

## 31<sup>st</sup> SPREP MEETING OF OFFICIALS

5, 6, and 7 September 2023, Apia, Samoa

### **Agenda item 9.3 : Overview of Regional Goal 3: Pacific people benefit from improved waste management and pollution control**

#### **Purpose of paper:**

1. To provide the Meeting with an overview of key priorities to support the implementation and achievement of Regional Goal 3 for the biennial period 2024 – 2025.

#### **Background:**

2. For the biennial period 2024 – 2025, SPREP as the lead agency responsible for regional coordination and delivery of waste management and pollution control action, will continue to utilise the Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy 2016-2025 (Cleaner Pacific 2025) and its Implementation Plan 2021-2025 to guide regional cooperation and collaboration. Furthermore, SPREP will continue to work closely with Members, development partners and other stakeholders to progress evidence-based strategic planning, facilitate technical cooperation and deliver training and capacity building initiatives to improve waste management and pollution control in the region. This working paper provides an overview of the key priorities for SPREP for the next biennium period 2024 - 2025.

#### **Key Areas of Work for 2024-2025**

**Regional Objective 3.1 Minimise the adverse impacts of chemicals and all wastes on human health and the environment via environmentally sound life-cycle management in accordance with agreed regional and international frameworks, including Cleaner Pacific 2025, and significantly reduce the release to air, water and soil.**

3. Continue the implementation of the Cleaner Pacific 2025: Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy and activities identified at the 2021 Cleaner Pacific Roundtable meeting, specifically:
  - Manage the implementation of the EU EDF11 funded PacWastePlus Programme (PWP), UNEP-GEF funded ISLANDS Pacific Child Project (ISLANDS), Australian Government funded Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP) and PACPLAN Resilience Project (PACPLAN Resilience), AFD funded Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific (SWAP), Australian Government funded Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee project (INC).
  - Improve lifecycle management of legacy waste including removal and remediation of contaminated sites.

4. Implement high priority actions to address marine litter, guided by the Pacific Regional Marine Litter Action Plan 2018-2025 including assisting PICTs in the negotiations of an international legally binding instrument, the review of the regional framework to address marine litter and plastic pollution and implementation of the WCPFC CMM 2017-04 on marine pollution with FFA Members and the Ports Recognition Framework and Pacific Regional Reception Facilities Plan with the SPC.
5. Assist in improving waste management practices and improving management of waste disposal sites and storage facilities.
6. Assist in the implementation of agreed regional and international frameworks.
7. Facilitate four functional technical working groups for Recycling, Hazardous Waste Disposal, Marine Pollution and Disaster Waste Management, arising from the Clean Pacific Roundtable, to improve and sustain waste management and pollution control awareness, coordination and engagement.

**Regional Objective 3.2 Strengthen national, regional, and international mechanisms for waste management including for chemicals, hazardous wastes, ship and aircraft generated waste, marine plastic litter, and other marine debris.**

8. Strengthen and integrate national, regional and international mechanisms for waste management, specifically:
  - Establishing integrated synergistic approaches to manage chemicals and hazardous wastes using the BRS, Minamata, Waigani and Noumea Conventions and assist Member countries to become a Party
  - Assist countries to develop baselines surveys and monitoring systems for single use plastic, as well as policies and legislation and strategies
  - Assist countries to utilise template legislative mechanisms, and drafting guidance for legislative mechanisms, developed by projects (e.g., asbestos ban, Asbestos Management Code of Practice, sustainable financing development guidance, importation bans and restrictions for waste products, waste licencing systems, environmental monitoring guidelines, disaster waste management taskforces).
  - Assist countries in developing capability for implementation of national plans and strategies under PACPOL as well as PACPLAN Resilience Project.
  - Assist countries with capacity development for waste and pollution management

**Regional Objective 3.3 Recover resources from waste and pollutants through composting (nutrient recovery), recycling (material recovery), energy recovery, and other measures in order to minimise waste and contribute to economic and social development.**

9. Promote and assist in the implementation of recycling activities such as recyclables and organic waste, end-of-life vehicles, scrap metal and used lead acid batteries, mercury along with other hazardous chemicals and waste to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

10. Assist in managing and reducing agricultural (e.g. piggery effluent), green and organic waste.
11. Assist in improving existing and developing new sustainable financing mechanisms for resource recovery enterprises.
12. Assist with the construction and commissioning of waste management and resource recovery infrastructure through donor funded project support.
13. Assist countries to establish national waste management and recycling associations to provide an avenue for public private partnerships.

**Regional Objective 3.4 Improve waste and pollution monitoring of receiving environments to enable informed decision-making on appropriate measures to protect human health and the environment and to reduce associated environmental damage.**

14. Implementation of the Regional Waste Monitoring System and the regional ACP-MEA III and Inform projects.
15. Assist SPREP Members to monitor the health of receiving environments for input of information into the Regional Waste Monitoring System to enable informed decision-making measures that protect human health and reduce environmental damage.
16. Convene a 2024 Clean Pacific Roundtable meeting to monitor and assess progress towards the Cleaner Pacific 2025 and implementation plan 2021-2025.

**Challenges and opportunities**

17. The major challenge with implementation of the Regional Goal 3 (RG3) to improve regional and national waste management and pollution control programme activities is the absorptive human capacity of countries. Although there is good national capacity, as well as national buy-in and support which is critical for Secretariat to get endorsement for the development of project activities, the pool of national human resources is small which often results in competing priorities and delay in the delivery of national level activities.
18. With respect to opportunities, additional national human capacity to PICs will be made possible through projects such as the GEF ISLANDS Project, PWP Programme, POLP, PACPLAN Resilience Project, INC Project and SWAP. This will assist Members address urgent issues such as plastic pollution, climate change impacts and external expectations.

**Recommendation:**

19. The Meeting is invited to:
  - 1) **Note** the update on activities to be implemented under Regional Goal 3 for the biennial period 2024 to 2025.

9 June 2023