



PROJECT SNAPSHOT KIRIBATI

This initiative is supported by **PacWastePlus**-a 72-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.**

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ASBESTOS PROJECT

Addressing Legacy Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM) on Banaba Island: Sound disposal, appropriate legislation and policies



Asbestos-containing materials are a major issue for many Pacific Island countries with a history of use of asbestos-containing materials (ACM) in construction. All forms of asbestos are carcinogenic to humans and inhalation of asbestos fibres that have become airborne can cause serious lung disease. Kiribati seeks to utilise PacWastePlus funds and assistance to meaningfully engage in the management of ACM on Banaba Island with the goal of ultimately removing from the island this risk to human health and the environment.

The Kiribati Asbestos project will focus on appropriate legislation, policies, safe removal and sound disposal:



Legislation and policies to ban Asbestos use



Safe removal and sound disposal



Kiribati seeks to utilise the PacWastePlus investment for the following activities:



LEGISLATION

Develop national legislation to ban the importation and use of asbestos in Kiribati



ABATEMENT

Undertake removal and disposal of asbestos from high-risk sites in Banaba Island



ASSESSMENT

Undertake a field assessment in Banaba to identify high risk sites, and best disposal options with costing and plan for abatement



MANAGEMENT

Provide solutions for the short-term and long-term management of asbestos, including a Strategic Action Plan for its ultimate removal



TRAINING

Deliver training sessions on: safe handling and disposal of asbestos training; and monitoring and enforcement of the asbestos ban



COMMUNICATIONS

Implementation of project education and awareness actions to identified stakeholders

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION



Asbestos is a known carcinogen and exposure additionally can cause other disease and serious health conditions as well

At the October 12, 2020 **Asbestos Management Stakeholder's 2nd Meeting of the Kiribati Government's Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development, Environment and Conservation Division**, the direction by the Kiribati Cabinet to "undertake the removal of existing asbestos material found in Kiribati especially those in Fanning And Banaba islands.." was actioned



November 4, 2020, memorandum from the **Kiribati Ministry of Internal Affairs [on behalf of Banaba Island Council]** voiced support for undertaking this project to address legacy asbestos containing materials on Banaba Island



"There is ongoing national concern with the health and safety of the local community on Banaba, there the project is highly relevant and aligns well with the aspirations of the Kiribati Vision (2016-2036) and goals of the draft Kiribati Development Plan (2021-2024)"



June 2018 **Pacific Asbestos Assessment Report** produced under the PacWaste program a number of recommendation were made



Legislation should be enacted in each country to enable the asbestos work to be carried out and to enable effective management of asbestos



Setting up a trained regulatory team and putting in place systems for notifying regulatory agencies that asbestos removal work is being carried out



Legislation needed in each country to prevent the import of new asbestos products

SPREP could assist in this matter by drafting model legislation to enable bans to take place



Recently drafted Kiribati **Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy** identified asbestos as waste stream priority



Removal and sound disposal of existing asbestos materials



Regulate the import of asbestos materials through implementation of a national ban of ACM products



Training in asbestos management

CURRENT STATUS / MANAGEMENT OF PRIORITY WASTE

Current Situation:

Data collection and Education and Awareness



Work done in 2014/2015 under the PacWaste program indicated significant amounts of ACM, easily **exceeding 1,000m³**, located at the former British Phosphate Company (BPC) and in other locations including residential properties [asbestos roofing material] on Banaba island

Poor condition of asbestos at the former BPC sites close to the main public road on Banaba and the unrestricted access to the sites, public exposure to asbestos fibres is likely

Awareness messaging for management of Asbestos - on - going as opportunities arise



Policy & Regulation



Currently, asbestos materials can be lawfully imported and used in Pacific island countries and territories



This hampers both the original goal of the **Regional Asbestos Strategy to achieve an 'Asbestos Free Pacific'** endorsed at the Twenty-Second SPREP Meeting (2011), and the efforts of asbestos removal projects such as PacWaste and the PacWastePlus programme

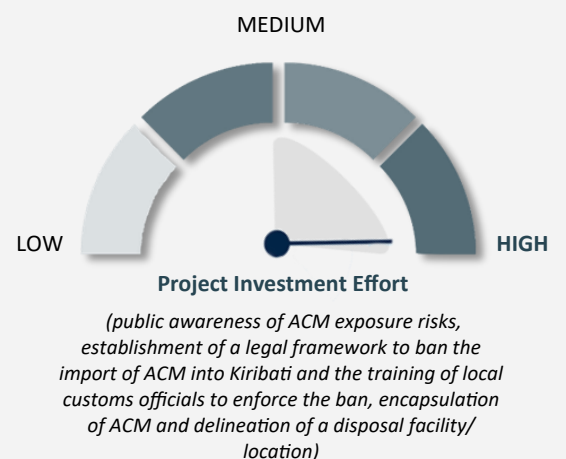


On-Ground Activity



During the survey work done in 2014/2015 on Banaba Island very substantial deposits of badly decayed asbestos were encountered

Of the twenty-six (26) samples analysed from Banaba, asbestos fibres were detected in all twenty six.



GENDER EQUALITY, SOCIAL AND DISABILITY INCLUSION (GESDI) CONSIDERATIONS FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT IN KIRIBATI



Equality in today's society requires sound waste management.

All people have the right to access waste infrastructure, participate in decision making and able to voice grievances, access information and awareness messages, and be protected from harmful effects of waste – on health, environment, culture and traditions.



Opportunities for Kiribati to provide for equality during the management of recyclables



Continue development of effective legislation to provide coordinated and equitable approach for waste management.



Include considerations regarding equality and inclusion in waste-related legislation and regulation



Consider additional bans and phaseouts of certain types of problematic or hazardous products



Provide for effective implementation, monitoring, and enforcement of waste-related legislation to protect vulnerable members of society



Mobilise additional resources for waste management including through an Advance Recovery Fee system



Enhance the availability and accessibility of information



Include additional Government departments, in particular labour, culture, women, and equality-related authorities and/or bodies, in waste-related decision making to identify and address potential inequalities



Provide waste management facilities for rural and outer island communities



Enhance efforts to protect waste workers



Utilise traditional knowledge and customs to enhance participation, environmental protection and stewardship

MAPPING PROJECT SUCCESS



LONG TERM OUTCOME



People of Kiribati living free from asbestos related health issues



MEDIUM TERM OUTCOMES



No new asbestos imported to Kiribati thereby reducing costs of management, and associated health and environmental impact



Exposure to asbestos fibres is reduced on Banaba Island through asbestos abatement actions



SHORT TERM OUTCOMES



Elimination of the importation of asbestos into Kiribati



OUTPUTS



Development, implementation, and enforcement of an Asbestos importation ban



Asbestos abated from high-risk sites in Banaba Island



Customs Officers trained and able to enact and enforce Asbestos Ban



Development and adoption of a Strategic Action Plan for the short and long-term management of asbestos in Kiribati

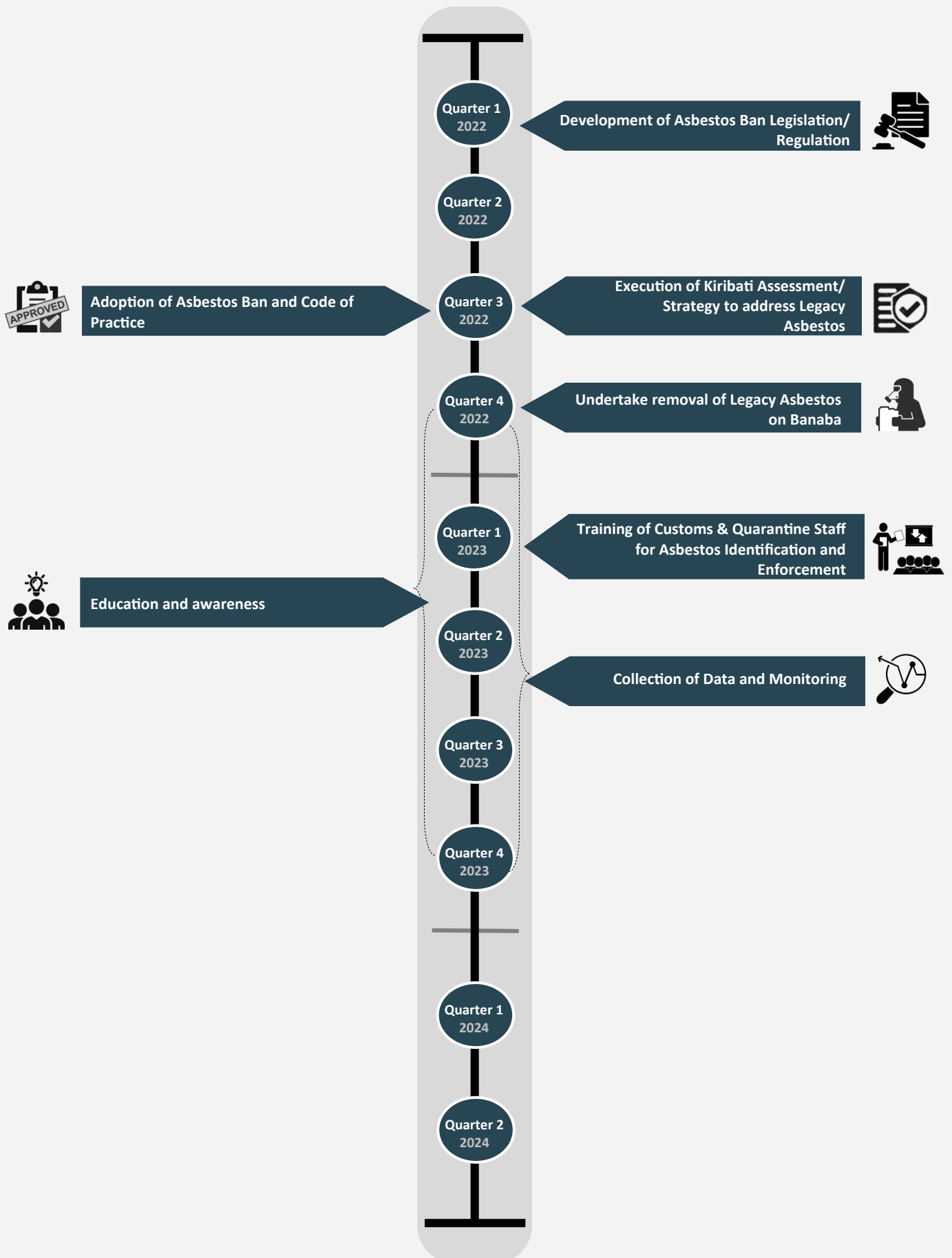


Action Plan identifying high risk sites, and best disposal options with costing and plan for abatement



Implementation of effective national education and awareness program

ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE



PACWASTEPLUS REGIONAL PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES AND WHAT KIRIBATI CAN EXPECT



Health Care Waste Management

Kiribati will receive:

- Healthcare waste training [storage, treatment, and disposal solutions for healthcare waste]
- Assessment of the impact of the PacWaste Project healthcare waste activities
- Repair selected healthcare waste Incinerators in the region
- Work with development partners to implement a long-term plan for the sustainability of health care waste infrastructure
- Ongoing Technical Assistance



Asbestos Management

Kiribati will receive:

- A guidance and drafting note to assist with legislative reform to ban the importation of asbestos
- Template Code of Practice to guide the safe handling and management of asbestos
- Communication resources and materials to provide information on safe handling and management of asbestos
- Learnings from other country projects focused on asbestos
- Ongoing Technical Assistance



Organics Management

Kiribati will receive:

- Document providing technical analysis of how to compost common organic materials received in the Pacific
- Template Minimum Standard document to guide effective and safe composting
- Resources to guide organic facility design and operation
- Training on organic facility design and operation
- Ongoing Technical Assistance
- Learnings from country projects focused on organics management



ARFD / Sustainable Financing

Kiribati will receive:

- Communication resources and materials to provide information to stakeholders on the benefits of ARFD systems
- Resources and training to assist during ARFD system design and guide decisions support
- Learnings from other country feasibility studies and projects focused on ARFD
- Ongoing Technical Assistance



Disaster Waste Management

Kiribati will receive:

- Terms of Reference for the establishment of an Environment Sector Working Group (Cluster) within National Disaster Management Framework to ensure effective implementation of disaster Waste Management Response and Recovery
- Drafting/Guiding Notes on National and Community Disaster Waste Management Plans
- Disaster Waste Training Manual for use at both the National and Community level
- Learnings from country projects focused on disaster waste management
- Ongoing Technical Assistance



Regional Course Development

Kiribati will receive

- Development of a sustainable capacity building program for waste management in based on country needs
- Training through the adopted training courses, both vocational and tertiary



Schools Curriculum Development

Kiribati will receive

- School curriculum on waste management education (eight programme waste streams) incorporated in to existing school core subjects such as Maths, English and Science
- Primary school education-problem based curriculum
- Secondary school education-culturally responsive
- Tertiary school education-culturally responsive
- Training and capacity building opportunities for teachers



Bulky Waste Management

Kiribati will receive:

- Guiding document and a Decision Support Tool to guide on how to design and implement a national ELV management programme.
- Drafting/Guiding Notes on how to draft national legislation for the management of End-of-Life vehicles
- Safe Dismantling Training Manual
- Publications and awareness materials



Behaviour Change

Kiribati will receive

- Learnings of the community-based social marketing Pilot projects and replication of successfully implemented projects
- Ongoing Technical Assistance

ABOUT THE PACWASTEPLUS PROGRAMME

The Pacific – European Union (EU) Waste Management Programme, PacWastePlus, is a 72-month programme funded by the EU and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to improve regional management of waste and pollution sustainably and cost-effectively.

About PacWastePlus

The impact of waste and pollution is taking its toll on the health of communities, degrading natural ecosystems, threatening food security, impeding resilience to climate change, and adversely impacting social and economic development of countries in the region. The PacWastePlus programme will generate improved economic, social, health, and environmental benefits by enhancing existing activities and building capacity and sustainability into waste management practices for all participating countries.

Countries participating in the PacWastePlus programme are: *Cook Islands, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.*

KEY OBJECTIVES

Outcomes & Key Result Areas

The overall objective of PacWastePlus is “to generate improved economic, social, health and environmental benefits arising from stronger regional economic integration and the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment”.

The specific objective is “to ensure the safe and sustainable management of waste with due regard for the conservation of biodiversity, health and wellbeing of Pacific Island communities and climate change mitigation and adaptation requirements”.

Key Result Areas

- **Improved data collection, information sharing, and education awareness**
- **Policy & Regulation** - Policies and regulatory frameworks developed and implemented.
- **Best Practices** - Enhanced private sector engagement and infrastructure development implemented
- **Human Capacity** - Enhanced human capacity



Learn more about the Kiribati Project by visiting

<https://pacwasteplus.org/country-project/kiribati/>

For more information please contact:



The PacWastePlus team on pwp@sprep.org



Or visit - <https://www.pacwasteplus.org>

Disclaimer

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**Countries mentioned in this publication are as at November 2021*

(post project please email sprep@sprep.org)