

## Twenty Eighth SPREP Meeting of Officials

Apia, Samoa  
19 – 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017

### **Agenda Item 12.3.1: European Union/SPREP Pacific Hazardous Waste Management Project (PacWaste) Achievements, Evaluation and Legacy**

#### **Purpose**

1. To update the Meeting with a short summary of the achievements, evaluation and legacy of the EDF 10 Pacific Hazardous Waste Management project, known as PacWaste.

#### **Background**

2. PacWaste is the flagship European Union/SPREP regional waste project which, with a value of €7.85 million, was the largest waste and pollution project implemented by SPREP to date. PacWaste's focus is improved regional hazardous waste management in the Pacific targeting healthcare waste, asbestos, E-waste and integrated atoll waste management. The project, which was implemented across 14 Pacific island countries and Timor Leste, commenced in 2013 and will conclude on 31 December, 2017.

#### **Achievements**

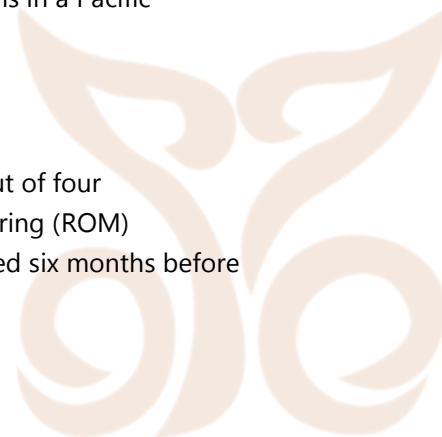
3. **Baselines and best practice (Pacific context) defined:** Across all project focal areas PacWaste undertook comprehensive regional baseline studies in up to 15 countries and 26 separate islands. This approach made key waste data available, allowing for regional and national analyses and establishment of a baseline against which future efforts can be measured. The project established independent Technical Advisory Panels (TAPs) through which finite project resources could be rigorously and scientifically prioritised by world-class experts, and best practice approaches for the Pacific context could be identified.
4. **Implementation achievements:** Through the project, physical achievements included the installation of 26 high temperature healthcare waste incinerators in 12 countries. Asbestos remediation of priority sites such as schools and hospitals took place at 73 locations in 11 countries, with emergency interventions also undertaken in four countries. Seven E-waste interventions were implemented across the region, and the first shipments of saleable Used Lead Acid Batteries (ULABs) to Korea made in July 2017. In Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands a pre-paid garbage bag scheme was implemented and waste collection services were extended to cover the entire atoll. Through the PacWaste contingency, a disaster waste

management pilot was also launched in three countries following TC Winston in February, 2016 and the ground work for a regional disaster waste programme was formulated.

5. **Institutional strengthening and capacity building:** Through the project hazardous waste management training has been conducted for hundreds of Pacific islanders. Healthcare waste management training took place in 42 hospitals and clinics in 15 countries. Asbestos handling training was undertaken in eight countries at all major intervention sites and other high risk locations in Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Nauru and Niue. Training in e-waste processing, and ULAB management and export took place in seven countries. A gap analysis on existing management systems was also conducted for all three hazardous waste streams and the information provided in national reports while further assistance was provided on Cabinet Minutes for container deposit legislation in Republic of the Marshall Islands, asbestos management in Nauru as well as Cost Benefit Analysis in Tuvalu.
6. **Partnerships and regional collaboration:** The project's impact and reach was enhanced by close and cooperative partnerships and strong regional collaboration. Of special note is the project's close collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)-funded J-PRISM project which facilitated the launch of the inaugural Clean Pacific Roundtable as well as the J-PRISM2 project and EU INTEGRÉ Project. Other key partners included World Health Organization (WHO), International Labour Organization (ILO), Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility (PRIF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank (WB), the Australian (DFAT), New Zealand (MFAT) and Japanese (MOEJ) governments and Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI). Regional workshops were held in Micronesia (Kiribati), Melanesia (Vanuatu), and Polynesia (Samoa).
7. **Pacific-to-Pacific initiatives:** PacWaste launched exchanges on common waste topics between counterparts from Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and Kiribati on integrated atoll waste management, Fiji and Nauru on landfill rehabilitation and operations, and Vanuatu, Fiji and Tuvalu on disaster waste management. These initiatives provide a model for future projects.
8. **Best practice partnership communications defined:** PacWaste was successful in becoming one of the most visible Pacific regional projects for both SPREP and the European Union. This was achieved through the development and subsequent delivery of a comprehensive Communications Framework designed to maximise donor visibility, leverage key partnerships at a national and regional level and document project achievements through the creation of high quality and impact-focused materials. Central to this strategic approach was the development of project messaging, branding and guidance materials which were agreed upon by the executing agency, project beneficiaries and donor. This approach has helped to define best practice partnership communications in a Pacific context.

## Evaluation

9. PacWaste received an initial assessment of good/very good for three out of four performance criteria from the European Union Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) independent exercise conducted in 2015. The Final Evaluation, conducted six months before



the completion of the project concluded that PacWaste has been a worthwhile and highly relevant project with overall positive and beneficial results. It further recognised that lessons from the findings as well the conclusions strongly supported continuation and expansion under EDF11.

### Legacy

10. The success of the PacWaste project in improving hazardous waste management, promoting and defining best practices, and enhancing capacity and regional collaboration has paved the way for increased commitment of resources from the European Union through the EDF 11 PacWaste Plus project, with a value of €17 million and an expected commencement in 2018.
11. PacWaste Plus will address both the cost effective and sustainable management of waste and pollution, as well as broader impacts including human health and wellbeing, gender equality, marine litter, climate change, disaster management, biodiversity conservation, resource recovery, related aspects of wastewater and storm water management. It will operate synergistically with other regional waste projects, such as JPRISM 2, to implement harmonised targets under Cleaner Pacific 2025 using a programmatic approach.

### Recommendations

12. The Meeting is invited to:
  - **note** the achievements of the PacWaste project in improving the management of hazardous waste management in the Pacific, fostering regional collaboration and a Pacific to Pacific approach in line with Cleaner Pacific 2025;
  - **note** the results of the ROM exercise and Final Evaluation; and
  - **note** the legacy that the PacWaste project leaves, by way of the EDF 11 funded PacWaste Plus project.

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15 August, 2017

