

NATIONAL ISSUES OF HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT: THE CASE OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

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1) Hazardous waste management is incomplete without hazardous material management

- Accumulative system (inputs/imports but very little exports)
- Most hazardous materials are imported
- Hazardous waste management is an after-thought if lucky, and in most instances completely forgotten
- Several laws under different ministries dealing with aspects of hazardous materials and hazardous wastes:
 - Pharmacy & Poisons Act **1941**
 - Safety at Work Act and its regulations (deals with pesticides), **1982 & 1983**
 - Environment Act **1998**
 - Environmental Health Act **1980**
 - Customs & Excise Act **2003**
 - Labour Act **1960**
 - Consumer Protection Act **1985**
- Varied definitions of hazardous materials and wastes

2) Solomon Islands experiences so far

- Beside pesticides, poisons, fire-arms, illicit drugs and medicines and all others are not captured by current legislations
- Fragmentation, limited coordination and weak enforcement
- Lack of local safe disposal options
- Stockpiles of expired chemicals
- Illegal dumping of chemicals and waste oil

3) What has been, and can be done about (1 & 2)

- National Implementation Plan for Persistent Organic Pollutants

- Review of the Environment Act (under drafting) to have a clear chemical management section
- Ministry of Environment assumes responsibility for waste chemicals albeit our limited capacity/resources
- Create an inter-departmental chemical and hazardous management unit
- Improve the oversight and regulation of labeling, transport, storage, use, disposal and export of expired/waste chemicals and hazardous substances