



## 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.

# Papua New Guinea - PNG



### Country project focus:



### Local actors involved:

Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA), National Department of Health (NDoH), Office of State Solicitor – Department of Justice & Attorney General, PNG Customs Authority, Port Moresby General Hospital (PMGH).

### Good practices

PNG's choice of priority waste streams 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. The selection of hazardous waste for the country project allows SPREP to build on the work and achievements from the previous programme. Moreover, the focus on legislation and policy-making is a great asset of the country project, as a stronger legislative framework will enable the conditions for positive change in the country.

### Main results achieved:

- A stocktake of existing waste legislation and an assessment of legislative frameworks were completed.
- A waste audit was completed.
- An asbestos management brief was developed.
- PNG's national healthcare waste management policy was reviewed.

### Next steps:

- Develop a national e-waste strategy.
- Finalise the national healthcare waste management policy and guidelines.
- Develop an asbestos Code of Practice and action plan for long-term asbestos management.
- Develop an asbestos importation ban draft law.
- Conduct awareness-raising campaigns on the impact of hazardous waste on the environment and human health.
- Train hospital staff on healthcare waste management, train customs officers to enforce asbestos ban laws and certify CEPA staff on dismantling, handling and disposal of asbestos.

### Lessons learned:

- Papua New Guinea is much larger than other Pacific Island States, having its own European Union Delegation (EUD) in Port Moresby. This country's different needs and challenges undermine the contribution of a regional programme such as PacWaste Plus. Supervision of the country project delegated to the EUD in Papua New Guinea, and a stronger mandate to coordinate with local actors would have strengthened the project, especially during travel bans enforced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Cross-cultural challenges in PNG demand bottom-up approaches to foster relationship building and collaboration. Incorporating systems thinking and upgrading local actors' adaptive leadership skills are possible ways to locally contextualize the regional programme.
- Sustainable financing principles are yet to be incorporated into hazardous waste management to sustain operations beyond the programme implementation period.
- 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'.

