

Implementation of asbestos, e-waste and healthcare waste activities

Background

1. SPREP is implementing a number of donor funded projects to improve the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes during the 2022-23 reporting period.
2. PacWastePlus, a European Union Funded regional waste management project assisting all PICs and Timor-Leste is undertaking a number of regional and national projects that deliver on the Waigani COPs annual work program.

In-country activities:

3. Key Actions undertaken relating to Asbestos Management include:
 - a. Published a Regional Model Asbestos Management National Policy
 - b. Published a Regional Model Asbestos Management Code of Practice
 - c. Published a Guidance note on the acceptable process for landfilling asbestos in-country to protect human health and the environment, and enable appropriate management at a reduced financial cost (when compared to offshore management).
 - d. Provided detailed support to each country of the legislative pathway available to implement a ban in asbestos importation, advice tailored to the specific legislative system in each member country.
 - e. Commenced development of an Asbestos Management Code of Practice for Nauru
 - f. Commenced development of an Asbestos Management Code of Practice for Papua New Guinea
 - g. Commenced development of an Asbestos Management Code of Practice for Tonga
 - h. Commenced development of Drafting Guidance for the imposition of an Asbestos Importation Ban for Nauru
 - i. Commenced development of Drafting Guidance for the imposition of an Asbestos Importation Ban for Papua New Guinea
 - j. Commenced development of Drafting Guidance for the imposition of an Asbestos Importation Ban for Tonga
 - k. Contracted a company to undertake asbestos abatement activities in Kiribati, specifically on Banaba Island. Works expected to be undertaken in the 2023 calendar year
 - l. Contracted a company to undertake asbestos abatement activities in Nauru. Works expected to be undertaken in the 2023 calendar year
 - m. Contracted a company to undertake asbestos abatement activities in Tonga, specifically in Tongtapu. Works expected to be undertaken in the 2023 calendar year
 - n. Contracted a company to undertake asbestos abatement activities in Niue. Works expected to be undertaken in the first half of 2024.
4. Key Actions undertaken relating to e-waste Management include:
 - a. Niue Department of Environment undertook the collection and consolidation of e-waste from across the Island. This material will be deconstructed and sent to markets in NZ in early 2024. The material will also be used to undertake deconstruction training for staff of Niue Government responsible for e-waste management.

- b. Actively engaged with Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu on the development and implementation of Product Stewardship Legislation that will provide ability for sustainable financing for the environmentally sound management of waste.
 - c. Assisted Samoa to undertake community education on e-waste management at the 2022 National Environment Week.
5. Key Actions undertaken relating to healthcare waste management include:
- a. Completed the review of the PacWASTE healthcare waste interventions.
 - b. Actively worked with UNEP to develop a Funding Facility that will provide active management, repair, and maintenance of healthcare waste facilities throughout the Pacific region. Secured US\$1,000,000 for the facility and continue seeking additional donor partners to enable the creation of the Facility and provision of the service.
 - c. Repair of healthcare waste incinerator in Solomon Islands at the Helena Goldie Hospital
 - d. Repair of healthcare waste incinerator in Solomon Islands at the Honiara District Hospital
 - e. Repair of healthcare waste incinerator in Tonga at the Prince Ngu Hospital
 - f. Repair of healthcare waste incinerator in Vanuatu at the Norsup Hospital
 - g. Contracted the procurement and installation of a new incinerator for Kiritimati Island, Kiribati. Expected to be installed in the 2023 calendar year.
 - h. Completed assessment of the healthcare waste incinerator in Palau, and secured approval from the EU to invest in a replacement incinerator to be placed at the Babledoab landfill
 - i. Completed assessment of the healthcare waste incinerator in Kiribati (South Tarawa), and secured approval from the EU to invest in a replacement incinerator for the Tungaru Hospital.
 - j. Actively engaged with hospital administrators and the Australian Government in an attempt to negotiate the installation of a healthcare waste incinerator in the Ghizo Hospital, Gizo, Solomon Islands.