

SAVE THE DATE

8 December, 2022
13:00 (Samoa time)

Virtual Workshop on Disaster Waste Management:

Knowledge sharing
from the Pacific Islands



zoom

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Background

Disaster waste (DW) refers to the overwhelming waste generated during disasters, as a result of the impacts of extreme natural hazards to the surrounding natural environment, public infrastructure and facilities as well as people's properties. Response operations also generate large volumes of waste during the distribution of relief goods to affected populations, especially from packaging and other materials. These natural disasters are a real challenge for all Pacific islands because of the negative environmental, health, economic and social impacts. In addition to the significant risks to property and people directly caused by disasters, these events can generate a significant amount of waste which in turn can impact on health, the economy and, or the environment. For example:

- Piles of waste on the roads can delay emergency lifesaving operations,
- Sharp waste such as broken glasses and deformed pieces of metals can cause serious injuries,
- Piles of waste can become breeding sites for mosquitoes and rats,
- Some hazardous wastes such as used oil or chemicals can spread and pollute the soil, rivers or the sea, groundwater, the atmosphere or even have health effects if not handled with care.

Disaster Waste Management Workshop

To discuss this issue, SPREP, through the SWAP project in collaboration with the J-PRISM II project and the PacWastePlus Programme, plans to conduct a three and half-hour virtual workshop to be held on December 8, 2022. Disaster Waste Management Authorities involved in Disaster Waste Management in the Pacific, or beyond, and wishing to learn more about how to prevent waste generation in the event of a disaster or organise an effective response after such an event are highly encouraged to attend this experience sharing workshop. This virtual workshop will be structured in three sessions:

- The first session will start the workshop with introduction of documents with a regional scope: Framework For Resilient Development In the Pacific and Disaster Waste Management Guideline;
- The second session will focus on national activities in Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu; and
- The third session will close the workshop with knowledge sharing on how to strengthen Good Practices.

Objectives of the workshop

The workshop is designed for the participants to:

- Inform the origins and the impacts of disaster waste;
- Highlight the challenges of Disaster Waste management in the Pacific;
- Learn how to prepare for minimising Disaster Waste generation;
- Inform of opportunities for Pacific Island Countries to manage Disaster Waste; and
- Inform on safe handling and storage of Disaster Waste.

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