

Concept Note and Agenda

Circular Economy: Unlocking Waste as Resource

Date: Wednesday, 6 September 2023

Time: 5:30pm – 6:30pm

Venue: Room 1 (Savaii Room), Taumeasina Island Resort

Background

A Circular Economy approach advocates a change to the way items are developed and manufactured to “design out waste” by ensuring products can be reused, re-manufactured, recycled, or recovered.

A Circular Economy approach seeks to replace the current “take-make-waste” linear model of production, consumption, and disposal which is a significant contributor to overflowing landfills, marine and terrestrial pollution, climate change, biodiversity loss and over-consumption of natural resources. The effects of the adoption of this linear model are particularly apparent for Pacific Island Countries and Territories.

Project activities being implemented by the Waste Management and Pollution Control Programme that support Circular Economy initiatives include:

1. Pacific Ocean Litter Project – Australian Government Funded project supporting single use plastic importation bans, and support for traditional materials to provide alternatives to single use plastic.
2. PacWastePlus – European Union funded programme assisting countries to improve organics management and generate local and community level circular economies; and working directly with countries to implement National sustainable financing systems to create a circular economy for plastics, e-waste, and tyres. Beneficiary countries are all PICs plus Timor Leste.
3. ISLANDS – GEF funded project addressing hazardous waste management and providing assistance to circular economy systems for e-waste and End of Life Vehicles (ELV).
4. SWAP – AFD funded project supporting design and implementation of Sustainable Finance “deposit/return” schemes.

Opportunities currently available for Pacific Island Countries and Territories to incorporate a Circular Economy approach into waste management decision making and legislation include:

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1. Implementing importation bans (e.g., on single use plastic) - to provide an enabling environment for local business and initiatives to develop replacement or alternative items using a Circular Economy approach (e.g., bags made locally from waste material can replace single use plastic bags, plates made locally from local vegetation can replace single use plastic plates, a diaper washing service to replace single use diapers, etc.)
2. Implementing importation quality restrictions / controls (e.g., vehicles to be <10 years, quality standards for white-ware and televisions, etc.) - to ensure materials meet minimum quality and “repairability” standards to implement the principle of ‘right of repair’ and keep products in circulation for longer.
3. Implementing sustainable finance “deposit/return” schemes (e.g., Container Deposit, Advanced Recovery Fee and Disposal, Import Levy, Product Stewardship) - to provide long-term sustainable financing for materials recovery and local reuse, recycling, or export to foreign recycling markets.
4. Support for, or incentivising, organics / composting programmes – to provide for organic materials to follow a circular model through reintroduction into the agroecosystems, instead of disposal to landfill.
5. Support for, or incentivising, businesses or enterprises achieving “Circular Economy” principles – such as local repair, re-manufacture, or service industries (including use of traditional knowledge to make items (bags, plates etc), and services such as diaper washing service.
6. Establishing recycling collection and processing infrastructure – such as a recycling centre, processing equipment, and collection systems to assist with the collection and circular management of materials, instead of disposal to landfill.
7. Supporting national small scale technology opportunities to provide for materials re-manufacture or re-processing- such as equipment to process material into a secondary use – i.e., extrude and reform plastics or EOL tyres into construction / building materials.
8. Supporting the intended outcomes of the current development of an Internationally Legally Binding Instrument to end Plastic Pollution. The Treaty currently being negotiated is focusing heavily on de-toxifying plastic materials, and incentivising (and requiring) sustainable and circular design and embedding circularity into plastic systems globally.
9. Generate local jobs supporting green business through creation of jobs to manage waste collection and separation, repair of damaged or discarded items, development of local alternatives to commonly wasted items, etc.

- Supporting the set-up of a Regional Recycling Network in the Pacific as recommended through the PRIF Regional Recycling Network Scoping Study to set up a Regional Recycling Hub in Fiji.

Expected Outcomes

It is expected that this Circular Economy side event will result in the following outcomes:

- Enhanced awareness and improved understanding on the benefits of the Circular Economy.
- Increased knowledge on Circular Economy opportunities in the Pacific.
- Increased awareness on success stories in the Pacific that contributes to Circular Economy.
- Increased knowledge and understanding of the challenges faced by countries in trans-boundary movements of waste for recycling and assistance from the Moana Taka Partnership.

Schedule and Venue

The side event is scheduled to take place at the Taumeasina Hotel Room 1 on the 6 September 2023 between 5:30pm and 6:30pm.

Tentative Programme

5:30pm	Opening Remarks – Mr. Anthony Talouli, Director, Waste Management and Pollution Control (WMPC)
5:35pm	Introduction of Circular Economy – Ms. Susana Telakau, Solid Waste Management Adviser, SPREP.
5:40pm	A Circular Economy for Plastics – Ms. Angela Mayer, Program Manager, Australian, New Zealand and Pacific Islands Plastic Pact (ANZPAC), Australian Packaging Covenant Organization (APCO).
5:45pm	Recycling movement towards Circular Economy in Fiji – Mr. Amitesh Deo, Founder and CEO, Pacific Recycling Foundation.
5:50pm	Moana Taka Partnership supporting Circular Economy – Ms. Virashna Singh, SD Management Associate, SWIRE Shipping.
5:55pm	Initiatives implemented in country that contributes to Circular Economy – Ms. Debra Kereseka, Deputy Director of Environment, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology in Solomon Islands.

6:00pm	Organic waste management contribution to Circular Economy – Ms. Tekura Moeka’a, Environment Policy & Planning (EPP) Department, Tu’anga Taporoporo National Environment Service in Cook Islands.
6:05pm	Sustainable Financing for Waste Management: Achieving Circular Economy - Ms. Hilary Boyes, Technical Project Officer, PacWaste Plus Project, SPREP.
6:10pm	Moderated Discussion (15mins) Moderators: Mr. Mohammed Asid Zullah, Pollution Adviser, SPREP and Ms. Angela Mayer, Program Manager, Australian, New Zealand and Pacific Islands Plastic Pact (ANZPAC).
6:25pm	Closing Remarks (5mins)
6:30pm	Session End

Organizers

The side event is organized by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Waste Management and Pollution Control (WMPC) and Environmental Monitoring and Governance (EMG) and funded through the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries, phase 3 (ACP MEAs Phase 3).

Target Audience

This side event aims to engage with country representatives, government officials, experts from national and international institutions, private sector and other stakeholders concerned with the implementation of waste management and circular economy initiatives in the Pacific Region.

Contact Information

For any questions or comments please contact **Ms. Susana Minute Telakau**, Solid Waste Management Adviser at susanat@sprep.org; **Mr. Mohammed Asid Zullah**, Pollution Adviser at mohammedz@sprep.org; **Ms. Davina Tiitii**, WMPC Programme Assistant at davinat@sprep.org.

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