



2nd Executive Board Meeting

2 – 4 September 2020

Agenda Item 11.3.1: Waste Management and Pollution Control Programme 2020-21 Update

Purpose of purpose

1. To provide an update of Waste Management and Pollution Control key work programme activities in 2020-21.

Key Areas of Work for 2020-21

2. Regional Goal 3.1: 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 PacWastePlus (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.
 - Promote regional disaster waste management initiatives including: preparation of guidelines (with J-PRISM II), conduct training to develop capacity of Member countries, assist in development of national contingency plans, conduct scoping studies for climate proofing of some landfills.
 - Ensure National Environment Management Strategies (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.
 - Assist countries to maintain and operate effective healthcare waste high-temperature incinerators to reduce environmental harm from persistent organic pollutants (POPs).
3. Regional Goal 3.2: Strengthening national, regional and international mechanisms for waste management
 - Strengthen and integrate national, regional and international mechanisms for waste management.

- Assist in 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 development and updating of SPREP Member waste policies and strategies.
 - 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 an oil spill response membership agreement with the Oil Spill Response Limited with funding support from NZ MFAT.
 - Develop a targeted awareness package for the maritime transport shipping sector on shipping pollution.
 - Assist in development of education toolkits and communication plans for SPREP Members on marine waste.
 - Identify priority areas for capacity building through a needs-assessment with J-PRISM II and PWP and then roll out training for priority waste streams.
 - Create a functional operational database to record and report on regional waste expertise and capacity building 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.
 - Work collaboratively with SPC, USP, PIFS, PRIF and J-PRISM II to effectively align and link waste management projects to ensure effective use of donor funds and best use of Member resources.
 - Assist countries in development of National Waste Strategies, and development of legislation and/or regulations to incentivise waste minimisation and recycling.
4. Regional Goal 3.3: Resource recovery that contributes to economic and social development
- Promote and assist in implementation of recycling activities.
 - Assist in managing and reducing agricultural (e.g. piggery effluent), and organic waste.
 - Assist in improving existing and developing new sustainable financing mechanisms for resource recovery enterprises.
 - Assist in implementation of low carbon transportation through the implementation of the IMO/EU funded Pacific Maritime Transport Coordinating Centre Project.
5. Regional Goal 3.4: Monitoring and reporting to support evidence-based decision-making
- Establish a Regional Waste Monitoring System in conjunction with ongoing regional projects.
 - 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 waste and pollutants to assist with selection of monitoring sites.

- Conduct a 2021 Clean Pacific Roundtable to disseminate outcomes of waste management initiatives, provide networking opportunities and promote donor coordination mechanisms in order to optimise resources for the waste and pollution sector in the region.
- Conduct waste data collection, in association with JPRISM, PacWaste Plus, POLP, GEF ISLANDS, SWAP and PRIF to create a detailed baseline of country waste data across the 15 Pacific Island countries including Timor Leste. Data collection activities are likely to include household audits, landfill audits, commercial and industrial audits and port facilities audits.

6. Challenges

- Improvements in regional and national waste management and pollution control are critically dependent on prioritisation of national in-kind support to the Secretariat such as assistance rendered to facilitate SPREP in-country visits and timely responses to email correspondences.
- 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 interventions at the national level to achieve sustainable waste management outcomes.
- Implementing mitigation measures to address the impact of COVID-19 in particular travel restrictions.

Recommendation

7. The Executive Board Meeting is invited to:
 1. **Note** the update on key implementation activities for the 2020-21 PIP.

31 July, 2020