



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



PROJECT SNAPSHOT

NAURU

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 ACM in Nauru:
Disposal best practice and establishing 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. Asbestos poses a significant risk to the people of Nauru. PacWaste undertook the removal, transportation to the temporary storage [organized by Nauru government] and replacement of the ACM in several Nauru public buildings. Nauru will utilise PacWastePlus investment and assistance to meaningfully engage in the management of asbestos containing materials through implementation of best practice off-island disposal activities and establishing appropriate legislation and policies for the elimination of the importation of asbestos containing materials

The Nauru asbestos project will focus on appropriate legislation, policies, safe removal and sound disposal:



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



LEGISLATION

Assistance to develop a national legislation to ban the importation and use of asbestos in Nauru



CODE OF PRACTICE

Develop a suitable Nauru Code of Practice for asbestos abatement



LEGACY WASTE

Undertake removal and disposal of stockpiled containers of asbestos



TRAINING

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



COMMUNICATIONS

Implementation of 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

EU-funded PacWaste programme, a regional asbestos survey was undertaken to meet objectives of SPREP'S *Pacific Regional Solid Waste Management Strategy 2010–2015* and the regional hazardous waste strategies, "*An Asbestos Free Pacific: A Regional Strategy and Action Plan 2011*"



A systematic risk assessment was conducted to assess the relative risks of each building identified as containing ACM

The report concluded with several recommendations, including :



Substantial quantity of asbestos in Nauru - estimated 212,000 m² - primarily in the form of asbestos-cement in roofing and cladding and stockpiles of waste - asbestos is old and in various stages of deterioration



Health risk from asbestos in Nauru must be viewed with serious concern - Swab testing results found significantly high results at the Hospital, Seaport, Power Plant, Prison and Government Building and many locations were identified to have ground contaminated with asbestos debris



Estimated cost of US\$17.3 million to free Nauru of asbestos (not including cleaning up contaminated sites)



National Waste Management Advisory Taskforce (NWMAT) of Nauru was briefed on the project on August 7, 2020



All taskforce members came to a consensus to concur on the overall purpose of the Nauru PacWastePlus project and will support the project as leading committee for Waste Management in Nauru

CURRENT STATUS / MANAGEMENT OF PRIORITY WASTE

Current Situation:

Data collection and Education and Awareness



Late in 2014 the PacWaste project carried out an extensive survey of the quantities and harmful effects of ACM in Nauru and produce a 2015 report. The project discovered that there is a substantial quantity of ACM in Nauru (estimated at **212,000 m2 or 2,000 tonnes**).

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



(Data collection on ARFD operation, including recyclables collection and export/formal education and awareness programme through implementation of National Education and Awareness plan.)

Policy & Regulation



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



Hampers both the original goal of 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 upcoming PacWaste Plus project



(further action is needed at the national level to prevent new ACM coming into the region and to prevent existing asbestos from being reused)

On-Ground Activity



The 2011 Census counted 1652 dwellings, noting 28% of dwellings had asbestos roofs.

Nauru has extensive site and ground contamination from ACM, due to the historical use, and storage of asbestos and ACM.



(activity will be used as a "real-life" training exercise for key stakeholders to highlight best practices for ACM packaging, labelling and offsite shipment/disposal)

Legacy ACM



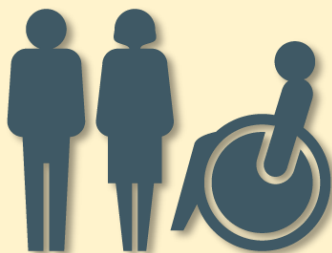
Almost all the ACM are in the form of asbestos-cement in roofing and cladding on houses and buildings although there are some stockpiles of waste

All the ACM are old and in various stages of deterioration



(Already capacity for recyclable management training provided for operation of ARFD new equipment)

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



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 Nauru 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 Nauru living free from asbestos related health issues



MEDIUM TERM OUTCOMES



Costs associated with asbestos management, control, and disposal are reduced



Disease resulting from exposure to asbestos is reduced as construction and demolition workers practice safe asbestos abatement protocols



Pollution caused by inappropriate management of asbestos legacy stockpiles are reduced



SHORT TERM OUTCOMES



Adoption of appropriate regulation/policy and procedures to eliminate the importation of asbestos into Nauru



Enhanced capacity of local officials, asbestos abatement crews and government staff to execute the ban on asbestos



Elimination of adverse impacts from asbestos fibers to abatement workers



Existing asbestos stockpiles removed under the PacWaste program are appropriately disposed of off Nauru



Abatement crew able to safely execute asbestos abatement



OUTPUTS



Development, implementation, and enforcement of an Asbestos importation ban



Revision/upgrade and adoption of Nauru's Asbestos Code of Practice

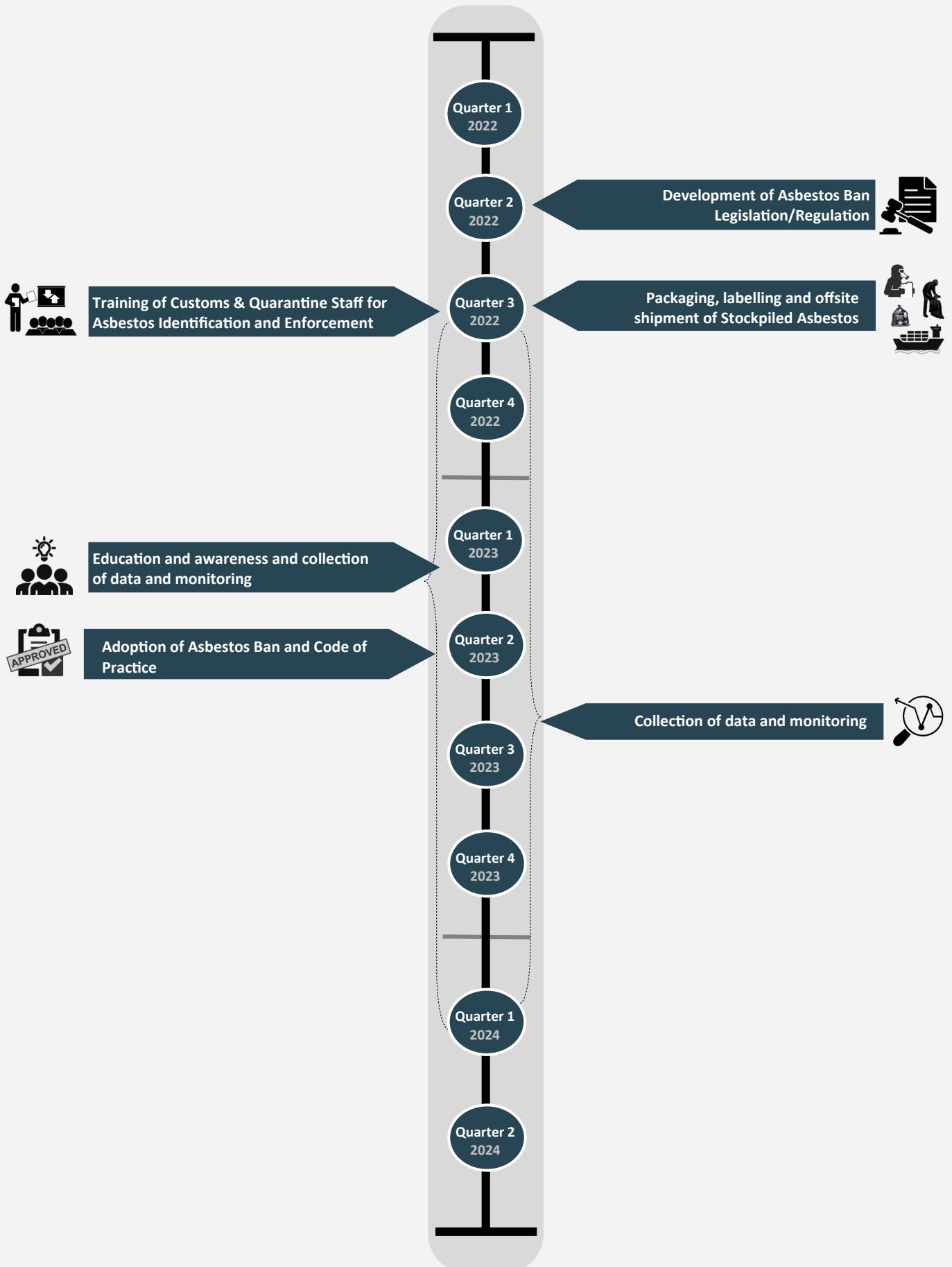


Safe removal and off-site disposal of stockpiled asbestos containing materials



Implementation of effective ARFD national education and awareness program

ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE



PACWASTEPLUS REGIONAL PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES AND WHAT NAURU CAN EXPECT



Health Care Waste Management

Nauru 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

Nauru 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

Nauru 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

Nauru 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

Nauru 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

Nauru 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

Nauru 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

Nauru 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

Nauru 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 Nauru Project by visiting

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

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)