



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.**

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

TUVALU

November 2021

ISBN: 978-982-04-0993-4



RECYCLABLES & ASBESTOS PROJECT



Outer Island Waste Improvement: Expansion of the Waste Levy and Assessment of Asbestos

Recognising Tuvalu has insufficient space to continually rely on waste disposal and stockpiling, the Tuvalu Department of Waste Management (DWM) has recently implemented several initiatives to improve solid and hazardous waste management and reduce risks to their people and environment. Many of these initiatives have focused on the capital island, Funafuti - home to 50% of the population. The DWM now seeks to extend waste management initiatives to Tuvalu's eight Outer Islands.

PacWastePlus support will be utilised to assist with two priority waste areas: Recyclables and Asbestos

Recycling: Expansion of the Tuvalu Waste Levy



Tuvalu Waste Levy is operating effectively in Funafuti, however Outer Islands do not have facilities to enable communities to participate in their scheme or claim refunds. Recyclable items (aluminium cans, PET bottles, and car batteries, along with all waste, is currently disposed at

Constructing "Waste Levy Depots" on outer islands to provide for collection, storage, and transport of recyclable items back to Funafuti for recycling



Asbestos: Asbestos Assessment



18% of buildings in the Outer Islands are expected to contain asbestos. Until locations and quantities are known, Tuvalu is unable to develop a plan for its management and ultimate removal



Assessment to identify quantity and location of asbestos on Outer Islands to inform a strategic plan for its long and short-term management



Developing legislation to ban the importation and use of asbestos in Tuvalu will eliminate the need for future management of asbestos

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



LEGISLATION

Update Island by-laws to provide for collection and handling of Waste Levy items; develop legislation to ban importation and use of asbestos; and develop strategic plan for ultimate removal of asbestos from Tuvalu



ASSESSMENT

Identify quantity and location of asbestos on all outer islands



FACILITY

Construction of Waste Levy Depots on six* of Tuvalu's Outer Islands



TRAINING

Undertake trainings for: safe transport of Waste Levy items, operating the Waste Levy depots and for the enforcement and monitoring of the asbestos ban



COMMUNICATIONS

Implementation of project education and awareness actions to identified stakeholders

* Vaitupu depot will be constructed by another donor; Niulakita will be provided just equipment (no depot) due to small population

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION



Waste improvement in the Outer Islands have been a recent priority for the government

Actions include:



Appointment of Waste Operations Assistants on each island



Procurement of a landing barge and equipment to provide safe and efficient reverse loading of recyclable items



Communication and awareness activities around improved waste management



Phase I of the Waste Levy is operating effectively in Funafuti



The Outer Island Waste Improvement project will assist with expanding the Waste Levy nationwide. This will enable:



all islands to benefit from a cleaner environment



all communities have equal ability to claim their refunds through the system



The 2015 *PacWaste Asbestos Assessment* found 18% of buildings on Funafuti contain asbestos, a similar amount is estimated for the Outer Islands



Island communities and Kaupules have called on the government to assist with management of asbestos



It is a priority for communities to reduce their potential exposure to asbestos, especially during disaster periods

Tuvalu Waste Management Strategy:

Strategic Goal 3 – provide for backloading of recycled waste items, including scrap metal, cans, and plastics



Strategic Goal 4 - Develop and implement systems to properly manage chemicals, healthcare, asbestos, and e-wastes



The Outer Island Waste Improvement project will help achieve these goals by:



providing the facilities and systems to enable the collection of recycled materials from all islands in Tuvalu



assisting with the short-term management of asbestos, and developing a plan for its long-term removal from Tuvalu

In the previous two years, the DWM has procured several assets to manage recyclable items:

- Waste Transfer Station in Funafuti
- National equipment including a landing barge and crane truck
- Island equipment including loaders and organic chippers
- manage chemicals, healthcare, asbestos, and e-wastes



The Outer Island Waste Improvement project will help achieve these goals by:



providing the facilities and systems to enable the collection of recycled materials from all islands in Tuvalu



assisting with the short-term management of asbestos, and developing a plan for its long-term removal from Tuvalu

CURRENT STATUS / MANAGEMENT OF PRIORITY WASTE

Current Situation:

Data collection and Education and Awareness



Recyclable materials currently comprised **20%** of waste entering island dumps



2015 PacWaste Asbestos Assessment found 18% of buildings on Funafuti contain asbestos, a similar amount is estimated for the Outer Islands

Current awareness for management of recyclables - strong awareness programme; Current awareness for management of asbestos - on-going as opportunities arise



(Data for Waste Levy operation, Asbestos assessment to identify location of asbestos throughout Tuvalu, Education and awareness programme through implementation of National Education and Awareness plan)

Policy & Regulation



Existing legislation of Tuvalu for waste governance was assessed as performing at a MEDIUM to MEDIUM-TO HIGH level



The current legislative environment for managing waste:

Dedicated waste management model, governed through the **Waste Management Act 2017**



Regulations adopted under the Act include the Waste Levy, prohibition on single-use plastics and littering regulations-aspects of the Waste Levy and single-use plastics ban represent best practice in the Pacific



Act empowers the Kaupules to manage waste dumps and waste disposal on their Islands



(Legislation to prohibit the importation and use of Asbestos, Update Island by-laws to provide for handling of Waste Levy items)

On-Ground Activity



Phase I of the Waste Levy is operating effectively in Funafuti - collecting PET plastic bottles, glass bottles, aluminium cans, and car batteries



Items are processed at the Tuvalu Transfer Station



Outer Islands rely on waste disposal to island dumps



Asbestos is expected to be present on approximately 18% of buildings. Asbestos stockpiles are unknown. Asbestos buildings have an increasing risk of becoming damaged, i.e., during a natural disaster



(Waste Levy depots constructed on 6 Islands)

Human Capacity



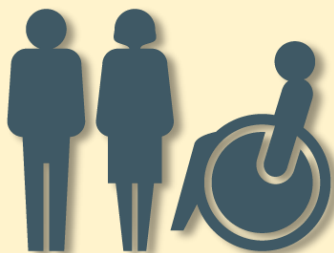
Capacity - CHANGING to STRONG ability to manage recyclable items in all areas of treatment, which includes, Knowledge, Collection, Transport, Process/Treat and Disposal/Control

Capacity - WEAK to CHANGING capacity to manage asbestos in areas of treatment, including: Occupational Health and Safety Standards, Asbestos Processes and Treatment Options, Transport, Abatement Work and Disaster response



(Training for safe transport of waste items, Training for operation of the Waste Levy depots, Training for the enforcement and monitoring of the asbestos ban)

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



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 Tuvalu 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



Tuvalu's Outer Island Communities Equal Access to Waste Facilities and Living Free from Asbestos



MEDIUM TERM OUTCOMES

Equality of access to the Waste Levy provided to all Tuvalu communities through the sustainable operation of Depots on all Outer Islands, self-funded through the Levy fees



Pollution caused by inappropriate management of recyclable products in the Outer Islands is eliminated as products are captured by the Waste Levy system and transported back to Funafuti (and beyond) for recycling



Health risks caused by inappropriate management of asbestos in Tuvalu is eliminated as existing asbestos is safely removed from all islands



Environmental pollution, health risks and costs associated with asbestos management, control, and disposal is eliminated as asbestos is banned from entering Tuvalu



SHORT TERM OUTCOMES



Strengthened legislative environment for waste management on Outer Islands of Tuvalu, including the update of island by-laws to incorporate the management of Waste Levy items and adoption of a Strategic Plan for the long-term management (eventual removal) of asbestos



Outer Island communities participating in the Waste Levy, through having facilities (depots) and education and awareness messages



Adopted appropriate regulation and procedures to eliminate the importation of asbestos into Tuvalu



Households and stakeholders in Tuvalu employing appropriate precautions to reduce their exposure to potential health effects associated with asbestos



OUTPUTS



Amendment and enforcement of island by-laws to provide for collection and handling of Waste Levy items



Construction and operation of Waste Levy Depots on outer islands of Tuvalu (including training)



Training on safe transport of Waste Levy items and hazardous waste items

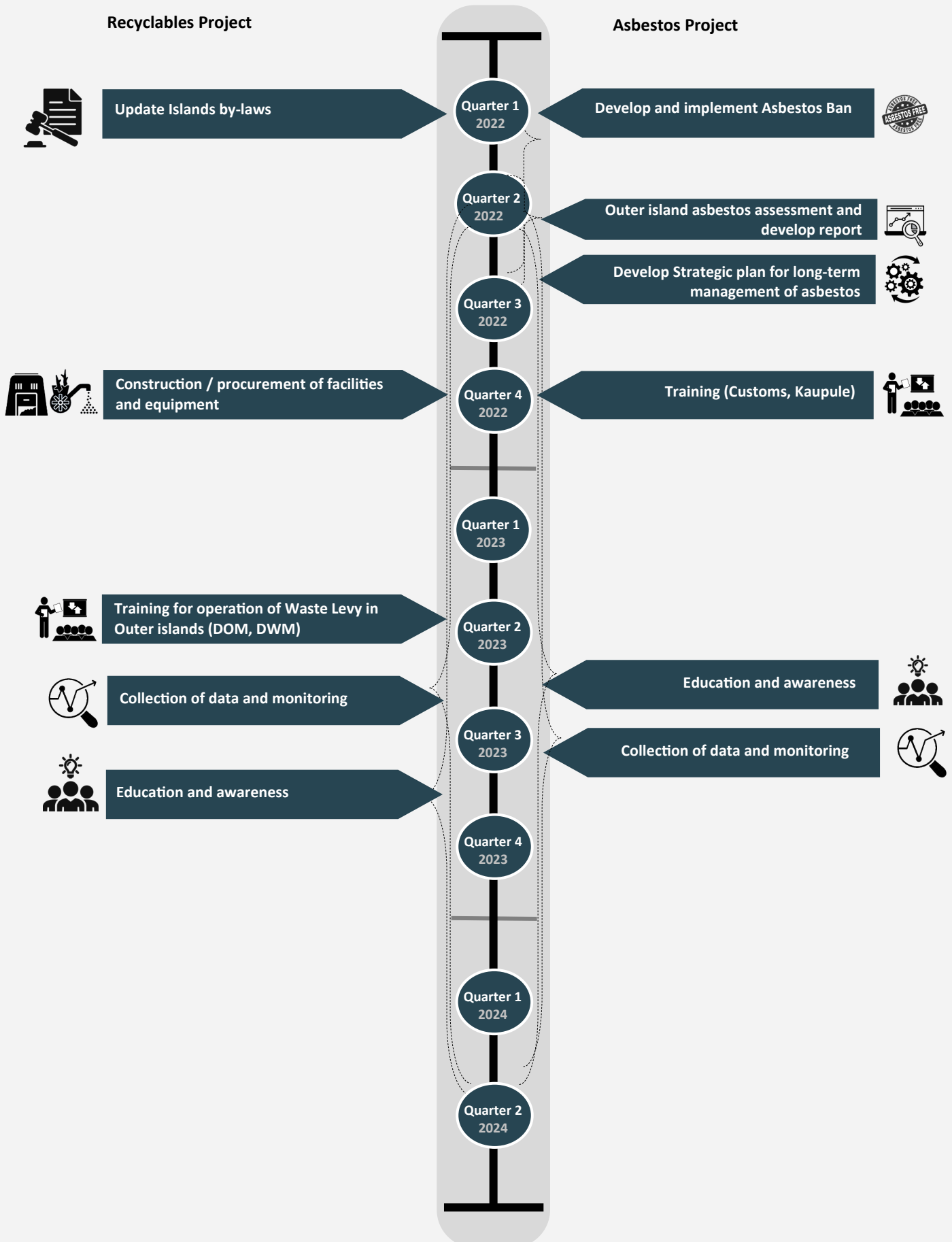


Completion of asbestos assessment to inform Strategic Action Plan for the long-term removal of asbestos from Tuvalu



Implementation of effective national education and awareness program for project actions

ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE



PACWASTEPLUS REGIONAL PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES AND WHAT TUALU CAN EXPECT



Health Care Waste Management

Tuvalu 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

Tuvalu 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

Tuvalu 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

Tuvalu 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

Tuvalu 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

Tuvalu 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

Tuvalu 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

Tuvalu 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

Tuvalu 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 Tuvalu Project by visiting

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

For more information please contact:



The PacWastePlus team on pwp@sprep.org



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

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.

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

(post project please email sprep@sprep.org)