



## 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.

Tuvalu



### Country project focus:



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



**Asbestos Management**

### Local actors involved:

Department of Environment, Department of Waste Management (DWM), Department of Customs, Department of Surveying.



### Good practices

The Tuvalu government chose to focus PWP's country project on six outer islands: to remove asbestos and expand the waste levy system existing in the capital, Funafuti, to other islands. 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 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 implementation 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'.
- Expanding the sustainable financing mechanism already in place in Tuvalu will fund the recycling of aluminium cans, plastic bottles and car batteries, and it has the potential to increase the financial independence of the country's waste management systems. Community members will be able to claim refunds from the waste levy and benefit from a cleaner environment.

### Next steps:

- Update Island by-laws to provide for collection and handling of waste levy (ARFD) items.
- Approve and enact asbestos importation ban regulation.
- Build Waste Levy Depots on six outer islands of Tuvalu.
- Identify the quantity and location of asbestos on all outer islands, and develop a strategic action plan for their removal or abatement.
- Train government staff on asbestos assessment.
- Train government staff on ARFD operation, including safe shipping of hazardous waste.

### Main results achieved:

- An assessment of legislative frameworks was completed.
- A waste audit was completed.
- An asbestos management brief was developed.
- Awareness and consultation sessions have shown considerable support for an asbestos importation ban.
- A paper regulating an asbestos importation ban was submitted to Cabinet for approval.
- A rapid diagnostic tool for measuring asbestos in materials was tested by DWM staff, along with training on basic asbestos identification.
- A Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) to conduct asbestos assessment on outer islands was developed.