



Mid-Term Evaluation Brief /2023

PacWaste Plus (PWP) is a regional programme working with Pacific Island States to improve their solid waste management practices. Funded by the **European Union**, PWP is implemented by the **Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)**. Between January and August 2023, **NIRAS** conducted a mid-term evaluation of PacWaste Plus, producing a series of findings, conclusions, and recommendations to improve the programme implementation.

Kiribati



Country project focus:



Asbestos Management

Local actors involved:

Local actors involved: Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Banaba Island Council, Rabi Council of Leaders.

Main results achieved:

- A stocktake of existing waste legislation and an assessment of legislative frameworks were completed.
- An asbestos management brief was developed.
- A justification brief for leaders on Asbestos Management Policy and Regulation for Pacific Island Countries and Timor Leste was produced.
- An asbestos assessment was conducted in the three priority buildings on Banaba Island.



Good practices

Kiribati is a small country in territory, but its islands spread over a large area in the Pacific Ocean. Banaba Island is the most Western of Kiribati's islands and is considered an outer island. PacWaste Plus is working to remove asbestos from Banaba Island that were left as legacy from phosphate mining carried out by the British Phosphate Commission for over 80 years. Outer islands do not always benefit from international cooperation, as they have small populations and are logistically challenging to work with. Choosing to work in areas where fewer actors are willing to go and pay the price, such as Banaba Island, is a good practice that highlights the European Union's and SPREP's commitment to priorities established by partner countries and to solve waste pollution where it exists, despite the challenges.

Lessons learned:

- Legislation work has long-term positive consequences to the country if approved. A stronger legislative framework creates the basic conditions for behaviour change, allows better environmental control, and encourages businesses to adapt towards a desired direction.
- Supporting countries to implement bans on the importation of hazardous materials, such as asbestos, prevents waste from being generated in the first place and contributes to the regional goal of an 'asbestos-free Pacific'.

Next steps:

- Conduct a field study to identify high-risk Asbestos Containing Materials-sites, best disposal options with costing and plan for abatement.
- Develop an action plan with short- and long-term management options for Asbestos Containing Materials.
- Remove Asbestos Containing Materials from Banaba Island.
- Support in drafting an asbestos ban legislation and policy.
- Train customs officers on Asbestos Containing Materials identification and asbestos ban legislation.