



## 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.

Niue



### Country project focus:



**Advance Recovery Fees  
& Deposits (ARFD)**



**e-Waste  
Management**

### Local actors involved:

Department of Environment of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Niue Waste Recycling Facility, Catholic Church (operating a refund system for aluminium cans).

### Main results achieved:

- A stocktake of existing waste legislation and an assessment of legislative frameworks were completed.
- A waste audit was completed.
- The Department of Environment collected 4 to 6 containers of electronic waste.
- The Department of Environment collected 150 bulk bags of plastic bottles (PET & HDPE).
- Stakeholder consultations were conducted, and gaps and opportunities were mapped for legislative drafting.
- A feasibility study and legislative guidance on ARFD were developed.



### Good practices

One of the evaluation's findings is that PacWaste Plus is "a piece of the puzzle" of waste management interventions in the Pacific region. The fact that SPREP implements many environmental programmes in the region facilitate donor coordination at the regional level. In Niue, the Australian Government is funding the construction of a waste recycling facility, and PacWaste Plus will support the facility with training and the recycling sector with legislation and policymaking. This is a best practice to ensure coherence and complementarity of interventions, and it ultimately multiplies the benefits from funds invested in Niue.

### 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.
- Implementing sustainable financing mechanisms such as ARFD will fund the recycling of aluminium cans, plastic bottles, white goods, and electronic waste. It can potentially increase the financial independence of the country's waste management systems.

### Next steps:

- Draft the Waste Management (WM) Bill and the ARFD Regulation.
- Develop a Niue Waste Data Collection monitoring programme.
- Define Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) for ARFD operation.
- Train government staff on ARFD operation and e-waste dismantling and processing.
- Support the removal of recyclables and e-waste from the country by exporting them overseas for recycling.
- Establish an e-waste dismantling centre in the newly built Recycling Facility.