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**PacWastePlus (PWP) Steering Committee**

# **MEETING REPORT**

**10-12 February 2020, Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi, FIJI**

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## Disclaimer

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## INTRODUCTION

The European Union funded PacWastePlus programme is working with 14 countries in the Pacific region, plus Timor-Leste, to address the cost effective and sustainable management of waste and pollution, as well as reducing the negative impacts of improper waste management on human health and wellbeing.

The programme is a continuation and up-scaling of a previous European Union funded Hazardous Waste Management project (PacWaste) that assisted countries to manage asbestos, e-waste and healthcare waste. This new programme will continue working in these areas and expand to address an additional five new waste streams.

The Project Steering Committee is established to guide the development and implementation of the PacWastePlus Programme, ensuring a fair and reasonable decision-making process for project priorities and funding allocations.

The committee will meet on an annual basis and the meeting for 2020 was facilitated by the PWP Project Management Unit from the 10th - 12th February 2020.

The three-day meeting allowed country and donor representatives to actively discuss challenges faced in small island states of the Pacific and how they would like to see things operate in the PacWastePlus program.

The following report provides a summary of discussions and provides details of the discussions and priorities identified by the countries present for the meeting.



## DAY 1 – COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS

Day 1 consisted of an opening address from the European Union’s Ambassador to the Pacific providing a video address, followed by presentations from all countries on their waste management activities and desires from the PacWastePlus Programme investments. Presentations were also provided by various project partners. Additionally, an interactive ‘Policy Dialogue’ session was facilitated by the European Union.

### SESSION 1: Introductory Remarks / Welcome Address

The meeting was officially opened by Solomon Islands country representative, Ms. Debra. Kereseke, Chief Environment Officer with the Environment and Conservation Division of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, where she welcomed everyone to the workshop and outlined workshop objectives. This was followed by opening prayer by Cook Islands country representative, Mr. Ngatokotoru Puna, Director National Environment Services. A pre-recorded video message from the European Union Pacific Ambassador, H.E Sujiro Seam was played for the participants to “set the scene” for the following 3 days of meetings.

The video message can be accessed [here](#).



## SESSION 2: Country Presentations

Full country presentations can be accessed [here](#).

**Table 1**

Country	Summary of Discussion
<a href="#">Cook Islands</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has a booming tourism industry resulting in an increase in waste volume.</li> <li>• Outer islands have an increasing e-waste and whiteware problem, due in part from the establishment of renewable energy plants (i.e., residents now have regular cheap 24 hr power).</li> <li>• Financing is a challenge -people cannot afford the e-waste, whiteware and recyclable collections offered by local contractors.</li> <li>• Funding priority for government is usually for infrastructure such as water pipe works and sanitation.</li> <li>• In the process of finalising a Solid Waste Bill that will allow for regulations to ban single use plastics and introduce an Advance Disposal Fee.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Federated States of Micronesia</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need small scale equipment to treat residual waste and wastewater.</li> <li>• Need for training on handling and treatment of asbestos, disaster waste handling and composting techniques.</li> <li>• Need for the development of a Disaster Waste Management Plan and Compost plans. There is also a need for sustainable financing scheme for composting.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Kiribati</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A national assessment on Asbestos confirmed the presence of asbestos in Fanning Island, Banaba and Tarawa.</li> <li>• There is a lack of national capacity to manage asbestos in Kiribati and there is no legislation to prevent the import of ACM into the island.</li> <li>• There is a local recycling system (Kaoki Maange) that collects beverage cans, PET containers and car batteries for recycling in Australia and Asia. Kiribati needs assistance in identifying suitable plastic waste recycling pilot projects to allow in country recycling as PET containers are no longer shipped off for recycling.</li> <li>• Increase in imported product into Kiribati has resulted in an increase in public litter.</li> <li>• End of Life vehicles are proving to be a challenge in Kiribati. There is funding assistance from New Zealand for the removal of EOL vehicles from South Tarawa only. Kiribati is looking at establishing national laws to regulate the import of vehicles entering the country and developing sustainable collection system for EOL vehicles using advance disposal fees on imported cars.</li> <li>• Continuous break down of hospital incinerators including those on outer islands. There is a need to investigate incinerator design that are appropriate for small islands and local clinics.</li> <li>• No companies in Kiribati collect and manage e-waste and shipment of e-waste through Moana Taka is not possible.</li> <li>• There is an increase in import of electronic/ electrical equipment while there is a lack of capacity in country to undertake maintenance and repair works.</li> <li>• There is a compost processing facility in South Tarawa.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Nauru</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solid waste is identified as a priority under the National Sustainable Development Strategy.</li> </ul>

Country	Summary of Discussion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities and relevant organization will receive training and awareness of the impacts of hazardous waste to the environment by the end of 2021.</li> <li>• Primary schools and secondary school levels are well informed by including waste management in their curriculum.</li> <li>• Lack of skills or trained personnel to carry out awareness to community level, lack of participation from community level and no database in place to track effectiveness of the program.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Palau</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M-dock landfill (main landfill in Koror) has a remaining capacity of approximately 2 years.</li> <li>• Current disposal rate at the landfill is 7tonne/day for household waste and an additional 7 tonne/day for commercial waste. Only commercial facilities are required to pay gate fee at the landfill.</li> <li>• There is a proposed plan to establish a recycling centre in Koror State and once this in operation, there will be a defined material flow particularly for food, waste oil, plastic, tires etc.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Papua New Guinea</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No national guideline for Asbestos Management in PNG.</li> <li>• E-waste currently ends up in landfills despite a collection and export business in operation.</li> <li>• There is an existing Medical Waste Guideline and all medical waste is either incinerated or buried occasionally.</li> <li>• Outdated legislations on waste and chemical management, limited sustainable financing mechanisms, limited institutional and human resource capacity at national/ municipality levels and the lack of national policies or strategies on waste management.</li> <li>• Priority waste stream for PNG in PacWastePlus would be Healthcare waste, asbestos, e-waste and organics.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Republic of Marshall Islands</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top five waste stream for RMI are recyclables, organic, bulky waste, healthcare waste, disaster waste and e-waste.</li> <li>• The country had limited land space, limited funding, lack of data, lack of awareness and legislations.</li> <li>• RMI considering using PacWastePlus investment to procure car crusher, woodchipper for compost.</li> <li>• Would like to undertake research into using bulky waste as a part of seawall and vulnerability assessment on Disaster and Climate Change.</li> <li>• Enabling activities that will up scale the current container deposit system in the country, establish the Waste Commission, waste data support, waste education curriculum and other sustainable financing options.</li> <li>• In the process of adopting a new National Waste and Pollution Control strategy and establishing a National PacWastePlus Committee.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Solomon Islands</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently no management system for asbestos, e-waste, organic waste and bulky waste in the Solomon Islands. Healthcare waste is managed by the Ministry of Health under the National Healthcare Waste Policy.</li> <li>• No appropriate infrastructure, equipment and technology, no land space for proper landfill, poor garbage collection system, limited human and financial</li> </ul>

Country	Summary of Discussion
	<p>resources, poor coordination between agencies, lack of enforcement, increase in population growth and illegal settlements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solomon Islands is looking at strengthening waste management system through effective polices, guidelines and regulatory frameworks, investing in waste management infrastructure, establishing long term financing mechanisms and economic instruments and investing in Behavioural Change initiatives.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Timor-Leste</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High risk of disease transmission around hospital areas given the lack of hospital storage waste management facilities.</li> <li>• Government does not have specific funds for healthcare waste management.</li> <li>• Lack of knowledge on healthcare waste management amongst hospital staff. Assistance by the World Health Organization for collection of medical waste but this is limited to Dili hospital only.</li> <li>• No Healthcare Waste Management Guideline and no form of training attended by Health Environment Management team members.</li> <li>• Timor-Leste had received three incinerators from SPREP, and none are operational.</li> <li>• Priority for Timor-Leste included solving the current incinerator issue, providing medical waste management training and executing the PacWastePlus in country project.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Tonga</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three authorities in Tonga are responsible for Waste Management. The Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications is the regulator for waste management issues.</li> <li>• The Waste Management Authority is responsible for waste collection in Tongatapu and Vavaú and manages the landfills in the two islands (Tapuhia and Kalaka landfills). The authority is also responsible for sanitation services as well.</li> <li>• Survey done to determine the volume and type of Asbestos present in the country. Asbestos in Haápai has been removed and disposed at the Tapuhia landfill while asbestos removal in the islands of Tongatapu, Vavaú and Éua is ongoing.</li> <li>• Currently in the process of developing an environmental standard on asbestos as there is no national strategy or policy to manage asbestos.</li> <li>• E-waste collection is done by the private sector but there is a lack of market to send these items to.</li> <li>• There is a treatment system in place for healthcare waste, but this is very expensive to maintain.</li> <li>• Green waste is continually dumped at the Tapuhia landfill due to lack of community commitment to composting.</li> <li>• There is a Disaster Waste Management Plan in place following Cyclone Gita, and this has assisted the country in reducing the risk of an endemic following a natural disaster.</li> <li>• There is a fee offered to local community for the return of cans and beer bottles. There is no survey conducted to determine the volume of scrap metal and tires entering the country. Cars and some bulky waste are recycled within the country.</li> <li>• Government recently approved the introduction of a Single Used Plastic ban.</li> </ul>

Country	Summary of Discussion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of enforcement capacity, lack of relevant skills and expertise, lack of resources, lack of coordination, lack of public awareness programmes, lack of finances and duplication of responsibilities by agencies.</li> <li>• Tonga will be focusing on reviewing and updating relevant legislations, facilitation of national trainings, conducting public awareness and education on a regular basis.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Tuvalu</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is weekly collection of waste in the country.</li> <li>• There are no dismantling or processing of e-waste and two containers full of e-waste are currently on-island. Some negotiations have occurred with New Zealand and Australia to ship and dispose of e-waste.</li> <li>• Waste oil and used lead acid batteries (uLABs) is collected and shipped to PACIFIC BLUESCOPE Company and Pacific Battery in Fiji.</li> <li>• There is currently no collection, no training for removal, transport or disposal for asbestos in Tuvalu and this is one area of intervention that the country is seeking from PacWastePlus.</li> <li>• PacWaste Reports on asbestos only covered the main island, not the whole country.</li> <li>• Medical waste is regulated under the Ministry of Health. Medical waste is currently stored outside, next to the incinerator. The incinerator is not good operational, and Tuvalu will be seeking training and maintenance of the incinerator through PacWastePlus.</li> <li>• There is a recycling and transfer station in Funafuti but the country continues to face difficulties in finding suitable markets and transportation (the Moana Taka Partnership needs to assist with recyclables, and looking for a way to take part in Moana Taka as Swire shipping does not service Tuvalu). There is no collection of used pesticide, they are regulated under the Waste Management Act 2017.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Vanuatu</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Majority of organic waste end up in landfill as a result of no waste segregation at source.</li> <li>• Shipwrecks from Cyclone Pam pose an environmental risk from potential oil spill.</li> <li>• There are several illegal bulky waste dumpsites especially in communities and near the main wharf area. Vanuatu has implemented its 2nd phase of Single Use Plastic ban and will be soon launching the National Plastic Strategy that was drafted with the assistance of the UK Technical Adviser.</li> <li>• No practical solution to the removal of disaster debris from Cyclone Pam. JPRISM II is assisting Vanuatu with the drafting of its National Disaster Management Plan.</li> <li>• There is regular monitoring for bulky waste undertaken jointly with the Municipalities and Provincial government to address the issue of illegal dumping.</li> <li>• Vanuatu is yet to amend its legislation to include the ban on the importation of asbestos.</li> <li>• PacWaste has provided funding for the maintenance and repair for at least two hospital incinerators.</li> <li>• The three main priorities for Vanuatu are solid waste recyclables (soft and hard plastics) including efforts to find cheaper alternatives, diversion of organic waste from the landfill and management of bulky waste. Vanuatu will be investing in a Community based Waste Management Project-</li> </ul>



## SESSION 3: Policy Dialogue

Mr. Adrian Nicolae (European Union) lead a Policy Dialogue discussion on the challenges with waste management, the importance of an enabling environment, the priority governments give waste management and how the PWP project is designed to assist.

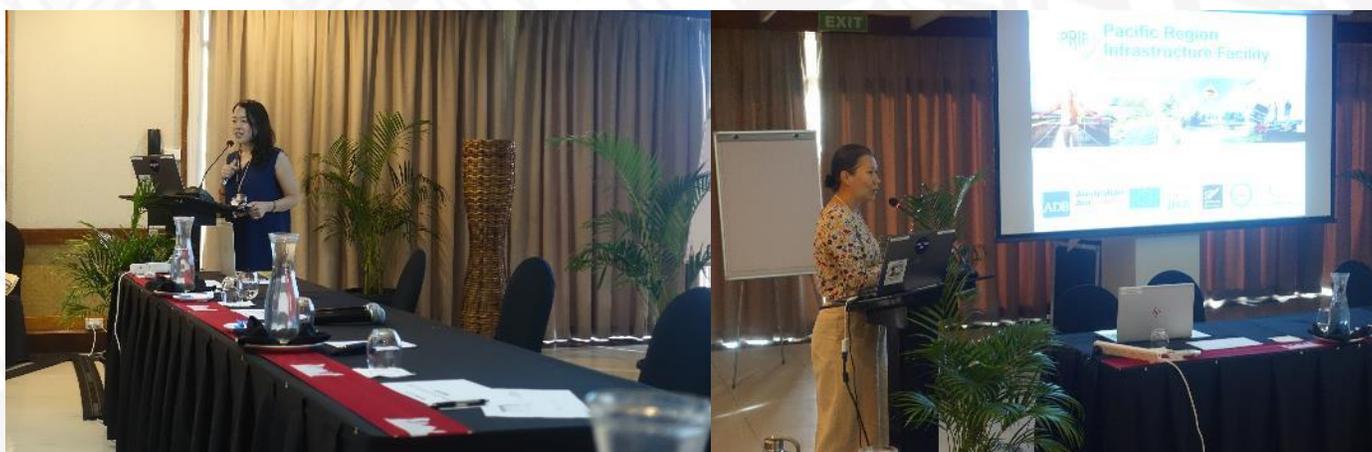
Key discussion points were:

- Waste management in theory should be a basic undertaking; waste should simply disappear from households and be processed appropriately. In reality there are lots of challenges surrounding waste management - funding, political will, communication challenges, enforcement, ineffective legislation, etc. As a result, we are in the current situation with pollution, ocean litter, and reliance of landfills/dumps which are now filling up.
- The enabling environment, considering factors such as appropriate legislation and policies, incentives and rewards, enforcement and punishment, and international regulations, is important for waste management. We need to consider these factors when we are designing and implementing new waste management systems.
- Global media and high-level discussions place waste (in particular plastics) very high on governments priority level. However, the budget given to waste departments would show waste management close to the bottom of governments priority. Same is at the individual level: it is “easy” for households to pay for a cheap TV/used car etc, and “difficult” to pay for the disposal of that item. But the reality is if we do not pay directly for waste management, we pay for it indirectly - through polluted oceans and environments, plastic in food chain etc.
- Circular economy is a strategic goal of EU reinvigorated this year. It is not an easy goal, even in Europe it is a long way off. PWP provides a comprehensive approach to improving waste management and moving towards a circular economy. The design of the PWP project considers the enabling environment, private sector engagement, awareness enforcement capacity, education, practicability, flexibility to adapt to differing priorities, ensures long-term sustainability, country ownership and management, and providing expert consultants.
- PWP/EU can provide support to assist negotiate political barriers if required - negotiating “political will” and “political costs” - i.e., EU ambassadors can discuss at that level, PWP can assist developing summary documentation to increase political awareness understanding.
- Do not think of \$300,000 budget for an in-country project as a limitation, think of the project as an “enabler” and a way to look at different solutions. The Pacific is not lacking in funds for infrastructure etc; the PWP project can open opportunities to these funds - for example updating legislation can allow new projects for waste management.

Countries participated in the discussion with key items noted below:

Country	Comments
<b>Tuvalu</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recently implemented Single Use Plastic Ban (Aug 2019). There were challenges from private sector of how businesses might be negatively affected and some initial concern with availability and cost of alternatives. But overall Ban has been successful in cutting down plastic use, alternatives are now readily available in shops on Funafuti (main Capital island).</li> <li>The ban was a good way to manage waste, by simply not allowing difficult products in the country. Customs were effective at implementing the ban. This made it easier to get the public to use the alternatives.</li> </ul>
<b>Cook Islands</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The banning of items like plastic bags and importation of cheap cars seen as a good option but need to be strategic about the approach that is taken.</li> <li>The Cook Islands has an encompassing Waste Bill drafted but will not be tabled in parliament until June 2020. This shows the standing it holds politically, it could have been through earlier if there was political support.</li> <li>Some corporates do not exercise their social responsibility, instead they expect government to manage the waste generated. The challenge is to ensure that corporates are held responsible for their decisions.</li> <li>The education and enforcement balance is key. The previous Cook Islands Act 2002 was not strong because it has no regulations attached. Education and awareness is the component that can create change.</li> <li>All the countries should take advantage of the PWP assistance, individually we do not have the resources needed to address the issues we all face, and we can take advantage of learnings from each other's in-country projects.</li> </ul>
<b>Timor-Leste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addressing the root cause of an issue is not easy. We need to talk about the issues we face in the beginning rather than at the end.</li> <li>Good project design and with clear implementation is important.</li> </ul>





## SESSION 4: Partner Programs

Representatives from Partner Programs presented (presentations can accessed [here](#)) their key project objectives.

**Table 3**

Programs	Summary of Discussion / Key Activities
<a href="#">POLP</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP) is an AUD \$16 million Australian-funded project, implemented by SPREP over a period of 6 years.</li> <li>• POLP will target problematic single use plastics from household and tourism litter sources, including plastic bags, PET bottles, polystyrene take-away containers, plastic cutlery and plastic straws. POLP is the first major project to be delivered under the Pacific Regional Marine Litter Action Plan (2018) and will work cooperatively with aligned donor-funded waste projects in the region, including the UK, French and IUCN plastic waste programmes within the Pacific and the PacWaste Plus programme</li> <li>• Under the framework of the Marine Litter Action Plan, POLP will also seek to coordinate the efforts of donors, private industry and National governments in addressing the issue of marine plastics.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">GEF ISLANDS</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$60 million in GEF financing available for 27 SIDS from Caribbean, Indian Ocean, and Pacific (\$20 Million for each region) to prevent 185,400 ton of plastic pollution; address 23,236 tons of products, material etc.; reduce 656 metric tons of toxic chemicals (POPs included); and, avoid 38 metric tons of Mercury.</li> <li>• Pacific Island countries are expected to benefit from regional and national activities under GEF Islands.</li> <li>• Some of the priorities for national level activities identified so far are E-Waste, Recycling, Landfill management, POPs reduction, Plastic management, Used Oil management and removal of POPs/ chemical stockpiles.</li> <li>• Potential regional activities are eradication of mercury containing medical devices and dental amalgam, eradication of single use plastics and promote locally produced alternatives, building on the concept of a mobile crusher to deal with the POPs component of vehicles, Training: linked to the Climate Change Knowledge Management (CCKM), delivered by webinar and available at any time, so ensure continued capacity development, and improved harmonisation of customs codes to ensure correct tax / revenue on valuable waste (electronics and plastics)</li> </ul>

## Programs

## Summary of Discussion / Key Activities

### AFD

- The satisfactory rating of the AFD Phase 1 project and the Clean Pacific 2025 Strategy (CP2025) are the drivers for the development of the Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific (SWAP) Project.
- SWAP is a 4-year project with a value of 3M Euro involving 7 PICTs. The five participating countries are Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu; and two French territories, French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna.
- The project intends to address cost-effective and sustainable management of waste, contribute to the delivery of CP2025, and builds on, enhances and strengthens parallel initiatives under existing regional waste projects.
- The project components include training, pilot projects and community of practice around four thematic areas: sustainable financing, used oil management, disaster waste and marine debris.

### J-PRISM II

- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) funded project is implemented in 9 countries: Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, PNG, FSM, RMI, and Palau.
- The project budget totals up to US\$17.6 million, to be effective from the periods of February 2017 - February 2022 (5 years), for a combination of 9 bilateral projects and 1 regional project.
- The overall goal is to strengthen human and institutional capacity base for sustainable SWM in the Pacific, through the implementation of the Cleaner Pacific 2025.

Some of the key outputs and activities in the 9 project countries are as follows:

1. Palau: submission of NSWMS (2017-2026) and its Action Plan, promotion of good practice, waste collection improvement in Babeldaob Island and Koror Island, and smooth transition from the current landfill to the new one.
2. FSM: drive the formulation of SWMS for the national state, Yap, Kosrae, Chuuk, and Pohnpei.
3. RMI: approval of policy documents regarding SWM, promotion of good practice, enhancement of CDL mechanism, and technical advice on operating disposal site.
4. Tonga: institutional capacity development of Waste Authority Limited (WAL), capacity building of WAL to service Vava'u Island, and WAL's service expansion to Ha'apai and Eua Islands.
5. Samoa: development of National SWM Strategy, establishment of waste collection monitoring system nationwide, and feasibility study of financial option (User-pay).
6. Vanuatu: institutional development of DEPC, and implementation and monitoring of the SWM Plan in Port Vila municipal council.
7. Solomon Islands: capacity development of Honiara City Council, dissemination of lessons learnt to provincial centers, and specifying economic measurement for sustainable WM in the Solomon Islands.
8. Fiji: promotion of evidence-based policy by the initiative of the Department of Local Government, and pilot study on regional 3R+Return concept.
9. PNG: development of a National Policy, Strategy and Implementation Plan, capacity development of urban local level governments, and implementation of a National Capital District Waste Management Plan (2016-2025).

## Programs

## Summary of Discussion / Key Activities

### PRIF

- PRIF is a multi-development partner coordination, research and technical facility which supports infrastructure development in the Pacific.
- PRIF previously published country profiles for 15 PICTs on recyclable commodities present in their respective solid waste streams.
- With assistance from partner projects a waste audit methodology was developed and endorsed for use in the Pacific region.
- PRIF is conducting a scoping study to establish a 'pilot' recycling network to prove viability and sustainability. The objective is to establish a multi-country feeder network for recyclables and a regional processing hub facility. The regional hub facility would receive shipments of a selected range of recyclable waste materials from the network of source countries in the region.
- The hub would be designed as a circular economy enterprise - to supply current / future remanufacturing enterprises, and to aggregate and add value to shipments of recyclables to other destinations.

### USP

- USP will be seeking to undertake a stock take of all available courses/ programme in the Tertiary and Vocational field of Waste management in the Pacific region.
- Key institutions assessed are The Fiji National University, The University of Fiji, Solomon Island National University, The National Samoa University, The University of Papua New Guinea, The University of the South Pacific and The National University of Timor-Leste.

### SPC

- SPC will be Undertaking preliminary pilot study with a focus on point source pollutant loads of wastewater to assist countries in understanding the consequences of poor management on receiving environments.
- Potential source that the project will be focusing on will be Animal Organic Waste, leachate from landfills, sewage sludge, stormwater and marine debris.





## DAY 2 – STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The structure of the Steering Committee meeting was to provide members an update on the teams activity since the Inception meeting, discuss the design and intended outcome from the in-country projects, and ensure people understand how the in-country project feed into the broader PacWastePlus programme, and enable a number of administrative actions to be undertaken.

### SESSION 1: Programme Update

During the country presentations on Day 1, countries raised a number of questions of the programme, responses to these questions were provided during the initial session and are detailed below.

#### Responses to Questions from Country Presentations

Question	Response
<b>Process of requesting assistance (funding and technical) from the project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-country Projects discussed during Wednesday’s session</li> <li>• No formal process for technical support, just reach out and we will work with you to get an outcome</li> </ul>
<b>Support for PacWastePlus National Inception Workshop</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should be undertaken in upcoming Mission visits</li> </ul>
<b>Support for National Steering Committee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Committees are an opportunity for Countries to have active and ongoing consultation with their regulated communities. Committees should be formed and managed by Countries, PWP can attend and assist, but we will not be “close” enough to manage.</li> <li>• Consider how NEAP can be used</li> <li>• If you have a Recycling Association, can they be mobilised in this space?</li> </ul>
<b>Assistance to develop Country Project Design</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is the purpose of mission trips. Those countries receiving missions after Easter should discuss with PWP PMU during Talanoa sessions tomorrow how best they want to engage.</li> </ul>
<b>Carry-over activities from previous projects such as PacWaste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A small number of approved activities are included in PacWastePlus, discussed below</li> </ul>
<b>Lack of skills or trained personals to carry out awareness to community level.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PacWastePlus has resource to activate to increase skills capacity (KRA 4). Engage with the Capacity Needs Assessment to ensure your needs are included, and we will work to determine how best PacWastePlus can assist</li> </ul>

Question	Response
	<p>with Capacity Building across the numerous priorities that will be identified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look to build required Capacity Building into your in-country projects.</li> </ul>
<b>Lack of participation from community level.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look to utilise your NEAP to understand this issue.</li> <li>• Seek assistance form PMU on how to assess, understand, and respond to these issues (KRA 1)</li> </ul>
<b>No data base collection in place to track effectiveness of the program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring and evaluation is a key activity to be built into all PWP actions (regional and in-country). Addressing this issue in interventions is required.</li> <li>• Sharing information though project reports, and ensuring learning shared to all participating countries is a key outcome sought.</li> <li>• Inform Database can and should be used for this purpose.</li> </ul>
<b>Clarification needed on financing e.g. allocation of budget etc.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-country project investment is US\$300,000</li> <li>• Legislative support US\$30,000</li> <li>• Exchanges US\$5,000 per year</li> <li>• We strongly recommend focusing on the ‘tasks you would like to work on’ and the PMU will assist with how to get the best value from PWP project funding</li> </ul>
<b>Sustainability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terminology and intent discussed during Wednesday’s session</li> </ul>
<b>Government contribution needs to be clarified</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PacWastePlus is a Programme designed by countries, to assist with Country activity. PWP is not a “SPREP” Programme, SPREP is the implementation partner of the EU and Countries.</li> <li>• Regional activities will be managed by PMU, and all possible assistance to be provided to Countries, but local Implementation to communities should be managed by Country Officers.</li> <li>• Where Local implementation staff are required, these costs should be included in the in-country projects, and Contracts will be developed seeking assistance as EU is unable to pay government staff salaries (EDF funding rules)</li> </ul>
<b>Legal implications on lack of complying to agreement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-country projects will have monitoring &amp; evaluation requirements, PMU will work to assist and ensure as much as possible that PWP funded interventions do not fail.</li> <li>• MoU to be developed with Countries and shared with NAO and Leadership. Country commitments confirmed through SPREP Leadership and PIFS Leaders meetings.</li> <li>• Non delivery may jeopardise future EU funding support</li> </ul>
<b>More clarification on PacWaste Plus Projects coverage and clear implementation timeline based on Island Priorities as most islands have similar waste priorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirmation of immediate timelines to be clarified today and tomorrow.</li> <li>• In-country project delivery timelines to be determined through the project development processes.</li> </ul>
<b>More clarification on KRA 1 in relation to collate and review country existing data on waste through conducting survey and study. Does PWP recognize previous</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any and all data available to countries should be shared with PWP PMU. We will be engaging data analyst following waste data collection processes to assess all data over time to provide detailed feedback and opportunities to all countries.</li> <li>• All data is valuable and should be made available to PMU</li> </ul>

Question	Response
<b>studies and surveys at the national as baseline?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All historical data should be uploaded to inform country portals to ensure utilised in PWP work.</li> <li>Available data is required to justify in-country project request.</li> </ul>
<b>PWP PMU to provide clarification and update on work with the University of the South Pacific to assess existing accredited and vocational waste courses and commence development of new courses to fill gaps.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>USP will present on their planned work to deliver this outcome during today's session.</li> </ul>
<b>Provide more clarification on National Project Committee. Should the country develop a ToR for three Committee or the PMU will do that</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Waste Committee is a recommendation for countries. The Committees provide a consultative opportunity for waste management in general (not only a PWP committee).</li> <li>Design and ToR will be for each Country to decide based on their individual needs, legislative environment, and whether an existing committee may be able to provide this suggested service.</li> </ul>

### PacWastePlus Programme Activity Update

A summary of activity is included in the table below:

Activity	Update
<b>Procurement Update</b>	Active Tender Process for the Legislative Review, Baseline Data Assessment, Situational Analysis of Human, National Capacity Needs Assessment for Waste, Technical Assistance.
<b>Completion of PacWaste Activities</b>	Healthcare Waste Training for Timor-Leste, Healthcare Incinerator Repair and Maintenance, Niue Asbestos Pilot Project Completion
<b>National Education &amp; Awareness Plans</b>	2 consultations facilitated for countries on the development of country NEAP
<b>Baseline Data Collection</b>	PWP will be funding waste audit in 8 countries and ADB, World Bank, GEF and POLP will be funding waste audit in the remaining 7 countries.
<b>Human Rights Situation Analysis</b>	Provide guidance on how we can better consider human rights in project development and implementation
<b>Legislative Review &amp; Assessment</b>	Contract awarded to University of Melbourne to assess how each participating country regulates the eight target waste streams.
<b>Capacity Needs Assessment</b>	The objective the activity will establish minimum standard for governance, management and enforcement for each of the priority waste streams.
<b>In Country projects</b>	Application Guideline drafted and distributed by the Programme Management Unit to assist member countries submit in country project proposals. PMU will be assisting countries during the country mission.
<b>Project Development Timeline</b>	Submission of Pre-Concept will be from 1 <sup>st</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> May 2020 while final Project Proposal is to be submitted by 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2020.



### **Discussion items**

- In country investment of USD\$300,000 will not be given as a grant to countries but will managed by SPREP as a requirement of the funding agreement with the European Union
- Signatories to in country LOA/MOU will be negotiated with PWP focal points and countries will be advised on the process
- Recruitment of consultants supporting any in-country project will be managed through the SPREP tender procurement procedure, but the management of those consultants for the delivery of the activities will be the responsibility of the requesting country representatives.
- Project design should identify the problems faced by countries and the solution that addresses the issue that is harming the communities
- Countries may look at other waste streams and not only the priority waste stream if the entire funding request is less than USD\$300,000
- Technical Officers will be assisting countries in the planning of in country projects





## SESSION 2: Project Administration

### Year 2 workplan

The budget for July 2019 to July 2020 was presented to the committee members highlighting the different funding allocation ranging from Project Management & Governance, Data & Information, Policies & Regulation, Infrastructure & Partnership, Human Capacity and Administrations.





## General Business

Items	Description
<b>Governance</b>	PWP PMU sends out newsletter to inform partners and members of the progress of work. Countries will be required to set up National committees and PW PMU is happy to support.
<b>Communications &amp; Visibility Activities</b>	PWP PMU has established a Communication and Visibility Plan that links to National Education and Awareness Plan.
<b>Technical Assistance</b>	Technical Assistance (10 hours consultancy time) is available to countries to assist with the development of in country project concept.
<b>Waste Audit</b>	Accepted methodology for waste audits includes Commercial, Household, Landfill, Imports and Environmental Impacts. PWP wants to co design waste audit methodology with each country. Inform Data Portal is available for everyone. Outcomes from Waste Audits will be made available in portal with appropriate security settings.
<b>Research and Advisory Group</b>	Provide a review mechanism for pre concept and advice on how best to get EU support for in country projects.
<b>Steering Committee endorsement needed</b>	2020 Workplan PMU Mission Assistance Budget Endorsement

## Programme Endorsements

Several items relating to the governance of the project were discussed that required committee endorsement, these are described below:

Item	Activity	Moved	Seconded
1	<b>Year 2 Budget</b> The Year 2 budget was presented by the PMU and endorsement for the expenditure was sought	Tuvalu	Cook Islands
2	<b>Year 2 Work Plan</b> The Year 2 work plan was presented, and endorsement of activities was sought	Cook Islands	Palau
3	<b>PWP Mission Assistance</b> It was noted the Year 2 work plan relies heavily on PMU missions. As such several requests for assistance were made: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Endorse mission schedule</li> <li>2. Agree to assist with PWP mission clearance</li> <li>3. Agree to prepare for PWP mission with project pre-development</li> </ol>	Cook Islands	Papua New Guinea
4	<b>Consultant Mission Assistance (clearance, early engagement &amp; in country support)</b> It was noted the Year 2 work plan includes several regional consultant projects. As such several requests for assistance were made: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Legislative Assessment</li> <li>5. Waste Audits (including identification on in-country audit teams)</li> <li>6. Human Rights Situational Analysis</li> <li>7. Capacity Needs Analysis</li> <li>8. Training Stocktake</li> </ol>	Papua Guinea	New Republic of Marshall Islands
5	<b>Agree to Sign an MoU or LoA</b> To enable PWP investment in each country, an individual MOA or LOA is required between SPREP and receiving country	Solomon Islands	Palau
6	<b>Agree to use the approved PWP Branding and Logo Guidelines</b> The programme branding is an important management item for the programme, all countries are required to adhere to the branding requirements	Cook Islands	Republic of Marshall Islands
7	<b>Agree to complete and build NEAP actions into In-country delivery plans</b> All countries are required to implement NEAPs as part of their in-country activities	Nauru	Tuvalu
8	<b>Agree to programme identified Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</b> All countries are required to develop and implement monitoring and evaluation plans to understand the impact of the various PWP interventions	Palau	Solomon Islands



## DAY 3 – IN-COUNTRY PROJECT DESIGN SESSIONS

Day three of the PacWastePlus Steering Committee was focused on a series of workshops, and talanoa sessions designed to increase the understanding of the process to design and gain approval for project investment for in-country projects. Information on the activities are described following.

### SESSION 1: In-country Project Application Process

The following process was utilised to assist with in-country project design.

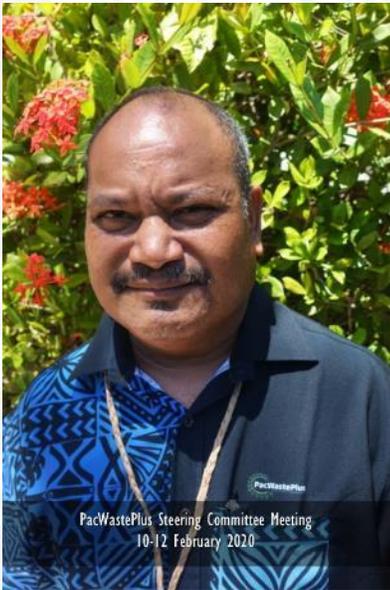
Topic	Discussion
Assessment Criteria	<p>In-country projects will be guided by the following assessment criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Needs based a prioritisation</b> - Projects should be based on strategically identified activities, a prioritisation process informed by findings of the initial country consultations, and/or analyses evidence from the stocktake and advise from Technical Advisory Panels members.</li> <li>- <b>Complementarity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Coherence of actions being supported across the four KRAs of PacWastePlus.</li> <li>o Complementarity of initiatives across PacWastePlus, as well as those being supported by other donors, so that the work can be scaled-up (proof-of-concept, pilot, and broader application).</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b>Cost Efficiency</b> - Ensure the most cost-efficient investment of EU funds that result in positive social and environmental outcomes for the region.</li> <li>- <b>Sustainability</b> - The investment will provide ongoing outcomes for countries, rather than a single point in time resolution, and/or provide sustainable funding to continue the intervention into the future.</li> <li>- <b>Regional Applicability</b> - Projects that have the ability to be applied in other countries (based on outcomes and learnings) will be prioritised.</li> <li>- <b>Reduced Environmental Harm</b> - Projects must provide positive environmental outcomes.</li> </ul>

Topic	Discussion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Adaptation</b> - Projects that assist in adapting to new systems and adapting to a changing climate will be prioritized.</li> <li>- <b>Gender-sensitive and rights-based approach</b> - Projects adopt a gender-sensitive and rights-based approach in design and delivery including:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Seek equal representation on decision-making committees and participation in the development of practices that can affect health and well-being and livelihoods.</li> <li>ii. Ensure participation in training is inclusive and provides opportunities for women and youth.</li> <li>iii. Support activities that empower women and youth through the promotion of green jobs in the waste sector (social enterprises and private and public partnerships).</li> <li>iv. Monitor, evaluate and report activities in ways that show accountability and transparency and demonstrate the adoption of a gender-sensitive/rights-based approach</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
Application Form	<p>Key components of the Project Concept Application include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Key Result Areas</b> – indicating how the project will address the PWP Key Result Areas of: Data &amp; Education; Legislation &amp; Policy; On-ground activity: Capacity Building.</li> <li>• <b>Project Interventions</b> – What specific activities are being sought for approval? How will these interventions improve waste management and deliver outcomes for the Key Result Areas?</li> <li>• <b>Core issue</b> - the key issue to be addressed by the proposed project. Understanding and providing a description the core waste issue will enable project assessors to judge the ability of the proposed project to resolve the issue. The proposed solution should not be referenced in this section.</li> <li>• <b>Relevance to PacWastePlus</b> - how the proposed project is relevant to PacWastePlus, providing reference to programme objectives and Key Result Areas, and positive outcomes for waste management in your country.</li> <li>• <b>Project objectives</b> - Your objectives should be SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-based.</li> <li>• <b>Project outcomes</b> – What is the expected outcome of the project. Clear outcomes will assist with the development of project plans and effective monitoring and evaluation systems.</li> <li>• <b>Gender sensitive and social inclusion</b> - how will the project embed gender sensitive and social inclusion outcomes?</li> <li>• <b>Previous projects</b> - how does the proposed activity link with related previous work, and how can it leverage on previous outcomes.</li> <li>• <b>Methodology</b> - a step by step account of proposed actions, and justification for what is to be done. This will assist with developing the monitoring and evaluation plan.</li> <li>• <b>Alignment with country priorities</b> - how the project will link with your country priorities and objectives, including how the project will be sustainable and provide long-lasting benefit to your country.</li> </ul>

Topic

Discussion

- **Monitoring and reporting** - how actions will be assessed, how will you know if components are not on track, and what success will look like.
- **Project Risks** – what risks have been identified for your projects, and how will you mitigate these risks?
- **Project outputs** - what will be the outputs of the project (not to be confused with ‘outcomes’ which are discussed earlier in the process).



PacWastePlus Steering Committee Meeting  
10-12 February 2020

“We would like to engage with PacWastePlus to develop our Transportation Station so that we can improve our recycling efforts to include more items.”

Calvin Ikesiil  
PALAU



PacWastePlus Steering Committee Meeting  
10-12 February 2020

“We are working with PacWastePlus to strengthen capacity building & improve technical assistance to address hazardous waste and other waste streams as well.”

Walter Pulogo  
TUVALU



PacWastePlus Steering Committee Meeting  
10-12 February 2020

“We will ensure that there is more cooperation, coordination and collaboration with our national teams and PacWastePlus programme to progress proper health waste management.”

Zitu Fernandes  
TIMOR-LESTE



PacWastePlus Steering Committee Meeting  
10-12 February 2020

“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

## Case Study No. 1 - Samoa - Summary of In-Country Application Process

### Process Followed:

Discussion for Samoa's In-Country application process was conducted over 5 meetings.

**Meeting 1:** Initial discussion with officers from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to consider core waste issues and determine the desired outcomes or any actions/ projects already underway. Samoa's confirmed waste stream under PacWastePlus (PWP) Project is E-waste

**Meeting 2:** In depth of priority project specifically determine the project outcomes/outputs. Discussions was also done to strengthen partnership with relevant stakeholders, education and awareness campaigns must be well planned, improve enforcement, and enhance support of the government.

**Meeting 3:** This meeting was used to brainstorm on the right intervention needed to ensure that the current problem is solved. Discussions were done to see what other activities needed to effectively solve current issues and how it fit into the criteria of PacWastePlus.

**Meeting 4:** This meeting was used to go over the Application Form and what needs to be highlighted to ensure that the PWP criteria is effectively addressed.

### Lessons to share:

- The process is very detailed and significant information is required, allow time to complete the application thoroughly and utilise the PWP team.
- A well-considered and detailed methodology is important and will help you complete other parts of the application – i.e. when considering project outputs and outcomes, how you will monitor and evaluate etc
- Private sector and other stakeholder involvement are important, but they do not need to be part of all the decisions. Keep in mind that you are the owner of the PWP project so are the ultimate decision maker.
- Stay in regular contact with your PWP representative, they can help at every step



## Case Study No. 2 - Vanuatu - Summary of In-Country Application Process

### Process Followed:

The Vanuatu in-country mission was conducted over six days. The focal point was the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC). The DEPC arranged to meet every morning with the PWP team to develop the project concept note. A tentative agenda for the meetings was prepared to guide discussions.

Day 1: Initial meeting with the DEPC involved introductions and a review of Vanuatu's priority waste streams. Based on the priority waste streams, it was determined that organic waste, recyclables and disposable diapers were primary waste streams for Vanuatu to address through PWP. The next step was for the DEPC to identify what data was available on the targeted waste streams, what activities are currently being done in-country to address these waste streams and who are the stakeholders that the project should involve to address the targeted waste streams.

Days 2-3: These meetings were brainstorming sessions to explore project ideas for how Vanuatu could address the problem i.e. through legislation, on-ground activity, pilot, alternatives, awareness etc. From these meetings, DEPC identified the problem along with possible interventions, barriers and communities to implement activities. For Vanuatu, the problem was large volumes of organic waste and recyclables being dumped illegally. There was an opportunity to explore composting and establishing community collection depots for recyclables. The interventions would be piloted across several communities in urban, peri-urban and rural areas.

Day 4-5: The remaining meetings provided an opportunity for the PWP team to go through the project proposal guidelines with the DEPC, giving them time to fill in the sections and identify where more information was needed. The DEPC also arranged for meetings with other partners (J-PRISM II, World Vision) and stakeholders (Dept. Agriculture, Port Vila Municipal) involved in waste management to see how PWP could align with current activities.

### Lessons to share:

- Focal points are multi-tasking other responsibilities, it is important to find a way to prioritize PWP
- Identifying stakeholders for the in-country activities is important to avoid duplication and where possible add value to existing activities
- 5-days is a short time to spend with focal points, however the PWP team is available to answer any queries through email correspondence, phone calls or skype.
- There is USD\$300,000 available for in-country project(s), so focal points should explore activities that are feasible within the budget and timeframe.





## SESSION 2: Talanoa Sessions

A series of Talanoa sessions were held, enabling all country representatives to spend time discussing the various components of the PacWastePlus programme.

Talanoa sessions were focused on the following topics:

- Communications and Capacity Building
- Hazardous Waste Management
- Recycling, Solid Waste Management and Sustainable Finance

A summary of the discussions is included in the following table.

Topic	Key Discussion Topics
<p><b>Communications &amp; Capacity</b></p>	<p>The Talanoa session held with the country representatives provided valuable insights to further improve our communications with countries.</p> <p>Below is a summary of recommendations and suggestions from the discussions:</p> <p><b>Country Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendations from group discussions suggested that the PacWastePlus programme limit their external correspondences to country focal points to two per week. The recommended schedule was to send emails only on Monday and Friday.</li> <li>• Recommendation was made by most focal points to reach out on Social Media via Messenger, Viber or WhatsApp should there be a delayed response to urgent email correspondences from the programme. All country focal points have expressed comfort for this to eventuate should there be urgent responses warranted from them.</li> <li>• Country focal points also agreed and acknowledged that a monthly summary of all correspondences sent out by PacWastePlus will be extremely useful for them.</li> <li>• A strong recommendation was made to not send out questionnaires to country focal points as it was too time consuming to be filled out.</li> </ul>

**Topic****Key Discussion Topics****National Education and Awareness Plans (NEAPs)**

- Country focal points agreed that Education & Awareness needs to be factored into proposed country project concepts from the onset.
- Focal points agreed to engage more closely with trained NEAPs participants and progress their country NEAPs.
- All country NEAPs have been agreed to be provided back to the PMU before May 2020 to progress the development of a regional NEAP.
- Request have come in from Tonga, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and RMI for more assistance to develop their NEAPs.

**Website**

- There was a consensus from the country focal points that the programme should utilise the existing SPREP website to build on for web presence.
- Countries expressed concern on the programme investment on a website that will not be updated, maintained or utilised after the programme life cycle.

**Connection Newsletter**

- Focal points agreed to provide interesting articles and country progress stories for the Connections newsletter.
- Focal points acknowledged the newsletter as a useful tool to disseminate programme information, updates and opportunities from project partners as well.
- Suggestion was to feature country on the ground action-to commence once projects have been approved and rolled out.

**Capacity Building**

- Country representatives provided organisations (private, NGO, government based) that provide capacity building training opportunities.
- Contacts with the various Ministries and departments were also provided and captured by Dr. Isoa from USP.

**Hazardous Waste**

- Tonga: our focus is on reducing health risks from asbestos in old buildings. Eight non-residential buildings are in need of ACM removal.
- Tonga believes training of in-country personnel on ACM removal is needed to address working health and safety.
- Tonga has a landfill that can accept ACM waste. ACM waste has been buried in Tongatapu landfill at the cost of \$200USD per square metre. The outer islands of Vavau and Haapai have their own landfills that can accept asbestos. The smaller islands ship their ACM waste to the main island (Tongatapu)
- Tonga has plans to implement a ban on all ACM materials into the country. Regulations/policy on ACM are also needed to protect the people.
- Tonga needs ACM certified abatement crews, and proper procedure and Standard Operating Procedures to undertake ACM abatement properly

Topic	Key Discussion Topics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solomon Islands remains concerned about E-Waste and considers it a priority waste stream that needs to be addressed. The National Waste Management &amp; Pollution Control Strategy 2017-2026 can support the project proposal.</li> <li>• Nauru: our focus remains on asbestos management; capacity building and PPE are needed to continue work for our ACM abatement efforts. Additional training is needed. Working on options for burial of asbestos as well as legislation banning ACM importation.</li> <li>• Tuvalu: the largest need is in additional capacity building for e-waste. That includes training in dismantling/processing of E-waste for subsequent shipping and disposal/repurposing.</li> <li>• Cook Island: Waste transfer stations on outer islands, folks need to know how these facilities work and how to segregate and bring materials to these locations. Looking at strengthen legislation, this may be an opportunity to change the law to make it better and cheaper for the “public purse”. The acquisition of a bottle crusher has led to behaviour change. There is limited government funding for any waste management activities. Set up the <u>Cook Island Initiative</u> that would include the transport and disposal of E-Waste.</li> <li>• PNG continues to struggle with asbestos and E-waste. The country needs some model legislation and policies that would support removal and disposal actions.</li> </ul>
<b>Resource Recovery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Order of priority is important, need to consider what can we achieve with PWP project and how it fits with existing projects, legislation/policies and priorities.</li> <li>• Keep the overall goal for waste in mind; how and where can this project fit</li> <li>• See the benefit of focusing on priority waste but good we can learn from other countries/projects who focus on a different waste stream</li> <li>• Work to benefit from previous programs and recommendations such J-Prism</li> <li>• See benefit of market research and data collection before a new project are designed</li> <li>• Outer islands and communities often have gaps in waste collection and services, to be considered for PWP in-country project</li> <li>• Shipping is an important component for many in-country programs, need to look into options either through Moana Take partnership or others</li> <li>• A sustainable financing system (i.e., Container Deposit Legislation, Waste Levy, Advanced Disposable Fee) operating successfully in a few countries in the Pacific. Those with it want to expand it to other products, countries without it have been undertaking feasibility studies.</li> </ul>



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