

SPREP's Submission to Item #5: National, Regional, International Response Options

- The submission is to present approaches in the Pacific Region through the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
- SPREP fulfils its mandate of providing technical assistance in addressing waste and pollution issues to its 21 member countries and territories from the Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia sub-regions with the strong support from its 5 metropolitan members: Australia, New Zealand, France, UK and USA
- Because of its regional coverage, SPREP is a strong instrument to enable more coordinated and concerted efforts among the 21 island countries and territories which are small island developing states or more appropriately large ocean states in reducing marine litter which may impact 98% of its exclusive economic zone covered by ocean. The heavy reliance on healthy ocean ecosystems in the region is very evident.
- Through the Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy 2016 to 2025 or Cleaner Pacific 2025 developed and endorsed by its member countries and territories, SPREP is guided by strategic actions embracing the prevention of both terrestrial and marine pollution through proper management of wastes emanating from both the island and the marine services.
- Through the clear direction on waste and pollution management provided in the Cleaner Pacific 2025, the Pacific Region have invited donor investments to initiate actions towards a vision of a cleaner Pacific in 2025. This include the technical cooperation from JICA through J-PRISM, 17M Euro funding support from EU through its EDF11 funding mechanism. Likewise, development of proposals for UNEP GEF7 and AFD funding is underway.
- All of these projects directly or indirectly address marine litter issues.
- The following regional initiatives are currently and proposed to be undertaken specifically to address marine litter issues:
 - a. Pacific Regional Port Waste Reception Facility Plan which hopes to address inadequacy of existing port waste facilities;
 - b. Pilot marine litter boom projects in Samoa and Solomon Islands to create awareness and gather data
 - c. After a period of data gathering, marine debris risk assessment
 - d. Further investigation of fishing gears
 - e. Marine Litter Regional Action Plan
 - f. SPREP is the regional node for UNEP's Global Partnership for Marine Litter – serving as the regional hub for marine litter work, clearinghouse for information from regional studies and projects in order to minimise duplication of efforts and foster partnership
 - g. Research collaboration with the University of Auckland on modelling the sources and fates and fish ingestion of plastics;
 - h. Clean-ups with Ocean Conservancy coverage of which grew in recent years with concurrent activities done in most PICs - paddling
 - i. Research into ship-sourced marine pollution
 - j. Moana Taka Partnership between SPREP and SWIRE Shipping launched recently to offer free shipping of low value waste materials such as plastics to assist recyclers in optimising returns for low value items and encourage collection of such items
 - k. The Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility consisting of 6 major donors conducted a resource circulation study with a view to identify potential recycling hubs in the region and attempt to combat barriers to profitable recycling in the region.

- l. Formation of recycling associations in the countries and build recycling network**
- m. Clean Seas for a Cleaner Pacific Movement in response to the call for action to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution from land-based sources including marine debris and nutrient pollution. For plastics, the voluntary commitment is through drainage capture, coastal clean ups, plastic product bans or restrictions, plastic recovery/recycling/reuse.**
- **Through this same voluntary commitment, certain targets are set in achieving enhanced human capacity, improved data collection and information sharing, supportive policy and regulatory frameworks and best practices including enhanced private sector engagement.**
- **There are a number of plastic reduction initiatives which are undertaken by our member countries who are not in this meeting which are worth noting:**
 - a. Palau's beverage recycling legislation – with plastic to oil component**
 - b. Kiribati's container deposit programme**
 - c. PNG's, Samoa's and American Samoa's biodegradable plastic shopping bag policy**
 - d. Yap's (FSM) plastic bag ban**
 - e. Cook Island's Plastic-Free Campaign**
 - f. Marshall Islands Styrofoam and Plastic Products Prohibition Act 2016**
 - g. Marianas Islands passed a bill which fines shops for selling plastic bags**
 - h. Fiji's levy on plastic bags in retail outlets**
 - i. Vanuatu – which will enforce a complete ban on Styrofoam, plastic bag and straw (the first country in the world), as far as we know, to ban this item**
 - j. The Pacific Leaders' commitment to banning single use plastics and styrofoam was reiterated during the 8th Pacific Leaders Meeting in Tokyo with the intention of sustaining ocean resources.**
- **SPREP will continue to support the global actions to be advocated by this group through UNEP and hopefully, we were able to contribute significantly to this meeting.**
- **On a personal note, I would like to reiterate the need to explore options to address the millions of tons of legacy wastes still lying around the globe while we are exploring options to reduce new plastics entering the waste stream. And moving forward, the concept of circular economy can be explored coupled with the principle of sustainable production and consumption which can address the traditional use and dispose and linear end-of-life waste flow.**
- **With that, thank you Secretariat for providing SPREP the opportunity to be in this meeting.**