



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region and Related Protocols (Noumea Convention)

Madang, Papua New Guinea
2 September 2010

Information Paper 1

Bulky Waste

Purpose

1. To inform the meeting of recent work under the Dumping Protocol.

Background and Introduction

2. Australia and the Secretariat have been working together to obtain input from small island developing states regarding the sea disposal of bulky wastes and the review of the specific guidance.
3. To facilitate this input, a questionnaire was developed and distributed as a SPREP circular in February 2010. This circular was followed by teleconferences with the majority of each of the SPREP island states in which SPREP and Australian representatives interviewed country representatives, using the questionnaire as a basis. The summaries of these interviews are presented here to facilitate finalization of the review of the bulky items waste specific guidance.
4. Administrations that participated in this survey were: American Samoa; Cook Islands; Marshall Islands; Niue; Samoa; Fiji; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Solomon Islands; Tonga; Kiribati; Vanuatu; New Zealand¹; Federated States of Micronesia; French Polynesia; and Tuvalu. In most cases, country representatives were CEOs of environment and/or maritime portfolios.

¹ NZ is not a small island developing state. However, it is a SPREP party and has not participated in the Bulky Items WSG review process to date. Their input is therefore included here for the information of the WG

Issues

5. The following general comments are made in light of the input by SPREP island states.

- Waste management generally is a significant issue for most (if not all) Pacific Island States. This includes but is not limited to bulky wastes. Many countries have a stockpile of bulky waste and no clear strategy for their disposal.
- The most common types of bulky waste are old cars; old building materials (including large amounts of asbestos containing materials); old building foundations; scrap metal from heavy machinery and old derelict vessels.
- There are two clear cases of past sea disposal of bulky wastes presented (Cook Islands and Kiribati). A vessel was involved in each of these disposals (either to contain the wastes or as the original source of the waste).
- There is one clear case of a country seriously considering future sea disposal of bulky asbestos material (Niue) and there has been regional media about this consideration.
- Capacity is low in most of the administrations however use of regional bodies such as SPREP can assist decision making.

Recommendations

6. Parties are invited;

- to note the information input of SPREP island states to the Bulky Items Waste Specific Guidelines review process.
- to commit to using the Bulky Items WSG and other Waste Assessment Guidelines of the convention.
- to support and commit resources to the management of Bulky Items.