



SRWMA
SAMOA RECYCLING & WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

STRATEGIC PLAN 2018 - 2027



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FOREWORD

In March this year 2017, I was given a similar opportunity to launch this Association as the first in the Pacific Islands region. I challenged during my speech the Association and its members to come up with innovative and effective ideas to support the Government in the management of waste. The Association's Strategic Plan 2018 - 2023, with an overall **Vision of "Improving Waste Recycling and Commercial Waste Management for a Cleaner Samoa"** places its focus on addressing the most visible waste problems in Samoa from a private sector perspective.

Goal 1 of the Strategy looks at strengthening of waste recycling in Samoa as the answer to the rising stockpiles of waste in the country. One container of waste that leaves our shore for overseas markets can remove about 39 cubicmeter of waste from our islands, which equivalent to 5 full truckloads collected by our rubbish trucks. In the past years between 2003 and 2008 when China was preparing for the 2008 Olympic Games, more than 100 to 150 containers left our shore for China markets on an annual basis. This contributed to the removal of 3,900 to 5,850 cubicmeter of waste every year. We are talking about 500 to 700 full truckloads of waste that was supposed to end up at our waste landfills. This is the good effect of recycling in keeping Samoa clean. However, the recent closure of China's markets has made the recycling situation complicated. It is uneconomical these days to collect and ship wastes at the current global low market rates. We can see the direct impact of the reduced recycling rate to the overall cost of waste management in Samoa. It has increased to ST\$3million this year from less than \$1 million tala in 2008. With the combined improving standard of living and lifestyle changes, the cost is expected to double in the next 5 years.

Goal 2 of the Strategy looks at Promoting Commercial Waste Management Practices and Systems. While the Government National Waste Management Programmes and policies focus mostly on the households' level, the association places its emphasis on the private sector as the biggest contributor to waste. As members of the Association, businesses and companies like the Vailima Breweries they will walk the talk as good models for the business community to follow. This is crucial for the appropriate management of the generated Used Lubricating Oil, car bodies, e-wastes and others that are seen as high risk to the environment and our people as a result of commercial and industrial activities.

Goal 3 of the Strategy focuses on Appropriate Mechanisms to sustainably implement recycling and good waste management practices for the commercial generated wastes. There is a need to expand existing good mechanisms to other locally and internally produced goods and products. The **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme**, which has been implemented by some local breweries companies to recover glass bottles for reuse is one of the best mechanisms. We can witness the effectiveness of this approach in the management of empty glass bottles. We need to expand this to other locally produced goods like water bottles and sweetened drinks. The **application of Waste levy** in the form of Container Deposit System, Advance Recycling Fee or Product Tax on the other hand are practiced in most developed countries to support recycling costs for imported electronics, vehicles,

canned and bottled goods and many more. Palau, Federal States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands have already made good progress on this approach, providing sustainable funding to recycling and waste management in these countries. Samoa needs to introduce this similar system if waste recycling is to be strengthened in the future.

I commend the Association for their effort in developing this strategic plan. At least, it gives me some indication that the association is well and alive. There are challenges for the requested government contribution and collaboration and I will discuss with the relevant government ministries for appropriate supporting actions. I wish the Association good luck to your effort and I am happy to declare the official launching of your Strategic Plan 2018 – 2023 for implementation.

Honourable Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi
ASSOCIATION`S PATRON

SUPPORTING STATEMENT FROM SPREP

First and foremost, congratulations to the Samoa Recycling and Waste Management Association or SRWMA members for the substantial progress made since the launching of your Association in March this year. I reiterate the message stated earlier by his Excellency Shinya Aoki of the importance of this event in having a Roadmap to guide the Association's journey to reach its intended destination. I commend the members for making this happen during your first seven months of existence to enable a smooth flow of the association's activities and ensure likely progress in the future.

The Samoa Recyclers and Waste Management Association is a unique group in the sense that it is comprised of businesses with different interests in Samoa but sharing the same passion for protecting the environment side by side with their own respective business interests. In a developing country like Samoa, the business climate is more likely leaned towards economic benefits. And, I am very proud that as a Samoan myself, the business community has high regard for the environment.

It can be quite challenging to bring together recyclers, waste generators and environmentalists, and agree on areas of varying concerns. However, the members have managed this well by reaching a consensus on the future direction of the association in the next 5 years which will be beneficial for the whole of Samoa.

Your strategic vision of "Improving Waste Recycling and the Management of Commercial and Industrial Waste for a Healthier and Cleaner Samoa", clearly reflects your aspiration to integrate environmental aspects in operating your business activities with focus on the resulting wastes and pollution. I am very happy to note that the business climate is now changing with more responsible actors creating a balance between economic development and environmental consciousness.

We are all aware that as Samoa or any SIDS develop and keep pace with changes in lifestyle and consumption patterns, the resulting commercial and industrial wastes will become a bigger issue. This proactive approach by the members of the business community through the Association, in genuinely "walking the talk", will definitely provide a good model for the other businesses and companies within Samoa and the region to emulate.

The SIDS will always have our back in the promotion of the 3R plus Return both in the public and the private sector. We share the same aspiration as alluded in the endorsed Cleaner Pacific 2025 This regional strategy highlights the prevention and reduction of wastes and recovery of resources from wastes as major strategic goals. With the difficulty faced in getting proper waste disposal systems in place, particularly in the SIDS, the option of 3R plus Return becomes inevitable.

Through the current and pipelined projects such as JICA's JPRISM II, EU's PACWASTE Plus, AFD's Pacific Waste Initiative, and UN Environment's GEF ISLAND Programme, SPREP will continue to ensure that the 3R plus Return will be promoted and progressed not only in Samoa but the rest of the region. And as I keep on mentioning, this is also my own personal conviction.

This year, the Moana Taka Partnership was launched between SPREP and the SWIRE Shipping Company. The scheme allows for free transport of low value recyclable waste materials to any destination within the SWIRE shipping routes. Samoa was fortunate to be the first country to avail of this free shipping service through the Association. Currently, negotiations are underway for the collection through MNRE of Samoa and shipment of Used Oil stockpiles to Fiji for final disposal under the same Moana Taka Scheme. I just wish this will come into fruition and the Association will continue to capitalise on this partnership.

SPREP is also currently collaborating with the Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) to undertake a feasibility study for potential Regional Recycling Hub in Fiji or any suitable locations within the region. This will open up opportunities for Samoa and other PICs to create a Regional Recycling Network to allow for more profitable recycling ventures. One of the aspirations in the recently held Clean Pacific Roundtable in Suva is to establish a Pacific Regional Recycling Association and the Samoa model can be a good reference point.

The future of waste recycling in the Pacific is seemingly flourishing through these opportunities. Hopefully, donor investments will complement these great initiatives already taken by both the public and the private sector such as the Samoa Recycling and Waste Management Association. The system encourages to have a more circular economy rather than a linear economy which will address the significant waste management issues faced by the SIDS.

The private sector is very instrumental in creating innovations to challenge current ways of doing business which allows the shift from a linear structure of take-make-dispose to a closed loop circular economy where elements that go to the manufacturing of products are reused and recycled rather than discarded. This will result in less wastes to manage and reduced pollution issues. The recently held Clean Pacific Roundtable in Suva revealed a number of ongoing successful partnerships with the private sector such as the Raka Rugby Sevens Tournament in 2017 and the 'Mission Pacific' of Coca-Cola in Fiji. Not to mention the Moana Taka Partnership earlier mentioned.

There are proven successful public-private partnerships and we are very optimistic that the SRWMA will provide a significant mark in the waste sector of Samoa.

SPREP, in collaboration with JPRISM and through other regional waste projects as highlighted earlier, will continue to work with the countries on the development of appropriate supporting economic tools to sustainably support waste recycling in Samoa and other Pacific Island Countries.

The existing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) initiatives undertaken by Vailima and Taula Beer in Samoa can be further strengthened. The Fiji waste levy on plastics also generated substantial revenues to fund a number of waste management initiatives. The Container Deposit System as introduced in Palau, Kiribati, Federal Stated of Micronesia, and Republic of Marshall Islands provided sustainable financing mechanism to recover, collect and ship targeted goods for recycling overseas and generate funds for other waste management initiatives. I am aware that a similar mechanism is being considered which is highly supported by the Association to sustain recycling in Samoa.

Let me also use this great opportunity to congratulate the Government of Samoa for the recently endorsed Regulation to Ban Shopping and Packing Plastic Bags and other items. This is a milestone in the region considering the reported impacts of plastics to marine life, animals, birds and all forms of life on earth. SPREP also launched the Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan in one of yesterday's side event and we can also explore the opportunity to recycle legacy plastic wastes on the islands in the region.

The significance of the role the Association can play in framing the future of waste recycling in Samoa is very promising. While you may have attained a milestone by developing your Strategic Plan, there will be more challenging tasks ahead in translating these into real actions. The journey has just begun and the whole Association should follow this Roadmap with SPREP and the regional partners ready to help in navigating this journey. Just keep the engine running!

I am also aware of the Association's future needed deliberation with donors and wish that linkage and collaboration will be formally established to enable the Association to gain access to resources either through technical and financial support which will expedite implementation of your strategic plan.

All the best to the future activities of the Association and expecting to see some positive outcomes in the future as a result of this Strategic Plan implementation.

Kosi Latu,
Director General

SUPPORTING STATEMENT FROM JAPAN EMBASSY TO SAMOA

The Government of Japan has been supporting waste management in Samoa for the past 20 years through a number of regional and national waste management projects funded through SPREP and JPRISM I and II. The rehabilitation of the Tafaigata Waste Disposal Site in 2002 to a Semi-aerobic Waste Landfill was the first major Japan's input to Solid Waste Management in Samoa.

Under JPRISM I from 2011 to 2015, several waste activities were implemented focussing on the improvement of collection and disposal services, 3R plus Return and promotion of public awareness, with the overall objective of building local capacity. Since last year 2017 when JPRISM II officially commenced, technical assistances have been provided to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in collaboration with SPREP in the development of Samoa's National Waste Management Strategy 2018 – 2023. We understand that this national task is close to its completion and it should provide the future pathway for the Government of Samoa in dealing with the overall waste management issues.

Promoting and Strengthening 3R plus Return is one of the Regional Outputs of JPRISM II and I believe that JPRISM II Office in collaboration with SPREP and MNRE has been supporting the Association in this area including the development of the Association's Strategic Plan together with the members of the Association.

The Government of Japan has been supporting for years on-going training and exchange programmes coordinated by JICA to provide training for waste management staff and workers in Samoa, from both the government and private sector to broaden their knowledge and skills on waste management. I am delighted to find out that the President, Vice President and other members of the Samoa Recycling and Waste Management Association are former trainees of these training and exchange programmes in Japan.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is encouraging and a great message for my government and the people of Japan to see some former trainees of these training programmes in Japan are actually making great impact to Samoa's development and the protection of your beautiful environment. I strongly emphasize the importance of utilizing any gained knowledge, understanding and skills from any provided training to make a difference to the people of Samoa. Today, we can all witness the product of the hard work and effort of the Association Members led by the former trainees in Japan, Ms Marina Keil and Mr John Sio. I believe that you have done all your best and have not left any stones unturned during the development process of this strategy using your skills and knowledges learnt from your past training as well as your own working experiences in your recycling businesses.

I reiterate the importance of the Association's decision to have a strategic plan within seven months of its existence. You may have some good intentions and dreams on what to do to help Samoa's waste management, which have triggered your wish to come together as an Association. However, Lee Bolman said and I quote "A **vision** without a **strategy** remains an illusion". Therefore, you have made the right decision to put in place this important document first to guide your association in achieving your

set vision and goals. I would also like to stress the importance of this strategy translating to real actions on the ground, since even a great strategy doesn't implement itself. We therefore look forward to seeing how you would like to achieve your organization`s vision.

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to congratulate the Association for your achievement and we look forward to the results of your hard work.

His Excellency Shinya Aoki

Japan Ambassador to Samoa (Official Statement during the Launching)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Samoa Recycling and Waste Management Association (SRWMA) Strategic Plan 2018 – 2023 provides the roadmap for the Association to guide its progress during the next five-year period commencing from the date it was launched.

The current Strategic Plan focuses on waste recycling and the management of commercial and industrial wastes. This will complement the Samoa's National Waste Management Strategy which also contributes to the attainment of the Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy 2016 - 2025 (Cleaner Pacific 2025).

KEY WASTE ISSUES AS BASIS OF STRATEGIC GOALS AND ACTIONS

The following key issues were identified by the Association members based on their areas of expertise and business. These issues were highly considered in developing this Strategic Plan.

- **Rising volume of the key waste streams** (Used Lubricating Oil, End of Life Vehicles, E-waste, Plastics, Tyres, Organic Waste and Paper).
- **Absence of appropriate system for commercial and industrial wastes**, which results in the poor management of these waste streams.
- **Low vibrancy of the recycling industry** which does not contribute to significant reduction in the amounts of waste disposed.
- **Unregulated recycling operations**, which can contribute to negative environmental and health impacts.

Most of the members of the Association are from the business community, either engaged in the waste business or currently operating business activities that generate commercial and industrial waste on a daily basis. By walking the talk and leading by example, the members are committed to promote the appropriate strategic measures to address the above highlighted waste issues through their business operations. The alignment of the Strategy with the areas of strength and expertise of the Association members is deemed important in the sustainability of the proposed strategic measures and actions.

STRATEGY TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS

- **Our Strategic Vision is to Improve Waste Recycling and the Management of Commercial and Industrial Waste for a Cleaner Samoa**

Current government waste management policies and programmes focus mostly on the households' solid waste with little emphasis on the generated commercial and industrial wastes. This contributes to the rising amounts of wastes and the poor management of these waste streams. The Association will endeavour to address these waste stream issues with greater emphasis on recovery from the general waste stream and recycling, if possible.

STRATEGIC GOALS

In order to address the issues, the following key Strategic Goals are established, which translates the Association's Constitutional objectives and functions into action:

Goal 1: Strengthening Waste Recycling in Samoa

Link to the SRWMA Constitutional Objectives and Functions

- Working towards making Samoa a "Zero" Waste Country by promoting and implementing the "3R + Return" principals
- Developing and strengthening waste management and the recycling industry in Samoa to support its economy
- Representing the voice of Waste Management and Recycling advocates in Samoa for a cleaner environment
- Supporting researches and investigation for the collection and provision of waste management and recycling information in Samoa

Goal 2: Improve the Management of Commercial and Industrial Waste

Link to the SRWMA Constitutional Objectives and Functions

- Promoting appropriate and best waste management practises for the protection of Samoa's Environment
- Representing the voice of Waste Management and Recycling advocates in Samoa for a cleaner environment
- Supporting researches and investigation for the collection and provision of waste management and recycling information in Samoa

Goal 3: Implement Sustainable Waste Management Mechanisms and Approaches

Link to the SRWMA Constitutional Objectives and Functions

- Working towards making Samoa a "Zero" Waste Country by promoting and implementing the "3R + Return" principals
- Contributing to Samoa's Green Economic Development, by implementing and promoting appropriate and applicable practices in Samoa
- Developing and strengthening waste management and the recycling industry in Samoa to support its economy.
- Representing the voice of Waste Management and Recycling advocates in Samoa for a cleaner environment
- Supporting researches and investigation for the collection and provision of waste management and recycling information in Samoa

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

The actions are based on the existing capacity of the Association, available supporting resources as well as potential collaboration with other stakeholders.

Strategic Actions for Goal 1: Strengthening of Waste Recycling in Samoa

- a. **Build the capacity of the Association** to effectively provide on-going support to its members in the implementation of the Strategy.

This action will set the foundation on which the Association will operate which includes the securing of a land, having an office, setting an annual budget for the association's operation, getting other supporting resources, shared facilities and equipment, etc. to enhance the capacity of the association to perform.

- b. **Develop projects and initiatives to pilot different recycling approaches in collaboration with MNRE** and development partners.

These projects and initiatives will form the major activities of the Association targeting the different waste streams generated in significant amounts and those currently being addressed by the waste industry particularly resource recovery and recycling.

- c. **Discuss and present the waste projects to the development partners** and the government for any potential future collaboration and partnership.

The following are some of the identified waste initiatives and projects:

- Used Oil - collection and shipping to Fiji for final disposal; local refining or use as ingredients to support power generation
- E-waste - recovery, collection and shipping for recycling
- End of Life Vehicles - recovery, collection and shipping for recycling
- Plastics - recovery, collection and shipping for recycling; on-island recycling
- Tyres - recovery, collection and shipping for recycling
- Papers – recovery, collection and on-island recycling
- Organic wastes – recovery, collection and biogas production

Strategic Actions for Goal 2: Improving the Commercial and Industrial Waste Management

- a. **Promote and introduce applicable waste management approaches** to promote the effective recovery, collection and recycling of the different waste streams in Samoa.
- b. **Promote proper and safe waste management practices** for the management of the generated commercial and industrial wastes including potential hazardous wastes with the Association Members

- c. **Collaborate with MNRE in the development of appropriate guidelines, standards, rules and regulations** to support recycling operations and prevent the interest of the members.
- d. **Enforce and monitor** any adopted and endorsed national guidelines, standards, rules and regulations through the association members.

Strategic Actions for Goal 3: Introducing Supporting Mechanisms to Sustainably Manage Waste

- a. **Promote and introduce economic tools and funding mechanisms** to effectively promote the recovery, collection and recycling of the different waste streams in Samoa.

Some of these sustainable financing mechanisms which work in some countries include:

- Container Deposit/Advanced Recycling Fee System (Palau, Kiribati, FSM, RMI and Fiji)
 - Imported Product Tax (Tonga for plastics)
 - Combination of the above (Draft Integrated Waste Levy of Tuvalu 2018)
- b. **Implement Public Campaigns to educate and raise awareness** of the public on the importance of different funding mechanisms to support sustainable waste management for a Cleaner Samoa.

3.0 COORDINATION AND MONITORING

The coordination of this Strategic Plan Implementation is the responsibility of the Association Executives. The report of the progress is to be tabled and discussed during the Association Board Meeting every year or when requested for urgent matters to quickly address and need the Boards Approval.

4.0 KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The following are the listed key and supporting stakeholders

1. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
2. Ministry of Finance
3. Ministry of Inland Revenues
4. Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour
5. Ministry of Community Development and Internal Affairs

Supporting Partners

1. SPREP
2. JICA – JPRISM
3. UNEP
4. UNDP
5. DFAT
6. MFAT
7. ADP - PRIF
8. World Bank
9. USAID
10. SWIRE Shipping Company
11. Pacific Blue Scope, Fiji

1.0. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1. OUR ASSOCIATION AND WHO WE ARE

The members of our Association consist of a mixture of recyclers and waste generators from local businesses that are operating vehicles import and maintenance services including spare parts, purified water supply and distributor, breweries and soft drink production and distributor and electronic goods importer and supplier, renewable technology supplier, as well as environmental advocates. While it is not easy to put together an association of different groups with different areas of interest, we have come together with the common understanding and commitment to do something to manage the current waste situation with special focus on commercial and industrial wastes generated from the private sector.

1.2. PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

This document provides the roadmap to guide the Association and its members in fulfilling the following Constitutional obligations:

- A. Promoting appropriate and best waste management practises for the protection of Samoa's Environment
- B. Working towards making Samoa a "Zero" Waste Country by promoting and implementing the "3R + Return" principals
- C. Representing the voice of Waste Management and Recycling advocates in Samoa for a cleaner environment
- D. Supporting researches and investigation for the collection and provision of waste management and recycling information in Samoa
- E. Contributing to Samoa's Green Economic Development, by implementing and promoting appropriate and applicable practices in Samoa
- F. Developing and strengthening waste management and the recycling industry in Samoa to support its economy

2. KEY ISSUES THAT HAVE DRIVEN THE ASSOCIATION SETUP

The following issues have driven the members of this association to join in finding appropriate long term solutions to manage the current situation.

ISSUE 1: RISING VOLUME OF WASTE WITH POTENTIAL RISKS TO THE ENVIRONMENT

There is a visible presence of the rising volume of the following key waste streams in Samoa as a result of the combined effect of:

- Increasing consumption of these goods due to lifestyles changes
- Low recycling rate, which can potentially remove wastes from the general stream
- Absence of disposal facilities in Samoa for some wastes to dispose of.

1. Used Lubricant Oil (ULO)



Used Lubricating Oil at the Tanugamanono EPC Station.

With the increasing number of vehicles in Samoa, which is now over 30,000 registered operating vehicles, the generation of ULO is becoming a serious issue to the environment and people's health. This requires urgent attention to manage the current stockpiles and put in place appropriate sustainable mechanisms to manage the generated ULO.

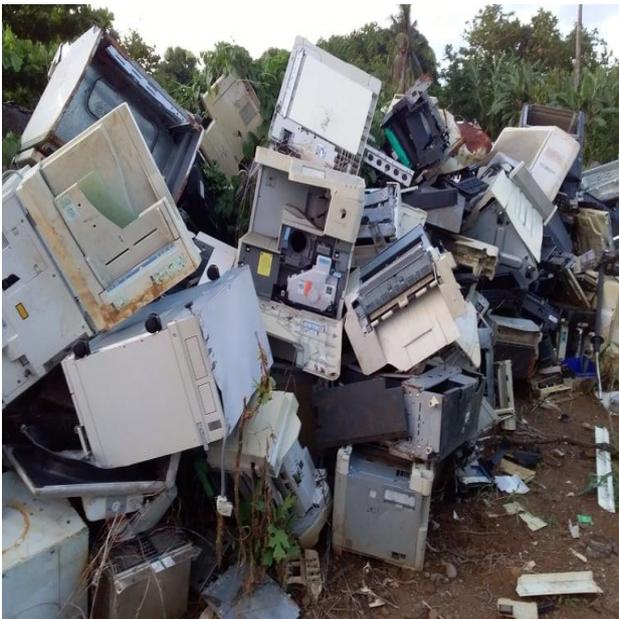
More than 600,000 Litres of ULO are currently available in Samoa and ready for final disposal. Samoa does not have a proper disposal facility and thus businesses including individuals are pushed to dispose of illegally if they run out of storage space. The closest disposal option is in Fiji, which is used as fuel for a Cement Factory.

2. End of Life Vehicle (ELV)



A recent Scrap Metal Assessment conducted last year 2017 estimated over 1,000 End of Life Vehicles are currently stockpiled throughout Samoa. Based on the vehicle registration and imported figures, over 1,500 vehicles become ELVs annually. An estimate of 30,000 registered vehicles are now operating on Samoa Roads.

3. Electrical and Electronic Waste (E-waste)



In recent years as result of improving technology and rising use of social media, the use of electronics especially mobile phones, computers and others are increasing. With the shortened lifespan of computers, telephones and televisions, more of these electronics turn in to E-waste within 1-5 years. The Government agencies and most institutions are considered the largest consumers of electronics and as such are also the largest generator of E-waste. E-waste management should therefore be made priority.

4. Tyres



More than 60,000 tyres of different sizes enter Samoa on an annual basis. With the current amounts of 30,000 cars on the road, it can generate on an annual basis an amount of 15,000 waste tyres. This amount can be more if considering the used tyres that can only last for few months before becoming waste tyres. More of this waste stream are used as fuel materials to burn standing trees for land clearing preparations

5. Plastics



Recent estimates by a PRIF Study in Samoa show that more than 5,000m³ of plastic bottles are generated on an annual basis which is equivalent to 128 full 20ft containers. Information from the plastic bag importers suggests an average 60 containers of plastic bags entering Samoa on an annual basis. Most of these plastics end up as wastes at the waste landfills or at the coastlines and the sea.

6. Organic waste particular from green waste continues to enter and fill the waste landfill at Tafaigata based on an average amount of 10tonnes a day. This contributes to the generation of methane, a polluting gas to the ozone layer. There are also wastes from the Nonu Juices and breweries production, which require proper disposal. The chicken manure from existing chicken farms generate lots of organic waste that require proper management to utilize their potential uses and at the same time reducing the amounts of organic waste entering the Tafaigata Waste landfill.

ISSUE 2: POOR MANAGEMENT OF COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL WASTES

While most of the existing waste management policies and programmes focus primarily on the domestic wastes, the management of the commercial and industrial waste is not regulated. As a result, several businesses do not put in place appropriate waste management practices to manage their waste resulting to environmental pollution and health problems.

A few number of businesses and companies have existing good systems to manage their generated waste. These businesses follow their obligations under some international standards for the services they provide to promote their products. The local brewery companies showcase good practices in managing the different waste streams generated. In addition, they have unique scheme to promote the recovery of the resulting waste from their products to promote reuse.

ISSUE 3: LOW VIBRANCY OF THE RECYCLING INDUSTRY

Almost all of the generated wastes including scrap metals are not economical to recover, collect and ship overseas for recycling at the current global market rates. The recent closure of the China markets with more Asia markets to follow makes recycling very complicated in Samoa.

While non-ferrous metals are still collected and shipped under current operations, the volume is not enough to keep recycling operations economically viable. The light steel metals and plastic bottles are regarded as low value waste and it is not economically feasible to collect and ship because of the low return to cover operational and shipping costs. This has a direct impact to recycling operations in Samoa with a reduction in waste export to overseas market by more than 50% when compared to 10years ago. The reduction of wastes to recover, collect and ship overseas has resulted in the rising stockpiles of waste in the country contributing to on-going environmental pollution and public health problems.

ISSUE 4: UNREGULATED WASTE RECYCLING OPERATIONS

A study coordinated by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SREP) in 2017 focusing on the existing recycling operations reported the absence of national measures to regulate and control recycling operations in the country. There is no special license for recycling operations in Samoa and thus anyone can run a recycling business as long as the business is registered with the Ministry of Revenue.

In the absence of such important regulation, there are no national requirements and standards for recycling operations to follow. This is a concern for the safety of the environment and the people since the absence of national control measures allow recycling operations to operate without boundaries and limitations. This will pose serious health and environmental consequences to Samoa.

2.0. OUR STRATEGY

2.1 VISION

IMPROVING WASTE RECYCLING AND MANAGEMENT OF COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE IN SAMOA

2.2. STRATEGIC GOALS

In order to address the situation, the Strategy focuses on the following key Strategic Goals which translate the Association Constitutional Objectives and Functions into action:

Goal 1: Strengthening Waste Recycling in Samoa

How it links to SRWMA Constitutional Objectives and Functions

- Working towards making Samoa a “Zero” Waste Country by promoting and implementing the “3R + Return” principals
- Developing and strengthening waste management and the recycling industry in Samoa to support its economy
- Representing the voice of Waste Management and Recycling advocates in Samoa for a cleaner environment
- Supporting researches and investigation for the collection and provision of waste management and recycling information in Samoa

Goal 2: Improve the Management of Commercial and Industrial Waste

How it links to SRWMA Constitutional Objectives and Functions

- Promoting appropriate and best waste management practises for the protection of Samoa’s Environment
- Representing the voice of Waste Management and Recycling advocates in Samoa for a cleaner environment
- Supporting researches and investigation for the collection and provision of waste management and recycling information in Samoa.

Goal 3: Implement Sustainable Waste Management Mechanisms and Approaches

How it links to SRWMA Constitutional Objectives and Functions

- Working towards making Samoa a “Zero” Waste Country by promoting and implementing the “3R + Return” principals
- Contributing to Samoa’s Green Economic Development, by implementing and promoting appropriate and applicable practices in Samoa
- Developing and strengthening waste management and the recycling industry in Samoa to support its economy
- Representing the voice of Waste Management and Recycling advocates in Samoa for a cleaner environment
- Supporting researches and investigation for the collection and provision of waste management and recycling information in Samoa

2.3 STRATEGIC ACTIONS

The following list of realistic actions are identified to enable attainment of the Strategic Goals. These are based on the current status of the association and the workability of the actions to be delivered in line with the association members capacity and capability. These actions are planned to be implemented during the five year period of this Strategic Plan.

Strategic Goal 1: Strengthening Waste Recycling

1.1. Build the capacity of the Association to effectively provide ongoing support to its members.

The first step in strengthening the recycling network is to set the foundation and basis of the association to support its movement. If the Association has the necessary resources to implement the actions, it will facilitate the attainment of the strategic goals.

1.2. Develop projects and initiatives to pilot different recycling approaches in collaboration with MNRE and development partners.

The next step is for the association to develop waste projects targeting the different waste streams with the members leading the different projects based on their expertise and areas of business operations. This will enable alignment of their business activities and resulting wastes with their respective waste projects

1.3. Discuss and present the waste projects to the development partners and the government for any potential future collaboration and partnership. The following are some of the identified waste initiatives and projects.

- Used Oil – collection and shipping to Fiji for final disposal
- E-waste - recovery, collection and shipping for recycling
- End of Life Vehicles - recovery, collection and shipping for recycling
- Plastics - recovery, collection and shipping for recycling
- Tyres - recovery, collection and shipping for recycling
- Paper
- Organic waste

With limited resources, it is important to work in partnership with other stakeholders in resolving common areas of concern while at the same time sharing the limited available resource

Strategic Goal 2: Improving the Commercial and Industrial Waste Management

- 2.1. Promote and introduce applicable waste management approaches** to promote the effective recovery, collection and recycling of the different waste streams in Samoa.

There are existing systems that are practiced by some members of the association to recover and reuse their waste like glass bottles. Such system can be promoted to other similar locally bottled and canned products in Samoa for the recovery and collection of the resulting wastes from plastic bottles and others.

- 2.2. Promote proper and safe waste management practices** for the generated commercial and industrial wastes including potential hazardous wastes to the Association Members

There are also existing waste management systems that are practiced by the members to manage the generated commercial and industrial wastes. These can be promoted to the rest of the business communities upon joining the association.

- 2.3. Collaborate with MNRE in the development of appropriate guidelines, standards, rules and regulations** to support recycling operations and prevent the interest of the members.

Appropriate policies, standards and guidelines must be put in place on commercial and industrial waste management for businesses and companies to follow. This is important in order to promote appropriate waste management (storage, collection and final disposal) practices.

- 2.4. Enforce and monitor** any adopted and endorsed national guidelines, standards, rules and regulations through the association members.

Ongoing collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment is needed for any national policies, standards and guidelines to be enforced by the business community. The association can enforce the above internally to its members in the future if more businesses are joining the association.

Strategic Goal 3: Introducing Supporting Mechanisms to Sustainably Manage Waste

3.1 Promote and introduce economic tools and funding mechanisms to effectively promote the recovery, collection and recycling of the different waste streams in Samoa.

In order to enable substantial generated wastes to be recovered, collected and shipped overseas for recycling, the following funding mechanisms need to be introduced. These mechanisms are generally implemented in developed countries. Some countries in the region such as Palau, Republic of Marshall Island, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati and Fiji have introduced such system which showed promising benefits. These mechanisms are:

- Container Deposit System (Palau, Kiribati, FSM, RMI and Fiji)
- Advance Recycling Fee (Palau and FSM)
- Imported Product Tax (Tonga for plastics)
- Combination of the above (Tuvalu Regulation)

These systems enforce the internationally accepted principles of Polluters Pay, User Pay and Extended Producer Responsibility in different forms and designs depending on the conditions of the countries. The main outcome of these systems is the effective recovery, collection and recycling of the targeted waste items on a sustainable basis without significant government inputs. .

3.2 Implement Public Campaigns to educate and raise awareness of the public on the importance of different funding mechanisms to support sustainable waste management for a Cleaner Samoa.

The waste levy system is not always acceptable to the public because of the impact on consumer price. With proper awareness, the public can have full understanding of the benefits of the system including redemption fees paid to customers returning the eligible waste items.

A similar system is currently implemented by the local brewery companies in Samoa. The system puts economic value on the resulting eligible wastes after consumption. Without such system, all the resulting wastes from imported goods remain as waste for disposal.

3.3 Collaborate with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in the development of the appropriate funding mechanisms as economic instruments for sustainable operation of waste recycling in Samoa

3.4 Consult the business community for their information and awareness of the proposed waste funding mechanisms for their support and participation

3.5. To collaborate with MNRE in the enforcement of the implementation of any established funding mechanisms to ensure the good flow in the future to achieve the intended objectives.

2.4 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Strategic Plan is generally guided by the Association's Constitutional Objectives

- 1) Working towards making Samoa a “Zero” Waste Country by promoting and implementing the “3R + Return” principles
- 2) Contributing to Samoa's Green Economic Development, by implementing and promoting appropriate and applicable practices in Samoa
- 3) Developing and strengthening waste management and the recycling industry in Samoa to support its economy
- 4) Representing the voice of Waste Management and Recycling advocates in Samoa for a cleaner environment
- 5) Supporting researches and investigation for the collection and provision of waste management and recycling information in Samoa
- 6) Promoting appropriate and best waste management practises for the protection of Samoa's Environment

The following International Accepted Waste Management Principles also provide the basis of this strategic plan:

- **Polluters Pay Principle (PPP)**

All of us are contributing to waste generation and the associated pollution from the generated wastes and we should therefore must pay for the costs to manage our waste and clean the environment.

- **Extended Producers Principle (EPR)**

For producers of goods to be responsible to manage the resulting waste from their goods by putting in place appropriate mechanisms to recover and collect their waste for reuse, recycling or final disposal

2.5 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The implementation of the plan is the direct responsibility of the association and its members who will be leading and supporting the different waste streams in line with their areas of business and expertise.

2.6 COORDINATION

The coordination of the strategic plan implementation is the direct responsibility of the Association Executives and employed supporting staff.

The Association will assign a Board to oversee the implementation of this strategy. The Board members shall consist of the Executive members, heads of the participating businesses and companies and members of the supporting stakeholders from both government and non government agencies and regional organizations and donors. The Board shall meet on an annual basis to discuss the progress of the plan implementation for appropriate actions.

2.7 MONITORING

The achievement of the Strategic Plan 2018 – 2023 will be evaluated and assessed annually by the Executives with assistance and collaboration from JPRISM and SPREP during SWRMA`s annual meetings. This is important to review the annual achievements made and make necessary adjustments to the Implementation Plan.

ANNEX 1: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2018 - 2013

| Strategic Measures | Action | Details | Schedule | By |
|--|--|--|------------|-------|
| Goal 1: To strengthen recycling and waste management | | | | |
| A1: To build the capacity of the Association to effectively provide assistance to its members and supporters. | A1.1. Establish an internal administrative system to ensure the smooth operation of the association. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an Application / Registration Form with requirements, terms and conditions included. | 2018-2019 | SRWMA |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form a Board to assist the Executives | 2019-2020 | |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the Terms of Reference for the Board | 2019-2020 | |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a system and process for addressing complaints from the public and solving internal conflicts | 2019-2020 | |
| | A1.2. Establish the Association Financing base | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Membership Fees | 2018 | |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-compliance Penalty Fees | 2018 | |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donations | 2018 | |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects | 2018 | |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association`s Equipment Hire Fees | 2018 | |
| | A1.3. Establish the Association Office Base | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure Land and Office Spaces to operate from | 2018-2019 | |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a rotating role among the members for servicing the office | 2019-2023 | |
| | A1.4. Establish Communication Mechanism for promoting the roles of the association | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a Facebook Page • Events during the World Environment Day and Samoa National Environment Day | 2019 -2023 | |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio Talks Projects | | |
| A2: To develop appropriate supporting mechanisms, arrangements and resources to strengthen recycling in Samoa in collaboration with MNRE and development partners. | A2.1. . Set up a License System to register all recycling and waste management operations and businesses in Samoa | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This provides specified conditions for companies to satisfy to control poor and environmental polluting practices | 2018 | SRWMA |
| | A2.2. Set up an approval system with MNRE and Ministry of Revenues for reviewing applications for new businesses and renewing of existing businesses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This allows the Association to have an input to protect the image of the Recyclers and Waste Management Associations | 2018 | |
| | A2.3. Enforce all registered waste management and recycling businesses to join the Association | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar to Lawyers, Doctors and Engineers | 2019 | |
| Goal 2: TO IMPROVE COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE MANAGEMENT | | | | |
| A3: To implement projects in collaboration with SPREP, JICA, UNDP and EU for the management of key difficult waste streams (Plastic Bottles, Used Lubricant Oil, E-wastes, Tyres, Vehicles, Organic wastes, Papers, etc.) to be led and managed by different members based on their areas of business. | A3.1. To collaborate with MNRE and SPREP in finding and securing long term deals with overseas markets for other waste streams – plastic bottles, e-wastes, cardboards, End of Life Vehicles, etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Particularly for the difficult waste items | 2018 -2020 | SPREP JPRISM SRWMA |
| | A3.2. To introduce the Waste Deposit Systems (CDL, ARF, etc.) to generated supporting revenues for recycling operations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Advanced Recycling and Disposal Levy to cover the different waste streams including used oils as well as the disposal needs for some wastes that cannot be recycled. E.g. Used Oil, etc. | 2018 – 2020 | MNRE JPRISM SRWMA |
| | A3.3. To secure a long term shipping deal with SWIRE apart from the three years under the Moana Taka Scheme | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is important to extend the current free shipping scheme | 2018 -2020 | SPREP |
| A4: To promote proper and safe waste management practices for the | A4.1. To collaborate with SPREP, MNRE, JICA and other donors in financing shared special equipment and facilities for the recyclers to use. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expensive equipment like Car Bodies Compactors • Trucks and heavy equipment | 2019 | SPREP- JPRISM SRWMA |

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| management of the generated commercial and industrial wastes including potential hazardous wastes with the Association Members. | A4.2. To provide training opportunities for the association members to get appropriate training on waste items they are involved with. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-waste dismantling and processes End of Life Vehicles depollution and dismantling Plastics, Organics, Others, etc. | 2018-2021 | SPREP-JPRISM SRWMA |
| | A4.3. To develop in collaboration with MNRE, SPREP, JICA and other partners national guideline and manuals for the recyclers to easily follow and learn on recycling different waste items | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-waste dismantling Manual End of Life Vehicles Dismantling Manual Video clips of the procedures | 2018/19 | MNRE SPREP |
| Goal 3: Improve the management of the generated commercial and industrial wastes including potential hazardous wastes | | | | |
| A5: To promote proper and safe waste practices for the management of the generated commercial and industrial wastes in collaboration with MNRE, SPREP and other partners. | A5.1. To identify used oil and other difficult waste streams generators and develop a list for future reference | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serves as baseline information of the existing stockpiles for management including future generation | 2019 | MNRE |
| | A5.2. To conduct a workshop to promote proper and safe practices for the storage and management of used oil and other difficult waste streams | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness on the threats of these wastes to the environment and human health if not properly managed | 2019 | MNRE-SPREP |
| | A5.3. To develop projects to safely recover, collect and dispose of these difficult waste streams | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated projects for proper coordination of any recovery, collection and disposal initiative | 2019-2023 | MNRE-SPREP |
| A6: To share lessons learnt with the rest of the business communities , to be led by the association members. | A6.1. To assist and support the association members in complying with any national projects and initiatives to manage the generated wastes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisting role | 2019-2023 | SRWMA |
| | A6.2. To set up a Special Working Committee to responsible with the monitoring and enforcement of businesses compliance | | 2019-2023 | SRWMA |
| | A6.3. To motivate and push businesses and companies to comply with any set national waste management guidelines, standards, codes of practices. | | 2019-2023 | SRWMA |

| Strategic Measures | Action | Details | Schedule | By |
|---|--|---|----------|------|
| Goal 4. To promote and adopt safe and proper recycling and waste management practices for environmental protection and occupational and health safety | | | | |
| A7: To collaborate with MNRE in the development of appropriate guidelines, standards, rules and regulations to support recycling operations and prevent the interest of the members. | A7.1. To develop national guidelines, standards, rules and regulations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To regulate and control recycling and waste management operations to avoid and reduce negative impacts to the environment | 2018/19 | MNRE |
| A8: To enforce and monitor any adopted and endorsed national guidelines, standards, rules and regulations through the association members. | A7.1. To enforce national guidelines, standards, rules and regulations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the association members first then to the non-members to ensure consistent and fair treatment to all parties | 2018/19 | MNRE |

ANNEX 2: PROPOSED WASTE INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS TO IMPLEMENT

1. USED WASTE OIL MANAGEMENT PROJECT
2. CAR BODIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT
3. PLASTICS MANAGEMENT PROJECT
4. E-WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT
5. GLASSES MANAGEMENT PROJECT
6. TYRES MANAGEMENT PROJECT
7. PAPERS MANAGEMENT PROJECT
8. GREEN WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT