

## Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of the EU/EDF10 Pacific Hazardous Waste Management Programme (PacWaste)

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**Date:** Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014

**Time:** 18:00 - 19:00

**Venue:** 25<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting, Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands

### **Attendees:**

#### **European Union**

Ms Ileana Miritescu - Programme Manager, Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Mr. Jesus Lavina - Head of Section, Infrastructure and Natural Resources

#### **SPREP**

Mr. David Sheppard (Chair) - Director General, SPREP

Dr. David Haynes - Director, Waste Management and Pollution Control Division

Mr. Stewart Williams - Project Manager, PacWaste

Mrs. Ma Bella Guinto - Solid Waste Advisor, Waste Management and Pollution Control Division

Mr. Shiro Amano - Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

#### **Member nations present**

Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati , Niue, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu

#### **Apologies**

Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Vanuatu, RAO (PIFS)

## Minutes

No.	Item	Action/Decision/Discussion
1	<b>Circulation of agenda and other documents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The draft Agenda was circulated on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014 to all beneficiary countries along with an invitation to attend via a SPREP Circular prior to the meeting being held.</li> <li>A hard copy of the Agenda, the PacWaste fact sheets and the 2nd Year Work Plan and Budget was then distributed to all the participants at the meeting. A 'PacWaste' lanyard flash drive which contained e-copies of all the above documents and related SPREP strategic documents was also provided.</li> </ul>
2	<b>Chair's Opening Remarks</b> Mr. David Sheppard (SPREP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair (the SPREP DG) provided opening and outlined the far reaching implications of the €8M PACWASTE programme for the 15 participating countries in the region for improved management of asbestos, E-waste and healthcare waste.</li> <li>The EU representative (Head of Section) further highlighted the good progress of PacWaste to date and the linkages it could develop with programming for EDF11 regional funding which is in the initial stages of development. He assured the attendees that the Pacific islands waste management is high in the agenda and hoped that a regional waste management strategy will be considered as an approach.</li> </ul>
3	<b>Background to the European Union assistance in the Pacific (EDF10)</b> Mr. Jesus Lavina (EU) Ms Ileana Miritescu (EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EU representative (Programme Manager) gave a presentation on the PacWaste project objectives, 4 result areas, budget, duration, geographic and thematic scope as well as the participating countries and project oversight mechanisms.</li> <li>The EU further highlighted the key considerations for future country assistance which include a requirement for demonstrable improvement to relevant national policy and regulations, and demonstrated commitment to on-ground programme assistance.</li> </ul>
4	<b>First Year Work Programme, Milestones and Results</b> Mr. Stewart Williams (SPREP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PacWaste Project Manager from SPREP's Waste Management and Pollution Control Division provided an outline of submitted country priorities and the anticipated interventions under the PacWaste project, and summarised the corresponding first year's PacWaste work programme.</li> <li>SPREP presented the results from the first year work programme</li> </ul>

activities completed within the thematic areas of asbestos, healthcare waste, E-waste and atoll integrated solid waste management. A majority of first year PACWASTE activities were primarily engaged in information gathering across the region to allow prioritisation of actions to achieve the highest impact in improving the management of hazardous waste in the Pacific.

- SPREP advised that the baseline studies for E-waste (9 countries) and Healthcare waste (15 countries/42 hospitals) were completed and posted on the website. The atoll baseline study draft report (RMI) will be finalised at the end of October 2014 and the asbestos baseline study (13 countries) will finish in November with the final report expected in December 2014.
- SPREP presented the consultants' summary findings and recommendations for the completed thematic areas and presented preliminary findings and recommendations for those yet to be completed.
- SPREP also presented areas where early emergency action had been taken in relation to asbestos to address immediate high human health risks in Fiji and Nauru.

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**Country Comments on  
the First year Work  
Programme**

Present PIC member  
nations

- The Delegate from Niue sought assistance from the PacWaste project in the form of further funds to continue to export asbestos wastes from Niue to New Zealand for disposal there. The Delegate sought clarification about the criteria to be used to determine which countries would receive priority assistance in relation to asbestos.
- The EU responded that there was already an agreed process for the project to assist Niue in relation to their management of asbestos. SPREP explained that priority would given to those sites found to present the greatest danger to human health from airborne asbestos fibres, but as the baseline study was still to be completed it was not yet known where the project would conduct all such interventions. Allocation will also be based on population size.
- The Delegate from Fiji asked if the PacWaste consultants for the asbestos baseline survey would be doing further work in Fiji in following from the emergency risk reduction asbestos removal the PacWaste project completed at the Tamavua-Twomey Hospital. The Delegate also asked for assistance for Fiji in relation to the Basel Convention to permit the lawful export of E-waste and uLabs to international recycling locations such as Singapore.
- SPREP responded that the immediate work in Fiji has been

**Country Comments on  
the First year Work  
Programme (continued)**

completed for the asbestos component but that there was still a need for the Tamavua-Twomey Hospital to have a full asbestos management plan developed and that the PacWaste project would provide assistance in the second stage of the programme. SPREP also advised that PacWaste and other projects such as GEFPAS would be able to provide tailored assistance for Fiji to comply with the Waigani and Basel Conventions in exporting E-waste and uLabs.

- The Delegate from FSM sought clarification on how the activities in the next stages of the PacWaste would be programmed in the participating countries.
- SPREP responded that the PacWaste project team will shortly be contacting the individual country focal points as well as the individual thematic stakeholders for asbestos, healthcare waste and E-wastes so that the country level interventions can be formulated.
- The EU and SPREP advised that it is expected that country focal points and stakeholders will actively engage in the project to ensure the success of the country level interventions through the formation of PacWaste National Co-ordination committees.

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**Second Year Work  
Programme**

Mr. Stewart Williams  
(SPREP)

- The PacWaste Project Manager from SPREP's Waste Management and Pollution Control Division presented the proposed Second year work program and budget to the country Delegates.
- This work programme covers significant physical intervention on the ground to improve the management of asbestos, healthcare waste, E-waste and atoll solid waste combined with the provision of equipment, training and capacity building – based on the information collected in the first years baseline surveys.

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**Country Comments on  
the Second Year Work  
Programme**

Present PIC member  
nations

- The Delegate from the Cook Islands requested assistance to expand the asbestos survey in the outer islands (especially in schools) as well as additional support for another E-day to include other E-wastes such as TVs and queried if there could be support for a joint quarantine waste/healthcare waste incinerator to accommodate high volumes.
- SPREP advised that the asbestos baseline survey was not resourced to cover the outer islands but that other future programs could extend to this area and SPREP would seek support for Cook Islands to have this considered. For Cook Islands, E-waste the PacWaste/SAICM baseline study recommended a number of interventions to develop a sustainable E-waste management system geared towards developing E-scrap strategy rather than transporting

**Country Comments on  
the Second Year Work  
Programme (continued)**

whole items. PacWaste management team will shortly seek to implement with the Cook Islands Focal Points. For healthcare waste/quarantine waste joint incinerator concept, SPREP advised that this concept could be considered further, but there were likely to be some difficulties in border security staff disposing of healthcare waste.

- The Delegate from Tonga expressed an interest in awareness raising campaigns for hazardous waste for asbestos, healthcare and E-waste to be built on the existing campaigns conducted in the country. The Delegate also expressed interest in completing the work already conducted on E-waste, and in the stabilisation of asbestos materials in buildings and for re-echoing of capacity building from the integrated solid waste management pilot project on Majuro Atoll.
- SPREP responded that Tonga has been targeted for an E-waste intervention that would assist the current program in exporting the E-scrap and provide other assistance to create a sustainable E-waste management system. SPREP also advised that PacWaste has developed a comprehensive programme communication strategy and will be offering regional and country level awareness raising in each of the thematic areas which will be coordinated to support the physical interventions. SPREP also advised that information sharing across the project, such as that connected with the Majuro Atoll pilot will be provided through a major workshop style event in year three of the project, as well as through promotion of case studies, information sheets and other twinning activities.
- The Delegate from Tuvalu requested assistance in relation to improving healthcare waste incineration. The Delegate advised they currently have an inadequate low temperature incinerator in Funafuti and requested assistance for a high temperature incinerator. The Delegate also suggested covering all the islands since some outer islands do not have real treatment and pose risks to children being exposed to healthcare wastes.
- EU responded that if the outer islands are considered a problem, then PACWASTE can look at addressing the issue through the focal point and it is up to the country to prioritise.
- The Delegate from Kiribati sought clarification if the PacWaste project would be able to fund a dedicated E-waste officer to support the implementation of the project within countries similar to what is proposed under the GEFPAS uPOPs project. The Delegate from Kiribati's also advised that they would be happy to share the

**Country Comments on  
the Second Year Work  
Programme(continued)**

information collected from their planned international shipment of e-scrap once this has been finalised.

- SPREP advised that the project is not structured to have a project personnel, and that the SPREP project management unit is to be supported by Focal Points and thematic stakeholders through the formation of National Co-ordination committees with expert consultancy support also provided when required.
- The Delegate from Palau asked if the PacWaste project would be able to assist with the improved management of E-waste in the second stage of the project and inquired whether the project will involve private recyclers. The Delegate also asked if it was safe to leave asbestos water pipes underground or should these be removed. The Delegate sought advice for managing asbestos in general.
- SPREP advised that Palau was included in the E-waste baseline survey and will be offered interventions to improve the management of E-waste via implementation of sustainable systems. The PacWaste management team will shortly be following up with Palau focal points in implementing the recommendations raised in the PacWaste baseline report on E-waste. SPREP also advised that it is not safe to store asbestos pipes above ground and these need to be removed.
- The Delegate from Niue sought re-clarification on the process for prioritising regional actions in relation to the asbestos thematic area. The Delegate also inquired about how the programme is communicated, e.g. Health Department for healthcare wastes.
- SPREP re-iterated that the interventions would be prioritised based on the current risk to human health from airborne asbestos fibres and the ability of the project to best mitigate these risks. The priority setting will depend on experts' advice validated by the technical advisory group. The prioritisation would be presented in a risk matrix and shared with the PacWaste countries. The interventions are not pre-determined yet. SPREP also noted that it is currently broadening its cc list to include the relevant departments. EU advised that as soon as all information is received, these will be circulated to the focal points subject for comments.
- The Chair remarked that despite the early stages of PacWaste, it is already showing good outcomes and encouraged countries to look at the project as a catalyst for further development of projects through the EDF11. EU called for an increased presence of project



	<b>Country Comments on the Second Year Work Programme (continued)</b>	<p>beneficiary countries in the Steering Committee and encouraged countries to take the lead now that PACWASTE is already in action phase.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair advised countries that the Second Year Work Programme and Budget would be open for comment for a further month (1<sup>st</sup> November 2014) to permit a greater period of time to consider the content and responses could be provided by email to the PacWaste project management unit.</li> </ul>
8	<b>Next meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 3<sup>rd</sup> Steering Committee meeting is scheduled to be held in association with the 2015 SPREP Meeting in Samoa, September 2015.</li> </ul>
9	<b>Meeting closure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair then declared the PacWaste Second Annual Steering Committee meeting closed.</li> </ul>
10.	<b>Further Comment on the Second Year Work Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following the 2014 Steering Committee Meeting, no further comment was received on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Work Programme by the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 closure date, and as a consequence, the presented 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Work Programme is considered to be final and endorsed.</li> </ul>

**Attachment:**

Appendix 1: Participant List

Appendix 2: PacWaste 2nd Year Works Programme & Budget

## APPENDIX 1: PARTICIPANT LIST

Country or Organization	Delegate	Designation
Cook Islands	Mr. Vaitoti Tupa	Director, National Environment Service
Federated States of Micronesia	Mr. Andrew Yatilman Ms. Patti Pedrus	Director OEEM Sustainable Development Planner OEEM
Fiji	Mr. Aminiasi Qareqare	Acting Director Department of Environment
Kiribati	Ms. Turang Teuea	Environment Inspector Environment and Conservation Division (MELAD)
RMI	Mr. Lowell Alik Mr. Warwick Harris	General Manager EPA Deputy Director OEPPC
Nauru	Absent	
Niue	Dr. Josie M Tamate	Director-General Ministry of Natural Resources
Palau	Mr. Calvin Kevil Ms. Charlene Mersey	Manager - BPW, MPIIC National Environmental Planner & Climate Change Coordinator
PNG	Absent	
Samoa	Absent	
Solomon Islands	Absent	
Timor Leste	Absent	
Tonga	Ms. Mafile' oMasi	Senior Environmentalist MECCDMMIC
Tuvalu	Mr. Mataio Tekinene	Director Department of Environment
Vanuatu	Absent	
RAO (PIFS) Representative	Absent	
Delegation of European Union for the Pacific	Ms. Ileana Miritescu	Attaché – Programme Manager, Infrastructure and Natural Resources
Delegation of European Union for the Pacific	Mr. Jesus LAVINA	Head of Section - Infrastructure and Natural Resources
SPREP	Mr. David Sheppard	Director General
SPREP	Dr. David Haynes	Director, Waste Management and Pollution Control Division
SPREP	Mr. Stewart Williams	PacWaste Project Manager
SPREP	Mr. Tony Taloui	Marine Pollution Advisor
SPREP	Mrs. Ma Bella Guinto	Solid Waste Management Advisor
SPREP	Dr. Frank Griffin	Hazardous Waste Management Advisor
JICA	Mr. Takahisa Watanabe	JICA FSM Office
JICA RMI Office	Mr. Hideki Tomobe	Resident Representative
J-PRISM	Mr. Shiro Amano	Chief Advisor
J-PRISM	Mr. Faafetai Sagapolutele	Assistant Chief Advisor
J-PRISM	Ms. Ayako Yoshida	Project Coordinator
J-PRISM	Mr. Makoto Tsukiji	Project Coordinator/Aid Coordination