



PACWASTE COUNTRY PROFILE

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

Photo: © Stuart Chape

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.

Federated States of Micronesia is one of 15 countries participating in PacWaste, with activities taking place in the project domains of healthcare waste and asbestos.

Healthcare waste

In Federated States of Micronesia, PacWaste conducted a healthcare waste management baseline survey in April 2014, through which information was collected on current waste management processes at the country's four largest hospitals – Yap State Hospital, Chuuk State Hospital, Pohnpei State Hospital and Kosrae State Hospital.

The survey found that healthcare waste segregation and containment practices were generally below minimum standard at all four sites, with signage and healthcare waste treatment in need of improvement.

To help address these issues, PacWaste has procured a new, high temperature incinerator for Pohnpei State Hospital and will provide much needed healthcare waste management training for staff. PacWaste will also be making repairs to the existing incinerators at other locations as needed and providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), signage and secure storage systems to assist with waste segregation.

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 Federated States of Micronesia, PacWaste conducted a baseline asbestos survey in June and July of 2014 to determine the prevalence of asbestos, ascertain risks associated with the materials and identify best practice options for cost-effective and sustainable interventions.

The survey found asbestos containing materials at a small number of locations in Federated States of Micronesia, with seven sites (not including residences) considered to be at moderate risk with regard to the potential exposure to asbestos. Following the application of an asbestos assessment risk methodology, PacWaste has committed to the removal, secure transport and safe disposal of around 53m² of asbestos from two sites in Pohnpei.

Federated States of Micronesia will also be targeted in a regional public awareness campaign about asbestos risk and the steps that can be taken to minimise exposure.

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 Federated States of Micronesia is not participating in the E-waste component of the project at this time, PacWaste will assist in linking Federated States of Micronesia to a regional recycler's network.

PacWaste Actions and Impact: Federated States of Micronesia

ACTION	LOCATION	IMPACT
Healthcare waste		
Healthcare waste baseline survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yap State Hospital Chuuk State Hospital Pohnpei State Hospital Kosrae State Hospital 	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"> Pohnpei State Hospital 	Healthcare facilities have increased capacity for the proper disposal of healthcare waste.
Incinerator operator training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pohnpei State Hospital 	Incinerator operators have the necessary skills to operate and maintain equipment.
Healthcare waste management training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yap State Hospital Chuuk State Hospital Pohnpei State Hospital Kosrae State Hospital 	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"> Yap State Hospital Chuuk State Hospital Pohnpei State Hospital Kosrae State Hospital 	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		
Asbestos baseline survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yap Chuuk Pohnpei Kosrae 	Detailed information about the prevalence of asbestos is publicly available.
Removal, transport and disposal of around 53m ² of asbestos from two locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kolonia Public Market (Pohnpei) Public Reserve Area (Pohnpei) 	High risk asbestos is safely removed, reducing the risk of exposure to the general population.
Asbestos management training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pohnpei 	Asbestos can be effectively and safely removed and disposed of in accordance with international best practice.
Asbestos awareness campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National 	Residents are aware of asbestos risks and the steps that can be taken to minimise exposure.
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.
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 Federated States of Micronesia, including baseline survey reports, are available at: www.sprep.org/pacwaste