



“Accelerating actions for a resilient Blue Pacific”

7th, 8th, 9th September 2021, Virtual Platforms
12:00pm – 5:00pm Samoa Standard Time

Agenda item 8.3: Overview of Regional Goal 3: Pacific people benefit from improved waste management and pollution control

Purpose of paper

1. To provide an overview of key priorities to support the implementation and achievement of Regional Goal 3 for the biennial period 2022-23.

Introduction

2. SPREP as the lead agency responsible for regional coordination and delivery of waste management and pollution control action, will continue to utilise the Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy 2016-2025 (Cleaner Pacific 2025) to guide regional cooperation and collaboration. Furthermore, SPREP will continue to work closely with Members, development partners and others to progress evidence-based strategic planning, facilitate technical cooperation and deliver training and capacity building initiatives to improve waste management and pollution control in the region.

Key Areas of Work for 2022-23

Regional Objective 3.1 Minimise the adverse impacts of chemicals and all wastes on human health and the environment via environmentally sound life-cycle management in accordance with agreed regional and international frameworks, including Cleaner Pacific 2025, and significantly reduce the release of pollutants to air, water, and soil.

3. Continue the implementation of the Cleaner Pacific 2025: Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy and activities identified at the 2018 Cleaner Pacific Roundtable meeting, specifically:
 - Manage the implementation of the EU EDF11 funded PacWastePlus Programme, Australian Government funded Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP) and PACPLAN Project (PACPLAN), AFD funded Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific (SWAP), and UNEP-GEF funded ISLANDS Pacific Child Project (ISLANDS).
 - Improve lifecycle management of legacy waste including removal and remediation of contaminated sites.

4. Implement high priority actions to address marine litter, guided by the Pacific Regional Marine Litter Action Plan including the development of a regional framework to address marine litter and plastic pollution and implementation of the WCPFC CMM 2017-04 on marine pollution with FFA Members and the Pacific Regional Reception Facilities Plan with SPC.
5. 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.
6. Ensure the National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS) review and development process integrates all aspects of waste management and pollution control, from policy development, education, training, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting.

Regional Objective 3.2 Strengthen national, regional, and international mechanisms for waste management including for chemicals, hazardous waste, ship and aircraft generated waste, marine plastic litter, and other marine debris.

7. Strengthen and integrate national, regional, and international mechanisms for waste management, specifically:
 - Establishing integrated synergistic approaches to manage chemicals and hazardous wastes using the BRS, Minamata, Waigani and Noumea Conventions and assist Member countries to become a Party.
 - 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.
 - Work collaboratively with FFA, PIFS, PNA, SPC, USP, WCPFC, 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.
 - Assist countries to utilise templates and drafting guidance for legislative mechanisms developed by projects (for example, asbestos ban, Asbestos Management Code of Practice, sustainable financing development guidance, importation bans and restrictions for waste products, waste licencing systems, environmental monitoring guidelines, disaster waste management taskforces).
 - Develop a regional strategy for marine pollution from shipwrecks (in collaboration with the University of Newcastle and Major Projects) and derelict. Assist members implementation of the regional oil spill response mechanism as mandated in the Noumea Convention Emergency Protocol and operationalised in the PACPLAN 2019, OSRL membership, and NATPLANs.

Regional Objective 3.3 Recover resources from waste and pollutants through composting (nutrient recovery), recycling (material recovery), energy recovery, and other measures in order to minimise waste and contribute to economic and social development.

8. 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.
9. Assist in managing and reducing agricultural (for example, piggery effluent), green and organic waste.
10. Assist in improving existing and developing new sustainable financing mechanisms for resource recovery enterprises.
11. Assist with the construction and commissioning of waste management and resource recovery infrastructure through donor funded project support.
12. Assist countries to establish national waste management and recycling associations to provide an avenue for public private partnerships.

Regional Objective 3.4 Improve waste and pollution monitoring of receiving environments to enable informed decision-making on appropriate measures to protect human health and the environment and to reduce associated environmental damage.

13. Establish a Regional Waste Monitoring System (in conjunction with J-PRISM II) and the regional ACP-MEA III and Inform projects.
14. 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.
15. Convene a 2023 Clean Pacific Roundtable meeting to monitor and assess progress towards the Cleaner Pacific 2025 and implementation plan 2021-2025.

Challenges and opportunities

16. The major challenge with implementation of the Regional Goal 3 (RG3) to improve regional and national waste management and pollution control programme activities are the impacts posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, implementation is critically dependent on close collaboration between countries and the Secretariat to deliver national level activities.
17. With respect to opportunities, additional national human capacity to PICs will be made possible through projects such as the GEF ISLANDS Project, PWP Programme and PACPLAN Project. This will assist capacity of Members to address urgent issues such as plastic pollution, climate change impacts and external expectations. Further opportunities will be made possible with the commencement of all pipeline projects this year such as the GEF ISLANDS, SWAP and PACPLAN and the re-commencement of POLP.

Recommendation

18. The Meeting is invited to:

- 1) **endorse** the key strategic priorities to support the implementation and achievement of Regional Goal 3 for the biennial period 2022 to 2023.
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23 March 2021