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

## Twenty Fifth SPREP Meeting of Officials

Majuro, Marshall Islands  
 30 September – 2 October 20014

### Agenda Item 10.3.1: Regional Healthcare Waste Management Intervention Recommendation Summary

#### Purpose

1. To provide updated information on regional recommendations for improved healthcare waste management.

#### Background

2. The 21<sup>st</sup> SPREP Meeting (2010) placed a priority on the improvement of regional management of hazardous waste in the Pacific.
3. In response, SPREP sought funding for this priority area of waste management and was successful awarded 7,850,000 Euros in EU funds under the EDF10 Pacific Hazardous Waste Management Project (the PacWaste project) in 2013.

#### Healthcare Waste Management Intervention Under PacWaste

4. Priority actions for improved healthcare waste management under PacWaste include identification of the regional status of healthcare waste management and the recommendation of priority areas for intervention to improve its management using best-practice options in the Pacific island context.
5. Best practice health care waste management options for the region have been identified as including:
  - i). High temperature (>1000°C) incineration of waste;
  - ii). Routine and scheduled maintenance of waste management equipment; and
  - iii). Regular infection control and waste management training of hospital staff.

6. Only one healthcare waste management technology has been demonstrated to be able to effectively treat all categories of healthcare waste. This technology is high temperature incineration, with sufficient waste combustion residence time and appropriate air pollution control equipment<sup>1</sup>.

### Recommendations

7. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note** the significant resources that are being allocated to improving the management of healthcare waste in the Pacific region over the next 3 years, as part of the PacWaste Project; and
  - **note** the recommendations for adoption and implementation of best practices in the region for disposal of healthcare waste.
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16 August, 2014

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<sup>1</sup> ENVIRON Australia Pty Ltd (2014). *Baseline Study for the Pacific Hazardous Waste Management Project - Healthcare Waste*. Unpublished report to the Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme. Draft, July 2014. 68pp