



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



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PacWaste Plus Programme Steering Committee

MEETING REPORT

2 August 2024,
Funafuti, Tuvalu

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INTRODUCTION

The European Union (EU) funded PacWaste Plus programme is working with 14 countries in the Pacific region, plus Timor-Leste, to address the cost effective and sustainable management of waste and pollution, as well as reducing the negative impacts of improper waste management on human health and wellbeing.

The programme is a continuation and up-scaling of a previous EU funded Hazardous Waste Management project (PacWaste) that assisted countries to manage asbestos, e-waste, and healthcare waste. This new programme will continue working in these areas and expand to address an additional five new waste streams, disaster waste, bulky waste, recyclables, and organic waste.

The Project Steering Committee is established to guide the development and implementation of the PacWaste Plus Programme, ensuring a fair and reasonable decision-making process for project priorities and funding allocations. The committee meets on an annual basis to discuss project activity and confirm activity ahead of project closure in June 2025.

The 2024 programme Steering Committee Meeting and associated other programme capacity building sessions were held from July 31 – August 2, 2024, in Funafuti, Tuvalu

SPREP acknowledges the support of the Government of Tuvalu for hosting this important meeting through the Ministry of Home Affairs, Climate Change, and Environment as the meeting Chair, and the financial support from EU to enable this meeting to enhance sustainable waste management efforts in the Pacific.

SESSION 1: INTRODUCTORY REMARKS/WELCOME ADDRESS

Mr Bradley Nolan opened the meeting welcoming everyone to the 5th Steering Committee Meeting and noting how exciting it was to have everyone in Tuvalu for what was a large meeting given the amount of activity that had occurred in the past 12 months.

Ms Pepetua Latasi (Permanent Secretary Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Tuvalu Government) formally welcomed the delegates to Tuvalu and discussed the challenges Tuvalu and the region face for waste management. Ms Latasi welcomed this forum to share and learn from each other.

Mr Maurizio Cian (Head of Cooperation of the European Union's Delegation to the Pacific) acknowledged the group came together to reflect on the journey and the progress made in waste management across the Pacific region, which is a result of the collaborative efforts of SPREP, the PacWaste Plus programme management team and the participating countries.

Mr. Cian noted the many achievements in the past year reached by the programme including:

- The completion of the review of the regional waste data collection, monitoring, and reporting framework, along with the development of implementation tools, has provided Pacific countries with guidelines for utilizing the Data Register developed in 2023. This work is crucial for informed decision-making and effective waste management strategies.
- The legislative support to the Sustainable Financing legislative documents and waste management strategies is another important support provided by the programme.
- Tonga for the endorsement of the Asbestos Management Code of Practice, which is now part of Tonga's regulatory structure. We hope to see other draft legislation, supported by the programme, being fully endorsed and adopted by your respective governments.
- The completed removal of the Asbestos Containing materials in Nauru and Kiribati and on the repairs of the incinerators in three hospitals in Timor-Leste.
- Delivery of training on Sustainable Financing Study (through a study tour to Palau, and Organics Capacity Building).

Mr. Cian noted these and other accomplishments and activities would not have been possible without hard work of SPREP, the implementing agency, and the cooperation of the country delegates.

He further noted, despite the progress, there is still much work to complete and requested everyone's full commitment to finalise the country specific projects and step up the implementation.

Mr Sefanaia Nawadra (Director General SPREP) noted the PacWastePlus Programme is now in the final year of implementation and thanked the EU for allowing the extensions and modifications to the project to adjust for the hardships caused by COVID. He further noted the EU's continued support of the region, and for SPREP as an implementing agency is greatly valued for SPREP and our members.

The Director General noted the size and scale of PacWastePlus and that with a relatively small Programme Management Unit, was able to mobilise and assist countries to implement the activities should be commended. Despite a slow start due to the global pandemic, the Director General Noted several highlights from his perspective:

- All fifteen countries, and all seven regional projects are in full implementation
- Baseline waste audit reports, for all countries, have been developed utilising the framework.
- Pilots of behaviour change projects, that you all learnt about at Wednesday's sessions are occurring
- Several Countries are progressing Asbestos implementation Bans and adoptions of Asbestos Management Codes of Practice – and Tonga has already endorsed theirs as noted by my esteemed colleague from the EU
- Nine countries are working to improve or introduce Product Stewardship legislation – meaning they will be ahead of the global curve once the INC process is complete, and the Treaty then requires members to implement these systems
- Implementation of actions in asbestos clean up (over 11,000 square metres of material removed from the islands),
- Fixing and installation of healthcare waste incinerators in six countries
- Development of National Strategies for healthcare waste, asbestos management, and e-waste
- Implementation of organic waste programmes – and congratulations to Yap in Micronesia for implementing the region's first ban of organics to landfill.
- And the commencement of design of regional training on 10 specific topics – with rollout starting this weekend here in Tuvalu to the local team to assist with their organic waste diversion.

The Direct General further noted that many programme activities and outputs have assisted in the strengthening of the overall work of SPREP and the region:

- It contributes to the implementation of current Cleaner Pacific Framework and the SPREP Strategic Plan
- Our learnings and experience will provide outlook and guidance for the development of the new Cleaner Pacific Framework whose development will commence next week at the CPRT 2024 – ensuring the sustainability of the work for the next decade and well into the future.
- We have developed and endorsed a new Regional Waste Data Collection, Monitoring, and Reporting framework which will now be embedded as the reporting tool into the Cleaner Pacific 2025 Strategy
- We have assisted the region to effectively engage in the important international negotiations for a global instrument on plastics and some of our work will assist in its implementation. It is one of two SPREP led regional collective actions under the implementation Plan of the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy.
- Our work promotes sustainable development and change behaviour within the region to consider waste as a resource and engage in a circular economy

The Director General finished his remarks noting that everyone should celebrate the successes of the collective efforts, but requested efforts not slow down as there is still much work to be done in the remaining 12 months of the project.

SESSION 2: PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022-2024

The PacWaste Plus Programme Manager, Mr Bradley Nolan then provided a high-level summary of activity during 2024. Noting that the 2024 Steering Committee Meeting was being held much later than usual, as such the outcomes from the 2022-23 and 2023-24 implementation years were presented.

Programme Achievements for 2022-24

The PacWaste Plus Programme has achieved significant outcomes in the reporting period, some notable outcomes discussed were:

- The establishment of the Regional Waste Data Collection, Monitoring, and Reporting (DCMR) Framework, and the implementation tool to guide Pacific countries in utilising the Data Register.
- Continued delivery of all 15 country projects, with Fiji and Vanuatu activities now underway
- Hosted a Sustainable Financing Study Tour for 11 countries to visit Palau provide interactive and workshop-style learning opportunities for effective Sustainable Financing scheme design
- Published workbooks on each step of the 21-step pathway for Sustainable Financing scheme design and implementation to guide stakeholders through data collection, consultation, and effective decision making to complete each step
- Provided direct support for draft legislation review and assisted in facilitation of stakeholder consultation on Sustainable Financing system design for Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Fiji, Tonga, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu
- Completed Feasibility Study and Legislative Guidance for the development of a Sustainable Financing / Advance Recovery Fee and Deposit system in Tonga. Tonga is the tenth country to seek PacWaste Plus KRA2 support for this purpose.
- Completed solid waste guideline for Timor-Leste.
- Published 2x “Decision Support Tools” to guide decision-makers on 1) selecting an organic solution/facility to suit local needs and context, and 2) to complete a high-level self-assessment of issues to guide waste management decision making
- Completed Framework Operations Plans and template signage to guide effective operation of compost facilities in the region.
- Developed and delivered compost facility establishment / operation and monitoring training session to Provincial Conservation Officers in Fiji.
- Ten e-learning courses under development for deployment in the next reporting period, to provide interactive learning opportunities on managing the PacWaste Plus waste streams
- Published animated videos on the Moana Taka Partnership and developing a series of other short animations to provide awareness on managing the PacWaste Plus waste streams
- Published School Education Curriculum incorporating waste activities in school curriculums
- Published factsheet resource on introduction to a Pacific Circular Economy
- Commenced Behaviour Change Pilot Projects in PNG, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu
- Continued to work closely with partner projects GEF ISLANDS, JPRISM III, POLP, PRIF, and SWAP on aligned activities.



A summary of programme highlights from 2022-24 is detailed following:

Item	Description
Programme Administration	
Project Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All country projects are under implementation
Project relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintained active and working relationships with PRIF, ADB, World Bank, UNEP, WHO, UNDP, NSW EPA, USP, UPNG, UoN, University of Wollongong, J-PRISM II, JPRISM III, GEF ISLANDS, and the Asbestos Eradication and Safety Agency in Australia; to further the delivery of the PacWastePlus actions and add value to our participating countries
Country engagements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missions and support to Fiji (x 3), FSM, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue (x2), Palau, Papua New Guinea (x3), RMI (x2), Samoa, Solomon Islands (x2), Timor-Leste (x3), Tonga, and Vanuatu
Contract implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed and implemented 53 contracts to progress country projects throughout the region. 325 Contracts during the life of PacWastePlus
Key Result Area 1 – Data, Information & Education	
Behaviour Change Pilots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commenced implementation Pilot Behaviour Change project in PNG: E-waste Management in Communities; Solomon Islands on waste management and anti-littering; Vanuatu on using reusable diapers;
Communications & Visibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing implementation Programme Communications & Visibility Plan
Regional Waste Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised the regional waste Data Collection, Monitoring, and Reporting (DCMR) framework with framework implementation tools developed to guide Pacific countries in utilising the Data Register developed Published 15 country baseline reports utilising the waste audit results against the KPIs Additional waste audits in 25 communities in Fiji, and two communities in Yap. Additional waste data recording was conducted at the Clean Up Campaign undertaken in the Java Community, Honiara, Solomon Islands
The Connections Newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published a further 4 editions of The Connection newsletter (each year) which is distributed to 1407 individuals.
ACM Geo-database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commenced development of a Geo-database of ACM locations in Tuvalu, which will feed into a larger 'Waste Prospectus project
Programme Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed and published 287 Resources and Publications since 2020
Key Result Area 2 – Legislative Assistance	
Legislative Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed Legislation support activities for Sustainable Financing with 13 members. Assistance in Fiji and Palau to be completed in the coming months.
Sustainable Financing Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provided input into Sustainable Financing legislative documents being drafted by nine member countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, RMI, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu). Assisted nine countries to establish Working Group for Sustainable Financing systems (Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, PNG, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu) Published workbook resources to assist countries to Develop Sustainable Financing Systems. Workbook steps through the 21-step pathway.
Asbestos Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACM ban legislation developed for PNG, RMI, Tonga, and Tuvalu. Approved in Tonga.
Disaster Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Championed the inclusion of a new chapter on waste management, with indicators, under Goal 3 of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific 2017-2030. Establishment of a Disaster Waste Technical Working Group - mainstreaming of Disaster Waste Management into the implementation of the FRDP. Developed a Practitioner Guideline (National Disaster Waste Management Plan templates with drafting instructions, Operational Guide on the Establishment of an Environment Sector Working Group & Methodology for Estimating and Recording of Disaster Waste and Environmental Damage in Pacific Islands) Establish a Technical Working Group for Disaster Waste under the Pacific Resilient Partnership Taskforce (led by SPREP CCR and SPC).
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented at the ANZPAC disaster Waste Webinar Continued direct support to all members at the pre-INC meetings in New Zealand where the regional position on treaty text was confirmed.

Item	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued direct support to all members at the INC meetings for an International Legally Binding Treaty to End Plastic Pollution. Presented at the Waigani on the Regional Waste Data Collection, Monitoring, and Reporting Framework. Facilitated the presentation of a side event at COP 28 linking the management of plastics to climate mitigation (INC work to Climate target achievements). Presented at the PIEC conference on the work done to improve the use and accessibility of the Moana Taka Partnership enabling shipping of waste products. Presented at the PIEC conference on Improved Disaster Waste Management for a Resilient Pacific. Presented at the PIEC conference on Sustainable Financing systems, and the resources available to assist their development and improvement. Presented at SPREP Meeting on the Behaviour Change projects, and advocated for support for Behaviour Change focussed interventions, as opposed to general brochures and posters which are passive awareness tools.
Key Result Area 3 – On-ground Actions	
Country project implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cook Islands has received 11 recycling collection depots (9 fixed and 2 mobile) and all associated collection / processing equipment. 25 Communities in Fiji have received community consultation, baseline audits, survey, and confirmed community action plan. Yap (FSM) Based organic material to landfill Chuuk (FSM) has designed entire island organic waste collection, and reprocessing system for deployment in 2024 to service over 13,000 residents. Kiribati has removed 3,800m2 of asbestos containing materials, from the hospital, school, and other buildings on Banaba Island Nauru has repackaged and disposed of 4,667m2 of stored ACM sheeting removed from the Nauru Landfill. Niue e-waste centre design complete and operating equipment procured, to be supported by the National legislation currently being drafted. Palau established engineering options for repurposing end-of-life tyres into various infrastructure developments (i.e. roads, retaining walls etc. PNG has developed and submitted for endorsement a National Healthcare waste management strategy, and Asbestos Management Code of Practice. Best-practice improvements to the RMI composting processing with delivery of equipment (industrial mobile chipper, temperature probe, PPE), and upgrade to facility water supply. Samoa developed a national e-waste take back system and developed the technical drafting note for legislative drafting. Solomon Islands actively engaged with market vendors in Gizo so they have ownership on the organic waste management project that will divert all market organics into resource to power hospital kitchens. Timor-Leste constructed healthcare waste management disposal facilities at Baucau Hospital. Facilities accept sharps and anatomical waste. Tonga removed over 2,670m2 of asbestos from five government buildings meaning 8,832 people are no longer exposed to ACM from visiting these facilities each year. Policy paper on asbestos importation ban approved by Tuvalu Cabinet in March 2024. Drafting of the first Pacific Asbestos Ban underway for implementation in 2024. Purchased, trained, and deployed the use of a newly released field diagnostic tool that can identify the presence of asbestos in the field, is now in use in Tuvalu. The Vanuatu Cabinet of Ministers has confirmed their commitment to introduce Product Stewardship Scheme initially for Beverage Containers. Scheme drafting to be completed by end of 2024.
Regional Project Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published a regional guideline on de-polluting end-of-life vehicles. Accompanying by a legislative guideline that creates an enabling environment to effectively manage this waste stream. Endorsed Regional Waste Data Collection, Monitoring, and Reporting Framework to assist standardised and streamlined waste reporting. Inclusion of Disaster Waste Chapter under goal 3 of the FRDP and established a Technical Working Group to progress this action.

Item	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commenced development of regional training for e-waste dismantling and management Published workbooks on each of the 21-steps for the design and implementation of Sustainable Financing Systems. Directly assisting nine countries to implement. Completed repair of three Healthcare waste incinerators in Timor-Leste completing the PacWaste work in that country. Published “Decision Support Tool” to guide decision-makers on selecting an organic solution/facility to suit local needs and context. Completed Framework Operations Plans and template signage to guide effective operation of compost facilities in the region.
Key Result Area 4 – Capacity Building	
Training & Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timor-Leste received training in healthcare waste management at 5 hospitals. 89 staff trained Papua New Guinea trained 42 people in healthcare waste management training, 16 will deliver training throughout the 22 provinces of PNG Ten Tuvalu government staff member trained in the use of the asbestos diagnostic technology and on implementation of the asbestos sampling methodology Representatives from 10 countries participated in the peer-to-peer learning Sustainable Financing Study tour to Palau Asbestos removal course (non-friable) training delivered to 31 Nauru Asbestos removal course (non-friable) training delivered to 15 Tonga Asbestos removal course (non-friable) training delivered to 25 Kiribati (both Tarawa and Banaba Island) Delivered compost facility establishment / operation and monitoring training session to Provincial Conservation Officers in Fiji. 150 people over 15 communities in FSM (Chuuk and Yap) trained in establishing and operating a compost facility Five government staff trained in FSM (Yap) on Standard Operating Procedures for Compost Facility Nine government staff trained in Solomon Islands on design of Product Stewardship Scheme Five government staff trained in RMI in use and maintenance of drum-style chipper. 754 people over 25 communities in Fiji trained in organic materials management Six government staff trained in Fiji on design of Product Stewardship Scheme Representatives from the seven Pacific Island countries trained on Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard (HAZWOPER) at the PIEC conference in Palau. Completed the development of 9 e-learning courses taken from the passive research reports developed for various products. A tenth course is in development at present.



PacWaste Plus July 2022 – June 24 Publications and Resources

Document type	Communications Output
PacWastePlus related Articles on Programme, SPREP and News Media Websites and social media	<p>National Officer for PacWaste Plus Programme Profile: Timor-Leste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/news/national-officer-for-pacwaste-plus-programme-profile-timor-leste/ <p>Compost Training undertaken in RMI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/news/mission-travel-to-republic-of-marshall-islands/ <p>Tool to Assist Decision-Making: Selection of Organics Management Solution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/news/tool-to-assist-decision-making-selection-of-organics-management-solution/ <p>Mission Travel to RMI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/news/cook-islands-mission-travel/ <p>Cook Islands Mission Travel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/news/cook-islands-mission-travel-2/ <p>Communities Empowered on Sustainable Waste Management Solutions in Fiji</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/news/communities-empowered-on-sustainable-waste-management-solutions-in-fiji/ <p>Asbestos Awareness at the National Environment Week Exhibition Day in Tonga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/news/asbestos-awareness-at-the-national-environment-week-exhibition-day-in-tonga/ <p>Pacific Island Countries Trained on Hazardous Waste Operation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/news/pacific-island-countries-trained-on-hazardous-waste-operation/ <p>Training Conducted on Asbestos Management Code of Practice in Papua New Guinea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/news/training-conducted-on-asbestos-management-code-of-practice-in-papua-new-guinea/ <p>Pacific Island Countries Attend Peer to Peer Learning Event on Sustainable Financing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/news/pacific-island-countries-attend-peer-to-peer-learning-event-on-sustainable-financing/ <p>Programme Represented at the 31st Pacific Island Environment Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/news/programme-represented-at-the-31st-pacific-island-environment-conference/ <p>Asbestos Removal on Banaba Island Gets Approval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.sprep.org/news/asbestos-removal-on-banaba-island-gets-approval https://pacwasteplus.org/news/asbestos-removal-on-banaba-island-gets-approval/ <p>Programme Concludes Weeks' Worth of Meetings in Kiribati</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/news/programme-concludes-weeks-worth-of-meetings-in-kiribati/ <p>Volunteers Clean-up RenLau Community in Honiara Ahead of Pacific Games</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.sprep.org/news/volunteers-clean-up-renlau-community-in-honiara-ahead-of-pacific-games https://pacwasteplus.org/news/page/3/#feed-news~:text=Volunteers%20Clean%20Dup%20RenLau%20Community%20in%20Honiara%20Ahead%20of%20Pacific%20Games <p>Consultations held with Gizo Market Association Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.sprep.org/news/consultations-held-with-gizo-market-association-members https://pacwasteplus.org/news/page/3/#feed-news~:text=Consultations%20held%20with%20Gizo%20Market%20Association%20Members <p>Western Provincial Government in Gizo Discuss Project Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/news/western-provincial-government-in-gizo-discuss-project-progress/ <p>National Consultations Support Establishing Sustainable Financing for Waste Management System in Solomon Islands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/news/national-consultations-support-establishing-sustainable-financing-for-waste-management-system-in-solomon-islands/ <p>Regulation to Advance Waste Management in Niue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/news/regulation-to-advance-waste-management-in-niue/ <p>Understanding the "Invisible" Effects of Marine Plastic Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/news/understanding-the-invisible-effects-of-marine-plastic-pollution/ <p>MAWC 'Chipper' about the Imminent Arrival of their Wood Chipper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/news/mawc-chipper-about-the-imminent-arrival-of-their-wood-chipper/ <p>Progressing the ARFD pathway – Release of PacWastePlus "Workbook" Resources</p>

Document type	Communications Output
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/progressing-the-arfd-pathway-release-of-pacwasteplus-workbook-resources/
	Outer Islands not on the 'Outer' for Receiving Recycling Depots
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/outer-islands-not-on-the-outer-for-receiving-recycling-depots/
	Investigating Sustainable Financing to Improve Recycling in Tonga
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/investigating-sustainable-financing-to-improve-recycling-in-tonga/
	Facility Constructed to Improve Healthcare Waste Management at Baucau Hospital
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/facility-constructed-to-improve-healthcare-waste-management-at-baucau-hospital/
	Nauru Asbestos Containment and Removal Work at NCR Landfill nearing Completion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/nauru-asbestos-containment-and-removal-work-at-ncr-landfill-nearing-completion/
	Asbestos Abatement from Identified Buildings Completed in Tonga
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/asbestos-abatement-from-identified-buildings-completed-in-tonga/
	Programme Completes Consultations and Waste Audits in 25 village communities in Fiji
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/programme-completes-consultations-and-waste-audits-in-25-village-communities-in-fiji/
	Country Mission to PNG Moves Project Activities Forward
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/country-mission-to-png-moves-project-activities-forward/
	Ensisi Valley Community Excited to Implement Behaviour Change Project to Better Manage E-Waste
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/ensisi-valley-community-excited-to-implement-behaviour-change-project-to-better-manage-e-waste/
	Qoma Village Taking Up the "Waste" Initiative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/qoma-village-taking-up-the-waste-initiative/
	Applying Stewardship Principles for Waste Management in Tonga
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/applying-stewardship-principles-for-waste-management-in-tonga/
	Solomon Islands Commence Work on Introducing Product Stewardship Scheme
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/solomon-islands-commence-work-on-introducing-product-stewardship-scheme/
	Asbestos abatement works underway on Banaba Island
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/asbestos-abatement-works-underway-on-banaba-island/
	Provincial Conservation Officers in Fiji trained on Organic Waste Processing & Monitoring of Composting Stations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/provincial-conservation-officers-in-fiji-trained-on-organic-waste-processing-monitoring-of-composting-stations/
	Tonga Endorses the Pacific's first Asbestos Management Code of Practice
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/tonga-endorses-the-pacifics-first-asbestos-management-code-of-practice/
	Timor-Leste Progresses Baucau Hospital Improvements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/timor-leste-progresses-baucau-hospital-improvements/
	Timor-Leste MoH delivers National Healthcare Waste Management Training
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/developing-and-implementing-national-healthcare-waste-management-training/
	Nauru Removes Stockpiled Asbestos-Containing Materials from the Landfill
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/nauru-removes-stockpiled-asbestos-containing-materials-from-the-landfill/
	Tuvaruhu Community Moves Forward on Behaviour Change Pilot Project to Improve Waste Management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/tuvaruhu-community-moves-forward-on-behaviour-change-pilot-project-to-improve-waste-management/
	Community Youth and Women's Groups Lead Initiatives for a Cleaner Community in Honiara
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/community-youth-and-womens-groups-lead-initiatives-for-a-cleaner-community-in-honiara/
	PacWastePlus commissions incinerator improving management of healthcare waste in Kiribati
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/news/pacwasteplus-commissions-incinerator-improving-management-of-healthcare-waste-in-kiribati/ • https://www.sprep.org/news/pacwasteplus-commissions-incinerator-improving-management-of-healthcare-waste-in-kiribati • https://x.com/SprepChannel/status/1801438231499784261

Document type	Communications Output
	<p>Training targets better healthcare waste management in Papua New Guinea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/news/training-targets-better-healthcare-waste-management-in-papua-new-guinea/ https://www.sprep.org/news/training-targets-better-healthcare-waste-management-in-papua-new-guinea https://x.com/SprepChannel/status/1806448770802200986 <p>Vanuatu full steam ahead in Managing Container Waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/news/vanuatu-full-steam-ahead-in-managing-container-waste/ https://www.sprep.org/news/vanuatu-full-steam-ahead-in-managing-container-waste https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=883654407122967&set=pcb.883654933789581 https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7216642122374893568/ https://x.com/SprepChannel/status/1810826038483767474 <p>Protecting Communities in Tuvalu from the threat of Asbestos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/news/protecting-communities-in-tuvalu-from-the-threat-of-asbestos/ https://www.sprep.org/news/protecting-communities-in-tuvalu-from-the-threat-of-asbestos https://www.facebook.com/SPREP.PRO https://www.linkedin.com/company/sprep/posts/?feedView=all https://x.com/SprepChannel/status/1811187717180686514 <p>Unlocking waste as a resource through a Circular Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.sprep.org/news/unlocking-waste-as-a-resource-through-a-circular-economy <p>Factsheets to support Pacific negotiations for Plastics Treaty launched</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.sprep.org/news/factsheets-to-support-pacific-negotiations-for-plastics-treaty-launched
Reports (31 published)	<p>Regional Waste Audit Analysis Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/regional-waste-audit-analysis-report/ <p>National Waste Audit Analysis Reports (15 countries)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooks-https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/cook-islands-national-waste-audit-analysis-report-2/ FSM-https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/federated-states-of-micronesia-national-waste-audit-analysis-report/ Fiji-https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/cook-islands-national-waste-audit-analysis-report/ Kiribati-https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/kiribati-national-waste-audit-analysis-report/ Nauru-https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/nauru-national-waste-audit-analysis-report/ Niue-https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/niue-national-waste-audit-analysis-report/ Palau-https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/palau-national-waste-audit-analysis-report/ PNG-https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/papua-new-guinea-national-waste-audit-analysis-report/ RMI-https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/republic-of-marshall-islands-national-waste-audit-analysis-report/ Samoa - https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/samoa-national-waste-audit-analysis-report/ Solomon Islands- https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/solomon-islands-national-waste-audit-analysis-report/ Timor Leste-https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/timor-leste-national-waste-audit-analysis-report/ Tonga-https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/tonga-national-waste-audit-analysis-report/ Tuvalu-https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/tuvalu-national-waste-audit-analysis-report/ Vanuatu-https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/vanuatu-national-waste-audit-analysis-report/ <p>Mid-Term Evaluation Country Project Evaluation Briefs (15 countries)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/?regional_project=&country_project=&document_type=&keywords=Mid-Term+Evaluation+#feed-resources
Fact Sheets & Booklets (25 Published)	<p>Introduction to a Pacific Circular Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/introduction-to-a-pacific-circular-economy/ <p>21 Step Advance Recovery Fee and Deposit (ARFD) Workbook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/21-step-advance-recovery-fee-and-deposit-arfd-workbook/ <p>Waste Management Decision Support Tool</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/waste-management-decision-support-tool/ <p>Decision Support Tool- Choosing Organics Solution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/decision-support-tool-choosing-organics-solution/ <p>Standard Operating Procedure – Bay Composting Organics Processing Facility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/standard-operating-procedure-bay-composting-organics-processing-facility/ <p>How Do I Compost: A Guide for Community Composting</p>

Document type	Communications Output
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/how-do-i-compost-a-guide-for-community-composting/ <p>Legislation Guidance End-of-Life Vehicle Management in the Pacific</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/legislation-guidance-end-of-life-vehicle-management-in-the-pacific/ <p>Practitioner's Guideline on Depollution on End-Of-Life Vehicles: Depollution Guideline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/practitioners-guideline-on-depollution-on-end-of-life-vehicles-depollution-guideline/ <p>Regional Waste Data Collection, Monitoring and Reporting Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/regional-waste-data-collection-monitoring-and-reporting-framework/ <p>INC Factsheets and Technical Resources for Pacific Island Courtiers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/reducing-plastic-production-to-achieve-climate-goals-key-considerations-for-the-plastics-treaty-negotiations/ • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/inc-fact-sheet-bioplastics-101/ • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/fact-sheet-strengthening-the-global-plastics-treaty-with-indigenous-pacific-peoples-knowledge/ • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/fact-sheet-plastics-alternatives-and-substitutes-101/ • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/fact-sheet-plastics-101/ • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/fact-sheet-plastic-removal-technologies-101/ • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/fact-sheet-science-policy-interface/ • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/fact-sheet-microplastics-101/ • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/fact-sheet-financial-mechanism-options/ • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/fact-sheet-designing-products-and-systems-for-safe-and-sustainable-reuse/ • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/plastics-treaty-legal-advisory-service-note-non-party-provisions/ • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/plastics-treaty-legal-advisory-service-note-considerations-for-the-use-of-an-existing-financial-mechanism-to-fund-treaty-implementation/ • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/technical-note-world-trade-organization-rules-and-key-elements-for-consideration-in-the-context-of-a-treaty-to-end-plastic-pollution/ • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/technical-note-non-party-trade-provisions-in-multilateral-environmental-agreements-key-elements-for-consideration-in-the-context-of-a-treaty-to-end-plastic-pollution/ • https://pacwasteplus.org/resources/policy-brief-trade-provisions-in-multilateral-environmental-agreements-key-elements-for-consideration-in-the-context-of-a-treaty-to-end-plastic-pollution/
<p>Note: A total of 26 selected publications from the above listings were printed with contracted commercial printers for distribution to all participating countries and for the SPREP Library.</p>	
Collateral	<p>Programme branded collaterals that was produced over the reporting period included:</p> <p>USBs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PMU procured an additional 500 branded USBs made from recyclable plastic caps and packaged in discarded wooden sheets with appropriate programme branding and messages. <p>Bucket Hats-Solomon Islands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 660 programme branded and <i>Compost</i> message themed bucket hats produced • 660 programme branded and <i>Recycling</i> message themed bucket hats produced <p>T-shirts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Choose to Compost T-shirts</i>- 100 produced and distributed to market vendors in Gizo, Solomon Islands as part of programme consultation event • <i>Keep It Clean, Keep It Green T-shirts</i> – 200 produced distributed to community volunteers during a clean-up campaign in the RenLau Community in Honiara, ahead of Pacific Games <p>Uniforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Officers Polo shirts (5 polo shirts) • PMU - Men's Shirts (3 polo and 1 button up shirt) • PMU - Women's Garments (4 polos, 3 Pulatasi and 4 tops) <p>Videos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animated Video: The Moana Taka Partnership • PacWastePlus Mid-term evaluation video

Document type	Communications Output
Signage	<p>The following signages, in compliance with the programme communications and visibility guidelines were designed and produced during the reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcare Facility Signages, Timor-Leste, Baucau Hospital • Incinerator Signages – 3 supported by EU signages (50cmX50cm), Timor-Leste • Community Compost Facility Signages Fiji – 25 village community composting • Compost Facility Signages – 8 assorted signages – Chuuk, FSM • Compost Facility Signages – 15 assorted signages – Yap, FSM • Compost Facility Signages – 9 assorted signages – RMI • Depot Signages – 5 assorted signages for placement on container depots for Tuvalu • Supported by EU stickers – 400 assorted sizes
Newsletter	<p>The Connection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four issues of the programme newsletter produced and circulated (Issues 14 to 17)



Financial Report: 01 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

PACWASTE PLUS - BUDGET for the ACTION Titles	PACWASTE PLUS - Actual Costs for the Action		
	5 th Year Actual Costs USD (1 July 2022 30 June 2023)	Cumulative Expenditure	Remaining Balance
KRA 0 - PACWASTE PLUS Project Management			
TOTAL KRA 0	\$998,938	\$3,139,162	\$1,770,434
KRA 1 - Improved data collection, information sharing, and education and awareness			
Clean Pacific Roundtable meeting, including pre-inception workshop PacWaste Plus	-	\$88,277.20	\$61,722.80
1.1 Conduct baseline waste management assessments	\$6,300.00	\$539,814.56	\$102,585.44
1.2 & 1.3 Establish the INFORM Waste data Portal and National Waste Monitoring Framework	\$52,410.00	\$68,670.00	\$288,930.00
1.4(i) & 1.4(ii) Develop regional education and awareness raising plan to guide delivery of National Plans	\$3,840.00	\$93,798.58	\$131,201.42
1.4(iii) Develop and Implement Social Marketing Campaigns	-	-	\$500,000.00
1.5 Research advisory group (RAG)	-	\$184,311.22	\$15,688.78
Subtotal KRA 1	62,550.00	974,872	1,100,128
KRA 2 Policies and regulatory frameworks developed and implemented			
2.1 Regional legislative framework for waste management	\$34,564.24	\$263,436.65	\$169,469.35
2.2 & 2.3 Develop Regional / National legislation	\$48,077.60	\$390,641.80	\$156,452.20
2.4 Advocacy on good environmental governance	\$38,012.30	\$41,143.84	\$56,256.16
Sub-total KRA 2	\$120,654	\$695,222	\$382,178
KRA 3 - Best practices, including enhanced private sector engagement and infrastructure development, implemented			
3.1 - 3.9 Enhance solid, hazardous and disaster waste management	\$553,630.46	\$624,632.98	\$4,846,667
3.10 Waste Water research project	-	-	\$800,000
3.11 Complete PacWASTE I Activities	\$219,953.77	\$412,700.15	\$461,025
Sub-total KRA 3	\$773,584	\$1,037,333	\$6,107,692
KRA 4 - Human capacity enhanced			
4.1 National Needs Assessment on governance activities	\$29,150	\$100,523.11	\$9.89
4.2 National / Regional capacity Building	-	-	\$300,000.00
4.3 School education project	54928	54928	\$45,072.00
4.4 Vocational & Tertiary education project	-	\$42,780.00	\$1,156,687.00
4.5 Facilitate capacity Building exchanges	196,595.88	196,595.88	203,404.12
Sub-total KRA 4	\$280,674	\$394,827	\$1,705,173
Total direct of the action	\$2,236,400	\$6,241,416	\$11,065,605
SPREP Administration Indirect Cost (7%)	\$156,548.02	\$436,899.09	\$774,591.91
Contingency	-	-	\$270,039.00
Total Budget	\$2,392,948	\$6,678,315	\$12,110,235

Questions from Session 2

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
What happens to the unspent funds from countries? Is there an availability for other countries to seek to use unspent allocations?	Cook Islands	The PMU will work with all countries to ensure they utilise the investment available. If this is not possible, there will be little time to reallocate, so in that situation, the funds will be returned to the donor.
What is the timeline for remaining tenders?	Cook Islands	We need all tenders out to the market in September. If we do not achieve this, there is unlikely time to implement the actions.
We have expressed interest in 3 areas for training needs, is there enough time to deliver all these trainings?	Samoa	The training will be tendered and then scheduled by the individual training providers. Dates and times will be provided to each country and there will be limited opportunity to modify the dates due to the flight schedules and route the trainers will need to take to deliver across the region. We are asking all countries to mobilise and ensure all sessions are able to be delivered to as many people as can be accepted in the training.



SESSION 3: WASTE STREAM-BASED TALANOAS

A series of seven Discussion / Presentation sessions were held to enable a holistic discussion of both Country and Regional project under seven waste streams. The sessions were designed to explore each waste stream with discussions focused on the progress of country project implementation, challenges faced, and sharing learnings with non-participating countries.

Each session included discussions on the regional resources available and possible solutions to expedite implementation of activities for 2024/25.

Sustainable Financing of Waste Management Systems: Recycling / Resource Recovery

Six member countries (the Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu), have selected to use their PacWastePlus Country Project support to improve recycling through the development, implementation, or to increase the scope of Sustainable Financing Deposit and Fee Systems (also known as Product Stewardship (PSS), or Advance Recovery Fee and Deposit (ARFD)), and introduction of in-country collection and recycling facilities.

An additional five countries (Kiribati, Nauru, PNG, RMI, and Tonga), have utilised KRA2 Legislative Support to complete a feasibility study on the design or expansion of a Sustainable Finance system.

This session provided an opportunity for countries to share background and achievements for implementing their Sustainable Finance system and to share upcoming activities to close of the PacWaste Plus Project. The session enabled discussion on challenges and highlight the key aspects of each countries Sustainable Financing scheme to enable peer-to-peer learning of how schemes can be designed to reflect the specific context of Pacific countries.

The background and current achievements to the country projects are provides as follows, along with and key activities for 2025. During this session, countries presented an update on project progress and activities until programme closure.

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Key Activities 2022-24	Activities to close Project in 2025	Learning
Cook Islands	<p>Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI) seeks PacWaste Plus support to implement the Advanced Recovery scheme - to provide legislation and facilities for all recyclable items entering the Cook Islands to be diverted away from landfill.</p> <p>Project will include development of ARFD Regulation (along with empowering legislation, the Solid Hazardous Waste Bill (SHWB).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid Hazardous Waste Bill and Advanced Recovery Regulation drafted – awaiting to be tabled. • 11 x sea container Collection Depots arrived– 9 x fixed and 2 x mobile – ready to be commissioned and transported to <i>Pa Enua</i>. • All equipment for Collection Depot operation – crushers, tables, wheelbarrows, etc arrived. • Land and concrete pads allocated; consultation underway for Island 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill and Regulation to be passed by Cook Islands cabinet. • Logo and signage for scheme designed, translated and printed. • Depots delivered to Pa Enau and operations commenced. • Operating Procedures finalised and training delivered with ICI and Island government officers. • Shredder to be procured and installed at the Resource Recovery Centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep priorities focused and deliver what seek to achieve without getting interrupted by other departments and their priorities. • engage early with other ministries to collaborate and ensure effective partnerships. • engage with community and stakeholders.

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Key Activities 2022-24	Activities to close Project in 2025	Learning
	<p>Feasibility studies complete and legislative documents drafted, awaiting to be tabled. The ARFD Policy has been approved.</p> <p>ICI have undertaken consultation with outer islands governments to finalise detailed scheme design, have completed economic modelling, determined equipment needs, and have updated customs processes.</p>	<p>Executive Officers to be Depot Operators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large exercise to classify Customs Tariff Codes to enable items to be identified at the border. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widespread awareness messages delivered so all communities understand and are participating in scheme Data collection, monitoring and evaluation activities. 	
Niue	<p>The Niue Department of Environment (DOE) seeks PacWaste Plus support for legislation and scheme design for the ARFD to sustainable finance recycling and materials recovery, including the operation of the new e-waste centre.</p> <p>Project will include development of a Waste Management Strategy, ARFD Regulation and empowering Waste Management Bill.</p> <p>DOE have completed feasibility study, scheme design, have political support for the scheme, and legislative and consultation are underway.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customs tariff codes have been allocated during update to ASCOYDA system, ready to be implemented. Political support obtained and Working Group and individual consultations held. Cabinet paper drafted awaiting information from the Waste Management Strategy update activities. Currently underway the Waste Management Strategy and Economic modelling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste Management Strategy complete and used to guide decision making and draft of <i>Waste Management Act</i>. Economic Modelling complete to assist finalise ARFD scheme design and regulation. Legislation and ARFD Regulation approved. Operating Procedures developed and ARFD in operation. Community consultation. Awareness messages delivered so all communities understand and are participating in scheme. Data collection, monitoring and evaluation activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> deliver actions without getting interrupted by other departments and their priorities. Effective communication with other ministries would smooth the political processes.
Samoa	<p>Following government commitment to introduce Waste levy on incoming product into Samoa. The scope of the Samoa project has been expanded to include other items and not only e-waste. Current Achievement:</p> <p>Facilitation of National Consultation on the design of the country's ARFD.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detail design and Economic Analysis of the national Product Stewardship Scheme. Drafting of PSS Legislations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of PSS Legal frameworks. Facilitation of national consultation on the national PSS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective consultations with regulated communities and stakeholders are required, specifically dealing with imposing a cost on products (i.e. Chamber of commerce, businesses etc). government procurement process is challenging and time consuming.

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Key Activities 2022-24	Activities to close Project in 2025	Learning
Solomon Islands	<p>Establishment of Technical Working Group to assist MECDM in the design of the national PSS</p> <p>Completion of the Feasibility Study on Sustainable Financing</p> <p>Facilitation of national consultation and awareness on PSS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design of the national PSS. Establishment of the Recyclable Collection centre in the Western Province. Drafting of the national PSS Legislation and regulations on Beverage Containers. Consultation on the national PSS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design of the national PSS. Establishment of PSS Legislations. Establishment of recyclable collection centre in the Western Province. Facilitation of Education and Awareness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> establish effective partnerships with local agencies/ministries to strengthen work on the project (gaps between stakeholders and ensure effect partnerships with local stakeholders).
Tuvalu	<p>The Tuvalu Department of Waste Management (DWM) implemented the Tuvalu Waste Levy Regulation, in 2019. This system is working in the capital Funafuti, but currently outer island communities do not have an ability to claim their refunds or benefit from a cleaner environment.</p> <p>DWM have undertaken consultation and established partnerships to provide for scheme operation in the outer islands and have designed the communications and awareness plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land allocated for location of depots in outer islands. 7 x sea container Collection Depots arrived –ready to be commissioned and transported to outer islands. All equipment for Collection Depot operation – crushers, tables, wheelbarrows, etc arrived. Competition held to design logo and logan for the Waste Levy. Signage designed, translated, and shipped to Tuvalu. Initial consultation and planning underway for training with Island Waste Operators (to operate the depots). Community awareness underway though the development of short video on Waste Levy operation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Footings constructed and depots delivered and effectively operating on each outer island. Training held with Island Waste Operators. Island By-laws updated to reflect changes in waste management. Safe materials handing training undertaken. Baler installed at the Funafuti Transfer Centre to undertake resource recovery. Awareness messages delivered so all communities understand and are participating in scheme. Data collection, monitoring and evaluation activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste Levy funds are currently going to general revenue – not achieve goals of the regulation. Effective operation of Waste Levy on outer islands required a lot of community consultations and awareness activities), and collaboration with the Kaupule.
Vanuatu	<p>Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC) have been working with other donors on their ARFD system, the Product Stewardship Scheme (PSS) since 2017.</p> <p>The PSS was drafted but was not presented to cabinet due to opportunities the DEPC see to reflect the needs and goals of the department</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong political support received for PSS to be implemented in 2024. Working Group discussions recommenced and individual consultation underway. Currently Underway, large consultancy activity to undertake economic modelling and assist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> System design and economic modelling complete. PSS Legislation (reform to existing Waste Management Act) and Regulation drafted and approved. Development of operating procedures and contracts, templates etc for scheme operationalising. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benefitted greatly from the study tour to Australia to understand opportunities for Vanuatu. Private Sector stakeholders have been challenging during scheme design – difficult to understand those that want to take advantage of the scheme. keep goals of a scheme in mind during scheme design. DEPC seek

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Key Activities 2022-24	Activities to close Project in 2025	Learning
	<p>and achieve social equality for the people of Vanuatu.</p> <p>Feasibility studies complete and scheme design underway.</p>	<p>with scheme design, development of operating procedures, and complete legislative guidance and drafting instructions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determining needs and establishing Collection Hubs. • Provincial consultation on draft PSS scheme and regulation (in partnership with SWAP project). • Awareness messages delivered so all communities understand and are participating in scheme – including use of theatre group. • Data collection, monitoring and evaluation activities. 	<p>a scheme to fairly benefit government, communities, and private sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working group (private sector – importers and manufactures) had a lot of power in Vanuatu. recommend a clear TOR with defined roles when establishing a Working Group.
PacWaste Plus Regional Sustainable Financing for Waste Management Project	<p>The PacWaste Plus Regional Sustainable Finance Project is designed to support and guide governments and stakeholders on the pathway to scheme implementation, by making evidence-based decisions throughout the design, implementation, monitoring, and expansion of a system to suit local needs and context.</p> <p>Activities and resources currently complete include the Australian Study Tour, factsheet on scheme design, the 21-step pathway, and GEDSI considerations, and “design-it-yourself” guidance documents.</p> <p>PacWaste Plus have also supported nine countries to complete a feasibility study on the design or expansion of a Sustainable Finance system and provided direct review and stakeholder liaison support to all countries progressing with consultation and legislative elements of their scheme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palau Study Tour to provide interactive learning opportunities for scheme design. • Published 21 workbooks to guide stakeholders to complete each of the 21 steps for scheme implementation and monitoring. • Supported Tonga to complete a feasibility study on the design of their Sustainable Finance system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release of e-learning course to assist with scheme design. • Release of animations to assist with community participation in scheme design. • Continue to share learnings and resources from each country to assist designs of all schemes in the Pacific. • Continue to provide direct review and stakeholder liaison support to all countries progressing with consultation and legislative elements of their scheme. 	

Questions from Sustainable Financing of Waste Management Systems: Recycling / Resource Recovery Discussions

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
Cook Islands –For the depots in the outer islands, has there been research on how often you will have to transport to Rarotonga? Who operates the vessels and how will transport be financed? Will the sustainable financing go directly to ICI?	EU	ICI estimates that collections from most islands will be approximately 4 months with Aitutaki, Mangaia, and Atiu will need more frequent. Vessels in Cook Islands are privately run at this stage, ICI will enter a contract with shipping company to provide transport and logistics. Funds will be collected from point of entry, which will go directly to a trust fund for ICI to distribute to the depot operators (island governments) on each island. Islands will be required to meet certain collection targets. Target and funding allocations will be based on collection and importation from Rarotonga to outer islands. Seeking to use a mobile app is to track funds and materials flow.
Cook Islands – programme supports drafting, while country is responsible for adoption.	EU	Yes, the legislation for scheme is currently with the Cook Islands Crown Law Office to manage the drafting and tabling at cabinet.
Tuvalu - How often will transport? Financing?	EU	Government provides domestic transport in Tuvalu. Vessels generally travel to outer islands monthly. DWM will seek to collect of recyclables from depots each time vessel visits. Financing of refunds for community members currently through an Accountable Advance process (to acquit). No proper system to manage the financing and Waste Levy funds go into the government fund.
Countries have feasibility reports for sustainable schemes, useful and interesting to know if there are any plans from SPREP to address this issue.	PNG	Feasibility study is the first step. SPREP can assist PNG to develop project plan and seek additional support to progress the scheme.

E-Waste Management

Three member countries: Niue, Papua New Guinea, and Samoa, have utilised some of their PacWastePlus Country Project support to improve management of e-waste through: the provision of equipment and training for E-waste dismantling; Construction of storage facilities; collection points, and assistance in the removal of E-waste stockpiles in priority countries.

E-waste management is essential to prevent environmental and health risks associated with discarded electronic equipment. The challenges in e-waste management include skyrocketing e-waste generation, informal recycling practices, lack of infrastructure, and lack of awareness. This session provided an opportunity for countries to share background and achievements for implementing their e-waste management activities and to share upcoming activities to close of the PacWaste Plus Project. The session facilitated discussion on challenges and highlighted the key aspects of each country's response to e-waste management; Specifically, Niue on equipment and training, PNG on a national E-Waste strategy and guidelines, Samoa on the national Extender Producer Responsibility legislative process.

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Key Activities 2022-24	Activities to close Project in 2025	Learning
Niue	<p>Electronic waste in Niue has traditionally been stockpiled across the island in informal stockpiles and dumpsites due to a lack of storage, training, and funding to allow their processing and export. Electronic waste, when stored outdoors in the environment, can leach toxins and contaminants into soil and groundwater.</p> <p>The DOE seeks to construct an e-waste centre inside the recycling facility to provide for the management and export of e-waste.</p> <p>DOE have also consolidated e-waste stockpiles at the new recycling facility and allocated footprint inside the footprint for e-waste management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-waste centre design complete and equipment needs determined. • Legacy stockpile validation and planning for hands-on training complete. • Documentation completed for export of e-waste for overseas treatment. • Planning commenced for development of training on e-waste dismantling and management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-waste centre established and operating effectively, with signage installed. • Hands-on training complete providing DOE capacity to undertake e-waste management long term. • Legacy e-waste removed and exported for overseas treatment. • Awareness messages delivered so all households participating in e-waste scheme. • Data collection, monitoring and evaluation activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure systems are in place to replace ad hoc activities and ensure completion of activities. • Financial sustainability a key aspect though a scheme such as ARFD.
Papua New Guinea	<p>Papua New Guinea has acknowledged the need to develop a strategy and associated guidelines for both implementation and compliance activities related to e-waste management activities. PNG has noted that this is an existing issue for the country, and a potential emerging industry, addressing the waste currently being landfilled, dumped, or stockpiled.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEPA and the Port Moresby National Capital District Commission (NCDC) with support from a PWP consultant are undertaking a behaviour change pilot project on improving the management of e-waste in an identified community in the Ensisi Valley suburb. • PNG commencing development of a national strategy and guidance for E-Waste in the country. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the development of the E-Waste Strategy and Guidelines and endorse the document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consultation is key, PNG to endorse these documents.
Samoa	<p>Samoa is looking to introduce an E-Waste Take Back system that will collect and process e-waste for export to the recycling market. Current Achievements include:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting of the E-Waste Regulations. • Design of the National PSS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish the national PSS • Draft the PSS Legal frameworks • Facilitation of awareness programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation is key in a complex environment of private industry.

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Key Activities 2022-24	Activities to close Project in 2025	Learning
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design of the E-Waste Take Back system. Establishment of the Policy Guiding Note for E-Waste. Establishment of the technical drafting note for the E-Waste Regulations. 			

Questions from E-waste Management session

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
What is the definition of e-waste that is adopted in the region?	EU	PacWaste Plus is utilising the EU definition of E-Waste which is anything with plugs, cords and electronic components. This includes waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). This however does not include electric vehicles which is covered under our work in the Bulky Waste stream.
There is a lot being done by countries implementing projects on e-waste but not much is clear on exportation. Has there been any research done to determine e-waste markets for the Pacific?	EU	<p>PacWaste Plus completed research on recycling markets feasible for the region looking at recyclers on the Pacific Rim and metropolitan countries.</p> <p>The GEF ISLANDS projects completed research on regional hub for recycling and determines viable shipping routes to move materials in the Pacific.</p> <p>The Niue country project is partnering with a New Zealand e-waste supplier to process e-waste from Niue. New Zealand standards will be met for deconstruction, de-commissioning, and packaging for export/disposal. All MEA requirements will be met when shipping the e-waste and e-waste products from Niue and New Zealand for final reuse or disposal.</p>
Guidelines being developed by who?	Cook Islands	SPREP (WMPC) serve as the regional centre for Basel and Waigani conventions and that involved technical guidelines in all hazardous waste streams; post PWP we are happy to fill this gap. The BRS conventions have ongoing work on all hazardous waste streams – various technical working groups that update guidelines, services available thru WMPC being the centre.
Moana taka partnership if this ends, is there an opening to continue this partnership? or is this left to each country?	Cook Islands	The Mauna Taka Partnership will remain in full effect for at least the next four (4) years. SPREP is looking to expand the partnership to include other shipping locations that SWIRE shipping does not service (Niue, Palau, FSM). Specifically, SPREP has recently

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
		reached out to MATSON to join the partnership. Matson has shown interest but has yet to sign on.
We continue to pay heavy prices for shipping and freight; amount received from recycling items.	Tuvalu	SPREP concurs that the costs for shipping and freight remains high here in the Pacific. We encourage countries to utilise the Moana Taka Partnership and to support SPREP in adding additional shipping firms to the partnership. SPREP through WMPC continues to support this work and continues to support shipping options outside of the partnership to move low value waste.
Low value products – expanding products to include in this partnership.	Cook Islands	Reduced freight rate costs for low value products are being sought and discussed with shippers. However, keep in mind that the Moana Taka Partnership utilise empty shipping containers to transport non-commercial recyclable waste from islands.

Organics

Average waste to landfill and dumps in the Pacific is approximately 40% organic material. Organic materials are also commonly burnt or stockpiled in unmanaged pits or piles. The awareness for improved organics management and composting is growing in the region as landfills reach capacity, knowledge increases regarding climate change/methane emissions and water/soil pollution, and local-scale farming is viewed as a way communities can increase climate resilience.

Four member countries (Fiji, FSM, RMI, and the Solomon Islands) have selected to use their PacWaste Plus Country Project support to improve organics management.

This session provided an opportunity for countries to share background and achievements for implementing their organics solution and upcoming activities to close of the PacWaste Plus Project. The session enabled discussion on challenges and highlight the key aspects of each project to enable peer-to-peer learning. PacWaste Plus provided an update on resources available for all countries to assist with the design and implementation of organics management projects. During this session, countries presented an update on project progress and activities for 2024/5.

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Key Activities 2022-24	Activities to close Project in 2025	Learning
Federated State of Micronesia	The FSM project is looking to improve the management of organic materials for Chuuk state and Yap. Current Achievements included:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed the Chuuk Organic Processing Programme. Designed the Chuuk Compost Facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of Chuuk Facility. Construction of Rumuu Compost Station. Construction of Tenfaar Compost Station. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited resources within the states (human, materials, accessibility); challenging political set up (national and state government).

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Key Activities 2022-24	Activities to close Project in 2025	Learning
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design of the Chuuk Organic Processing Programme. Establishment of a Standard Operating Procedures for Yap Compost Station. Facilitation of community awareness. Design of Compost facilities for Chuuk (Central) and Yap (2 communal stations). Banning of organic materials from the Yap Landfill commencing 1 June 2024. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established the Standard Operating Procedure for the Yap Composting Facility. Designed the Communal Organic Facilities in Yap. Facilitated awareness sessions in local communities in Yap and Chuuk. Facilitated National Consultations in Pohnpei, Chuuk, and Yap. Completed the Access Road for the Yap Composting Facility. Commenced ban of organic waste to landfill in Yap. Established monitoring and evaluation system for the Yap Compost Facility. Trained Yap Agriculture Officers on the standard operation of the Yap Composting Facility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitation of Training on operation of Compost Stations. Monitoring and Evaluation of the Chuuk Organic Processing Facility. Monitoring and Evaluation of the Rumuu Composting Station. Monitoring and Evaluation of the Tenfaar Composting Station. Awareness on Compost Sale/ Collection centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political environment of Micronesia can be a hinderance in the implementation of donor funded projects. However, effective partnership with agencies within a state can assist in effective implementation.
Fiji	<p>Fiji is looking to utilise PWP investment to introduce communal composting programme in 25 communities. Phase 1 Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Consultations. Community Waste Audit. Community Waste Baseline Survey. Community Waste Management Plan Consultations. Capacity Building for all Conservation Officers from the 14 Provinces in Fiji. Completed training of Provincial Conservation Officers to operate and monitor the communal composting stations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed Waste Audits and Waste Baseline Survey in all the 25 communities. Conducted capacity Building of Provincial Conservation Officers on Waste Audit, Standard Operating Procedures for composting. Established the Project Coordinating Committee. Completed Community Consultations. Completed community training on establishing of Community Waste Management Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction and Operation of the Communal Composting Stations and Organic processing programmes in 25 community. Training of local village committees on the operation of the compost station and implementation of the communal composting programme. Continuation of monitoring and evaluation of communal composting programme by the Provincial Conservation Officers. Training by Ministry of Agriculture on cash crop/ seasonal crops in each of the 25 communities. Drafting of 25 Community Waste Management Plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying national ministries/agencies with the right network to implement project activities is important. There is existing strength in the cultural governance structure to adopt waste management activities. Working with communities that have a strong governance structure can ensure the effective implementation of project activities. Waste Management should not be government's responsibility but everyone, so we need to empower other national agencies.

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Key Activities 2022-24	Activities to close Project in 2025	Learning
Republic of Marshall Islands	<p>The main Dumpsite in Majuro, RMI, is overcapacity and has been declared a national emergency. The Majuro Atoll Waste Company, in partnership with the RMI EPA, seek to divert the 40% of this waste currently comprising of organics and paper/cardboard to an existing compost facility.</p> <p>Market research has been undertaken to understand desired organics processing, and partnerships have been established to confirm appropriate feedstock.</p> <p>Training has been undertaken increase capacity of staff to process organic material effectively and operating procedure drafted.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large industrial drum chipper arrived and being commissioned and operating at dumpsite diverting organic material from disposal. Specialist equipment (temperature probe) procured to assist compositing operations. Operating procedure and signage drafted and awaiting translation and printing. Water supply needs at the compost facility and planning complete. Trial completed on use of locally produced compost. Fire briquette trial complete to identify beneficial use for cardboard material in Majuro and procurement underway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chipper operating – collecting material from communities and diverting to compost facility. Water supply upgrades complete at the compost facility, and signage and plaques installed. Compost produced and sold to communities. Cardboard collected, diverted, and processed into fire bricks to be sold to the community. Awareness messages delivered so all communities are diverting organic materials and are purchasing local compost. Materials developed on project learning for the outer islands to implement compost solutions. Awareness messages delivered so all businesses are diverting cardboard and communities are purchasing firebricks. Data collection and monitoring and evaluation activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships with levels of government – National EPA, MAWC, and Local Government (MaLGOV) assisted project implementation though getting buy-in and support from key stakeholders Design of the communication plan and messages was more effective when undertaken in partnership with other government offices
Solomon Islands	<p>Solomon Islands is looking to process Organic materials from Gizo Market. The project has completed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design of Gizo Organic Processing Programme. Gizo Market Waste Audit. Consultation with the Western Provincial Government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed the Gizo Organic Processing Programme. Facilitated a validation meeting on the Gizo Organic Processing Programme. Facilitated awareness on the Gizo Organic Processing Programme to Gizo Market vendors. Facilitated a Clean Up Campaign in Java Community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation and Completion of training of local hospital workers on the operation of the biodigester. Continuation of monitoring and evaluation at the Gizo Market, Gizo Landfill and the Gizo Hospital. Ongoing Community Awareness. Training of Market Cleaners. Training of Hospital staff on operation of biodigester. Launch organic waste educational materials in Gizo. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross department consultation across all levels of government is a key element during design and to get buy-in for a new system in a provincial area.

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Key Activities 2022-24	Activities to close Project in 2025	Learning
PacWaste Plus Regional Organic Management Project	<p>The PacWaste Plus Regional Organics Project is designed to support governments and stakeholders on the design and implement effective organic management solutions, appropriate for specific context and stakeholders.</p> <p>Resources currently available include factsheets and design drawings for eight organics solution effective for the pacific, a practical “how-to” guide for composting typical items in the pacific, and Pacific Composting Standard. document to provide minimum standards for composting systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting of a regional training package to assist with operation of typical composting facilities in the region. • Published “Decision Support tool” to assist decision makers to select an organic solution/facility to suit local needs and context. • Design of signage to assist composting operations at typical compost facilities in the region. • Publish of framework operation plan to guide the operation of Bay Composting facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete design of training for operation of typical composting facilities and available for delivery to all countries. • Release of e-learning courses to raise capacity of composting and organics management. • Release of animations to assist with community understating of facility design and establishment and completing daily checks. • Continue to share learnings and resources from each country to assist designs and operation of all organic facilities in the Pacific. • Publish further framework operation plans to guide the operation of windrow and other compost facilities. • Publishing of template signage to assist composting operations. • Continue to share learnings and resources from each country to assist designs of all facilities in the Pacific. 	

Questions from Organic Waste Discussions

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
What is the metric for the 43% of organics being disposed	EU	This is weight to landfill
Are the framework SOPs for organics management available online?	Nauru	Framework Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Bay Composting is available online. Windrow and aerated static pile SOPs will be published in the coming months.
Thank you to countries – what Yap has been able to do with banning organic waste to landfill is great. Is this something that is being considered by others?	SPREP (Anthony)	Fiji: if we were to ban organic material disposal, without alternatives for all communities - we would likely to have illegal dumping. And we have found that any organic material stockpile (within the urban area) would and develops into a mixed

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
		<p>waste pile. Opportunity for improvement in provision of composting and organics management at the municipal, provincial, and national government levels.</p> <p>Cook Islands: ICI manages the landfill in Rarotonga. We have limited organic materials being disposed but struggle is the materials that are already there. We also struggle to keep organic material out during disaster clean-up/diversion to the organic facility is not always followed. Government has created a plan for alternative disposal. With PacWastePlus we will develop better signage to promote the location of the compost facility.</p> <p>Tonga: recently developed a policy to divert organic material away from the landfill. Currently it is being stockpiled on site. Directly banning this material would likely result in the public to burn or illegally dump.</p>
Motivation for household composting comes and goes, are there ways to keep up the motivation to keep this practice?	Niue	<p>It is good practice to keep up awareness messages to assist community to understand benefits of composting. Possible to partner with other departments - agriculture and health (links to healthy living).</p> <p>PacWastePlus have published a community composting factsheet and more awareness and animations for the community will be published shortly.</p>
Composting is something people paid for – how can private sector be included?	EU	<p>The operation in the Cook Islands is a good example of the private sector taking the lead and making a business out of organic waste. Still rely on donor or government investment for equipment.</p>
In Vanuatu we are currently undertaking a composting pilot and see the immense benefits a successful system will bring. Can PacWastePlus assist us with the trial and to get a composting system established?	Vanuatu	<p>PacWastePlus available to assist with technical support and assist Vanuatu (and all countries) to use and tailor the available resources such as editable site drawings and Framework Operation Plans. Vanuatu can also select to bring the compost trainer to Vanuatu for hands-on training.</p>

Bulky Waste Management

Bulky waste is an issue for many Pacific Island countries, due to limited infrastructure and resources to effectively manage these materials which included End-of-Life Vehicles, End-of-Life Tyres (ELT).

A regional Bulky Waste Report established by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme in 2022 identified that approximately 13,500 – 29,000 of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELV s) are generated annually in the Pacific.

Palau is the only country working on bulky waste as part of the PacWastePlus Programme, so during this session, they presented on the country project update which is focused on introducing an ELT Repurposing Programme for Palau. In addition to the project update, pipeline activities for 2024/5 was also presented.

PMU presented on the progress of the Regional Bulky Waste project aimed to support Pacific Island countries in the management of ELTs and ELVs.

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Key Activities 2022-24	Activities to close Project in 2025	Learning
Palau	<p>Palau is utilising PacWastePlus Investment to introduce an ELT Repurposing Programme that will enable the in-country management of ELT. Current achievements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELT Market Assessment (On-Shore and Off-Shore). • ELT Legislative Options. • ELT Economic Assessment. • ELT Repurposing Options • National Engineering Standard for repurposing ELT in the Infrastructure Sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed assessments to inform the design of the ELT Repurposing Programme completed. • Facilitated validation meeting for the ELT Repurposing Programme. • Established the Engineering Standard for the Palau Repurposing Programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete industry consultations on options for Repurposing ELT in the Infrastructure Sector. • Procure, Install and commissioning of the ELT infrastructure determined by Government and Industry consultations. • Train local officers on the operation of the ELT processing infrastructure. • Install signage at the ELT Recycling Centre in Palau. • Launching of awareness programme informing local communities and businesses on the ELT Repurposing programme through radio talk back shows and community drive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing national repurposing programme for new materials requires extensive research and consultations.
Regional Project	<p>Established the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Assessment of End-of-Life Tyres Generation and management. • Technical Booklet on Thermal processing of ELT. • Technical Booklet on Mechanical Processing of ELT. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established Legislative Guideline on ELT Management. • Produced an animation on ELV Management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver regional training on de-pollution of ELV. • Facilitation of meetings and discussions with national focal points of all participating countries on the awareness on resources available for the management of ELV and ELT. 	

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Key Activities 2022-24	Activities to close Project in 2025	Learning
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical Booklet on Non-Mechanical Processing of ELT. Depollution Guideline for ELV. Legislative Guideline for ELV Management. 			

Questions Bulky Waste Management Session

No Questions were asked.

Asbestos Management

Asbestos-containing materials (ACM) are an issue for many Pacific Island countries with a history of use of ACM in construction. All forms of asbestos are carcinogenic to humans and inhalation of asbestos fibres that have become airborne can cause serious lung disease.

Six member countries: Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, and Tuvalu are using some of their PacWaste Plus funding support to improve asbestos management.

This session provided an opportunity for countries to share background and achievements for implementing their asbestos management and upcoming activities to close of the PacWaste Plus Project. The session enabled discussion on challenges and highlight the key aspects of each project to enable peer-to-peer learning. PacWaste Plus provided an update on resources available for all countries to assist with the design and implementation of asbestos management projects.

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Key Activities 2022-24	Activities to close Project in 2025	Learning
Kiribati	Banaba Island was mined extensively for more than a century. Large amounts of ACM were left behind when the mining operations shut down. At the request of the local Banaba Island council Kiribati approved the PacWastePlus project investment to go toward the removal of ACM	Removal and disposal of ~3800 m ² of ACM from sites prioritized as high risk to Banaba Island residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete off-site disposal. Approve ACM import ban. Undertake education and outreach efforts – finalise the plan with MELAD/PMU and tender this work. The draft plan includes outreach and awareness efforts via radio, fact sheets and social media. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The high costs associated with transport and disposal of ACM have led Kiribati to consider on-island disposal options. Specifically utilizing their landfill space, as done in Tonga for asbestos disposal.

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Key Activities 2022-24	Activities to close Project in 2025	Learning
	on Banaba as well as the creation of a long-term plan for management.		Plans include the creation of a Workbooks (<10-page colouring book) for use in primary schools on ACM and the work done in Banaba.	
Nauru	Five (5) containers of ACM are located at the landfill in Nauru. The containers are corroding and will eventually allow ACM to enter the environment. Removal and disposal of these materials was a high priority for Nauru. Along with the potential for release of the materials the containers took space that could be used for other purposes. The material was from work done during the PacWaste program and was stored at this location.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repackaging and disposal of five (5) containers of stored AC sheeting 4,667 m² (about 70 tonnes). • Drafting of ACM Code of Practice (COP) and Supplementary Guided specific to Nauru. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsement of ACM Code of Practice. • Approve ACM importation ban. • Undertake education and outreach efforts. Complete vetting and contract Nauru Media to begin implementing Nauru plan. Outreach efforts will mostly be via radio as it is the best tool in-country for this work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a significant and critical amount of paperwork, i.e., permits, custom declaration, MEA requirements, etc., for off-island disposal. There are many possible points of failure working through the many documents needed. • Transportation of ACM for consolidation on-island makes ACM abatement more difficult and expensive. • Access to or acquisition of proper PPE for asbestos abatement is critical to success.
Niue	Stockpiles of ACM are located at a shed currently managed by the government of Niue. The removal and disposal of these materials was part of the Niue Asbestos Pilot Project begun under the PacWaste program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACM repackaging/disposal is needed. • Additional Funding was acquired. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver ACM abatement training to local staff and workers. • Repackaging, shipment and disposal of ACM stockpiled at the shed currently managed by the government of Niue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One must pay close attention to the needed paperwork for shipping and disposal of hazardous materials. It is very complex and failure to do so will delay your work.
PNG	There is currently no policy on the proper management/handling of legacy asbestos in PNG. There are no restrictions as well on its importation. PNG's path forward includes: 1) development of an Asbestos Code	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed an Asbestos Code of Practice (COP) specifically tailored for PNG. • Implemented a seminar on the COP to stakeholders in Port Moresby • Prepared ACM legislative draft documents for banning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorse PNG ACM COP • Develop legislation from drafted language and pass ACM import ban legislation. • Undertake education and outreach efforts Finalise the plan with CEPA/PMU and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the case of PNG considerable resources are needed when undertaking consultations for the adoption of policies and legislation. Travel dollars are especially needed as many communities are far from Port Moresby.

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Key Activities 2022-24	Activities to close Project in 2025	Learning
	of Practice (COP), 2) training to selected stakeholders on the COP	the importation of ACM and its use in PNG.	tender this work, that includes the development of radio spots and video presentation in Tok-Pisin. Then use those resources through local radio stations and TV.	
Tonga	Several government buildings contained ACM. The government of Tonga propose the use of PacWastePlus project dollars to undertake CM removals in a few key buildings. Tonga was provided with the criteria for selection, and five buildings were selected for ACM abatement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel training on the abatement of non-friable ACM • Removal of 2672 m² of ACM: • <u>Quarter 35/45 - 59 m²</u> • <u>Quarter 88 - 120 m²</u> • <u>MOI main workshop – 1875m²</u> • <u>MOI offices – 336m²</u> • <u>MOI bowser – 282m²</u> • Development of a Strategic Asbestos Management Plan (SAMP) – This plan provides the framework for the long-term management. i.e., regulation, abatement, location/registry etc. of ACM in Tonga. • Endorsement of ACM Code of Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsement of ACM importation ban. • Hold necessary consultation on the ban in support the ban legislation • Capacity build Customs agencies on the identification and safe handling of ACM: • Undertake education and outreach efforts. Further refine education and assessment plan and then tender the action. The plan includes the development of radio spots and four short (5min) video spots for use on television. These resources will then be used to raise awareness of ACM and its potential to cause disease through exposure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safety from disposal management, close working relationship with different partners (contractors, owners of the quarters etc)
Tuvalu	Previous assessments under PacWaste identified that 18% of buildings in Funafuti contained asbestos. The Tuvalu DWM seek to obtain accurate data on the location and quantity of asbestos across the remaining Tuvalu islands so an effective plan can be prepared for asbestos management and remediation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political approval of asbestos importation ban • Purchase of microPHAZIR technology • Methodology finalised and training undertaken with DWM to complete assessment • Assessment complete on Nui Island 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asbestos importation ban regulation to be signed by the PM. • Hold awareness sessions with customs and importers on the importation ban • Asbestos assessment complete on remaining seven outer islands and strategic plan developed for asbestos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • awareness for communities is important

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Key Activities 2022-24	Activities to close Project in 2025	Learning
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geo Mapping exercise commenced to record the location and quantity of asbestos Community awareness on how to live safely with asbestos underway through radio program, community session, and direct engagement with households where assessment identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> management and remediation Geo Mapping complete and data used for effective decision making around asbestos management Community awareness complete with all communities aware of how to live safely with asbestos 	
PacWastePlus Regional Asbestos Project	Legacy asbestos is a significant problem for many countries in the PICTS. The shipment and disposal of this material is prohibitively expensive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research the viability and costs of on-island disposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete work on ACM position paper focussed on disposal. i.e. landfilling, of asbestos. Once the paper is completed an outreach program e.g., radio spots, interviews, etc., to inform stakeholders in the Pacific of this option, and its cost effectiveness. Undertake an education and outreach effort of this work, to include radio and print efforts. Outreach will focus on government agencies as well as contractor and landfill operators. 	

Questions from Asbestos Management Session

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
EU would only support removal in banning asbestos importation, timeframes on countries moving to ban asbestos importation. Is the end	EU	<p>Nauru – finalised code of practice under the regulation which includes the ban, discussions with Customs on the issue, identifying asbestos at the border has been the issue. Technical capacity to identify asbestos at the border?</p> <p>Tonga – final draft is in place, cabinet submission for approval; we need to complete the awareness and consultations with stakeholders before cabinet submission.</p>

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
of the project possible? what are the challenges to this?		<p>PNG – Code of practice</p> <p>Kiribati – code of practice developed, technical assistance to support finalisation and formalised. Building code housed with other ministry that prohibits construction with ACM.</p> <p>PMU – missions have included visits to hardware stores, which can be included in support letter to ministries. Training for customs staff is included in the EOI.</p>
Outstanding asbestos and asbestos management – what is the plan?	SPREP (WMPC)	<p>Nauru – baseline reports highlight significant amount of ACM, PWP has only been able to remove a portion of this amount. Temporary storage area</p> <p>Niue – landowners based overseas from homes identified to have ACM. Consent is needed. Compensation for removal and replacement that will take on more years. Big risk from village inspection, ACM roofing that are damaged or will be damaged during the next cyclone season. Disaster risk for next cyclone season.</p> <p>Kiribati – shared issue of remaining asbestos; costly to dispose; affordable and safe options for disposal.</p>
Tuvalu - What is the next step in the asbestos ban - does it need Parliament approval	EU	No further Parliament approval needed. Next step is signed by Minister of Home Affairs, Climate Change, and Environment. Policy has been approved by cabinet in March – drafting to be finalised and Minister to sign.

Healthcare Waste Management

Improper management of wastes generated in health care facilities can have direct health impacts on the community, the personnel working in health-care facilities, and on the environment. In addition, environmental pollution by inadequate treatment of healthcare waste can cause adverse health effects to the community. Injury occurs and human health is at risk when the community is exposed to poorly handled and disposed of health care waste.

Significant improvements can however be achieved by providing national policy for the management of health care wastes and local hospital health care waste management plans to drive proper treatment and disposal of the waste as is envisioned here.

Two member countries: Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste are using some of their PacWaste Plus funding support to improve Healthcare waste management.

This session provided an opportunity for countries to share background and achievements for implementing their healthcare waste management and upcoming activities to close of the PacWaste Plus Project. The session enabled discussion on challenges and highlight the key aspects of each project to enable peer-to-peer learning. PacWaste Plus provided an update on resources available for all countries to assist with the design and implementation of healthcare waste management projects.

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Key Activities 2022-24	Activities to close Project in 2025	Learning
Papua New Guinea	<p>CEPA requested to address hazardous waste with PacWastePlus project investment. Healthcare waste management was the initial focus of work and involved coordinating activities with CEPA and the Ministry of Health (MoH). Their desire was to develop a healthcare strategy and guidance document for future endorsement.</p> <p>Initial consultation meetings were held with CEPA and the MOH on the design of the healthcare waste management policy and guidelines. Training was also discussed as it related to the strategy documents. MOH committed to taking the lead on endorsing both the strategy and guidance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed development of Healthcare Strategy and Guidance Completed development of healthcare waste management training & held two pilot trainings. The training was revised to address specific PNG concerns as well as translated into Tok Pisin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the completion of the pilot trainings, the course is available to be given in all PNG provinces. Complete training in remaining provinces of PNG Undertake education and outreach efforts on the HCWM & E-waste strategy and guidance. Awareness of ACM and the use of the PNG Code of Practice in addressing legacy asbestos in PNG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> trying to build national capacity, utilise existing resources to train; consultation is costly specifically when trying to pass new legislation, policies etc - policy to be endorsed at the national level, which needs to be taken to 4 different regions
Timor-Leste	<p>Timor-Leste requested the PacWastePlus program to invest its country dollars into healthcare waste management. Specifically</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Development of HCWM Strategy, 2022-2026 2) HCWM- Train the trainer course development and implementation 3) Remediation of the Baucau Referral Hospital dumping areas 4) Development of solid waste guidelines 5) Repair of three (3) incinerators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remediation (removal of contaminated soils) around the Baucau Hospital, on-site disposal pits to house the collected material, construction of an anatomical pit to manage organic materials Construction of a sharps pit to manage these materials Completed the repair and recommissioning of incinerators at the Baucau, Maubisse, and Suai hospitals. An outcome from the HCWM training is the creation of healthcare waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education/awareness approach is to prepare a plan with the Timor-Leste Ministry of Health and tender this work. The plan will include outreach on the pilot scale work done at Baucau Hospital, to the other hospitals and medical clinics in Timor-Leste. Outreach will be done via radio and through print media. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> language barrier was challenging, materials were translated into Tetum.

Country	Background and Current Achievements	Key Activities 2022-24	Activities to close Project in 2025	Learning
		management plan for the participants' facility where each participant works.		
PacWastePlus Regional Healthcare Waste Project	<p>Implement HCWM training for member countries.</p> <p>Several documents were produced in support of our PacWastePlus countries. The focus of these publications was on appropriate options for healthcare waste disposal.</p> <p>Train hospital operations staff to properly repair and maintain incinerators repaired under the PWP programme.</p> <p>The development of HCWM committees at healthcare facilities, leading to better HCW management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake HCWM training for members. Continued revision and translations of the HCWM train the training course. An assessment of the PacWaste healthcare waste management programme in Timor-Leste was conducted the assessment activities were completed, and the report was finalised late 2022. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the HCWM training in the remaining PacWastePlus PICT that have not had the training. <p>SPREP is seeking to engage with donor and development partners to find a meaningful and sustainable solution to manage healthcare waste management infrastructure. As such, we are utilizing the previous and current investment from the EU to address some key failing infrastructure in the region and working with our current partners GEF ISLANDS (with UNEP assistance) to propose a "Healthcare waste management facility". The basis of this is to secure appropriate co-funding to match the UNEP initial funding and leverage the EU funding to develop and engage a management company (or consortium) that will be based in the region and resourced to provide ongoing and responsive support to issues of healthcare waste management infrastructure.</p>	

Questions from Talanoa 5 -Healthcare waste session

Question / Comment	Raised by	Response
Healthcare incinerators – Niue unit, spare parts needed are obsolete.	Niue	We can provide details of current contractor who has been able to provide replacement parts for similar unit in Niue.

Disaster Waste Management

The intensity and frequency of natural disasters such as tropical cyclones are evidently increasing in the Pacific. When these natural disasters occur large amounts of waste are generated from damage to both the natural and man-made environment. Inefficient or ineffective management of clean-up efforts following a disaster often results in the slow and costly recovery of a community, potentially risking public, and environmental health.

No member countries have selected Disaster waste management as their country project, but a regional project is being implemented to ensure learnings available to all members.

This session provided an opportunity for the Programme management Unit to discuss the background for the regional activities. The session enabled discussion with member countries that will be participating in pilot activities and confirmation on expected outputs from the regional effort. PacWaste Plus provided an update on resources available for all countries to assist with the design and implementation of disaster waste management projects.

Project	Background and Current Achievements	Key Activities in 22-2024	Activities to close Project for 2025
Regional Project	<p>PMU established the following Practitioner's Guideline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Template for National and Community Disaster Waste Management Plans (DWMP) with Drafting/Guiding Instructions providing Pacific countries with a DWM plan template. • Methodology for Estimating and Recording of Disaster Waste and Environmental Damage in Pacific Countries. • Operational Guide on the Establishment of an Environment Sector Working Group (ESWG) • In recognition of the dynamic nature of the Pacific region, PacWastePlus is looking to trial these guidelines in Fiji, Niue, Vanuatu, and Tonga to ensure suitability in the different island contexts prior to publication. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established a Technical Working Group on Disaster Waste. • Established the Practitioner's Guideline on National Disaster Waste Management Plan. • Established the Practitioner's Guideline on the establishment of Environment Sector Working Group. • Established the Practitioner's Guideline on Assessment and Recording of Disaster Waste. • Launched animation videos on Disaster Waste Management Plans, Environment Sector Working Group, and the Assessment of Disaster Waste. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitation of Regional Training on Disaster Waste. • Participation in Disaster Risk Reduction meetings and Disaster Management Conference to inform of the Practitioner's Guideline available to countries to effectively plan and manage Disaster Waste and support Disaster Risk Reduction. • Production of Documentary video showcasing the learnings from the 4 countries that trialled of the Practitioner 'Guideline. • Trialling of the Practitioner's Guideline in Fiji, Niue, Tonga and Vanuatu. • Establishment of Disaster Waste Management Plan for Fiji. • Establishment of Disaster Waste Management Plan for Niue. • Establishment of Environment Sector Working Group for Fiji. • Establishment of Environment Sector Working Group for Niue. • Establishment of Environment Sector Working Group for Vanuatu. • Establishment of National Disaster Waste Assessment Process for Fiji. • Establishment of National Disaster Waste Assessment Process for Niue. • Establishment of National Disaster Waste Assessment Process for Tonga. • Finalisation of the Practitioner's Guidelines and publication of resources for use by countries and partners.

Questions Disaster Waste Management Session

No questions.

SESSION 4: PARTNER PROJECTS UPDATE

The session enabled programme partners and the SPREP Waste Management and Pollution Control (WMPC) to present project updates, identify opportunities for collaboration and country engagement on planned activities and the on-going support to members that will provide value to all participating countries.

WMPC Advisor's & Project Managers presented and discussed activities and how these leverages or assists PacWaste Plus programme implementation.

Discussions from the session included:

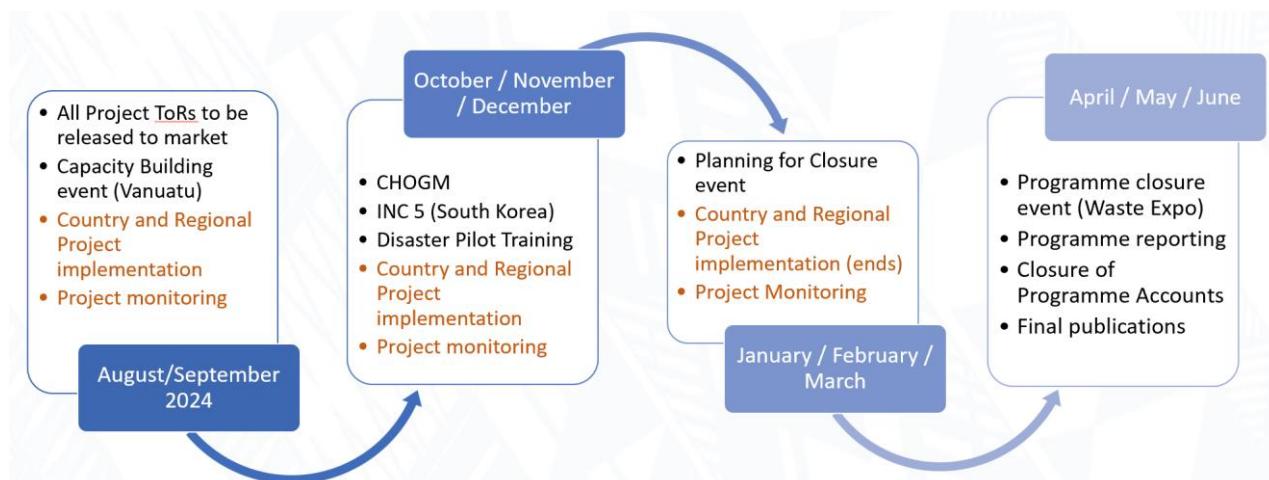
Comments	
Country	
POLP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed the broad range of project activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measure to reduce single-use plastic Use less single-use plastics Companies adopt plastic reduction policies Identify alternative products SPREP coordinate delivery of the Marine Litter Action Plan
ISLANDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GEF ISLANDS project was redesigned and refocused of the immediate priorities of the ISLANDS workplan, budget, and recruitment of the PMU The synergies with PacWastePlus and GEF ISLANDS projects and the work to align the continuation of select activities in the closing year of PacWastePlus.
JPRISM III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> J-PRISM3 has started from July 2023 to 2028 as 5 years project. Our project purpose is "the mechanism for self-sustaining solid waste management and 3R+Return is strengthened". Focus activities are improvement of Landfill management and promotion of 3R+Return in the Pacific. We finished the 1st Steering Committee together with 9 target countries and SPREP and our partners in June 2024. As J-PRISM3 has agreed on the prioritized activities at each country at the 1st SCM, J-PRISM3 will now begin Full-scale activities in each country.
SWAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SWAP project is a 3M€ project funded by the French Development Agency. It started in February 2020 and will end in December 2024. A Regional Virtual Vocational Training Program has been developed and is available online. This training includes four modules: Module #1: Project Management; Module #2: Sustainable Financing; Module #3: Used Oil Management; and Module #4: Disaster Waste Management. The establishment of a Scrap Metal Recovery Facility in Wallis, which supports the eco-tax. The facility includes a smelting room for aluminium cans, a room dedicated to the dismantling of end-of-life vehicles to remove spare parts for re-selling on the local market and a storage area. Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu are implementing used oil management projects. pilot projects on marine litter management have been implemented in Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu. These initiatives aimed to engage local communities, enhance data collection and sharing, and implement effective strategies to reduce marine litter. SWAP, PacWaste Plus and Fonds Pacifique will hold a workshop in Vanuatu. The workshop will focus on: (i) Used oil management including discussions on pyrolysis machine; (ii) Disaster waste management and preparedness; (iii) Composting; and (iv) Sustainable Financing
WMPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WMPC Director gave an overview of the various projects being implemented by the Programme and the broad support available to members.

Prior to closure of the Steering Committee Meeting, a suggestion was received from the EU whether there may be any value in holding an online meeting of the committee in January 2025 to review activity and for committee members to raise any challenges that impede the completion of remaining activities.

Cook Islands supported the recommendation from the European Union

SESSION 6: WORKSHOP CLOSURE

As this is the last year of implementation for PacWastePlus and the Programme Manager provided an overview of the stages of final implementation (see figure below).



The Programme manager then described the closure event for PacWastePlus, which is to be a 5-day expo that fully explores the technical issues, outcomes, and achievements in each of the waste streams. A tentative summary agenda was presented to get people ready for the work to come!

Time	Monday 28 April	Tuesday 29 April	Wednesday 30 April	Thursday 1 May	Friday 2 May
Morning	Official Welcome	Technical Session – Disaster Waste	Technical session – Recyclables	KRA 1 – outcome session	KRA 4 – outcome session
Midday	Technical session – Healthcare & E-waste	Technical Session – Bulky waste		KRA 2 – outcome session	CP 2035 development session
Lunchtime Soapbox Talks	3 countries (10 mins each)	3 countries (10 mins each)	3 countries (10 mins each)	3 countries (10 mins each)	3 countries (10 mins each)
Afternoon	Technical Session - Asbestos	Technical session - organics	Reflection and Project Development (CP 2035)	KRA 3 – outcome session	Official closing
Evening	Welcome Dinner		Movie Night		

The day ended with closing remarks and words of encouragement to the participants to encourage efficient and effective project commitment implementation.

Ms. Andrea Vidal, from the EU delegation thanked all delegates for attending the programme steering committee meeting and encouraged participating project countries to some closing words prior to the meeting being officially closed via a prayer provided by Mr Epu Falenga of Tuvalu.

The programme manager in his vote of thanks expressed appreciation to country delegates for their continued work on progressing country project actions and assured the countries that the programme management unit will continue to provide the required help to progress project commitments. He also thanked the EU for their continued assistance and guidance for moving the programme forward.

The meeting concluded at 5:15pm on 2 August 2024.



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Environment Programme

