



This initiative is supported by **PacWastePlus**-a 72-month project funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to **sustainably and cost effectively improve regional management of waste and pollution.**

# PROJECT SNAPSHOT PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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Hazardous waste management remains a challenge in Papua New Guinea (PNG) where exposure to toxic substances and chemicals have adverse impacts on public health and the environment. Increased exposure to hazardous waste is known to cause disease and create serious health problems. For many communities in PNG water resources can be contaminated by pollutants through poorly managed waste handling and disposal. Post-World War II consumer habits have also greatly increased the amount of waste generated in PNG. The Papua New Guinea project will provide a holistic approach to hazardous waste management through the development of national strategies and regulations, and build capacity and community awareness, to help PNG achieve environmental, economic, social, and health benefits

Items targeted for inclusion in the PNG project include asbestos, healthcare waste and e-waste:



PNG seeks to utilise the PacWastePlus investment for the following activities:



### STRATEGY

Develop a Strategic Plan for long-term management of asbestos containing material (ACM) and asbestos in PNG

Develop a National E-waste Management Strategy



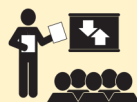
### CODE OF PRACTICE

Develop a Code of Practice for the safe handling and disposal of ACM and asbestos in PNG



### MANAGEMENT

Develop a National Healthcare Waste management policy and guideline



### TRAINING

Deliver training sessions on: safe handling and disposal of asbestos training; and monitoring and enforcement of the asbestos ban



### COMMUNICATIONS

Implement project education and awareness programme

# PROJECT JUSTIFICATION



**Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA)** is partnering with the **National Department of Health (NDoH)** to develop an integrated management framework to manage hazardous waste



CEPA will address management of asbestos and e-waste, while NDoH will focus on management of healthcare waste



## Asbestos

PNG does not have a national standard for handling, removal and disposal of ACM. There are currently no certified personnel to undertake asbestos abatement works or provide training



The project provides an opportunity for PNG to draft an ACM ban Regulation and implement capacity building activities for the long-term management of asbestos



## E-waste

There are currently no E-waste recovery facilities in PNG. The Baruni waste pickers are dismantling disposed e-waste on an ad hoc basis, with no proper training on safe handling and no PPE



The project will facilitate a dismantling training to build the capacity of relevant stakeholders and private industry and encourage existing recyclers to start looking at dismantling processes for e-waste



## Healthcare

A Healthcare waste baseline survey of Port Moresby General Hospital (PMGH) was conducted in 2014 through the PacWaste Program



The PacWaste Plus Project will deliver the recommendations and provide for the long-term management of healthcare waste in PNG

# CURRENT STATUS / MANAGEMENT OF PRIORITY WASTE

## Current Situation:

### Data collection and Education and Awareness

Hazardous waste management remains a challenge in PNG where exposure to toxic substances and chemicals have adverse impacts on public health and the environment. For many communities in PNG water resources can be contaminated by pollutants through poorly managed waste handling and disposal.

Awareness messaging for management of hazardous waste - on-going as opportunities arise



*(Data collection on ARFD operation, including recyclables collection and export/formal education and awareness programme through implementation of National Education and Awareness plan.)*

### Policy & Regulation



A key, ongoing need identified for PNG is the implementation of commitments to adopt specific waste management legislation - following legislation are relevant for waste management and governance in PNG:

**Environment (Amendment) Act 2015** - This is the principal legislation for environmental protection implemented through the Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA)



**Public Health (Amendment) Act 2015** - Administered by the Department of Health. Provisions relate to practices of scavenging and waste disposal, as well as fines for illegal dumping



*(National Healthcare Waste Policy and Guidelines is currently under review)*

### On-Ground Activity



PNG is to create environmental sound management of hazardous waste including asbestos, e-waste and healthcare waste

CEPA has partnered with the National Department of Health (NDoH) to develop an integrated management framework to manage hazardous waste



*(currently no certified personnel to undertake asbestos abatement works or provide training, no E-waste recovery facilities in PNG, waste pickers are dismantling disposed e-waste on an ad hoc basis, with no proper training on safe handling and no PPE)*

### Current healthcare waste standards



PNG does not have a national standard for handling, removal and disposal of asbestos containing materials (ACM)



*(dismantling training to build capacity of relevant stakeholders, private industry and encourage existing recyclers to start looking at dismantling processes for e-waste)*

# GENDER EQUALITY, SOCIAL AND DISABILITY INCLUSION (GESDI) CONSIDERATIONS FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT IN PNG



**Equality in today's society requires sound waste management.**

All people have the right to access waste infrastructure, participate in decision making and able to voice grievances, access information and awareness messages, and be protected from harmful effects of waste – on health, environment, culture and traditions.



## Opportunities for PNG to provide for equality during the management of recyclables



Continue development of effective legislation to provide coordinated and equitable approach for waste management.



Include considerations regarding equality and inclusion in waste-related legislation and regulation



Consider additional bans and phaseouts of certain types of problematic or hazardous products



Provide for effective implementation, monitoring, and enforcement of waste-related legislation to protect vulnerable members of society



Mobilise additional resources for waste management including through an Advance Recovery Fee system



Enhance the availability and accessibility of information



Include additional Government departments, in particular labour, culture, women, and equality-related authorities and/or bodies, in waste-related decision making to identify and address potential inequalities



Provide waste management facilities for rural and outer island communities



Enhance efforts to protect waste workers



Utilise traditional knowledge and customs to enhance participation, environmental protection and stewardship

# MAPPING PROJECT SUCCESS



LONG TERM OUTCOME



Manage hazardous Waste in Papua New Guinea to reduce impacts on the environment and human health



MEDIUM TERM OUTCOMES



All hazardous wastes (asbestos, e-waste and healthcare waste) are managed and disposed to international standards



Pollution caused by inappropriate management of hazardous wastes (asbestos, e-waste and healthcare waste) is eliminated as 100% of waste is managed in accordance with the regulation and policy



Workers and residents are aware of risks of hazardous wastes (asbestos, e-waste and healthcare waste) and how to exercise appropriate handling and control to eliminate their exposure to harmful effects



SHORT TERM OUTCOMES



Safely undertake asbestos abatement, and Customs Officers trained and able to enact and enforce Asbestos Importation Ban



Implement the revised National Healthcare Waste Policy and Guidelines



The Government, private industry and communities have understanding to correctly handle, manage and dispose of hazardous wastes (asbestos, e-waste and healthcare waste)



OUTPUTS



Development and adoption of National E-Waste Management Strategic Plan



Revision and endorsement of National Healthcare Waste Management Policy & Guidelines



Development and Endorsement of National Asbestos Strategic Plans including Asbestos Code of Practice



Implementation of effective ARFD national education and awareness program



Adoption of an asbestos containing material ban on importation



Adoption of a legislative environment that eliminates the importation of new ACM and asbestos into PNG

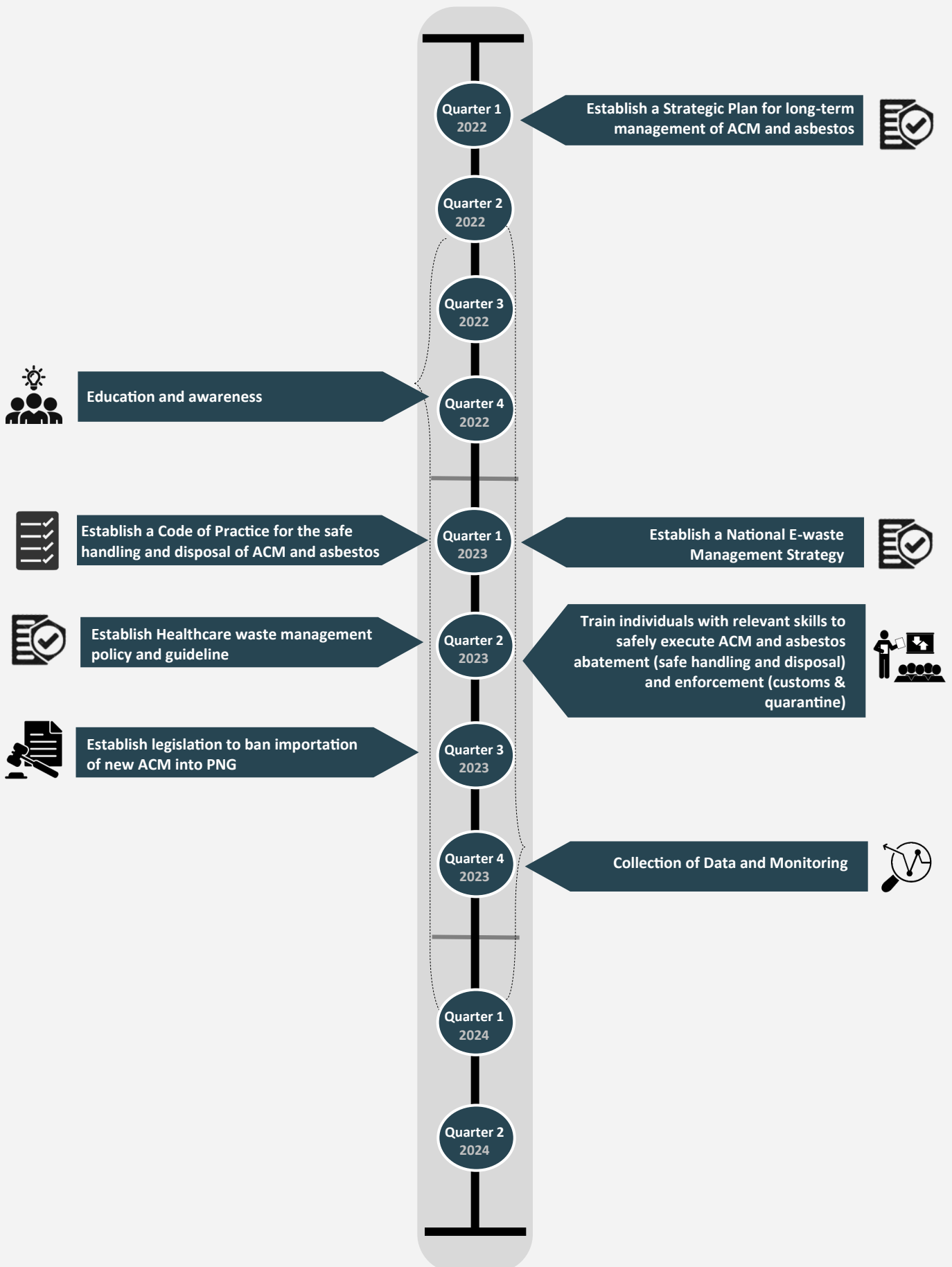


Waste industry workers trained to safely handle and dismantle e-waste components



A plan of action adopted to appropriately and sustainably manage hazardous wastes (asbestos, e-waste and healthcare waste)

# ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE



# PACWASTEPLUS REGIONAL PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES AND WHAT PNG CAN EXPECT



## Health Care Waste Management

### PNG will receive:

- Healthcare waste training [storage, treatment, and disposal solutions for healthcare waste]
- Assessment of the impact of the PacWaste Project healthcare waste activities
- Repair selected healthcare waste Incinerators in the region
- Work with development partners to implement a long-term plan for the sustainability of health care waste infrastructure
- Ongoing Technical Assistance



## Asbestos Management

### Palau will receive:

- A guidance and drafting note to assist with legislative reform to ban the importation of asbestos
- Template Code of Practice to guide the safe handling and management of asbestos
- Communication resources and materials to provide information on safe handling and management of asbestos
- Learnings from other country projects focused on asbestos
- Ongoing Technical Assistance



## Organics Management

### PNG will receive:

- Document providing technical analysis of how to compost common organic materials received in the Pacific
- Template Minimum Standard document to guide effective and safe composting
- Resources to guide organic facility design and operation
- Training on organic facility design and operation
- Ongoing Technical Assistance
- Learnings from country projects focused on organics management



## ARFD / Sustainable Financing

### PNG will receive:

- Communication resources and materials to provide information to stakeholders on the benefits of ARFD systems
- Resources and training to assist during ARFD system design and guide decisions support
- Learnings from other country feasibility studies and projects focused on ARFD
- Ongoing Technical Assistance



## Disaster Waste Management

### PNG will receive:

- Terms of Reference for the establishment of an Environment Sector Working Group (Cluster) within National Disaster Management Framework to ensure effective implementation of disaster Waste Management Response and Recovery
- Drafting/Guiding Notes on National and Community Disaster Waste Management Plans
- Disaster Waste Training Manual for use at both the National and Community level
- Learnings from country projects focused on disaster waste management
- Ongoing Technical Assistance



## Regional Course Development

### PNG will receive

- Development of a sustainable capacity building program for waste management in based on country needs
- Training through the adopted training courses, both vocational and tertiary



## Schools Curriculum Development

### PNG will receive

- School curriculum on waste management education (eight programme waste streams) incorporated in to existing school core subjects such as Maths, English and Science
- Primary school education-problem based curriculum
- Secondary school education-culturally responsive
- Tertiary school education-culturally responsive
- Training and capacity building opportunities for teachers



## Bulky Waste Management

### PNG will receive:

- Guiding document and a Decision Support Tool to guide on how to design and implement a national ELV management programme.
- Drafting/Guiding Notes on how to draft national legislation for the management of End-of-Life vehicles
- Safe Dismantling Training Manual
- Publications and awareness materials



## Behaviour Change

### PNG will receive

- Learnings of the community-based social marketing Pilot projects and replication of successfully implemented projects
- Ongoing Technical Assistance

# ABOUT THE PACWASTEPLUS PROGRAMME

The Pacific – European Union (EU) Waste Management Programme, PacWastePlus, is a 72-month programme funded by the EU and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to improve regional management of waste and pollution sustainably and cost-effectively.

## About PacWastePlus

The impact of waste and pollution is taking its toll on the health of communities, degrading natural ecosystems, threatening food security, impeding resilience to climate change, and adversely impacting social and economic development of countries in the region. The PacWastePlus programme will generate improved economic, social, health, and environmental benefits by enhancing existing activities and building capacity and sustainability into waste management practices for all participating countries.

Countries participating in the PacWastePlus programme are: *Cook Islands, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.*

## KEY OBJECTIVES

### Outcomes & Key Result Areas

The overall objective of PacWastePlus is “to generate improved economic, social, health and environmental benefits arising from stronger regional economic integration and the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment”.

The specific objective is “to ensure the safe and sustainable management of waste with due regard for the conservation of biodiversity, health and wellbeing of Pacific Island communities and climate change mitigation and adaptation requirements”.

### Key Result Areas

- **Improved data collection, information sharing, and education awareness**
- **Policy & Regulation** - Policies and regulatory frameworks developed and implemented.
- **Best Practices** - Enhanced private sector engagement and infrastructure development implemented
- **Human Capacity** - Enhanced human capacity



Learn more about the PNG Project by visiting

<https://pacwasteplus.org/country-project/papua-new-guinea-2/>

For more information please contact:



The PacWastePlus team on [pwp@sprep.org](mailto:pwp@sprep.org)



Or visit - <https://www.pacwasteplus.org>

### Disclaimer

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*\*Countries mentioned in this publication are as at November 2021*

(post project please email [sprep@sprep.org](mailto:sprep@sprep.org))