



PROJECT SNAPSHOT VANUATU

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.**

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RECYCLABLES PROJECT

Sustainable Financing for Solid Waste Management in Vanuatu

(Assistance to Establish a Product Stewardship Scheme)

Waste received at the main Bouffa landfill in Vanuatu is comprised of up to 35% beverage containers products (aluminium, PET, glass). Beverage containers are also commonly seen as litter and in informal stockpiles or burnt by communities in pits. Vanuatu has had limited success implementing long-term solutions for recovery of recyclable items, due to lack of financing, infrastructure, technical expertise, and formal waste collection services. The Vanuatu Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC) views a Sustainable Financing system (known as a Product Stewardship Scheme (PSS)) as a solution to enable the collection and management of recyclable items. The DEPC, with the support of Donors and a Working Group of interested parties, has been developing the PSS since 2017. The DEPC seek for PacWastePlus to support the completion of additional components of this pathway – with the goal of implementing the PSS.

Items targeted for inclusion in the Product Stewardship Scheme project include:



Aluminium Cans



PET Plastic Bottles



Bulky Waste



Electronic Items

Potential for items in the future:

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



CONSULTATION

Complete effective national community consultation on the draft PSS regulation (including the development of consultation materials such as the use of local theatre/comedy groups)



LEGACY WASTE

Host legacy waste buy-back event



RESOURCES

Develop documents/resources to guide the effective operation of the PSS



COMMUNICATIONS

Develop and implement a long-term communications plan to ensure all stakeholders understand and are participating in the PSS

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION



Vanuatu has been working towards a PSS since 2017 through support from J-PRISM II



A Working Group with Government and Private Sector Stakeholders has been established



Legislative drafting is currently underway



Vanuatu Council of Ministers endorsed the PSS concept (focusing on Containers) in 2020



The previous **Vanuatu Waste Management Strategy** (2011 - 2016) recognised that

“an increase in social and economic development will result in an increase in waste generation and types of waste generated. If left unchecked, Vanuatu will be unable to keep up with waste generation and disposal, and any positive changes that have been made, will be overshadowed by the ill-effects of poor waste management.”

A draft **National Plastics Strategy** (2020-2030) has been developed and released for public consultation



Development of an effective PSS scheme will assist Vanuatu to achieve four objectives identified in the **National Plastics Strategy**:



Develop practical, effective, enforceable legislation



Solid waste management systems and programmes financially self sustaining



Develop skilled and trained people to effectively manage solid waste management Systems



Reduce the amount of waste generated and landfilled



Vanuatu has implemented many positive initiatives for the management of waste



Implementation of a world-leading single use plastic ban (2018)



Operation of pre-paid garbage bags



Community-based programs (in combination with local government and civil society)



A buy-back, clean-up initiative (funded by the Australian Government) collected one million PET bottles from the Port Vila community



Initiative showed the benefits the PSS scheme will bring to Vanuatu, including:



Cleaning up litter from the environment



Providing social benefits though households collecting PSS items and using the buy-back refunds to supplement their income

CURRENT STATUS / MANAGEMENT OF PRIORITY WASTE

Current Situation:

Data collection and Education and Awareness



Beverage containers products (aluminium, PET, glass) make up **35% of waste to landfill.**



Lack of awareness around appropriate waste management actions



Awareness messaging for management of recyclables - on-going as opportunities arise



(Data collected on PSS operation, Awareness programme through implementation of National Education and Awareness Plan)

Policy & Regulation



Existing legislation for waste governance legislation performing at a MEDIUM level



Current legislative environment for managing waste:

The central legislation governing waste is a stand-alone waste management regulatory model



Primary legislation is a dedicated **Waste Management Act 2014**



Waste Management Regulations 2018 relating to the control of single-use plastics, littering, and licensing of waste operators



(PSS Regulation-funded by other donor)

On-Ground Activity



Limited opportunities for household recycling currently in Vanuatu due to:



Population spread over 6 Provinces and 65 inhabited islands



Challenges with exporting items for recycling (expensive transportation, lack of backloading / reverse logistics agreements, difficulty in securing and retaining markets)



Lack of awareness around appropriate waste management actions.



No (or very limited) storage, collection and transport infrastructure and systems for waste materials



Household recyclables (along with all other waste) generated are generally disposed in landfill/dumps or burnt



Recycling schemes operated by private businesses to recover scrap metal and some e-waste. The local brewery collects (and provides refund) its glass bottles for reuse



(Legacy waste buy-back event, Resources to guide the effective operation of the PSS)

Human Capacity



Capacity - STRONG ability to manage recyclable items in areas of their treatment including, Knowledge, Collection, Transport, Process/Treat and Disposal/Control.

CHANGING ability to manage recyclable items in areas of legislative regulations and standards, awareness and education, and Occupational Health and safety



(Training for completing consultation Training for PSS system operation)

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



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 Vanuatu 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

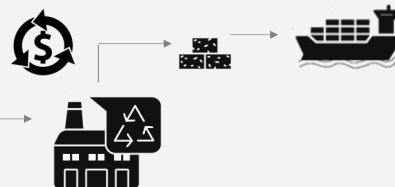
MAPPING PROJECT SUCCESS



LONG TERM OUTCOME



All recyclable items entering Vanuatu are managed through the Product Stewardship Scheme



MEDIUM TERM OUTCOMES



PSS system operating effectively, providing for the long-term self-funding collection and management of recyclable items



Pollution caused by inappropriate management of PSS products is eliminated as products are captured by the system



Communities in all provinces have facilities to participate in the PSS



Recovery and recycling industry able to collect and manage all recyclable items, and provide equal opportunity employment



SHORT TERM OUTCOMES



All provinces in Vanuatu able to participate in design of the proposed PSS, through completion of an effective national consultation programme



Have the approved* PSS operating effectively through development of an operating system and provision of resources and training to the Managing Group/Association, and execution of a wide-reaching communications and awareness programme.



Have removed one million containers from selected locations in Vanuatu through the hosting of PSS product buy-back events to prevent the overflow of the PSS system once introduced



* Legislative approval funded by other donor



OUTPUTS



National consultation for PSS complete to ensure system reflects the views and needs of people in Vanuatu



Host buy-back programs across Vanuatu to collect a million legacy waste items



Develop SOP for System Operator of PSS to enable effective operation and enforcement of the PSS



Training and resources provided to government staff on hosting effective national consultation

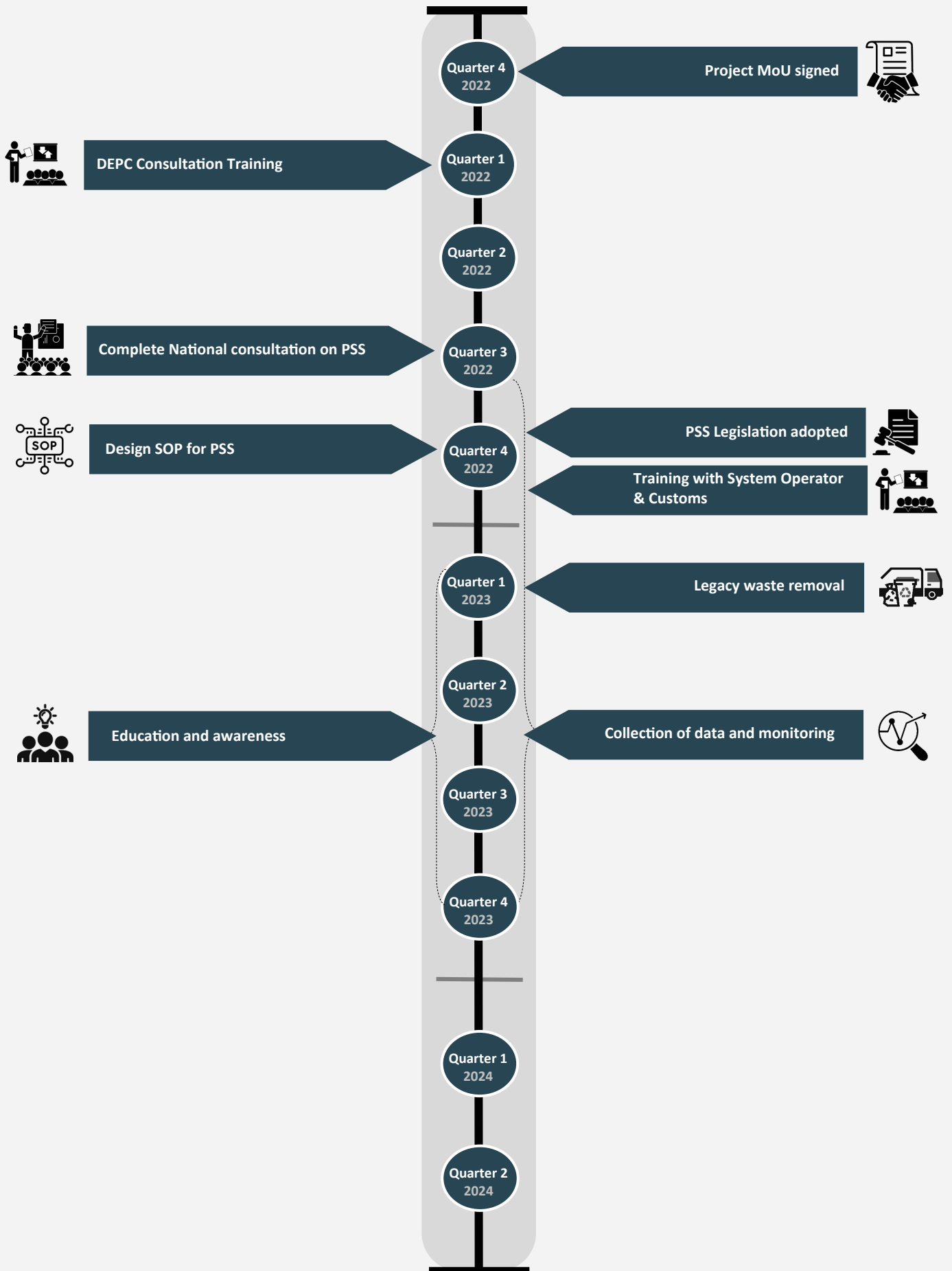


Training and capacity building provided to System Operator for operating and managing PSS



Develop communication material for long-term operation of PSS

ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE



PACWASTEPLUS REGIONAL PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES AND WHAT VANUATU CAN EXPECT



Health Care Waste Management

Vanuatu 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

Vanuatu 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

Vanuatu 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

Vanuatu 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

Vanuatu 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

Vanuatu 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

Vanuatu 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

Vanuatu 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

Vanuatu 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 Vanuatu Project by visiting

<https://pacwasteplus.org/country-project/vanuatu/>

For more information please contact:



The PacWastePlus team on 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)