

## First Executive Board Meeting

Apia, Samoa  
10-11 September 2018

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### Information Paper 3: *Establishment of a Regional Recycling Network*

#### Purpose:

1. To seek endorsement for SPREP support as the competent regional authority for a pre-feasibility study for the establishment of a regional recycling network as proposed by the Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility (PRIF).

#### Background:

2. The PRIF commissioned a research study in 2017, in close cooperation with SPREP – the ‘Regional Resource Circulation and Recycling Network’ - to identify and quantify the opportunity to improve the resource recovery of fifteen common commodities present in the solid waste stream in fifteen Pacific island countries and territories (PICTs). The first phase of the study conducted a material flow analysis of imports and exports, estimated the available materials for recovery and quantified the expected increase in commodities based on various policy interventions. The results are published in a compendium of *Pacific Island Country and Territory Profiles* in the solid waste and recycling sector, [available here](#), and as a published series of individual country files.
3. While the PICT Profiles detailed country-specific information used to inform the wider research, the study also identified waste disposal infrastructure and service provision needs, reviewed current institutional frameworks, identified port infrastructure and shipping logistics and estimated the status of plastic marine debris in the Pacific region.
4. The research study was designed to provide a credible basis for a proposal to establish a regional network to improve the recovery, and assess the feasibility of recycling of solid waste, that meets economic, social and environmental objectives. It also served as a foundation for the scope of potential import substitution and determining if volumes of waste may be feasibly replaced with local feedstocks. Future work and initiatives in the sector should be well informed by the information collected through this process.

5. The research study's recommendations included the development of a pilot recycling network in order to prove viability and sustainability. This would determine the feasibility of a regional processing, trans-shipment and recycling hub, suitable urban centre facilities, and scaled outer island storage facilities in each of the PICs associated with the regional hub. Within the context of this proposal, the PRIF report recommends the pilot be based in the Eastern Pacific region with a Fiji-based regional recycling hub, located in Suva. This proposal is based on an assessment of port facilities, capacity, shipping networks and other economic aspects. Under the pilot program, Suva would receive a selected range of recycled waste materials (RWM) from a selection of source countries in the region.
6. The study would examine in detail the participation of countries such as Tonga, Samoa, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Niue and Vanuatu. The hub would be designed to supply current/future remanufacturing enterprises, and to aggregate and add value to shipments of recyclables to other destinations.
7. The pilot project will require support from development partners to construct infrastructure and implement regional institutional capacity and economic development programs to support the recycling network. The pilot program will enable a proof of concept to build PICTs, private sector and donor confidence. The pilot scheme will aim to transform a linear economy to a circular economy which relies on extensive community engagement, with the development of public private partnerships.
8. The first phase of the pre-Feasibility Study will include a systematic and comprehensive **waste audit program** on representative samples using a consistent method and approach initially throughout the eastern region to inform accurate data sets on which to model the inputs and outputs of national and regional recycling systems. This activity must be coordinated and integrated with other parallel initiatives, such as proposed by *IUCN and The Energy & Resource Institute (India)*. The first phase will also will also examine the potential key role of SPREP to coordinate the logistics of the network, and integration with other regional initiatives such as the Swire/China initiative.
9. The second phase will include an **institutional capacity assessment** to inform the business case development. Reliable analysis of institutional capacity at both regional and country level is required, plus assembly of current and accurate data sets in each of the PICs.
10. The third phase will focus on the **establishment of a processing/recycling/ trans-shipment hub located in Suva**, with suitably scaled urban centres located in the other PICTs participating in the network.
11. A successful recycling network will require strong government leadership in all associated countries, multi-donor support and coordination to stimulate both public and private sector investment, and a consistent flow of quality feedstock. Support for institutional management and reform may be required. For example, relevant cross-ministerial mechanisms are recommended to ensure optimum government oversight and legislative mechanisms are in place.

**Recommendations:**

12. The Executive Board is invited to:

- **note** the pilot project, following the pre-Feasibility Study undertaken to fully test the economic, environmental, and social costs and benefits of such a model; and
- **note** the participation of SPREP, in partnership with PRIF, to identify the key role of SPREP, and the resources required for SPREP to administer any regional scheme going forward, in close cooperation with the European Union in relation to PacWaste Plus, and JICA in relation to J-PRISM II.

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15 August, 2018