
AGENDA ITEM 12.3.1:

WMPC Highlights of the 2020-2021 Work Programme

Purpose

1. To provide the Meeting with an overview of major work programme activities in 2020-21 to improve management of solid waste, hazardous waste and marine pollution for the region.

Introduction

2. In the coming 2 years, SPREP as the lead agency responsible for regional coordination and delivery of waste management and pollution control action, will utilise the Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy 2016-2025 (Cleaner Pacific 2025) in guiding regional cooperation and collaboration. SPREP will continue to work closely with Members, development partners and others to progress evidence-based strategic planning for informing regional interventions. Further, it will continue its technical cooperation approach and training initiatives to build capacity within the Pacific.

Key Areas of Work for 2020-21

3. Minimising the adverse impacts of waste generated pollutants to air, water and soil
 - Continue the implementation of the Cleaner Pacific 2025 and activities identified at the 2018 Cleaner Pacific Roundtable, specifically:
 - Manage the planning and implementation of projects in the Pac Waste Plus Project (EDF11 funded), Pacific Ocean Litter Project (Australian Government funded), Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific (AFD funded) and GEF ISLANDS (UN Environment funded).
 - Improve lifecycle management of legacy waste including removal and remediation of contaminated sites;
 - Implement high priority actions to address marine litter, guided by the Regional Marine Litter Action Plan;
 - Assist regional disaster waste management initiatives including the preparation of guidelines (with J-PRISM II) for the rehabilitation and climate-proofing of disposal sites, identification of temporary disposal sites for disaster waste, and storage and treatment facilities for hazardous waste;
 - Ensure the NEMS review and development process integrates all aspects of waste management and pollution control, from policy development, education and training to monitoring, evaluation, and reporting.
4. Strengthening national, regional and international mechanisms for waste management
 - Strengthen and integrate national, regional and international mechanisms for waste management.
 - Assist in the preparation of funding proposals, sourced from both existing and new donors, to address priority areas identified by strategic assessments and gap analyses in waste management.

- Assist in the development and revision of SPREP Member waste policies and strategies.
 - Facilitate four functional technical working groups for Recycling, Hazardous Waste Disposal, Marine Pollution and Disaster Waste Management, arising from the Clean Pacific Roundtable, to improve and sustain waste management and pollution control awareness, coordination and engagement.
 - Develop a regional strategy for marine pollution from shipwrecks (in collaboration with the University of Newcastle and Major Projects) and derelict vessels and update PACPLAN for endorsement by SPREP Members.
 - Develop a specific targeted awareness package for the maritime transport shipping sector on shipping pollution.
 - Assist in the development of education toolkits and communication plans for SPREP Members on marine waste.
 - Identify priority areas for capacity training through a needs-assessment with J-PRISM II and EDF 11 and then roll out training for priority waste streams in this period.
 - Create a functional operational database to record and report on regional waste expertise and activities.
 - Establish integrated synergistic approaches to manage chemicals and hazardous wastes using the BRS, Minamata and Waigani Conventions and assist Member countries and territories to become party of conventions that would benefit them.
 - Assist in the preparation of the GEF ISLANDS project and help countries to undertake actions specified under this project.
 - Work collaboratively with SPC, USP, PIFS, PRIF and J-PRISM II to effectively align and link waste management projects throughout the Pacific to ensure effective use of donor funds and best use of Member resources.
5. Resource recovery that contributes to economic and social development
- Promote and assist in the implementation of recycling activities such as recyclables and organic waste, scrap metal and used lead acid batteries, mercury along with other hazardous chemicals and waste to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.
 - Assist in managing and reducing agricultural (e.g. piggery effluent), green and organic waste.
 - Assist in improving existing and developing new sustainable financing mechanisms for resource recovery enterprises.
 - Assist in the implementation of low carbon transportation through the implementation of the IMO/EU funded Pacific Maritime Transport Coordinating Centre Project.
6. Monitoring and reporting to support evidence-based decision-making
- Establish a Regional Waste Monitoring System in conjunction with J-PRISM II
 - Assist SPREP Members to monitor the health of receiving environments for input of information into the Regional Waste Monitoring System to enable informed decision-making measures that protect human health and reduce environmental damage.
 - Conduct a survey and risk assessment of stockpiles of wastes and pollutants to assist with selection of monitoring sites.
 - Conduct a 2020 Clean Pacific Roundtable to assist in monitoring progress towards the Cleaner Pacific 2025 strategy and implementation plan.
 - Conduct waste data collection, in association with JPRISM and PRIF to create a detailed baseline of country waste data across the 15 participating Pac Waste Plus project countries. Data collection activities are likely to include household audits, landfill audits, Commercial and Industrial Audits and Port facilities audits.

7. Challenges

- Improvement in regional and national waste management and pollution control are critically dependent on prioritisation of national in-kind support to the Secretariat
- Engagement by SPREP Members is critical for the continued successful implementation of Cleaner Pacific 2025
- Management of increased workloads because of an increase in scope to address urgent issues such as marine pollution and climate change impacts and external expectations
- Provision of tangible, long lasting services at the national levels to achieve sustainable waste management outcomes

Recommendation

8. The Meeting is invited to:

1. **note** the 2020-21 work programme for the SPREP Waste Management and Pollution Control Programme; and
 2. **provide** in-kind support and commitment at the National level to work with SPREP and partners to deliver on the programme of work for waste management and pollution control, with an emphasis on preventing marine pollution.
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27 June 2019