

JICA - SPREP - IPLA Side Event of UN SIDS Conference

## Expanding Waste Management Services of Pacific Island Countries through International PPPs

3 September 2014, SPREP Campus (TEC conference room),  
Apia, Samoa

Co-organizers: SPREP, JICA, Griffith University, IPLA, UNCRD

### 1. Background

Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) face critical challenges in managing various wastes. PICTs are small, remote countries, distributed over large geographic areas. They typically have small populations and are highly prone to natural disasters. They are equally vulnerable to the impacts of climate change such as the sea-level rise. As a consequence, these communities have unique issues to confront when dealing with integrated waste management. These include low waste generation rates, limited land availability for waste disposal, and often limited technical and financial capacity to manage waste issues. They also have waste streams that are becoming increasingly important problems, such as plastics, E-waste, bulky waste, end of life vehicles, and health-care waste.

3R + “Return” which means “Return recyclable materials out of the islands for environmentally sound recycling” and “Return organic material back to the soil” are a valid option for sustainable waste management in PICTs under the condition of special constraints like geographical isolation, limited land space, remoteness, and dependency.

International communities have long recognized the need for building sustainable and resilient communities. In order for PICTs and their precious ecological assets and ecosystems to achieve resiliency, expansion of their waste management services and infrastructure, among others, are critically important. International collaboration and partnerships, including regional and sub-regional cooperation and public-private-partnerships (PPPs), are indispensable to PICTs to tackle with specific challenging issues.

### 2. Objectives

- Consider the regional PPP for a sustainable waste management in PICs,
- Identify the policy and institutional measures for treating with plastics and e-waste issues in PICs
- Recognize the concept and initiatives on 3R + “Return” and discuss the need to develop an effective regional cooperative framework to promote it.

### 3. Opening Remarks



**Mr. David Sheppard,**  
Director General, SPREP

“Vulnerability”, “SIDS specific responses”, and “Sustainable and Durable Partnerships” are key elements for sustainable development of SIDS. It is important to recognise that the threats arising from pollution and poor waste management are elevated by SIDS specific constraints and limitations. Recycling waste is a critical component of the sustainable solid waste management process, but this is not usually practical on small islands and on atolls. Therefore, “Returning” waste, generally to a developed nation, for recycling, is an essential component of long-term sustainable waste management practices in the region.

	<p>SIDS are facing critical challenges in managing various wastes under specific constraints. Japanese Government has conducted technical cooperation on waste management in the Pacific under the principles of “Capacity Development”, “Continuity”, and “Aid Coordination” in collaborate with SPREP. Our objective is not to make quick changes by forces from outside but to gradually and sustainably improve it through the increased capacity of the people in SIDS. We recognize that our role is to make the capacity for players expanded through providing a variety of opportunities for a sustainable waste management.</p>
<p><b>Hon. Kazumasa Shibuta</b>, Ambassador, Embassy of Japan in the Independent State of Samoa</p>	<p>The “Recognition of Diversity of SIDS” like a variety of vulnerability profiles among SIDS and “Need for Developing resilience of SIDS” at national level, regional level like a SIDS-SIDS cooperation, and global level are important elements for the sustainable development in SIDS. Institutional capacity, financing, and access to technologies that could be easily accessed and adapted locally. I am glad to note that J-PRISM and SPREP are working together for the improvement of waste management in PICs and minimization of the waste disposal at landfills through “3R+ Return” approach. PPP can provide win-win solutions both for the local authorities and private sector if duly supported by appropriate policy frameworks.</p>
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<p><b>Mr. Nikhil Seth</b>, Director, Division for Sustainable Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DSD/UN DESA)</p>	

**4. Panelist Presentation**

	<p>It is important to understand that a typical Pacific waste streams consist of 50% organic waste, with recyclable items making up around 30% of the rubbish. To overcome of the specific difficulties in implementing integrated waste management and recycling like dispersed populations, small volumes of recyclable wastes, poor transport networks, it is important that we focus on and expand the following types of system;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>establish a network of Pacific based recyclers,</i></li> <li>• <i>explore partnerships with manufacturers and producers,</i></li> <li>• <i>and establish long-term relationships with developed country recyclers to secure preferential access to recycling services.</i></li> </ul> <p>Improved waste and pollution management is an urgent priority for SPREP, JICA and the SIDS. We look forward to continue to work in partnership with Pacific communities to protect our amazing region.</p>
<p>1. Regional Approach to Integrated Waste Management in PICTs</p> <p><b>Dr. David Haynes</b>, Director, Waste Management &amp; Pollution Control Division, SPREP (IPLA Sub-Regional Secretariat for the Pacific)</p>	<p>There are some emerging issues on waste streams in Samoa like source segregation, collection, technical knowledge and the right information for the recyclers (dismantling, packaging, shipment etc), policy and regulations to operate stewardship system, and financing issue. We need to change our perspective from Waste Management to Resource Management to tackle with those challenging issues as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Implement 3R Policies and scale up to the Regional and International level to support waste flows,</i></li> <li>• <i>Promote and develop green economic activities within the local, regional and international markets</i></li> <li>• <i>Create effective PPPs to improve technical, institutional capacities</i></li> </ul>
	<p>2. Emerging Waste Management Issues and Opportunities for International PPPs -Case</p>

<p>of Samoa</p> <p><b>Mr. Suluimalo Amataga Penaia</b>, CEO, MNRE, Samoa</p>	<p><i>and financial viability suitable to national situations/conditions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Life-cycle perspective (Cradle to Grave) for sustainable resource and waste management (broader view)</i></li> </ul>
 <p>3. 3Rs+Return - Challenges in PICs –</p> <p><b>Mr. Shiro Amano</b>, Chief Advisor, J-PRISM, JICA</p>	<p>J-PRISM promotes 3R + "Return" which mean "Return recyclable materials out of the islands for environmentally sound recycling" and "Return organic material back to the soil". These are suitable options to tackle with the specific challenging issues on waste management in SIDS under the special constraints like geographical isolation, limited land space, remoteness, and dependency. The Promotion of establishment for CDL, green tax, pre-paid garbage bag system, tipping (disposal) fee, charging on plastic shopping bags, and EPR are the sustainable financing methods to secure "Return" of recyclables to large markets outside. We need for an improvement of recyclable collection and initial treatment skills of recyclers, an institutional arrangement by the government, a development of the ocean transport network, a cost reduction effort on ocean freight, and accurate information database at the national, regional and inter-regional level.</p>
 <p>4. P3R+ (Taking 3R forward in the Pacific Region)</p> <p><b>Dr. Melchior Mataka</b>, Permanent Secretary, MECDM, Solomon Islands</p>	<p>3R alone is inadequate for sustainable waste management in SIDS, because SIDS has their own specific constraints like small land &amp; population, limited industrial base, no markets for recycle materials, increasing number of wastes, and changing quality of wastes (E-waste, plastics, etc). The broader view of waste management like a systems-based framework to invigorate its activities is required. This is a paradigm shift from waste management to material flow, which consists of material, consumption and waste management system. This framework can be possible to track the flow of the materials, and also increase opportunities for managing interventions.</p>
 <p>5. Regional Training and Capacity Building Towards Successful 3R Implementation in SIDS</p> <p><b>Ms. Lusiana Ralogaivau</b>, GEF - Project Coordinator, SPREP</p>	<p>Griffith University has provided trainer's trainings on waste management for PICTs in collaborate with SPREP, AFD, GEFPAS, UNEP, JICA, and Fiji National University. This would be a good "Case Study" for PICTs to strengthen capacity development on waste management for officers in charge in PICTs to tackle with the many issues under specific constraints of PICTs. The training meets the needs as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mainstreaming integrated and sustainable waste management strategies such as ISWM,</i></li> <li>• <i>Knowledge about institutional, business and financial models that have been successful in addressing specific waste problems,</i></li> <li>• <i>Awareness raising and capacity building programs targeting local authorities and other stakeholders,</i></li> <li>• <i>Knowledge about innovative projects, appropriate technologies, accessing expertise, promoting waste exchange and waste-resource related opportunities, and</i></li> <li>• <i>Developing Public Private Partnerships</i></li> </ul>

## 5. Chair's Summary

- Integrated waste management programmes must be developed and implemented. As noted by Dr. Mataki, from the Government of the Solomon Islands, there are no “silver bullets”, there is no one “correct way of dealing with this issue”, and a range of approaches to waste management must be applied. However, these approaches must be tailored to country needs and priorities and backed up by leadership at all levels, particularly at the political level. Laws and policies are an important indicator of political leadership but they must be backed up by enforcement and communication.
- Community behaviour and attitudes to waste management must change. As Dr. Mataki also noted, the key issue for waste management is: “95% changing behaviour, 5% tactics policy and strategy”. It is thus important to link waste management programmes with awareness and outreach programmes, to change attitudes and behaviour. As an example, I recall growing up in Australia in the 1950's and 1960's when throwing litter from cars was not considered an issue or a problem. However, if someone threw rubbish from a car in Australia today it would be completely unacceptable and someone would pull the offender over and give them a “good talking too”. Behaviours can and must change, as they have for this example. Disposal of waste must be considered as an issue to be addressed by everyone in the community not just the authorities dealing with this issue.
- Capacity Development is essential. However, capacity development must be sustainable and result in long term outcomes. Capacity development should also be considered at two levels, both for individual staff and for the organisation itself. Reform and strengthening of agencies is evident in the example of the Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, which went from a Ministry of a handful of staff twenty years ago to an organisation currently fully staffed and capable of effectively addressing environmental issues, including waste management.
- We need to change the way we look at waste management. Mr. Amano, from JICA, and Dr. Melchior emphasised the importance of looking “up-stream” and to reduce the sources of waste and reduce waste coming into countries in the first place. Many speakers noted the need to shift the view of waste from “being a problem to being an opportunity”. In this context Mr. Amano and Dr. Haynes, from SPREP, noted there are a number of economic instruments that can and are being applied to waste in the Pacific. For example, Palau has developed a “Green Fee”, a fee paid by departing visitors which is paid directly into a fund which supports environmental projects in Palau, including those for waste management. In the Federated States of Micronesia, a deposit levy is placed on certain recyclable products which can be refunded after use. Mr. Amano also proposed a very interesting model in his presentation regarding expansion of the “Deposit-Refund” scheme which could be applied in the Pacific region. Mr. Marcelline, from the IFC/World Bank, shared valuable suggestions on the application of financial incentives to waste management and noted that such incentives must be: “good and financially viable from the perspective of the private sector”. Dialogue and partnership between governments and the private sector in the design and implementation of such systems is thus essential.
- Partnerships are essential for effective waste management. Such partnerships must be sustainable, durable and long term. The J-PRISM Project is an example of such a partnership which is long term, now over fifteen years, has a sustainable financing framework, and has clarity in terms of roles and responsibilities of key actors. SPREP is delighted to partner with the Government of Japan on the J-PRISM Project and is also pleased to partner with the European Union (EU) on the PacWaste Project, as well as with other development partners. SPREP recognises the importance of working with partners to develop work programmes focused on country needs and priorities, and to work within the context of agreed regional strategies for waste management. In the Pacific it is also critically important to work with and through local communities, a point emphasised by Ms. Miritescu of the EU in her intervention.



## 6. Recommendations

- Make awareness to change communities' mindset like avoiding littering, purchasing environmentally sound goods, and using reusable and long life goods in collaboration with manufacturing companies as well as a consideration of the Expanded Producer, Responsibility (EPR),
- Develop a source separation and a separated collection system, pre-paid bag system, and these awareness for communities in collaboration with private sectors,
- Strengthen and promote Import/Entrance Control such as Container Deposit Legislation (CDL), Green Fee (tax) in collaboration with private sectors,
- To promote a creation of green jobs by providing opportunities for training/capacity development on preliminary processing of recyclables,
- Develop information database on good examples, material flow and recycling (return) for officers and private sectors,
- Collaborate with the Port Authority and shipping companies to store and return recyclables effectively,
- Promote to establish of a network of Pacific based recyclers, to manage to collect and return recyclables to outside of PICTs,
- Develop and maintain a regional directory of capacity development activities and human resources on solid waste management to foster and expand the south-to-south and tri-angular cooperation within the region (Pacific Islands Database of Capacity Development Activities; "PIDOC" by SPREP/J-PRISM), and
- Expand a regional cooperation framework such as J-PRISM/SPREP for the purpose of the capacity development in PICTs.