



POLLUTION PREVENTION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

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The Pacific Region



The Region

- is as large as it is diverse;
- Its 22 countries and territories are spread over an area of 30 million square kilometers;
- Covers almost a sixth of the earth's surface;
- Only two percent of this area consists of land mass taking the form of about 7,500 islands, 500 of which are inhabited;
- These islands range from large volcanic landforms with steep and mountainous terrain to low-lying, coral-based atolls

The countries and territories

- **14 PICs:** Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
- **7 Territories:** American Samoa, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, Northern Marianas, Pitcairn Island, Tokelau, Wallis & Futuna

Some of waste management practices that have been used in the region include...



Inorganic waste disposal system, Atafu, Tokelau



Inorganic waste disposal system, Kiribati



Island waste disposal site, Kiribati



Tavua Rubbish Dump, Fiji



Port Vila Dump, Vanuatu



Baruni dump, Port Moresby, PNG



Ranadi dump, Honiara, Solomon Islands



Majuro dump site, Marshall Islands



Managed chemical store, Lakena, Fiji



Chemical storage, Aitutaki, Cook Islands



Young boy swimming in polluted water

Why Pollution Prevention & Waste Management?

Pollution has...

- been recognized in the region as one of the major threats to sustainable development
- direct influence of the quality of people's lives
- direct and indirect linkage to economic prosperity
- linkages to social aspects of life of the people in the region

Because of such concerns...

- **Important to put in place adequate measures to combat growing source and extent of pollution**
- **Without these, the Pacific islands' efforts to maintain healthy societies, to stimulate tourism, development and new investment and a sustainable future for its people may be severely undermined.**
- **Regional and national priorities and activities have been developed to address this most pressing of environmental issues**

The Pollution Prevention & Waste Management Programme

The work currently carried out in this programme is concentrated on three main focal areas:

- ⇒ Shipping-related marine pollution**
- ⇒ Hazardous materials management**
- ⇒ Solid waste management.**

Focus Area: Shipping-related Marine Pollution

Objective:

To assist countries to:

- ⇒ effectively manage marine pollution through the development; and**
- ⇒ improvement of regulatory frameworks, management systems and operational procedures**

Regional activities are assisting countries...

- **Put in place Effective Marine Spill Contingency planning, preparedness and response mechanisms**
- **Preparing Regional Strategy to address Shipping related Invasive species**
- **Improve their environmental management of the ports by providing technical advice**
- **Put in place Effective Measures to address marine pollution from shipwrecks**

Focus Area: Hazardous Material Management

Objective:

To assess and enhance:

- ⇒ countries' capacities for effective management of hazardous materials,**
- ⇒ including eliminating hazards posed by existing waste stockpiles and**
- ⇒ improve compliance with international convention requirements**

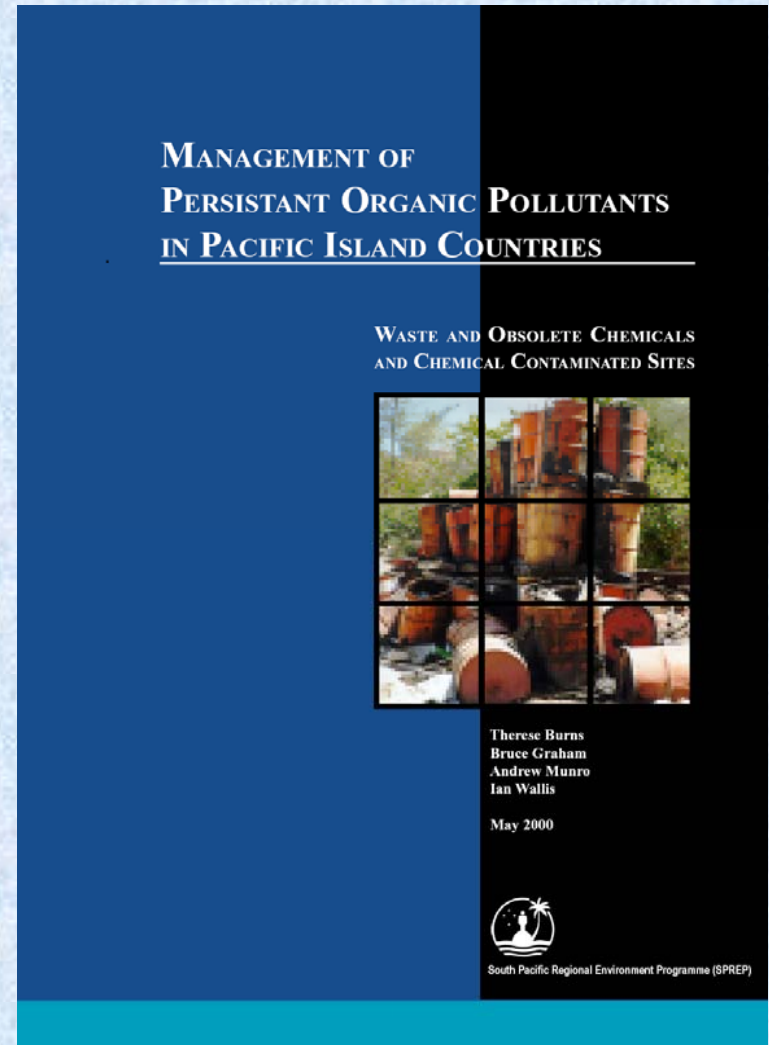
Regional activities are assisting countries...

- **Clean up the stockpiles of chemicals such as the work under the Persistent Organic Pollutants in Pacific Island Countries (POPs in PICs) project**
- **Develop their National Implementation Plans (NIPs) as part of the requirement for the Stockholm Convention on POPs**
- **Training countries better comply with regional and global MEAs**

Phase I of POPs in PICs...

**Involved a survey of 13
Pacific Island Countries**

- **to identify the
stockpiles of the POPs**
- **Other intractable
pesticides**



Phase II of POPs in PICs...

Involved...

- the reconnaissance assessment of POPs Chemicals and Intractable pesticides
- Collection, packaging, storage and physical removal of these by ship to Australia for destruction in an ESM

This work happened July 2003 – November 2006

All of this was funded by the Government of Australia

Focus Area: Solid Waste Management

Objective:

To build and enhance:

⇒ countries' capacities to manage land-based pollution sources, especially solid waste and sewage

Regional activities are...

Based around the following:

- i.** Development of national solid waste management legislation, policies, strategies and plans advocated and supported
- ii.** Development and implementation of guidelines and programs to minimise solid waste supported
- iii.** Development and implementation of appropriate technologies and processes to optimize solid waste disposal promoted

Regional activities are...

Based on the following...

- iv. National capacity development for solid waste management supported**
- v. Leveraging financial resources to support solid waste management initiatives supported**
- vi. Education and information dissemination for behaviour change supported**

Regional activities are assisting countries...

In training relevant government personnel to:

- ⇒ Improve their managerial skills of solid waste**
- ⇒ To provide assistance in improving the landfill facilities and their management**

Regional actions also provide...

Technical advise and services on:

- ⇒ Pollution prevention outputs**
- ⇒ New and emerging issues regarding pollution prevention**
- ⇒ Assistance in developing technical proposal for waste management**
- ⇒ Assisting countries improve their disposal facilities**

In 2005...

- The upgrading of the Samoan open dump to a sanitary landfill was completed (*using The Fukuoka method*)
- This upgrade is planned to be used as a regional model for land-based waste disposal facility
- Similar systems have now been established in FSM, Palau and Vanuatu
- Work is progressing on building new ones in Solomon Islands, PNG, Fiji



Before

After





**Funding for this was
provided by JICA**



Current priority issues in the Pacific...

- **Waste management on atoll countries**
- **Lack of practical national solid waste management plans and strategies**
- **Lack of controls on chemicals and other hazardous substance imported into the region**
- **Increasing quantities and diversity of solid waste**
- **Increasing populations in most PICs**
- **Increasing population densities**

Constraints in the PICs...

- **Limited funding and resources – lack of proper and predictable finances**
- **Limited land areas in small islands**
- **Limited availability of appropriate infrastructure**
- **Limited capacity to manage the range of pollutants, including solid waste**
- **Lack of political support and will**

Our plea...





Our paradise...

