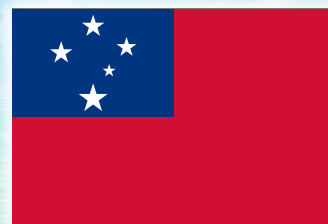


J-PRISM II HIGHLIGHTS

Samoa



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries Phase II (J-PRISM II)

J-PRISM II is the five-and-a-half-year Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management (2017-2022), assisting nine member countries (Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu) in the Pacific Region in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The project was commenced in February 2017, following the previous phase from 2011 to 2016.

Formulation of National Waste Management Strategy

Samoa is an island country with a population of approximately 200,000. There are about 300 villages throughout the country, and village autonomy is traditionally exercised by a chief called the Matai. There are no local government organizations such as municipalities, and the central government oversees the entire country.

The Waste Management Act 2010 designates the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) as the ministry responsible for waste management. This includes contract management of waste collection services for households and small businesses across the country, operation and management of the final disposal sites on Upolu Island and Savaii Island, development and enforcement of waste management laws and regulations, development of waste management plans, and implementation of various surveys.

Even though MNRE is responsible for providing all these various waste management services, the Waste Management Section in MNRE is operated by fewer than

10 members of staff. Instead of planning Samoa's waste management, therefore, most of their time is occupied with routine tasks such as site visits and payments to the contractors. To promote systematic waste management based on strategic planning, J-PRISM II supported the formulation of a National Waste Management Strategy.

Conducting a Baseline Survey

Before formulating the strategy, J-PRISM II assisted MNRE staff in conducting various surveys to identify the current situation and issues in terms of waste management and provide baseline data for formulating the strategy. A further outcome of these surveys was to create good on-the-job-training opportunities, and foster a sense of ownership among MNRE staff. For example, during the waste audit—the survey identifying the amounts and composition of waste generated and discharged by households—skillful veteran staff members showed leadership and passed their survey-related know-how on to less experienced young staff. MNRE staff also worked exceptionally hard to conduct this extensive survey throughout all collection areas in Upolu Island and Savaii Island, where 99% of the population reside. The survey required all collection vehicles to be tracked from early morning to late evening in order to investigate the actual situation with regard to waste collection services provided.

Meetings with Stakeholders

In Samoa, community involvement is particularly important. In developing a strategy, it is necessary to discuss the content with a wide range of stakeholders involved in waste management and to build consensus on the future direction of waste management improvement. MNRE finalized the draft strategy based on agreement with the stakeholders by conducting a series of meetings with high-level government officials, as well as technical working groups



Public consultation for formulation of the strategy (2018)

with principal officials, and public consultations involving representatives from villages across the country. The strategy was officially approved by the cabinet in January 2019. Based on the strategy, J-PRISM II is currently supporting the following activities.

Waste Collection Monitoring System

To help deal with the labor-intensive task of managing waste collection contractors, J-PRISM II is assisting in the establishment of a new monitoring system to efficiently manage waste collection in 19 zones across the country with a limited number of staff. Based on the results of various surveys and discussions with contractors, MNRE and J-PRISM II experts overhauled the current system of random spot-inspections and developed a new monitoring system that will enable quantitative evaluation of contractors' performance. The new system relies on analysis of data related to collection services, such as work plans and reports submitted by contractors, landfill records,

and records of complaints from users. The system was trialed, and introduced fully in November 2020. In addition, during the development phase, experts used a GPS system for remote monitoring of collection vehicles; MNRE confirmed the effectiveness of this GPS technology, and it is now being utilized to monitor collection vehicles. J-PRISM II plans to provide continuous support to establish an even more effective collection monitoring system.

Study Tour in Vanuatu and Tonga for Sustainable Financial Measures

In Samoa, due to increasing pressures on public finances, the government is considering collecting fees for waste collection services, which are currently provided for free. In neighboring countries, Tonga collects waste collection fees through electricity bills, and Vanuatu collects waste collection fees through a prepaid bag system. J-PRISM II organized a study tour to Vanuatu and Tonga with six Samoan participants, including the Waste Management Section of MNRE and other relevant officials, in order to observe the actual situations in these countries and obtain practical knowledge from local officials, which would be useful in considering a user-pays system in Samoa.

The program was specifically designed to focus on learning from countries where a user-pays system for waste collection was already in place. This enabled the participants to have very practical discussions with the local officials on merits and demerits, considerations and pitfalls, when introducing the system, as well as tasks for the future. Based on the results of the training, the Waste Management Section prepared a draft proposal for a user-pays system of waste collection and discussed it with high-level



A scene of discussion for trialing the system (2020)



A scene of discussion for trialing the system (2020)



government officials during a steering committee meeting on the user-pays system held in February 2020. Going forward, public consultations and further discussions will continue as part of the feasibility study.

Disaster Waste Management (DWM)

Sub-regional Consultation Workshop in Samoa, October 2018

Samoa hosted one of the two sub-regional stakeholders' consultation workshops for the development of the regional DWM guideline. This consultation workshop was conducted by J-PRISM II in collaboration with SPREP and the Japanese team that developed the Disaster Waste Management Guideline for Asia and the Pacific. Senior officials from the MNRE's Division of Environment and Conservation, and Disaster Management Organization, led the delegation from Samoa.

Representatives from Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon, and Tuvalu also attended the workshop. The participants delivered presentations on the DWM situation in their countries, which provided baseline information for development of the regional DWM guideline. The workshop also provided information on how to develop a national DWM contingency plan. Samoa, like other participating countries, discussed and developed a draft plan during the workshop.

Assistance following Tropical Cyclone Gita in 2018

J-PRISM II supported Samoa by providing chainsaws and personal protection equipment to a special chainsaw crew that assisted in the management of the green waste generated by fallen trees. The resulting wood was repurposed for use by residents as firewood and poles for fencing works.

J-PRISM II - Samoa Recycling and Waste Management Association (SRWMA) Activities

- Supported the setting up of SRWMA and its official launch event in 2017
- Provided technical support for the development of SRWMA Strategic Plan 2018–2023, as well as for the follow-up donors' dialogue to support the plan's implementation

- Provided funding support for the SRWMA president's participation in the Plasticity Conference held in Fiji, and the Regional 3R Forum held in Thailand, in March 2019
- Supported a visit in 2018 by SRWMA members to Vanuatu to hold discussions with local counterparts interested in setting up a recycling association there
- Supported a visit by SRWMA members to Fiji for negotiation of waste oil shipments
- In 2021, SRWMA and J-PRISM II are implementing a joint pilot project to promote recycling through a partnership between MNRE and SPREP. Intended to strengthen recycling capacity in Samoa, the activities are as follows: 1) Plastic bottle flaking/pelletizing, 2) waste oil collection and storage, and 3) manufacturing of plastic bricks



¹ <https://www.env.go.jp/press/files/jp/110165.pdf>

² Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



About Us: J-PRISM II in Samoa

In Samoa, day-to-day activities have been conducted in line with the project framework below in close cooperation with the counterpart agencies:

- Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment (MNRE)
- Division of Environment and Conservation (DEC)

Country Activities in Samoa

Purpose	Solid waste is appropriately managed based on the National Waste Management Strategy (NWMS).
Output 1	NSWMS is developed.
Output 2	Rubbish collection monitoring system is established.
Output 3	Feasibility study on financial option (user pay system) is implemented.

All the member countries are also assisted under the regional project framework to enhance the regional monitoring mechanism, south-to-south cooperation, disaster waste management, and the 3R+Return system in the region.

Regional Activities including Samoa

- Output1: Monitoring mechanism for solid waste management in line with Cleaner Pacific 2025 is strengthened
- Output2: Regional cooperation is organized and promoted by utilizing regional human resource and sharing good practices in the region
- Output3: Regional capacity of disaster waste management is strengthened
- Output4: Practical and sustainable 3R+Return system is examined

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