



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.

Palau



Country project focus:



Bulky Waste Management

Local actors involved:

Environment Quality Control Board of Palau (EQCB), Solid Waste Management Division of the Bureau of Public Works, Koror State government, and Customs Office.



Main results achieved:

- A stocktake of existing waste legislation and an assessment of legislative frameworks were completed.
- An assessment of end-of-life tyres in the Pacific and research on the possible uses or processing options for end-of-life tyres were conducted.
- Stakeholder consultations were conducted on the end-of-life tyres repurposing programme and the National Education and Awareness Plan (NEAP).

Good practices

The design of Palau's country programme is focused on only one waste stream, end-of-life tyres. However, the country project is comprehensive, as it covers several fundamental aspects and principles. It addresses waste prevention by working on importation regulation, waste recycling and reuse by exploring tyres processing options. The project is working on legislation, training, public awareness, and partnerships with the private sector, all of which are necessary conditions for sustainable waste management. Finally, the incorporation of sustainable financing mechanisms will ensure that the end-of-tyre repurposing system finances itself.

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.
- Expanding the sustainable financing mechanism already in place in Palau for cans and bottles will fund the recycling of used tyres, and it has the potential to increase the financial independence of the country's waste management systems.
- Although solid waste management responsibilities fall within municipal governments, civil society and private sector are important actors to involve, as they can engage in awareness raising, urban cleaning, and technology development.

Next steps:

- Develop an end-of-life tyre legal framework to establish a national standard on importation and allow the financially sustainable management of end-of-life tyres in Palau.
- Design and implement an end-of-life tyre repurposing and recycling programme.
- Train government staff on the end-of-life tyres management system and enforcement of the new legislation.
- Facilitate awareness programmes on end-of-life tyres for local communities.
- Establish public-private partnerships for the management of end-of-life tyres.