



## 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.

Nauru



### Country project focus:



**Asbestos Management**

### Local actors involved:

Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment (DCIE),  
National Waste Management Advisory Taskforce.



### Good practices

Nauru's choice of priority waste stream provides a clear continuation of the previous PacWASTE programme (which ran from 2014-2017 focusing only on hazardous waste) and demonstrates coherence between the interventions. PacWASTE surveyed Asbestos Containing Materials in Nauru and replaced them in several Nauru public buildings. Now, PacWaste Plus will venture to remove from the island the asbestos that were collected by PacWASTE and properly dispose them. The country project approach in Nauru highlights that development partners can plan and implement long-term solutions even if their programming cycles are shorter, by planning accordingly and building on previous work. However, the asbestos that PWP will remove are only a fraction of the total asbestos containing materials on the island, a legacy from historic phosphate mining. It is estimated that US\$ 17,3 million are needed to free Nauru of asbestos.

### 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:

- Remove selected asbestos from the island and adequately dispose of them.
- Develop and implement an asbestos ban draft law.
- Train customs officers on Asbestos Containing Materials identification and asbestos ban legislation.
- Train and certify asbestos abatement personnel consistent with the Asbestos Code of Practice.
- Develop and implement community and business education on asbestos management.

### Main results achieved:

- A stocktake of existing waste legislation was completed.
- A waste audit was 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.
- Nauru's Asbestos Code of Practice was revised and approved.
- A National Recycling Plan recommending Advance Recovery Fees & Deposit (ARFD) was prepared and submitted to cabinet for approval.