



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.

Vanuatu



Country project focus:



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

Local actors involved:

Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC), Product Stewardship Scheme Working Group (formed by government and private sector stakeholders), Vanuatu Council of Ministers, Port Vila Municipal Council, Luganville Municipal Council (LMC).

Main results achieved:

- A stocktake of existing waste legislation and an assessment of legislative frameworks were completed.
- A waste audit was conducted in Luganville and Espiritu Santo islands.
- **Following Tropical Cyclone Harold in 2020**, PWP conducted disaster recovery community training for 202 people and developed disaster waste management plans for nine communities.
- A community waste clean-up involving 106 people collected 239 m³ of disaster waste.
- Support to drafting an ARFD policy was given.
- A feasibility study and legislative guidance on ARFD were developed.
- The healthcare waste incinerator at Norsup Hospital, purchased by PacWASTE, was repaired; operational training, spare parts and personal protective equipment was provided to hospital staff.

Good practices

Vanuatu has been developing an ARFD solution named Product Stewardship Scheme (PSS) since 2017, through a public and private sector working group supported by the Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries (J-PRISM). PacWaste Plus will contribute to implementing the PSS with legislation and policymaking, training, and operation procedures to enable the proper functioning of the recovery fee system. The Vanuatu government has seized the opportunity to use a new programme (PWP) to build on and expand the on-going work in the country, ultimately multiplying the benefits from funds invested in Vanuatu.

Lessons learned:

- Get approval on the ARFD policy and draft the ARFD regulation.
- Develop a Vanuatu Waste Data Collection monitoring programme.
- Support the implementation and operation of the ARFD system.
- Conduct training on Effective Inclusive Consultation and ARFD operations for government staff.
- Define Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) for ARFD operations.
- Deliver a legacy waste buy-back event to clean up communities and avoid overflow of the PSS once it is introduced.

Next steps:

- Flexibility in implementing the programme allows for urgent needs to be taken in even though they were not initially planned, such as the Tropical Cyclone Harold recovery.
- Implementing sustainable financing mechanisms such as ARFD will fund the recycling of aluminium cans, plastic bottles, and eventually bulky and electronic waste, and it has the potential to increase the financial independence of the country's waste management systems.

