



Formulation of National Waste Management Strategy



Independent State of Samoa

Apia

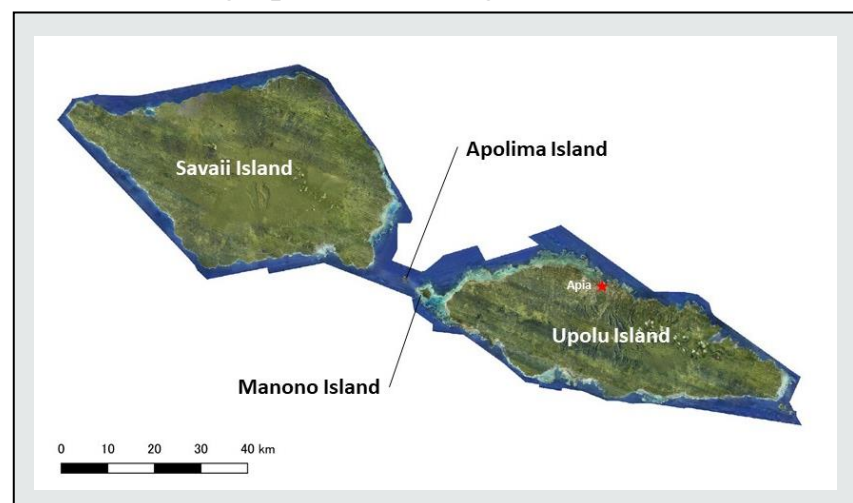
Successful formulation process of National Waste Management Strategy (NWMS)

As many of PICs are facing piles of issues and challenges in waste management while there is limited budget and human resources in the waste management sector, planning is an effective approach to identify important issues where needed immediate action to be taken. NWMS can be addressed as the most fundamental planning document at national level, which provides strategy and yearly action plan based on priority from mid-term and long-term view point and guides decision makers and stakeholders in the sector. In Samoa, the formulation of NWMS was one of mandates required under Waste Management Act 2010. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), which is a responsible institution on waste management in Samoa, with financial and technical assistance from J-PRISM and the collaboration with SPREP conducted a series of baseline surveys and discussions with stakeholders and successfully developed “National Waste Management Strategy 2019-2023” in January 2019.

Leading Agency(s)

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

Location/Geographical Coverage



KEY WORDS

National Waste Management Strategy/Participatory Planning/Baseline survey/SDGs

Type of Document

A good practice fact sheet

Target Audience

Officials of Pacific Islands Countries (PICs) working in the waste management sector

Publication Date

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Measures/Approach

(1) Baseline survey

Baseline survey is conducted aiming at understanding current situation and identifying issues and challenges in waste management of the country. Although survey contents may be varied depending on available information and situation, in case of Samoa, seven different surveys were conducted: 1) collection of existing data and document, 2) incoming waste survey at landfill site, 3) time and motion survey, 4) waste amount and composition survey, 5) landfill assessment, 6) exported recyclable survey, 7) assess current performance of responsible institution (MNRE) in terms of obligation required under legislation.

(2) Framework and formulation process

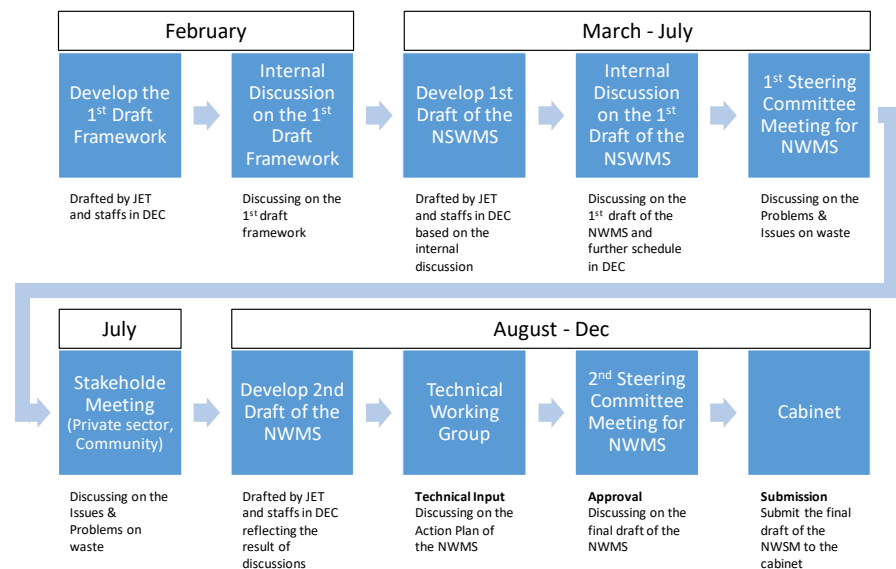
In case of developing the first NWMS for the country, like in the case of Samoa, it is essential to determine the framework of NWMS and formulation process at first to share the idea on what kind of contents to be written in NWMS and how stakeholder will be involved in the formulation process.

Framework (outline/contents/target waste, etc.) of NWMS is the first thing to be considered. In case of Samoa, in order to develop technically and locally applicable framework, NWMS in a different country and Samoa's national strategies in different technical area were collected and utilized as guidance. It is also effective to confirm if there is any existing relevant plan such as upper level plan or lower level plan for NWMS and the necessity of consideration of alignment with these relevant plans in order to address NWMS properly in the existing planning structure of the country. Target waste is also an important factor that defines the kind of waste to be targeted in NWMS. It depends on the country, but in case of Samoa, Solid Waste and Chemical and Hazardous Waste were targeted in the scope of NWMS. Both components were developed by MNRE officials with technical assistance from J-PRISM II for Solid Waste Component and collaboration with SPREP for Chemical and Hazardous Waste Component.

Formulation process defines overall work flow, roles and responsibilities of stakeholders involved in the formulation of NWMS. In Samoa, formulation process was basically designed based on the process in the formulation of National document in different area and discussion with relevant officials who have experience in waste management. As a result, four different types of meetings, members, and roles and responsibilities were identified as follows:

Type of Meeting	Members	Roles & Responsibilities
Internal Meeting	MNRE officials	-Lead MNRE formulation
Steering Committee Meeting	High-level officials in public sector	-Launching NWMS formulation -Finalize the draft NWMS before cabinet submission (Implementation phase) -Monitor progress and review NWMS
Technical Working Group Meeting	Principal officials in public sector	-Provide comments and feedback from technical point of view
Community Consultation	Representatives from each of communities	-Provide comments and feedback from communities' view

The flow chart below shows actual formulation process:



(3) Drafting contents

Drafting the contents is the main time-consuming part in formulation of NWMS. The process may consist of 1) summarizing baseline survey result and current status of waste management, 2) extracting priority areas and actions, 3) drafting table of contents, 4) drafting detailed contents, and 5) modifying contents based on comments and feedbacks from consultation process.

(4) Consultation

It is essential for each of meetings to fulfill the addressed objectives in the formulation process. Therefore, invitation letters, program and presentations should be developed based on the objectives of the meeting. This will help participants to understand the objectives and provide constructive comments and feedback.

(5) Official approval

Once the draft NWMS is finalized, it will go through the official approval process. In Samoa, the cabinet officially approved NWMS.

Stakeholders/Actors

Officials in charge of waste management in MNRE are the beneficiaries and the users as well.

Officials in charge of waste management in MNRE were fully involved in and also led the entire process from baseline survey until official approval.

Steering Committee members consist from higher level officials (CEO, ACEO) from relevant ministries and government agencies participated in launching of formulation and approval of final draft before the submission to the cabinet

Technical Working Group consist from principal officers from relevant ministries and government agencies provided comments and feedbacks from technical aspects.

Village representatives participated in public consultation process in Upolu and Savaii to provide comments and feedbacks from community perspective.

SPREP officials provided technical advice and collaborated in implementation of community consultation.

Results/Outputs

NWMS is formulated with official approval.

Impact

Importance of waste management data and planning is highly recognized among MNRE officials.

NWMS is utilized as quick reference for donors to consider where they can provide assistance.

Success Factors

In case of Samoa, the criteria for cabinet to approve national documents are if communities were consulted during the process of formulation.

Therefore, a key success factor of NWMS formulation is to clarify the approval process in the country and involve essential stakeholders in the consultation.

Constraints

Although NWMS provides action plan, which guides waste management at national level, actual implementation of each of specific action will require more detailed planning. Therefore, successful implementation of NWMS relies on continuous effort of responsible institution.

Sustainability

Since there may be changes in situation as time passed, to sustain applicability of NWMS, it is important to conduct continuous monitoring on the situation and the progress of implementation of NWMS as well as periodical review of NWMS with stakeholders.

In Samoa, at the beginning of financial year, MNRE develops annual plan based on action plan in NWMS, and the progress of activity and issues and challenges are discussed in the steering committee meeting every year.

Replicability and/or Up-scaling

It may not be simply replicable, but the basic concept is applicable in such a country where NWMS hasn't been formulated.

The practice can be utilized as guidance while some detailed points need to be customized in order to fit the process into the context of the country such as custom, culture, institutional arrangement, etc.

Lessons Learned

Importance of involvement of stakeholders in formulation process

Since broad stakeholders are involved in waste management and NWMS may influence in future decision making in waste management, involvement and consensus building with the stakeholders during the formulation of NWMS is important.

Conclusion

Guidance for formulating the first NWMS

The good practice will be the useful guidance for some of PICs that will formulate the first NWMS in the country.



Contributions to SDGs

This good practice contributes to assist sustainable waste management at national level. Contribution to specific goals depends on the policies addressed in NWMS, but generally, Goal 12 is quite relevant.

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Relevant Websites/Resources

National Waste Management Strategy 2019–2023
<https://www.sprep.org/attachments/VirLib/Samoa/national-waste-management-strategy-2019-2023.pdf>

Publisher

J-PRISM: The Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative Solid Waste Management, JICA: Japan International Cooperation Agency

Acknowledgments

SPREP: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme