and control in the household manager of people with suspected or confirmed coronavirus disease (COVID-19)", dated 30 March 2020.

- An individual waste bag should be placed in the patient's room.
- Paper tissues and face masks used by the patient should be immediately put in the waste bag that was placed in the patient's room.
- Gloves and face masks used by the caregiver should be immediately put in a second waste bag, placed near the door to the patient's room, when the caregiver or cleaner leave.
- The waste bags should be closed before they are removed from the patient's room and replaced frequently; they should never be emptied in another bag.
- These waste bags can be collected and placed in a clean general garbage bag; the closed patient waste bags can be put directly in the general garbage bag; no special collection activity or other disposal method is necessary.
- After handling waste bags, hand hygiene should be performed: use water and soap or alcohol-based hand disinfectants.

## COVID-19 ALERT FOR HEALTHCARE WASTE

COVID-19 has swept through the world in a very short period, causing widespread concern for many countries. The PacWastePlus programme team have compiled a useful Alert to assist the effective management of Healthcare waste from the current COVID-19 pandemic.

You can download the full version of this alert [here](#).

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### Disclaimer

'This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of SPREP and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union'

## MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAMME MANAGER



Welcome to the second edition of *The Connection*, and as I sit here writing this introduction, I cannot help but to reflect on what has occurred in the past few months, not only in the Pacific but around the world. At the time of publication, there were 2,624,451 confirm COVID-19 cases globally, with 183,166 confirmed fatalities. There are 13 Pacific Islands noted within only 17 countries in the world without a recorded case of COVID-19.

It is hard to reconcile those numbers with the vibrant world we know. It is only through swift action by governments in the Pacific, and the grace of God that this deadly virus has not been able to get a foothold in the region.

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic will be felt for many years, and many in ways that we do not yet comprehend. Although with factories closed, and air travel largely suspended, pollution levels are dropping, noise pollution is diminished and the natural world is able to take a breath whilst we all self-isolate, there are some behaviours we have been trying for decades to change, that are being reinforced.

Right now, around the world, in an attempt to reduce possible transmission, the rise of disposables is on the increase. In countries where fast-food chains and restaurants still remain open, they are switching to entirely disposable packaging and away from re-usable items.

Although this is understandable right now, this is a trend that we will all have to work to reverse once borders are re-opened, as an increase in disposables will generally see an increase in littering, marine pollution and will continue to exacerbate damage to our fragile eco-system.

Not only are we dealing with impacts of a global pandemic, but also the devastation caused by Tropical Cyclone Harold on our friends in the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga. Assistance to these countries has been made difficult due to travel restrictions, but staff from, WMPC, JPRISM II and PWP stand ready to support with remote technical advice wherever possible.

Despite these disaster events unfolding right before our eyes, the PWP team has not stopped working to provide each participating country with access to the programme. Since the first issue of *The Connection*, we were fortunate enough to be able to complete missions to Samoa, Vanuatu, Niue and Nauru; host the Steering Committee meeting in Fiji; and commence a series of teleconferences and remote meetings with many countries to progress the development of in-country projects for PWP investment.

The PWP Team stands ready to work with you to develop projects, and ensure the current travel restrictions do not result in significant delays to the delivery of the programme – all we need is for each of you to respond to emails, or answer a call and we will do what we can to assist in the design of your projects.

We hope you find the information from PWP and our partners useful, but if you seek further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Team.

The PWP Team and I stand ready to respond to your programme needs, and we wish you all a safe and speedy return to normalcy once the threat of the pandemic has passed.

*God Bless*

Bradley & the PWP Team.

## ABOUT THE PACWASTEPLUS PROGRAMME

The impact of waste and pollution on sustainable development in the 15 Pacific countries is taking its toll on the health of Pacific communities, degrading natural ecosystems, threatening food security, impeding resilience to climate change and adversely impacting on social and economic development. The Pacific – European Union (EU) Waste Management Programme, PacWastePlus (PWP), a EUR 16.5 million programme, will generate improved economic, social, health and environmental benefits by enhancing existing activities and building project capacity and sustainability into waste management practices.

### Priority Waste Streams

PWP is focussing efforts on the following priority waste streams:

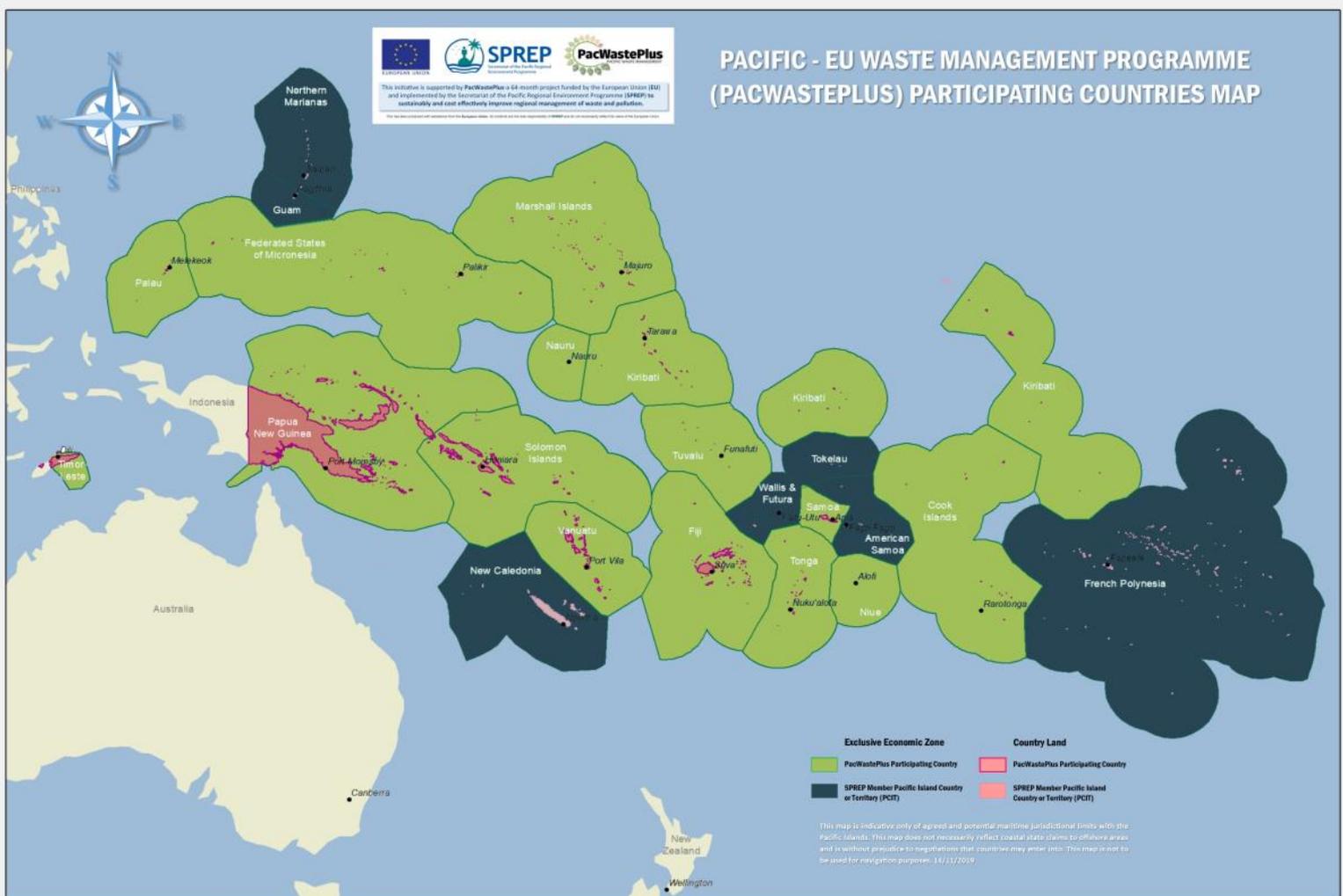
- hazardous wastes (specifically asbestos, E-waste and healthcare waste),
- solid wastes (specifically recyclables, organic waste, disaster waste and bulky waste) and
- Water impacted by solid waste

### 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.



**Ms. Sainimili Bulai**, a national of Fiji, has been appointed to the position of PacWastePlus **Technical Waste Project Officer – Solid Waste** based in Apia, Samoa. Sainimili has held a number of roles within the Fiji Government and brings with her experience in project management and technical assistance on projects related to waste management and pollution control specifically on solid waste streams and joined SPREP from the Department of Environment, Ministry of Waterways and Environment where she worked as a Senior Environment Officer. Sainimili commenced with us in her new role on 4 November 2019.

**Mr. Michael Taiki** is our new PacWastePlus **Regional Project Officer, Vanuatu**. Michael, who officially commenced with us on 27 January 2020, is a national from Vanuatu and brings with him years of project management support experience in a number of environmental programmes in Vanuatu.

**Ms. Hilary Boyes** joins us as our new PacWastePlus **Technical Waste Project Officer – Resource Recovery**, based in Apia. Hilary, who officially commenced with us on 14 January 2020, is a national from New Zealand bringing with her more than 13 years' experience with the most recent being an Environmental Adviser with the Tuvalu Department of Environment.

**Mr. Lance Richman** is our new PacWastePlus **Technical Waste Project Officer - Hazardous Waste**, based here with us in Apia. Lance, who officially commenced with us on 2 December 2019, is a national from the United States bringing with him more than 30 years' experience in project management and technical assistance on projects related to waste management and pollution control specifically on hazardous waste streams. He joins us from the US Environmental Protection Agency (San Francisco) where he has been working as an Environmental Scientist for the past 18 years.



*“By joining PacWastePlus, I would like to assist member countries maximise in-country benefits from PWP program investment (s) and ensure that these investments are sustainable and continue to effectively contribute towards national development aspiration and protect our health and way of life even after the program finishes.”*



*“I look forward to assisting countries apply innovative approaches and practical solutions at national, local and community level, to manage different waste streams by learning from the success of other countries in the Pacific.”*



*“I am excited to be working with our member countries. In addition to the in-country project that will be designed by members to meet their waste priority areas, I think a valuable benefit from PWP will be the collection and distribution of regional data, and being the link to sharing information and learnings.”*



*It is a great honour to have the opportunity to work with the fifteen countries participating in the PacWastePlus program. I have for most of my career worked to safely manage and dispose of hazardous materials both in the USA and abroad. I look forward to bringing those skill sets to the nations working in partnership with SPREP in this program.”*

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

### Waste Audit Update

Although travel is currently restricted, planning for the implementation of waste audits is continuing. Both PWP and PRIF are progressing with the delivery of waste audits throughout the region. The results of which will be aligned with the recent audit finds for Tuvalu, Palau and Samoa to provide a regional snapshot of waste generation and resource recovery.

PWP is funding and project managing waste audits in Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Niue and Timor-Leste, which the PRIF program will manage audits for Fiji, Cook Islands, Kiribati, and Tonga. The results from the audits will provide updated baseline data on behaviours, assist with reporting action against the Clean Pacific 2025 Strategy, and assist countries to report against their own waste strategies and policies. The information gained from these audits can then be used to inform decisions, and support applications for donor funding to improve services and environmental protection.

All audits are being undertaken using a regionally approved methodology ensuring that audit data will be comparable throughout the region. In-country officers will be trained in the auditing methodology enabling countries to continue to monitor and report over time, enabling assessment of waste generation and resource recovery over time, to provide some understanding of the impact of various waste management interventions and service improvements. The waste audits will include representative samples of urban, peri-urban, and rural areas (where required) 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. It is expected the consultant team will work in close collaboration with a country lead/ liaison.



### National Education and Awareness Plans Progress

Participants from 12 Pacific island countries attended the PWP National Education and Awareness Plan (NEAPs) Capacity Development workshop in November 2019 in Nadi, Fiji. The intent of the training was to build the capacity for the participants to guide the development of NEAPs to support the local implementation of the PWP programme, and the associated national initiatives to promote and encourage positive changes in waste practices.

NEAPs will be a key mechanism for countries to enable effective engagement and dialogue with stakeholders in their country as the PWP programme is implemented locally. Participants have now commenced fine tuning their draft NEAPs with their in-country counterparts and stakeholders, ensuring alignment and integration with their national country waste management activities. Countries represented at the workshop were from the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

[Video Message](#) from EU Pacific Ambassador for NEAPs Workshop



## PacWastePlus Holds Research Advisory Group Meeting

The PacWastePlus programme held their first meeting for its Research Advisory Group (RAG) Meeting in Brisbane, Australia in December 2019. The establishment and operation of the RAG is embedded into the programme plan, and is designed to ensure officers from SPREP and participating countries have access to appropriate skills and experience in the design and implementation of project actions, and to ensure any required research is adequately identified and undertaken, and any research outcomes developed for the project can be appropriately peer reviewed prior to their use in project actions. In addition, the RAG will advise and contribute technical advice to the preparation and implementation of in-country projects and provide advice to the Project Working Party, Project Steering Committee and project Technical Advisory Panels as appropriate. RAG members are:

- **Dr. Sascha Fuller** (UON), Pacific Node Coordinator, Institute of Energy and Resources, University of Newcastle  
*Areas of expertise and interest:* Social/cultural research and human environment relations
- **Prof. Frank Griffin** (UPNG), Vice Chancellor, University of Papua New Guinea  
*Areas of expertise and interest:* Social / cultural research, Solid waste management, Gender equality and human rights Circular economy, Asbestos, Sustainable Financing, e-Waste, Healthcare Waste, Resource recovery and Hazardous waste conventions
- **Dr. David Rohindra**, Senior Lecturer, Chemistry, University of the South Pacific  
*Areas of expertise and interest:* Healthcare waste and Solid Waste Management
- **Dr. Karen Raubenheimer** (UWollongong), Lecturer, ITAMS, Innovation Campus, University of Wollongong  
*Areas of expertise and interest:* Solid waste management, Circular economy, Sustainable Financing and Policy-international, regional and national
- **Dr. Vicki Hall** (SPREP), Director, Waste Management Pollution Control, SPREP



**“I want to help develop Pacific focused projects that can make a real difference on the ground at the national and local level, to help upskill and improve the capacity of the next generation of waste workers and policy makers in the region and to assist the PacWastePlus RAG to plan its work properly so that we can get maximum benefit out of the work project as well as for the PICTs.”**

**Dr. David Rohindra**  
Senior Lecturer  
University of the South Pacific



**“We are making progress towards sustainable and cost-effective waste management in the Pacific, however there are numerous barriers-geographic, socio-economic, cultural, and political but PacWastePlus provides the opportunity for Pacific countries to work towards overcoming these challenges.”**

**Prof. Frank Griffin**  
Vice Chancellor  
University of Papua New Guinea



**“The PacWastePlus Research Advisory Group provides that much needed space where innovative research ideas can be discussed and undertaken to progress sustainable waste management in the Pacific.”**

**Dr. Sascha Fuller**  
Pacific Node Coordinator  
University of Newcastle  
Research and Innovation Division



**“Waste management requires a comprehensive strategy that covers multiple sources and sectors. My hope is to assist in creating that holistic long-term strategy within the Pacific.”**

**Dr. Karen Raubenheimer**  
Lecturer  
University of Wollongong  
Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCOORS)

TIMOR-LESTE ENVIRONMENT DATA PORTAL  
Environmental Information for Decision Making

HELP & SUPPORT DATASETS ABOUT GROUPS STORIES DASHBOARDS TOPICS

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### About

The Environmental Data Portal provides an easy way to find, access and reuse national data. Our main purpose is to provide easy access and safe storage for Environmental datasets to be used for monitoring, evaluating, and analysing environmental conditions and trends to support environmental planning, forecasting, and reporting requirements at all levels. We encourage you to use publicly available government data to analyse and develop tools and applications to benefit all citizens.

READ MORE

13 DATASETS 0 DASHBOARDS 0 DATA STORIES 13 GROUPS

EU SPREP PacWastePlus

## Timor-Leste Inform Data Portal

Timor-Leste has joined 14 Pacific Island Countries in the [Pacific Environment Portal network](#), an open data network of Pacific Island states dedicated to informed decision making, transparency, and increasing value of existing and future datasets. The Timor-Leste Environment Portal provides an easy way to find, access and reuse national data. The main purpose is to provide easy access and safe storage for environmental datasets to be used for monitoring, evaluating, and analysing environmental conditions and trends to support environmental planning, forecasting, and reporting requirements at all levels. Support for the portal has been provided by PacWastePlus, the [Inform project](#) and SPREP.

Find more information at <https://timorleste-data.sprep.org/>

## KEY RESULT AREA 2 – POLICIES AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED

### Legislative review

The University of Melbourne (UoM) has almost completed the PacWastePlus Waste Legislative Review project. The intent of the project is to review the legislative environment governing waste management in PWP participating countries. The outcome will provide not only an assessment of the current and pipeline environmental governance system for each country, but offer advice on possible additional legislative opportunities available to each country to continue to implement effective waste management. The UoM team are still undertaking interviews with country representatives, so we encourage you all to actively engage in this activity, and provide any necessary assistance to have your colleagues in relevant government departments engage as well. If you have any questions about the review, or how to engage in the project, please contact Mr. Lance Richman, PWP Hazardous Waste Project Officer - [lancer@sprep.org](mailto:lancer@sprep.org)

### Resource Tools

In conjunction with partner projects of JPRISM II and the soon to commence AFD, GEF ISLANDS and POLP, we are currently producing the first of our new PWP resources, a fact sheet on Sustainable Waste Funding systems-Deposits/Levies. PWP and other donor projects are keen to support countries to explore, develop and implement these options, and encourage you to let us know what you are hoping to do, to see how we can assist. Any enquiries regarding sustainable funding systems should be directed to Ms. Hilary Boyes, PWP Resource Recovery Officer - [hilaryb@sprep.org](mailto:hilaryb@sprep.org)

PWP seeks to turn research into useful and digestible information. In the coming months you will see the publication of concise 2-page factsheets addressing questions posed and “hot topics. If you would like to see fact sheets developed on any particular issue, please let Mr. Nitish Narayan – [nitishn@sprep.org](mailto:nitishn@sprep.org) know, and we will add it to the publication list.

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



### Maintenance and Repair of Healthcare Waste Incinerators

The PacWastePlus Program has a specific requirement to undertake corrective actions and repairs on specific PacWaste funded healthcare incinerators. A contract for this work is currently being confirmed, with the works to be undertaken once travel restrictions are removed.

We note the PacWaste Project funded 26 incinerators throughout the region, and although there are current restrictions on what financial support PWP can offer for any maintenance requirements, the PWP Team are keen to understand how the PacWaste project healthcare interventions have assisted with healthcare management in the region.

As such, we will be undertaking an assessment of the activities, which will include an operational assessment of all incinerators. The works will be undertaken in response to KRA3.5, with the results to be provided to each country, and be the basis of discussions with the PWP donor (the European Union) to determine if any additional assistance may be provided, especially considering the possible impact that COVID-19 may have on the generation of healthcare waste.

Planning for this assessment is currently underway, under the direction of PWP Hazardous Waste Project Officer, Mr. Lance Richman - [lancer@sprep.org](mailto:lancer@sprep.org)

### Healthcare Waste Management Training in Timor-Leste

The PacWaste Project developed a training module for the management of healthcare waste. The training delivered throughout the region, but unfortunately Timor-Leste was unable to receive the training prior to the projects closure. PWP has re-engaged the consultant who developed the training to undertake a review of the materials and update where necessary. The training will then be provided to Timor-Leste once travel restrictions are removed.

The training materials will be published on the PWP Website and provided directly to all countries for their use. We would be keen to understand if there are any countries that would seek to have this training provided under the PWP programme and encourage you all to include any such request as part of the “Capacity Needs” project activity soon to be commenced

(More details on this are included in the KRA 4 project update).



## Country missions & remote meetings

Despite the current challenges imposed by the COVID-19, the PWP Team were able to undertake four in-country missions in the first quarter of 2020. Interactive country liaisons are currently on-going with the remaining members utilising a hybrid approach of the latest available technology to the more traditional methods of interacting. In-country interactions are designed to meaningfully engage with relevant country focal points and stakeholders to assist with guiding the development of in-country PWP projects.

A [detailed guideline](#) to assist with project development has been published and provided to focal points. This guideline was the basis of the workshops held during the PWP Programme Steering Committee (February 2020).

### In-country missions

#### Vanuatu

A team led by the PWP programme Manager, Mr Bradley Nolan, and included, Ms. Hilary Boyes, PWP Resource Recovery Technical Officer and Mr Michael Taiki, Regional Project Officer; undertook the mission trip to Vanuatu. The mission enabled the Vanuatu focal point and colleagues to engage directly in the project, receive an update on programme activities, and to participate in a series of workshops to design the in-country project for investment by PWP. The Vanuatu in-country mission was conducted over six days and worked with a team from the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC). The team is currently working on the development of a project looking to implement village-based actions targeting organic waste, recyclables and disposable diapers.

#### Niue

The in-country mission to Niue was well received, as the country representative was unable to attend the initial PacWastePlus (PWP) Steering Committee meeting due to travel restrictions. The mission, held over six days in February 2020, was led by the PacWastePlus programme Manager, Mr. Bradley Nolan, who was supported by the PWP Hazardous Waste Officer, Mr Lance Richman, Finance and Procurement Officer, Ms. Sela Soakai-Simamao and Regional Project Officer, Ms. Vira Atalifo. The mission included site visits to a number of Niue's waste facilities, meetings with various government officials from a number of departments, and also coincide with the EU Ambassador's visit to Niue. The Niue team is currently working on the development of a project for implementation, in addition to undertaking some additional asbestos management activities.



## Nauru

An in-country mission was undertaken by the PWP Hazardous Waste Officer, Mr Lance Richman in March 2020. The 4-day mission allowed Lance to actively engage with the Secretary of the Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment (CIE), Directors of the Climate Change and Environment Divisions of CIE and their staff on waste management issues, and describe how the PWP programme may be able to assist with delivering their strategic objectives. A number of site visits were undertaken including visits to the Nauru hospital medical waste incinerator site, the Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation run landfill, the Republic of Nauru Phosphate Co., Department of Health, the Information, Communications and Technology Department, Infrastructure Department, Nauru Chamber of Commerce, and the Planning and Aid Division of the Department of Finance. Nauru is currently working on developing a project focussing on asbestos waste management.

## Samoa

The programme technical team were able to spend valuable time and provide meaningful guidance to officers from the Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) to progress discussions for developing in-country concepts. Samoa has identified E-Waste as a priority waste stream under the PWP programme and is now engaged with the PWP technical team to refine their application through coordinated meetings. MNRE are also actively progressing the development of their National Education and Awareness Plans (NEAPs) in alignment to their country project on E-Waste.

## On-going Virtual Country Discussions

The PWP Team had mission trips scheduled for each participating country between now and May 2020, all of which have had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions. While the cancellation of these missions have reduced our ability to visit your countries, meet with in-country teams, and gain a working understanding of the issues you are all facing, the programme management unit is modifying our engagements to reduce the possible impacts of the travel restrictions in an attempt to reduce possible delay's to the PWP Programme implementation. We are currently actively engaged in online discussions and teleconferences to provide guidance to programme focal points and their teams. However, we encourage all focal points to please reach out so we can provide any assistance and support you require.

## Way Forward

The Programme Management Unit (PMU) would like thank all country focal points and stakeholders for your generous hospitality and providing us with your valuable time to hold constructive discussions to continue progressing the PWP Programme. Our technical officers, with expertise in Solid and Hazardous waste, Resource recovery, Communications, capacity building, and Finance are dedicated and keen to continuously provide support and guidance on coordinating country efforts and maintaining the momentum. There are several options that are now being utilised by the team which include, virtual options such Skype and Zoom calls, teleconferences, social media platforms, phone calls and emails to continue engaging with countries that PWP were not able to undertake in-country missions to. Over the coming weeks the programme team will be developing several additional resources such as a range of fact sheets, interactive videos and infographics as tools that will assist our country focal points as they continue to develop in country project investment concepts.



## KEY RESULT AREA 4 – Enhanced Human Capacity

### **National Capacity Needs Assessment for Waste in 14 Pacific Island Countries and Timor-Leste**

Discussions are progressing positively with our programme partners, the University of the South Pacific (USP) to design the 'Capacity Needs Analysis' project, which seeks to gain an understanding of capacity needs (with a focus on waste management) in each PWP participating country. Due to travel restrictions, the Capacity Needs Assessment will be undertaken as an online survey.

We will provide details of the assessment directly to focal points, and encourage you to distribute the survey throughout your internal government networks to ensure we understand all needs to assist with the progression of waste management activities in your countries.

Any questions regarding the Capacity Needs Assessment should be directed to Mr. Nitish Narayan, PWP Communications Officer - [nitishn@sprep.org](mailto:nitishn@sprep.org)

### **Update on Stock Take and Gap Analysis of Tertiary and Vocational Waste Management Programs/Courses in the Pacific Region**

The programme is currently engaged with the University of the South Pacific (USP) to undertake a stock take of available courses in the region related to the management of solid and hazardous wastes. The objectives of this activity are to identify waste management courses available in Higher Education Institutes (HEI) at the tertiary and vocational levels in the Pacific region, specific to the 15 participating countries of the PWP programme and confirm the content of the identified available courses.

The stock take will also look at classifying waste management courses that also include waste management courses from large Pacific Rim Countries offered in recognized tertiary and vocational institutions and also evaluate previous and available courses and training needs at the tertiary and vocational levels. The activities will include conducting the assessment, meetings, surveys and workshops with key stakeholders and partners in waste management, e.g JICA, SPREP, Universities and other key practitioners/stakeholders in the region.

This work will commence in May 2020 and will be assessed along with the outcomes of the Capacity Needs Assessment to inform the development of any courses required to 'fill training gaps' in the region.




  
**"By working with the PacWastePlus programme, we would like to gain access to better resources, capacity building opportunities for improved waste management practices and most importantly enhance our education and awareness activities to bring about behaviour change in communities and the private sector."**
  
 Grace Garabwan  
 NAURU




  
**"Apart from our priority waste stream, Asbestos, we would like to capitalise on other similar project investments that would have an impact on our capacity development and ultimately improvement of lives of our people."**
  
 Veari Kula  
 PAPUA NEW GUINEA

## Programme Steering Committee Meeting

The PWP programme held their 2020 Steering Committee Meeting at the Tanoa International Hotel in Nadi, Fiji from 10 to 12 February 2020. The intensive three-day programme steering committee meeting, provided opportunities for participating countries to present on their own waste management activities, hear about the actions of the PWP Programme management Unit, workshop the development of specific projects inside each country, and endorse the 2020 work plan and budget.

The Steering Committee Meeting included a series of talanoa sessions to provide participants the opportunity to engage with each Technical Officer and discuss country specific issues which may influence how PWP projects can be implemented in each country. The Talanoa's enabled all country representatives to discuss various components of the PacWastePlus programme. The talanoa's addressed Communications and Capacity Building, Hazardous Waste Management and Recycling, Solid Waste Management and Sustainable Finance.

Additionally, bilateral meetings with the programme donor (The European Union's delegation to the Pacific), were organised providing an opportunity for countries to talk directly to the European Union and the PWP Programme Manager, to facilitate and countries to fully utilise the opportunity for meaningful engagement and discussions to move programme implementation forward.

- Detailed Steering Committee Report can be accessed [here](#)
- Video message from the European Union Ambassador for the Pacific, H.E. Sujiro Seam [here](#)
- Country presentations can be accessed [here](#)
- Partner presentations can be accessed [here](#)
- Presentations delivered by PacWastePlus can be accessed [here](#)
- Steering Committee Meeting Photos can be viewed [here](#)




  
**"Our aspiration is to work with the PacWastePlus Programme to find viable solutions for the removal all non-green waste from our outer islands and improvements to our bulky waste management."**
  
 Nya Pina  
 COOK ISLANDS




  
**"We are working with the PacWastePlus programme to strengthen our waste management systems through effective policies, guidelines and innovative projects."**
  
 Debra Kereseka  
 SOLOMON ISLANDS




  
**"We will ensure that there is more cooperation, coordination and collaboration with our national teams and PacWastePlus programme to progress proper health waste management."**
  
 Luc Fernandes  
 TIMOR-LESTE



## Rise Beyond the Reef

As part of our programmes commitment to “walk the talk” an investment was made to purchase reusable identity cards and lanyards for the Steering Committee Meeting produced under the Rise Beyond the Reef programme. The identity cards were made from stunning Pacific prints on discarded fabric, while the lanyards were made from woven *Vou* (dried bark of wild Hibiscus plant). Participants of the Steering Committee Meeting were requested to return their identity cards at the end so it could be reused for future programme meetings and workshops.

The Rise Beyond the Reef was founded in 2013 to address the unique development needs of Fiji’s remote rural communities. The programme’s primary goal is to improve women’s lives through ecologically sustainable income-generating projects that use traditional skills and materials and address gender inequalities and create alternative platforms through which rural based women can improve their own lives, along with the lives of their families and communities.

As part of their Traditional Contemporary Arts & Crafts Income-Generating Program women are given opportunities to develop leadership skills, earn much-needed income, help develop regional and international markets for these goods, and the program helps preserve and promote traditional arts and crafts skills. The value of empowering women and girls is one of the most important lessons learned over the last few decades, both by academic researchers and donor organizations. Empowerment means providing women and girls with education, skills, and income-earning opportunities beyond those available to them at home and in traditional male-dominated cultures.

- Read more: <https://risebeyondthereef.org>
- Email [order@risebeyondthereef.org](mailto:order@risebeyondthereef.org)
- Products [Catalogue](#)



## Asbestos Contaminated Materials Guide for Disaster Debris Removal

As a response to the recent devastation caused by Tropic Cyclone Harold in the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga, the PWP technical team developed a guide for identification and safe handling of asbestos contaminated materials following natural disasters.

The document is designed to provide guidance on response and management, and to supplement knowledge and skills – utilising this guide does not imply qualifications, and we strongly recommend undertaking appropriate training and employing necessary protective measures prior to handling asbestos contaminated materials.

The *Asbestos Contaminated Materials Guide for Disaster Debris Removal* can be accessed [here](#).

## TUVALU WASTE MANAGEMENT AWARENESS PROGRAMME

The Tuvalu Department of Waste Management implemented a number of awareness and education activities over a three day period involving students and teachers of Fetuvalu Secondary School (FSS) to encourage the practice of 4R's at not only in their schools but also within their communities.

Led by Mr Siliako Letueti, the Waste Education & Awareness Officer, the activities engaged and encouraged schools to participate and claim ownership of waste problems and understand the 4R's concept (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & Refuse).



The purpose of the awareness programmes was also to inform students and teachers about a school competition to be held amongst the classrooms and to inspire the young generation to practice the 4R's.

"We undertake these awareness activities to ensure that our children and community members understand and support the safe and sustainable management of waste with due regard for the conservation of biodiversity, and contribute towards reduction of land and marine litter as well as encouraging health and wellbeing of our communities", said a motivated Mr Letueti.

He further added that the overall objective for their education initiatives on waste management is to generate improved economic, social, health and environmental benefits for Tuvalu that need a stronger local economic integration and the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment.

The conservation area clean-up campaign also involved the students and teachers, as part of the Waste Departments social mobilisation activities, together with the waste education officer, to analyse the collection which resulted in a total of 294.86kgs of various waste items, mostly discarded plastics such PET bottles (46kgs) and PVC containers (35kgs), which remain a serious concern.

"We also involved students and teachers to join a clean-up campaign of our conservation areas to show them firsthand the issues of waste management that we are faced with," Mr. Letueti stated.

According to Mr. Letueti, the conservation area cleaning campaign is part of their waste management annual workplan, which is supported by an European Union funding, including analysis of two key areas, waste generation and waste composition. The program initially started in 2019, but with no official reports made as the focus back then was to free the conservation area from any non-organic waste, and hence the lack of data and information, decision makers could not act promptly on addressing waste related issues strategically. He added that the analysis of waste for all quarters in 2019 surfaced many issues and questions on how these non- organic wastes end up in conservation areas in a huge volume compared to past years and moreover, who is really responsible for such unacceptable actions?

The analysis revealed that a large number of aluminium cans (5.15kgs) and glass bottles (15.74kgs) were also collected but what was most alarming was that 43kgs of used fishing nets and 44kgs of PVC fishing net floats were gathered. Textiles also ranked in high with 32kgs collected.

"We are also currently working on developing our National Education and Awareness plan, that is supported through the EU/ SPREP PWP programme for a more targeted approach to address our waste issues," said the Waste Education Officer.

He added that a number of awareness programmes were also done by utilising the radio programmes, through talk-back shows as well as conducting awareness on waste issues on Tuvalu TV as well. Mr. Letueti, who also participated in the PacWastePlus National Education and Awareness Plan Capacity Development workshop held in November of 2019 said that working together seems as the most effective solution to address their national waste problems through better planning and coordination of education and awareness initiatives. This dedicated and commendable officer usually dips into his own finances to cover expenses related to conducting community and school's awareness and education activities.



There are a number of aligned regional waste management projects that share synergy with the PacWastePlus programme. In this issue we feature articles from the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility, GEF ISLANDS, JPRISM II, Disaster Waste Management through the Canadian Funding for Local Initiative and IMO projects. We welcome article submissions from your organisation on your various waste management programme/project activities or any major event announcements that you would like to include. Do expect an email or call from us requesting for your input for our newsletter. You may submit an article no more than 550 words. We also request if you could provide a suitable hi-resolution photograph to accompany your article. As we will be developing a PacWastePlus website and other information, education and communications materials we request high resolution photographs of various waste issues in country. All photographs used will be credited and acknowledged. You may send the articles and photographs to [nitishn@sprep.org](mailto:nitishn@sprep.org)



## Promoting readiness to manage disaster wastes in Vanuatu

To enable resiliency in disaster waste management (DWM), a workshop to develop a contingency plan to address this waste issue was carried out in Port Vila from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020. This draft DWM Contingency Plan is expected to be used to guide other PICs with similar vulnerability to disasters. The workshop organized and funded by JICA through the J-PRISM II (Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries, Phase II) was undertaken in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the EU-funded PacWastePlus.

The activity was a follow up to the Disaster Waste Management Training conducted in November 2019 when a Training Handbook was piloted through a collaboration between SPREP, J-PRISM II and University of Newcastle through the Canadian Funding for Local Initiatives (CFLI). The handbook was based on the Pacific Regional Disaster Waste Management Guideline developed by J-PRISM II and SPREP.

Further support from the Canadian Funding for Local Initiatives was given to the Government of Vanuatu through the provision of signages to clearly identify the designated Temporary Disposal sites. The turnover of the signages was held at Korman area which was used as a Temporary Disposal site during Cyclone Pam in 2015, with Acting Director General of the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology, Geo-Hazards, Environment, Energy and Disaster Management, Moses John Amos, Director of DEPC, Donna Kalfatak and Director of NDMO, Abraham Nasak gracing the occasion.

Resource recovery is a major consideration in the promotion of proper disaster waste management in the Pacific Region due to the limited capacity of disposal facilities to accept significant volumes of disaster wastes. With the designation of Temporary Disposal sites and signages for waste segregation, this aspiration can be likely achieved. A field exercise on rapid waste assessment was also conducted as a preparedness strategy to assist during debris cleaning operations. The exercise simulated an aftermath event in the town area. The exercise upskilled the participants on appropriate procedures in assessing location, types and volumes of wastes in affected areas and map these out using the GPS tracking system. The same exercise can be used to assess potential damage and enhance preparedness. With these initiatives, increased resilience in terms of disaster and waste management becomes very promising for Vanuatu.

*For more information about the Disaster Waste Management workshop please contact:*

Ma Bella at SPREP on email, [bellag@sprep.org](mailto:bellag@sprep.org) or  
Ayako Yoshida at JPRISM II on email, [ayakoy.ext@sprep.org](mailto:ayakoy.ext@sprep.org)



Source: SPREP

## Moana Taka Partnership

The 26 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) represented in the region by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the regional coordinating organisation of UNEP, dedicated to the protection and sustainable development of the Pacific Islands' environment, are responsible for managing 10% of the world's oceans.

The PICTs have amassed a huge amount of waste, much of it hazardous, and includes large amount of plastics collecting in their overflowing landfills. These are being washed into the surrounding seas when tropical cyclones and floods occur. Waste also continually enters the region on ocean currents from stormwater, fishing vessels, cruise ships and container ships.

Considering the challenges faced by PICTs, the China Navigation Company (CNCo) and SPREP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in March 2018 to address critical waste management issues in the Pacific Islands under the [Moana Taka Partnership project](#). In agreement with Swire Shipping, the Moana Taka Partnership adopted three overarching goals and priorities at the inception of the program which are:

- (i) encourage the decoupling of economic growth from resource use and pollution in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories,
- (ii) manage chemicals and waste while developing integrated approaches to environmental sustainability and health and
- (iii) focus on ocean conservation and sustainability.

The Moana Taka Partnership helps alleviate the burden of waste on islands in the Pacific by enabling Swire Shipping vessels to utilize empty shipping containers to transport non-commercial recyclable waste from islands. This waste is transported to countries with appropriate waste disposal facilities, ensuring that everything from oil to plastics to aerosols are properly recycled.

This partnership is critical to promoting a circular economy on islands in the Pacific that have limited access to waste and recycling infrastructure. Swire Shipping, the liner business division of CNCo, frequently repositions empty shipping containers across the Pacific rim, which presents an ideal opportunity to move recyclable waste out from these islands to other countries with sufficient infrastructure.

Under this project, CNCo provides both containers and ocean freight carriage, on a no cost basis, for certain types of recyclable waste from PICTs, enabling it to be sustainably treated and recycled. There were two shipments that took place in 2018, whereby a total of 14,140 kg of plastic clippings were shipped from Suva to Brisbane and 24,274 kg of heavy steel scrap metal from Apia to Brisbane.



However, shipments increased in 2019 as the programme gained momentum with eleven shipments that took place. Additionally, they were able to expand recycling capabilities to liquid waste such as used oils, which can then be recycled back into mechanical lubricants. These shipments were sent to six countries to recycle the waste.

### Recent Moana Taka shipments

Waste Type	Volume	Destination
Wastepaper	44,580 kg	Suva to Vietnam
Plastics	74,200 kg	Suva to Vietnam
Ships Sludge waste oil	48,000 L	Majuro to Tarawa
Waste plastic	73,460 kg	Suva to Vietnam
Wastepaper	56,000 kg	Suva to Vietnam
Waste cardboard	82,842 kg	Lautoka to Brisbane
Plastic scrap	16,680 kg	Lautoka to Port Klang
Waste cardboard	56,661 kg	Lautoka to Brisbane
Coloured Glass	24,496 kg	Lautoka to Sydney
Mobile garbage bins	13,660 kg	Apia to Sydney
Waste plastic	15,946 kg	Lautoka to Brisbane
Waste cardboard	41,471 kg	Lautoka to Brisbane
Scrap metal	60,000 kg	Port Moresby to Singapore
Waste cardboard	26,450 kg	Lautoka to Brisbane
Waste cardboard	28,452 kg	Lautoka to Brisbane
Glass	15,118 kg	Lautoka to Brisbane

For more information about the Moan Taka Partnership please contact:

Anthony Talouli at SPREP, [anthonyt@sprep.org](mailto:anthonyt@sprep.org) or

Virashna Singh at SWIRE Shipping Fiji office, [virashna.singh@swirecnco.com](mailto:virashna.singh@swirecnco.com)

## Localizing the 2030 Agenda through a Sustainable Urban Resource Management (SURM) approach – Nasinu, Fiji

The pace, scale, and complexity of urbanization in towns and cities across Asia-Pacific result in significant and unsustainable use of resources, environmental degradation, waste and pollution. These challenges are particularly problematic for poor and vulnerable populations with limited access to basic infrastructure and services as well as decent livelihoods.

This joint UNESCAP/UN-Habitat project aims to strengthen the capacities of local governments and other key urban stakeholders in the area of urban resource management and enable them to be the catalysts in achieving the 2030 Agenda. The project focuses on participatory, evidence-based, and integrated planning processes, and there are no pre-determined solutions.

Each town is supported to undertake these processes to identify the most appropriate action to address their specific needs. Nasinu, Fiji was selected as a project site through an open call, alongside Battambang (Cambodia), Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia), Naga (the Philippines), and Nadee (Thailand). The five towns and cities form a network that facilitates peer learning and sharing of experiences.

Like many other local governments in the Pacific, solid waste management (SWM) is the most pressing issue that Nasinu Town Council (NTC) faces. The current level of service, perceived as inadequate by residents, results in significant level of dissatisfaction. Yet, already waste management has exceeded the council's capacity in both financial and human resources terms, and the pressure will likely continue to increase. Through the project and with assistance from the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) – the implementing partner, NTC hopes to put in place an innovative SWM plan that is not only aligned with council operations and widely supported by stakeholders but can also make positive impacts in other areas of sustainable development, especially livelihoods given the town's socioeconomic and demographic characteristics.



In November and December 2019, NTC hosted workshops welcoming multi-sectoral stakeholders who shared their knowledge, expertise, and concerns to steer the project. These dialogues also served as the first step for the council to build effective partnerships that can mobilize SWM in Nasinu. Among the most prominent issues identified were lack of communication, enforcement, and motivation to segregate waste in the community. Illegal dumpsites, especially in waterways was also brought up as a major concern.

Stakeholders also remarked that Nasinu lacks established pathways and networks to support and facilitate collaboration. The workshops proved there is evident motivation and desire coming from communities, businesses, and academia to participate and contribute their resources, provided they have a platform to do this from. (more information on this workshop can be accessed here: <https://www.unescap.org/events/first-strategic-planning-workshop-solid-waste-management-nasinu>)

Moving forward from these consultations, a research plan is being developed to understand perceptions and behaviours regarding SWM among households and local communities in Nasinu. It will investigate the volumes of different waste types generated, the factors influencing waste separation practices for composting, recycling, and reprocessing, the feasibility of upscaling resource recovery and reprocessing, and opportunities to create employment and enterprises.

Using the evidence generated from this research, NTC will host another consultation with stakeholders to determine what actions the council should prioritize during 2020-2021 to improve SWM outcomes and create and multiply co-benefits. Good practices identified through the planning and implementing phases of the project will be shared with other local governments and partners working on SWM in the region.

For more information please contact:

Ly Ngo at the UNESCAP Pacific Office on email, [ly.ngo@un.org](mailto:ly.ngo@un.org)

## A Guide to Developing SMART Objectives

The PWP team are continuously exploring innovative means of enhancing country engagements and assistance as they venture into development of in-country investment concepts. The team have commenced production of a series of resources , with the first being on a Guide to Developing “SMART” Objectives, that are structured to provide meaningful thought provoking guidance may provide guidance will be most definitely looked into. As part of our continued country interaction, over the coming weeks we will be reaching out to country focal points with additional resources.

PWP Country focal points can download this useful resource [here](#)





In our spotlight section, we highlight stories on individuals who have a true passion for the environment and bring to you how they are making a difference to the communities in terms of bringing about constructive action on waste management. In this edition we highlight the inspiring artwork of Ms. Arlene Bax, an artist who specialises in visual story telling through sketching, photography and visual communications. Ms. Bax was one of many artists that displayed their art during the third 'Sik Plastik' art exhibition, which was held in Vanuatu in November 2019, where a crowd of art connoisseurs gathered at the Foundation Suzanne Bastien art gallery for the opening of the art exhibition.

The gallery was filled with artworks created by ni-Vanuatu, expat and visiting artists, all with the aim of illustrating the impact of plastic on the local marine environment. This year the focus on the art exhibition was to show the reality of plastic pollution and hoping to encourage people to make more use of plastic alternatives. The PWP Programme Manager was so inspired by Arlene's sketches of waste in the Pacific that he bought two of her pieces immediately upon seeing them!

### "Occy and the Whale"

Increasingly, our oceans are becoming a collection point for plastic waste, remnants of our insatiable desire to consume. Capitalism, and its need for continued growth/consumption, dominate global economics. In its wake however, this mass consumption has created extensive environmental damage.

As an ocean lover, I have witnessed the increasing regularity of micro plastics and other waste washing up on the beaches over the past 30 years. A few years ago, I started regular beach cleans as I walked the coast with my young daughter. I was surprised by the amount of regular household items like old toothbrushes and plastic pegs that were washing up. I started to realise that we need to make some drastic changes in our lives personally and as a global collective if we want our children to be able to enjoy the ocean or our coastal communities to retain subsistent fishing practices.

My artworks are a response to this realisation. A call to consciousness of the impact our (often mindless) consumption is having on the environment that we love. My 'Whale of a time' illustration travelled with me as a visualisation for over a year before finally releasing it to paper. The whale represents a great symbol of love for our oceans, relatable to so many. It is, after all, such a stunning, majestic creature.

In stark contrast a rubbish dump is a place very few people would choose to see, despised for its stench and vulgar visual appearance among other reasons. I love marrying these contrasts in my work. The incredible ugliness of our waste and the issues it causes while creating something beautiful and intriguing which may invite people to hold their gaze and allow themselves to be impacted.

I believe that art presents a powerful tool for behaviour change. It provides a unique and varied platform that can trigger an emotional response. Through its many varied forms we may hear, smell, taste, touch or see new truths; about our global state, the impacts of our collective behaviours, the roles we play or can play in bringing justice and restoring relationships with the environment and the global community. Allowing ourselves to visualise these truths, gives us a sense of it in our heart. I believe that the arts can help to deepen our understanding of environmental issues in our world.



## Report Evaluates Tuvalu's Progress towards Improving Waste Management

Tuvalu is also actively engaged in the EU-funded Pacific Waste Management Programme (PacWastePlus), implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), to further strengthen the country's waste management. This project especially focuses on e-waste streams as a national waste priority and provides technical assistance in Tuvalu's transition towards a circular economy.

Read more: <http://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/policy-briefs/report-evaluates-tuvalu-progress-towards-improving-waste-management/>

## Third Clean Pacific Roundtable

New Caledonia, in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is pioneering new ground. New Caledonia is host of the Third Clean Pacific Roundtable currently scheduled for October 2020, but given the on-going COVID-19 travel restrictions is most likely to be rescheduled until early 2021. This event will be delivered in collaboration with the private sector through Acotred Pacific, the Association of Pacific waste collection and treatment professionals that was formed in 2011.

Read more: <https://www.sprep.org/news/new-caledonia-to-host-third-clean-pacific-roundtable-in-october-2020>

## SPREP Waste Department looks forward to a busy 2020

According to Dr Vicki Hall, Waste Management and Pollution Control Director, the department will be finalizing guides to help Pacific Island nations deal with waste produced by disasters, conducting international training events, formally starting the Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP), supporting a large scale effort for dealing with oil leaking from WWII era shipwrecks, working on GEF ISLANDS proposal's goals and objectives, and preparing for the Third Clean Pacific Roundtable on waste management issues.

Read more: <https://www.sprep.org/news/waste-department-looks-forward-to-a-busy-2020>

## Work to Address Marine Plastic Litter Gets Off The Ground

As Large Ocean Island States, and as custodians of the world's largest ocean, Pacific islanders' livelihoods rely heavily on the ocean. Marine plastics threaten the very livelihoods of Pacific island peoples who are dependent on coastal systems for food, trade and tourism. This has prompted Pacific island leaders to deliver commitments to fast-track the development of policies to ban the use of single-use plastics and polystyrene packaging.

Read more: <https://www.sprep.org/news/work-to-address-marine-plastic-litter-gets-off-the-ground>

Read Inception Meeting outcomes: <https://www.sprep.org/sites/default/files/documents/circulars/Cir20-15.pdf>

## Program targets waste management

THE link between waste management and climate change was discussed during the European Union-funded Pacific Waste Management Programme (PacWastePlus) last month in Nadi.

Read more: <https://www.fijitimes.com/program-targets-waste-management/>

## UNEP Adds to Calls for Governments to Consider Waste Management an Essential Service

UN Environment has joined many other voices in calling for governments to treat waste management, including of medical, household and other hazardous waste, as an urgent and essential public service in order to minimise possible secondary impacts upon health and the environment.

Read more: <https://waste-management-world.com/a/unep-adds-to-calls-for-governments-to-consider-waste-management-an-essential-service>

## Asia Pacific faring poorly on SDGs, marching backwards for two goals—UN

A surge in carbon emissions and failure to comply with hazardous waste policies are hindering Asia's progress towards the sustainable development goals. The degradation of its environmental resources is 'alarming', says the UN. Asia Pacific is failing to meet most of the measurable environmental targets set by the United Nations, revealed a report released on 25 March on the region's progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Read more: <https://www.eco-business.com/news/asia-pacific-faring-poorly-on-sdgs-marching-backwards-for-two-goals-un/>

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

### Active

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

This activity seeks to engage a consultant, to investigate and assess, the current state of healthcare incinerators in selected locations in Timor-Leste and Kiribati. The scope of works shall provide sufficient detail of the required corrective actions to enable the incinerators to be operational and provide for their sustainable use in line with the manufacturers recommended lifespan.

### Under Assessment

- [Literature review on environmental leakage and management issues from lined and unlined landfills](#)

The objective of this activity is to understand the environmental risks posed by lined and unlined landfills. The research should provide evidence of appropriate landfill design considerations for the Pacific Region (considering the environmental and climatic attributes of the region) and due consideration of the materials typically managed in landfill in the region

- [Development Of Decision Support Tool For The Improvement Of Waste Management In The Pacific Region](#)

This engagement seeks is to develop a simple to use Decision Support tool that will assist project managers and government officials to undertake an assessment process to ensure the intervention they are considering implementing with meet the needs of stakeholders and appropriately address the issue they are attempting to manage or resolve.

- [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. We also seek to gain an understanding of the viability of each technology in the project countries given the unique geographical settings.

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

The PacWastePlus programme will be engaging 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, peri-urban, 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.

- [Request for Tenders: Monitoring and Evaluation System Development for the PacWastePlus Programme](#)

The PacWastePlus programme has developed project management documents such as the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and - Project Logic framework. These documents require updating to ensure they are relevant and specific to the Project outcomes with measurable and achievable targets and the Project progress can be tracked in a cost-effective manner within the Project timeframe. This will provide useful insights and directions to the SPREP Programme Management Unit (PMU) and participating countries.

### Upcoming Tender consultancies

- PacWastePlus Website Design
- Assessment of PacWaste Project Healthcare waste impacts- Feasibility study to introduce Waste Levy into Samoa
- Asbestos removal and disposal in Niue

### In country missions

Between now and May, the team will be making a concerted effort to continue liaising with all countries to help provide guidance and assistance as countries move into the implementation stage of the programme and begin the process of developing in country project investment concepts. Although, in country missions have been cancelled due the current COVID-19 pandemic, the PacWastePlus programme team will continue to engage with country focal points using alternative mediums of communication that is convenient and meaningful for everyone.

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

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