



PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa
E: sprep@sprep.org
T: +685 21929
F: +685 20231
W: www.sprep.org



The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

Seventh Meeting of The Waigani Convention

Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and the Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (Waigani Convention)

Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands
26th September 2014

The Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Joint Implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions

Business Plan 2014-2015

**Secretariat of the Pacific
Regional Environment Programme
(SPREP)**

**PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa
Ph +685 21929**



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Executive Summary of the Business Plan 2014-2015 for the *Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the joint implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions*

This Business Plan prepared for the period 2014-2015 aims to continue the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Basel Convention to 2015, taking into account the realities and needs of developing countries in the Pacific. The activities and projects proposed uphold the lines of the previous Business Plan and build on the experience acquired while embracing the vision of the Centre, as “*the leading institution for the countries of the Pacific in the process of capacity building, strengthening and specialization toward minimizing health and environmental risks by means of integrated hazardous waste and substances management, within a framework of sustainable development*”.

The plan is formulated contemplating the need to conceptualise the projects, programmes and activities of an integrated hazardous waste and substances management scenario, paying attention to the life cycle of substances and products, hence, its execution is expected to contribute to facilitation of the implementation of the Basel, Waigani, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions as an integrated activity.

The Coordinating Centre sees itself as a strategic actor, facilitating the processes of regional and national capacity building and strengthening through training of the key national actors in environmentally sound hazardous waste and substances management, as well as the preparation and dissemination of specialized information. The execution of regional and national projects is thought to be a basic strategy for the transference of technology and successful experiences.

It is in this sense that for this period we have identified the following strategic lines of action:

- Strengthening the relationship of the *Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the joint implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions* (SPREP) with the *Regional Centre with the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Asia and the Pacific* (Tsinghua University, China) to facilitate the improved control and environmentally sound management of hazardous substances and wastes in the Pacific region;
- Development and strengthening awareness programs and outreach in the field of hazardous waste by integrating the areas covered by the Convention;
- Completing on-ground programmes to minimize the risk to Pacific islanders of exposure to hazardous wastes;
- Strengthening national capacities of countries in the region to implement the obligations of the Convention through training and transfer of technology for minimizing waste generation; and
- Prompt the environmentally sound management of hazardous substances and wastes, minimizing health and the environment risks and supporting synergy in the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

The budget for 2014-2015 consists of USD\$ 4,206,300, corresponding to the activities and projects whose execution during the term is considered possible.

Information on the Centre

A – Vision

Pacific island people depend on their natural environment for their sustenance and livelihoods. Vital resources and ecosystems are under ever-increasing pressure as our islands strive to address their economic aspirations and meet the needs of their growing populations. In particular, pollution and the growing volumes of solid and hazardous wastes are major threats to the environments and sustainable development of the Pacific islands. Globalisation is accelerating the transition of Pacific communities towards consumer economies, with increasing urbanisation, migration, and participation in international trade. This is resulting in an escalation in the generation of solid and liquid wastes, and these increase the risk of coastal and marine pollution. The lack of controls on imported chemicals, and the lack of capacity for managing pollutants threaten to undermine the quality and health of vulnerable ecosystems on which Pacific islanders depend.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) has been charged by the governments and administrations of the Pacific region with the protection and sustainable development of the region's environment. Management of hazardous wastes is seen by Member States as a critical component of this work, and SPREP is mandated to take action on waste management and the control of pollution. SPREP's members are American Samoa, Australia, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna.

The Secretariat's focus is to improve Members' technical capacity to manage pollution, solid wastes and hazardous chemicals through provision of training, technical advice and support. SPREP also encourages the development of national and regional waste management infrastructure and innovative funding measures, and the sharing of best practices across the region in order to support environmentally sound and sustainable waste management and reduce pollution. SPREP also supports renewed efforts in educating communities through national and other targeted awareness campaigns. With the support of bilateral and multilateral partnerships, the goal is for all members to have national waste management and pollution control policies, strategies, plans and practices in place to minimize terrestrial, atmospheric and marine pollution, hazardous waste, solid waste and other land-based sources of pollution.

B – Background

The Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the joint implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions for the countries in the Pacific region, established within the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP), is located at Apia, Samoa. Just as the Waigani Convention was developed within the framework of Article 11 of the Basel Convention and thus shares common and overlapping objectives with it, the establishment of the Pacific Regional Centre is not only seen as a mechanism to improve SPREP's work as the Secretariat of the Waigani Convention in assisting the Parties in the region, but also as an opportunity to foster better cooperation with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention in the implementation of both Conventions' objectives. The establishment of the Centre is also seen as an opportunity to extend this cooperation to other secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements, including the Stockholm, Rotterdam, SAICM and IMO Conventions.

The Centre provides services for the implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions to the Parties to the Basel or Waigani Conventions consenting to be served. These includes the provision of services through capacity building activities and initiatives, specific projects and the transfer of appropriate technologies for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, to achieve the fulfillment of the objectives of the Conventions. Any other non-Party States to the Basel or

Waigani Conventions from the Pacific region may at any time express their consent to be served by the Centre through a written communication to the Centre, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and SPREP.

The Centre services the following countries: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu (See Annex I).

Recent activities undertaken by the Centre include development of a Regional asbestos management strategy (2011); development of a Regional E-waste strategy (2011); development of a Regional Healthcare Waste Management strategy (2012); securing SAICM quick-start funding for better E-waste management in 3 Pacific island countries (2012-2013); securing AFD financing for integrated regional waste oil management (2011-2014); and securing AFD financing for development of regional hazardous waste management training (2011-2014). Currently the Centre is endeavouring to secure over \$US20M in funding for the better management of hazardous wastes and uPOPs prevention through the GEF-PAS (Global Environment Facility Pacific Alliance for Sustainability) and European Union EDF10 programmes.

C – Governance

The governance of the Centre through the Conference of the Parties and the Steering Committee automatically ensures direct control of the Countries party to both the Basel and Waigani Conventions over the related activities of the Centre. The agreement establishing the Centre was officially signed between the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and SPREP on the 18th December 2003, in Geneva. It is operated under the joint authority of the Parties to the Basel and Waigani Conventions in the Pacific region.

The Pacific Regional Centre operates under the Directorship of the Director General of SPREP and has a number of core staff that dedicate part of their time attending to the Centre's activities which assists SPREP to perform its role as the Secretariat of the Waigani and Basel Conventions. The staffing of the regional Centre is governed by the SPREP staff regulations. The activities of the Centre are carried out under the general guidance and supervision of the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and SPREP who also coordinate the activities of the Centre with the relevant activities of other Basel Convention Regional Centres or of the Parties to the Basel and Waigani Conventions, as well as with international organisations, programmes and other global and regional conventions.

Subject to the agreement of the Regional Centre's Steering Committee any non-Party State to the Basel and Waigani Conventions outside the Pacific region, non-governmental organisation, entity, private sector organisation, academic institution, or other organisation may participate in the activities of the Centre. The Centre implements activities in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Waigani Conventions and the Business Plan that is developed by the Regional Centre Steering Committee. The overall monitoring of the Center's activities against the Business Plan is the function of the Regional Centre Steering Committee. The Steering Committee advises on the development and implementation of the activities of the Centre and to enhance national support to its work from countries served by the Centre. It is also charged with the responsibility of developing the Business Plan of the Centre and overseeing its implementation.

The Steering Committee is composed of five (5) members nominated by the countries to be served by the Centre through a process of consultation, for a period of four (4) years with the members being experts of recognized standing and with experience in the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes. The representative of SBC, SPREP and the Director of the Centre will participate in the meetings of the Committee *ex officio*. The members of the Committee elect by consensus the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee from among its members for a period of four (4) years. The Chairperson, in consultation with SBC, SPREP and the Director of the

Centre, convene the ordinary meetings of the Committee at least every two years. Extraordinary meetings may be convened by the Chairperson, when required, in consultation with SBC and SPREP.

The current members of the Steering Committee are: Chair: Australia; New Zealand, PNG (representing the Melanesian sub-region), FSM (representing the Micronesian sub-region) and Samoa (representing the Polynesian sub-region).

The funding of the basic activities of the Centre are primarily through mechanisms set up by the Waigani financial regulations and financial mechanisms under the Basel Convention. The voluntary funding envisaged under the Basel Convention and the Waigani Convention' Financial Regulations affect the stability needed for a smooth operation of the Centre according to a longer-term workplan.

D – Contact information

The Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the joint implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions key contact is:

Dr David Haynes
Director
Waste Management and Pollution Control Division
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
PO Box 240
Apia, Samoa
davidh@sprep.org or wasteteam@sprep.org

Tel +685 21929
Fax +685 20231

II – The Centre and the Basel Convention

A – Performance of the core functions

The Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the joint implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions work in cooperation with the countries in the region to effect the core functions of the Basel Convention Regional Centres established in decision VI/3 of the Conference of the Parties.

Although the impact of the Centre has never been formally assessed, it is estimated that the current level of support of the countries served by the Centre indicates that the activities coordinated by the Centre are having a positive impact in the region. Among the main achievements of the Centre is the acquisition of significant funding to support improved hazardous waste management in the Pacific region; completion of on-ground projects to reduce potential impacts of hazardous waste, preparation of workshops concerning different hazardous wastes topics; and provision of hazardous waste management advice on request. The Centre also has served as a facilitator for technology transfer within the region, specifically through the preparation of technical guidelines and regional Action Plans for waste management streams such as asbestos and E-waste.

B – Opportunities for improvement

Challenges faced by the region are complex and immense, and often implementation of the Conventions by Parties of the region is often either non-existent or only partial. Essential improvements are needed across the region in terms of human resources; improved expertise and knowledge, including legal expertise; increased financial support; increased capacity to conduct trainings ('train the trainers'); improved judicial capacity; improved awareness within relevant National authorities (Ministries and their specialized department/agencies, customs officers, etc); and

increased political willingness, from the relevant national authorities, to prioritise the Chemicals and Waste agenda, and therefore the Conventions implementation. In addition, a mechanism needs to be developed to sustainably co-finance the activities of the Centre including a Waigani Trust fund, a Basel Trust Fund and Basel technical Trust Fund. This will need to be formalized in project documents signed by Secretariat of the Basel Convention (UNEP) and the Secretariat of the Waigani Convention (SPREP).

C – Cooperation with the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

The Waigani, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions are key international agreements that regulate the use and trans-boundary movement of hazardous chemicals and wastes in the Pacific. Countries signed to these conventions have undertaken to manage or track the importation and movement of hazardous chemicals and wastes in the region to ensure that they are disposed of properly and not dumped in the region. However, country officials are often untrained in these procedures, which place the Pacific region at risk. To improve this situation, SPREP coordinated a 5 day training workshop in Fiji in 2011 that provided 30 participants from 15 member countries with an improved capacity to fulfil their national obligations under the conventions. The Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and EU generously made funding and training resources available to enable Pacific island participants to attend the 5 day workshop.

D – Joint activities

Ozone depleting substances (ODS) and refrigerants contained in air conditioner and refrigerator gases are highly destructive to the earth's ozone layer which protects us from harmful radiation from the sun. Pacific island countries are progressively working towards better regulation or banning of these types of gases. In 2011, SPREP in association with UNEP, assisted Fiji to reform national legislation to provide a modern and comprehensive administrative and regulatory framework to control ODS and refrigerants in accordance with the international Montreal Convention that regulates these pollutants. This model legislation has been provided to all interested Pacific island countries as a guide to better ODS and refrigerant management. The ultimate phase-out of ODS will also result in a significant reduction in country greenhouse gas emissions.

Agriculture is an important component of Pacific island economies as well as a critical source of local foods. Unfortunately, modern farming techniques have resulted in the use of a range of pesticides to increase production, including the use of persistent pesticides such as DDT and dieldrin. Unused stocks were often buried when these pesticides were banned for use in the 1980s. SPREP in partnership with FAO have completed surveys of suspected contaminated burial sites in Fiji, Niue, Samoa and Tonga during 2011. These surveys have indicated that residual pesticides such as DDT and dieldrin are often present, and sites in Niue, Samoa and Tonga have been prioritised for cleaned-up using funding provided by FAO and GEFPAS.

III – Regional Needs Assessment

Waste and pollution have significant impacts on the region's environment, as well as on public health, drinking water quality, fisheries, agriculture, and tourism and on the quality of life in general. Poor waste management and pollution are also major threats to sustainable development in Pacific Island Countries and Territories. Building a better regional skills base and technical capacity, and increasing awareness of waste management and pollution control issues are central to the Centre's and SPREPs role in assisting Pacific island countries and territories to manage waste and pollution to protect public health while at the same time protecting the environment and encouraging economic growth. However, economic sustainability is often perceived as the first priority, usually at the cost of the environment and social structures. While most Pacific island countries have made significant steps towards protecting the environment, much remains to be done. There are also a number of legacies of the past that are to be addressed, and one of those legacies is the result of mismanagement of chemicals and hazardous wastes.

In recent times, a significant amount of work in the area of waste management has been undertaken in the region. The following regional plans have been put in place to address the various components of the waste stream and are now being implemented. These include:

- The Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme (PACPOL); 2010-2014
- The Pacific Regional Solid Waste Management Strategy; 2010-2015
- Regional Asbestos Management Plan (2011)
- Regional E-waste Management Plan (2012)
- Regional Healthcare Waste Management Plan (2012)
- National Solid Waste Management Strategies

There is currently no regional plan for dealing with hazardous waste at both the regional and national levels but there are many activities that are being undertaken to manage hazardous waste. These projects have often highlighted the barriers and priorities of issues that were pertinent to the management of these types of wastes. These include:

A. Barriers to improved management of chemicals and hazardous wastes:

- Lack of knowledge of chemicals and hazardous wastes issues
- Lack of targeted and user-friendly information on chemicals and hazardous wastes issues
- Lack of adequately trained personnel and the need for much more institutional strengthening
- Lack of in country trainers
- Lack of coverage of new emerging issues in existing educational curricula
- Poor systems in countries for chemical handling, storage and use, and information management
- Lack of data on fate and transportation of chemicals and hazardous wastes in the region
- Lack of appropriate legislation in some countries
- Lack of knowledge on alternatives to certain toxic chemicals
- Lack of established control systems for managing chemicals and hazardous wastes including import information
- An absence of appropriate disposal facilities and is expensive to move them to another country for disposal purposes
- PICs still learning about the requirements of regional and international MEAs such as Waigani, Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions and the procedures therein

B. Priority needs and issues for chemical and hazardous waste management

- Education, Training, Community Awareness and Participation
- Chemical management systems, Technology, Information and Research
- Adequate funding and improved cooperate funding arrangements
- Appropriate legislation development and drafting training
- Compilation of expertise list in the region
- Relevant capacity building activities through need specific training
- Activities to support the reduced used of hazardous and toxic chemicals in the Pacific including the promotion of cleaner production and integrated pest management

Due to its infancy, many of the countries are only now beginning to put in place Action Plans to address many of these barriers and issues. The countries have also recognised the benefits of taking a synergistic approach to chemical and hazardous waste management by integrating the relevant MEAs and frameworks such as Waigani, Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions.

IV – Proposed activities

The Pacific Regional Centre Business Plan for 2014-2015 will continue work commenced in 2012/2013 and concentrate on the following Strategic Focus Areas:

A – Maintenance of the Centre and staff training activities

Website updates. SPREP will update the website Notification and Movement Forms as well as the annual reporting forms so that PICs can complete them on line.

Insurance Options for Waigani Movements. SPREP to develop a list of potential insurance brokers for the transportation of E-waste as well as other forms of hazardous wastes.

B – Activities for the implementation of the Strategic Framework and other COP-10 decisions

Attendance to COPs. Recognising the need to have a voice in the conventions, PICs will address this issue. Most PICs are eligible for funding from the Secretariats to attend convention COPs. This is essential that PICs are attending the COPs to adequately ensure that PICs issues are adequately addressed.

Technical Assistance. Noting the assistance available to PICs by the Secretariats, PICs will address this issue and make a conscious effort to request for technical assistance from SPREP and UNEP.

National Development Plans. Recognising the available bilateral funding opportunities directed at country priorities, PICs will ensure the inclusion of hazardous chemicals and waste in their National Development Plans.

Funding on-ground improvements.

Project: Assessment of E-waste stockpiles and generation rates in the Pacific

Countries: 7 Pacific island countries

Time frame: 24 months (2013-2014)

Project: Regional used oil recycling

Countries: Region wide

Time frame: 2 years (2013-2015)

Project: Regional Assessment of asbestos in the Pacific

Countries: 3 Pacific island countries

Time frame: 24 months (2013-2015)

Project: Management of non-POPs wastes including laboratory chemicals and healthcare waste (expired pharmaceuticals)

Countries: Region wide

Time frame: 5 years (2013-2017)

Project: Training of focal points, competent authorities and relevant staff and other stakeholders on various aspects of the implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions

Countries: Region wide

Time frame: 2 years (2013-2015)

Project: Management of medical wastes in the Pacific

Countries: Region wide

Time frame: 3 years (2013-2016)

C – Synergies activities (optional)

Funding Opportunities. Noting the various funding opportunities available for PICs for implementation of these conventions, PICs will address this issue. The potential funding opportunities are: GEF Stockholm (\$400K), NIP Updates (\$250K), GEF 5 Chemical window (recommend proposals less than \$1M), and bilateral funding opportunities. The Secretariats will assist wherever possible with country proposals upon request.

D – Other capacity building activities (optional)

Capacity Building – Train the trainer. Noting one of the objective of the training workshop – “**To improve knowledge of International and Regional conventions dealing with hazardous chemicals and wastes and their impact on pollution minimization and management**” PICs will address capacity building at the national level through train-the-trainer program with technical assistance from the Secretariats.

Legislation Development. Recognising that most PICs do not have appropriate legislation that addresses hazardous chemicals and waste, PICs request SPREP & UNEP to assist them in domesticating Tonga and Samoa legislations. This will ensure adequate border control through the customs authority and port state control mechanisms. None of the PICs currently have this PSC and border control mechanism in place.

V – Financial information

A – Main sources of funding

European Union (Confirmed)

Global Environment Facility (Confirmed)

AFD (Confirmed)

FAO (unconfirmed)

UNEP (Confirmed)

B – Key partners and stakeholders

FAO

UNEP

Parties in the region

Secretariat of the Basel Convention

Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention

Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention

Regional training institutions such as the University of the South Pacific

C – Proposed budget for activities (2014-2015)

BCRC estimate budget for the year 2014-2015:

<u>ESTIMATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE</u>			
<u>FOR 2014/2015</u>			
<u>INCOMES (ESTIMATE)</u>	2014	2015	Total
Partner funds (countries)	0	0	0
From Basel Convention (Technical Cooperation Trust Fund)	0	0	0
From other MEAs	0	0	0
From donors	3,015,000	1,151,300	4,166,300
SPREP	20,000	20,000	40,000
Total Incomes	3,035,000	1,171,300	4,206,300
<u>EXPENDITURES (ESTIMATE)</u>			
<u>CORE</u>			
Personnel			
Subcontracts			
Travel and Subsistence	0	0	0
Training/Learning			
Equipment, supplies and premises			
General operating expenses (telephone, internet, electricity, etc)			
<u>PROJECTS</u>			
Regional E-waste Management	1,000,000	163,300	1,163,300
Regional Asbestos Management	1,000,000	114,000	1,114,000
Regional Medical Waste Management	141,000	141,000	282,000
Regional Waste Oil Management	94,000	94,000	188,000
Used Pesticide Container Management	250,000	250,000	500,000
Contaminated Site Remediation	250,000	250,000	500,000
<u>WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES</u>			
Regional Convention Training	100,000	100,000	200,000
Regional Laboratory Chemicals Training	100,000		100,000
Regional Chemical Strategy Training	100,000		100,000
Total Expenditures	3,035,000	1,171,300	4,206,300