

First Executive Board Meeting

Apia, Samoa
10-11 September 2018

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AGENDA ITEM 10.3.2: Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan

Purpose:

1. To seek endorsement of the Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan, 2018-2025.

Background:

2. SPREP Members endorsed an over-arching framework the 2017-2026 Strategic Plan in 2016 to address waste and pollution issues in implementation of the Integrated Waste and Pollution Management Strategy 2016-2025 (Cleaner Pacific 2025) as well as the Pacific Oceans Prevention Pollution Programme (PACPOL) 2015-2020. Oceans issues, particularly marine pollution from plastics has emerged as a priority focal area globally and has resulted in many national actions. The Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan (Att.1.) seeks to integrate waste management best practices into ocean conservation via a focus on the circular economy including by adding Refuse and Return to the traditional 3R's of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.
3. The Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan addresses priority plastic issues for the region, the main focus being on the following key sources of marine litter:
 - Take away food and beverage containers;
 - Packaging and end-of-life consumer products;
 - General litter;
 - Fishing operations;
 - Cruise ships;
 - Beachside tourist enterprises;
 - Disaster waste; and
 - Trans-boundary waste.
4. The Action Plan addresses marine litter sources by:
 - building on existing policy and regulatory frameworks;
 - fostering greater action & stronger enforcement e.g. from all fishing & shipping generally;
 - recommending national policy and regulatory frameworks e.g. for take -away food & beverage containers;
 - allowing for adaption as research & investigations better define the key problem areas;
 - providing increased resources for community & tourist industry increased awareness and stimulating waste-aware behaviours, including through major investment in community coastal clean-ups;
 - investing in key infrastructure, especially intercepting water-borne litter in urban environments.

5. The action plan translates leadership in the Pacific into action through the following activities:

Regulation and Legislation	Regulation of production, procurement and importation of packaged goods. Anti-littering and river dumping laws. Regulation of industrial waste, including Abandoned Lost Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) from fishing vessels. Bans on unsustainable packaging.
Research & Innovative ideas	Public surveys on littering and consumption behaviour. Regular state of environment monitoring. Sourcing debris through identification. Quantifying macro and micro debris densities through e.g. beach surveys. Modelling of far-dispersal pathways of marine debris. Identification of potential future sources. Impact on marine life on plastic ingestion.
Waste Management implementation	Securing landfills and restoring open dump sites. Organising debris collection in remote areas. Recycling. Regular street cleaning. Organized mass cleanups. Public bins and rubbish infrastructure. Port waste management.
Networking & Capacity building	Linking GOs, IGOs, NGOs. Creating marine debris teams through local, national and regional nodes. Exchanging knowledge and identifying best practices.
Education & Outreach	Including waste management and plastic pollution awareness in school curricula. Promoting sustainable livelihoods and changing mindsets from overconsumption and wastefulness to living with less environment impact. Awareness-raising and outreach campaigns. Organized cleanups as education tools. Engaging communities through workshops and other outreach activities. Inviting churches to help out in environmental education.

6. Resourcing for the Pacific Marine Litter Action will be through the current, pipeline and proposed projects and programmes, including those highlighted in WP 7.3.1:
- JPRISM II – Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries;
 - EDF II – PacWaste Plus;
 - AFD – Waste management project;
 - CEFAS – marine debris project;
 - IMO – Shipping related marine debris project; and
 - GEF 7 - Islands and Blue Pacific Islands-to-Islands programmes.
7. The Pacific marine litter action plan timeline is aligned with the Cleaner Pacific 2025 enabling it to be also monitored in 2020 and 2025.

Recommendations:

8. The Executive Board is invited to:

➤ **endorse** the *Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan*.