

PACWASTE COUNTRY PROFILE

TIMOR-LESTE

PacWaste is a four year project (2014–2017) funded by the European Union and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), to improve regional hazardous waste management across the Pacific in the priority areas of healthcare waste, asbestos waste, E-waste and integrated atoll waste management.

A further priority for PacWaste is to foster links between Pacific island countries and encourage information sharing on sustainable waste management through regional collaboration and twinning arrangements.

Timor-Leste is one of 15 countries participating in PacWaste, with activities taking place in the project domain of healthcare waste.

Healthcare waste

PacWaste is working across 15 countries to improve the management of healthcare waste. Healthcare waste is hazardous because it has the potential to be infectious or harmful to humans and the environment.

In Timor-Leste, PacWaste conducted a healthcare waste management baseline survey in April 2014, through which information was collected on current waste management processes, from ward-level waste generation through to treatment and disposal. Audits were conducted at five of the six referral hospitals in Timor-Leste: Guido Valadares National Hospital (Dili); Baucau Referral Hospital (Baucau); Maliana Referral Hospital (Maliana); Suai Referral Hospital (Suai); and Maubisse Referral Hospital (Suai).

The survey identified the need for improved storage, treatment and disposal solutions for healthcare waste across the country, and noted that incinerators were not working at three of the five hospitals surveyed.

PacWaste has purchased new, high temperature incinerators for these three locations and will be providing training to staff at these facilities so that they can be properly maintained and repaired.

PacWaste is also providing equipment and healthcare waste management training for staff at all the facilities surveyed. This will include the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), signage and secure storage systems for different waste types. Assistance will also be provided in developing a national healthcare waste management strategy.

Asbestos

PacWaste is working across 13 Pacific countries to address the issue of asbestos – a naturally occurring fibrous mineral that was once commonly used in building materials and other consumer items. Asbestos is now banned from most modern products as it has been found to be a major threat to human health.

In Timor-Leste, PacWaste will support the development of an asbestos strategy to ensure a framework is in place for best practice management of asbestos at the national level.

E-waste

The rapidly increasing use of electrical and electronic equipment in the Pacific is resulting in increased volume of E-waste. Dumped E-waste can release harmful contaminants into the environment such as lead, cadmium and dioxins. The good news is that many end of life electronic items contain recoverable and valuable components such as copper, steel and gold.

Regionally, PacWaste is collecting information about current E-waste management and stockpiles across nine Pacific island countries to assist in the improved management of E-waste in the Pacific.

While Timor-Leste is not participating in the E-waste component of the project at this time, assistance will be provided in developing a national E-waste strategy. PacWaste will also assist, where possible, in linking Timor-Leste to a regional recycler's network.

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PacWaste Actions and Impact: Timor-Leste

ACTION	LOCATION	IMPACT
Healthcare waste		
Healthcare waste baseline survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guido Valadares National Hospital (Dili) Baucau Referral Hospital (Baucau) Maliana Referral Hospital (Maliana) Suai Referral Hospital (Suai) Maubisse Referral Hospital (Suai) 	Baseline data on the current status of healthcare waste management is publicly available.
Provision and installation of high temperature healthcare waste incinerators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baucau Referral Hospital (Baucau) Suai Referral Hospital (Suai) Maubisse Referral Hospital (Suai) 	Healthcare facilities have increased capacity for the proper disposal of healthcare waste.
Incinerator operator training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baucau Referral Hospital (Baucau) Suai Referral Hospital (Suai) Maubisse Referral Hospital (Suai) 	Incinerator operators have the necessary skills to operate and maintain equipment.
Healthcare waste management training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guido Valadares National Hospital (Dili) Baucau Referral Hospital (Baucau) Maliana Referral Hospital (Maliana) Suai Referral Hospital (Suai) Maubisse Referral Hospital (Suai) 	Healthcare facilities can effectively and safely handle their waste from point of creation through to disposal.
Provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), signage and secure storage systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guido Valadares National Hospital (Dili) Baucau Referral Hospital (Baucau) Maliana Referral Hospital (Maliana) Suai Referral Hospital (Suai) Maubisse Referral Hospital (Suai) 	Healthcare facilities have improved storage facilities for healthcare waste and an integrated system of ensuring that wastes are clearly identified.
Assistance in developing a national healthcare waste strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National 	Healthcare waste management is prioritised at the national level in accordance with best practice.
Asbestos		
Assistance in developing a national asbestos strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National 	Asbestos management is prioritised at the national level in accordance with best practice.
E-waste		
Assistance in developing a national E-waste strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National 	E-waste management is prioritised at the national level in accordance with best practice.
Information sharing, regional collaboration and twinning		
Connection to a developing recycler's network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional 	Opportunities are opened up for recycling materials such as scrap steel, plastics, E-waste, and Used Lead Acid Batteries.
Provision of resources, guidance materials and participation in regional workshops and other events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional 	Relevant national personnel have an improved understanding of best practice solutions for solid and hazardous waste management in the Pacific.

For more information

Detailed information about PacWaste activities in Timor-Leste, including baseline survey reports, are available at: www.sprep.org/pacwaste