

Twenty Third SPREP Meeting of Officials

4-6 September 2012
Noumea
New Caledonia

Agenda Item 9.3.3: Improved Regional Solid Waste Coordination and Monitoring

Purpose

1. To seek endorsement for the establishment of coordination and monitoring mechanisms to improve delivery of the Regional Solid Waste Management Programme.

Background

2. The Waste Management and Pollution Control Division of SPREP is responsible for promoting environmentally sound management of solid and hazardous wastes in the Pacific region.
3. With the assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the New Zealand Aid Programme, the solid waste component of this programme was developed in the mid 2000s through the development of a Regional Strategy, and the establishment of a permanent post (Solid Waste Management Adviser) within SPREP. These have resulted in funding and technical assistance being mobilised to support regional projects including the J-PRISM¹ project, and the *Agence Française de Développement* (AFD) Regional Solid Waste Management Initiative.
4. In recent years, the hazardous waste management component of the programme has also progressed with the formulation of regional strategies addressing asbestos and e-wastes, and with the development of regional projects funded by UNEP/GEFPAS, and the European Union (EDF10).
5. In addition to these regional initiatives, various donors, non-governmental organizations, and development partners (such as Asian Development Bank, European Union, Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility, NZ High Commissions, New Zealand Aid Programme, AusAID, and the World Bank) also support national solid waste management projects through bilateral relations.
6. Efforts have been made to track and report on progress with implementation through the publication of a newsletter prepared by SPREP called Pacific Waste Line, as required under the Pacific Regional Solid Waste Management Strategy 2010-2015 (PRSWMS).

¹ J-PRISM: Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for the Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management.

The Challenges

7. There are many participants involved in solid waste management in the Pacific region, however, there is very little coordination between these participants at the regional level. As a consequence, each participant is often unaware of what the others are doing. There is often duplication of effort and progress is often not reported against the PRSWMS. This is a situation the Secretariat experienced in the past, when resources were spent to assist various Members, only to discover that other donors and partners were already involved in providing similar assistance.

8. Better coordination can eliminate duplication, allowing for pooling of limited resources, and promote exchange of ideas and lessons learnt which would benefit countries, projects and relevant organisations involved in this area.

9. The PRSWMS is the key guiding document for solid waste management development in region, and assigns key responsibilities to both the Secretariat and PICTs towards achieving the goals. However, the Secretariat is currently the only one required to report through the Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Report during the annual SPREP Council meeting. The lack of progress on reporting weakens implementation of the PRSWMS.

10. There is a need to establish a long-lasting structure, which would improve coordination among the various donors and partners involved in waste management in the region, including gap identification, while also improving the ongoing monitoring of the solid and hazardous waste management programme in the region. This structure would also provide a buffer for the high level of turnover in national government departments as well as in donor and partner agencies.

Proposal

11. To address the major issues outlined above, the proposal is to establish a Pacific Islands Waste Management Advisory Council, and a Pacific Islands Waste Management Partnership based on the structure shown in Figure 1.

Pacific Islands Waste Management Advisory Council (PIWAC)

12. The Pacific Islands Waste Management Advisory Council (PIWAC) is proposed as a technical advisory body consisting of representatives from National Environment Departments/Ministries, and Waste Management Agencies, Departments or Ministries. Its main role would be to advise on waste management needs, and progress with strategy implementation in each country.

13. PIWAC would consist of representatives at the Director level from national environment and waste management bodies, and the Waste Management and Pollution Control Division of SPREP. A Chair and vice-Chair would be elected by the members to represent the group.

14. PIWAC would facilitate the sharing of information and experience in solid and hazardous waste management among its members.

15. A key role of PIWAC would be to collate priority national waste management issues, which each country would have identified and endorsed through their consultative processes with key stakeholders at the national level (including the private sector), and which would be in line with any national waste management strategies.

16. The key output from PIWAC would be a considered list of endorsed national waste management priorities on a regular basis (say every 2 years), which would be useful in guiding future investment and also as the basis for formulating regional intervention projects and for developing the next regional Solid Waste Management Strategy.

17. The priority list would be provided to the Secretariat, who will maintain and track the information against the PRSWMS, and will advise on regional gaps and priorities in solid and hazardous waste management (a task consistent with the Secretariat's current role).

18. The output from the Secretariat would be a Regional Gaps and Priorities Report, which would detail the national priorities as submitted by PIWAC and provide an overall regional synthesis to include emerging waste management issues and trends with potential to impact the region.

Pacific Islands Waste Management Partnership (PIWAP)

19. The report prepared by SPREP would be an input into the Pacific Islands Waste Management Partnership (PIWAP). The key role of PIWAP would be to coordinate the assistance delivered to PICTs by its members in order to minimize duplication, and improve national and regional reporting of interventions.

20. It is envisioned that PIWAP would consist of representatives from the donors and development partners involved (and likely to become involved) in waste management in the region, the Secretariat, and the Chair and Vice-Chair of PIWAC.

21. PIWAP would also consider the national priorities and regional gaps, and develop a funded joint work programme that delivers national-level assistance in waste management. This work programme would be refined in consultation with PIWAC and the final version would be put to the annual SPREP Meeting for consideration and approval.

22. It must be noted that the funded joint work programme developed by PIWAP would detail the types of assistance being provided (bilateral, regional, technical assistance, funding, etc), but it does not suggest that there will be a change in the mode of assistance – for example, bilateral assistance would remain as bilateral.

23. The funded, joint work programme once approved by the SPREP Meeting, would then become the work programme for PICTs, SPREP, donors, and other implementation partners, who will implement agreed activities, and also monitor, measure and report performance against agreed indicators. The reports would be fed into PIWAC and also into the Secretariat (SPREP) to assist it compilation of case studies and experiences, and development of future regional strategies.

Recommendation

24. The meeting is invited to:

- **Endorse** the proposals for establishment of the Pacific Islands Waste Management Advisory Council and the Pacific Islands Waste Management Partnership; and
- **Direct** the Secretariat to proceed with implementation of the PIWAC and PIWAP in consultation with Members.