

# KINGDOM OF TONGA COUNTRY REPORT







# Presentation Outline

## 1. BACKGROUND

## 2. Policy

## 3. Implementations elements

## 4. Key milestones achieved

## 5. Indicators/Targets

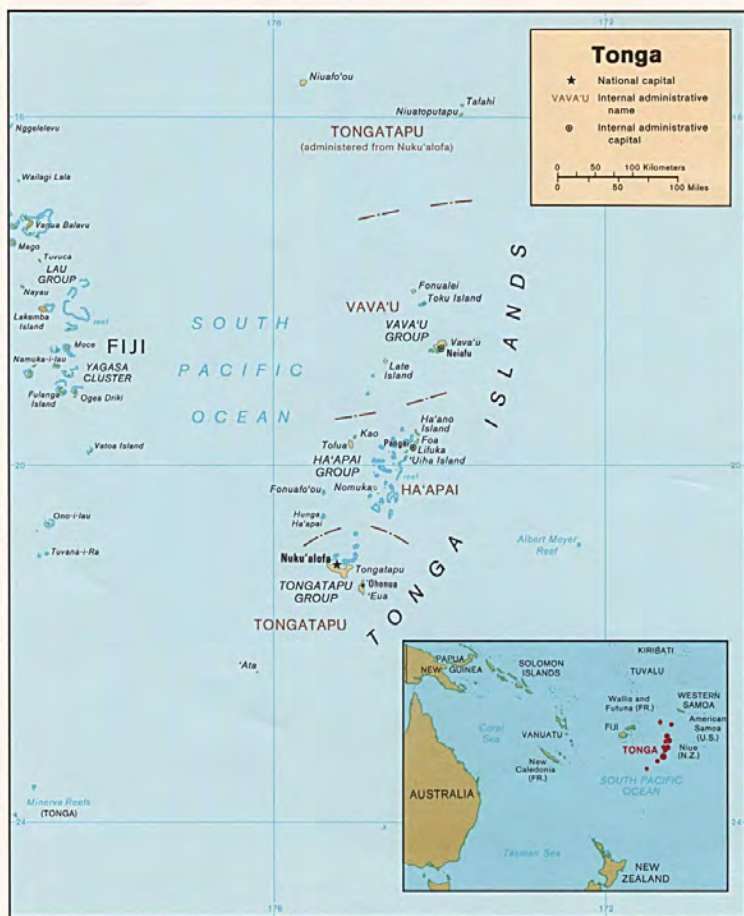
## 6. CHALLENGES

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- **South Pacific Island Kingdom of Tonga**
- **Combined Land/Sea area of 720,000km<sup>2</sup>**
- **172 named islands with an area of 747km<sup>2</sup>**
- **36 inhabited islands cover an area of 650km<sup>2</sup>**
- **Consist of four clusters of islands; Tongatapu, 'Eua, Ha'apai, Vava'u and the Niuas**
- **Capital Nuku'alofa @ Tongatapu**
- **Most islands originate from coralline, flat and encircled by fringing reefs. Some atolls and some of volcanic origin**
- **Population of 100,179 (Gov't of Tonga: Census 2021)**
- **Based economy: Agricultural, Fisheries, Tourism, Remittance reliance**
- **Tropical climate of wet and dry seasons**

# Regulations under the WMPCD



## ☐ Waste Management Act 2005

-To manage and oversee the function of the Waste Management Board or its provides a legislative framework for the development and management of the waste

## ☐ Hazardous Waste and Chemical Act 2010

-To provide for the regulation and proper management of Hazardous Wastes and Chemicals in accordance with accepted international practices and the international conventions applying to the use, trans-boundary movement and disposal of Hazardous substances, and for related purposes.

## ☐ Environment Management (Litter and Waste Control) Regulations 2016

-Regulation under the Environment Management Act 2010

# **Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme SPREP Funded projects, implemented through MEIDECC/ Department of Environment**



## **MARINE LITTER PROJECT**

Conduct Marine Litter Surveys and Waste Audit to provide data and insights towards the Development of the Global Plastics treaty

## **Used Oil Management Pilot Project**

Establishment of a collection and used oil storage system

## **Global Environment Facility GEF Islands Project**

To prevent the build-up of POPs and mercury materials and to manage and dispose of existing harmful chemicals and waste across Pacific

## **Tonga Single Use Plastic RoadMap**

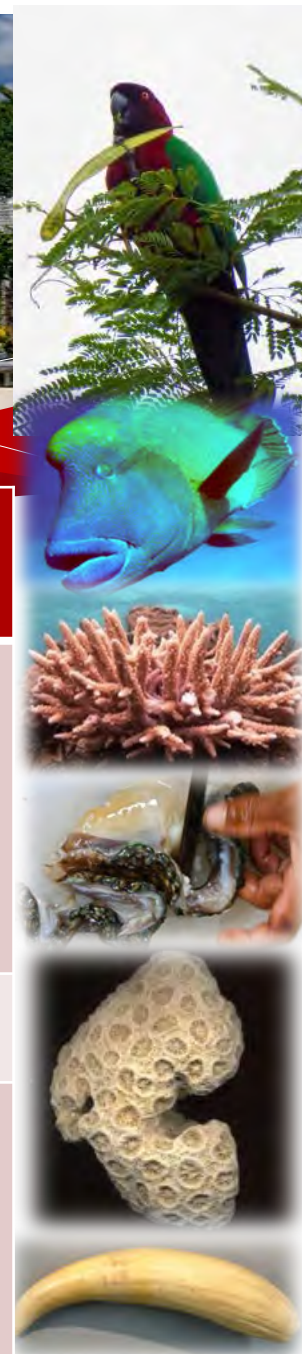
-This roadmap outlines strategies for reducing the use of single-use plastic



# Current 3R INITIATIVES and Upcoming



3R New Initiative	Reduce Reuse, Recycle approach	Concept of Circular Economy existed
Pet Bottles and aluminum cans Recycling (Coca Cola) - Coca Cola with Tonga Recyclers Association to <b>R</b> ecycle all PET bottles and aluminium cans	Reduse, Recycle	Yes - Still Active/Ongoing
E-Waste Recycling (Blue Orca/Samsung NZ)	Reuse, Recycle	No -Ongoing
Landfill Rehabilitation (JPRISM 3) - JPRISM is promoting solid waste management with best practices of all <b>3R</b> especially at landfill	Reuse, Reduce, Recycle	Yes - Ongoing



# Indicators/Targets



- \* **SWAP PROJECTS**

- \* Number of Households paying for their waste collection fee.
- \* Waste audit can be one of the indicator to track amount of waste litter

- \* **Used oil Project**

- \* Demand quarterly tracking to determine how much spent oil is collected and compare the facility on a quarterly basis.
- \* How many tanks, from the baseline to this point, will be used?



# Indicators



- \* **Pet Bottles Recycling**
- \* Consumer Participation, the level of consumer participation in recycling programs is a critical factor in their success
- \* **JPRISM Project**
- \* Landfills by tracking the amount of material diverted from landfills due to recycling programs is another important indicator of success.



# CHALLENGES

## \* Institutional Capacity

1. Weak governance and enforcement mechanism to draw plan and coordinate policies, aids, to empower and set clear responsibility to all sectors and to identify respective task that secure financial stability in 3R
  1. NGOs, Civil Society, and Private Sector
  2. Business Sector includes recycler
  3. Regional and Global Organizations
  4. General Public and communities
  5. Schools and Education.
2. Lack of Policies and National Plan set to clearly drive 3R and Circular Economy





# CHALLENGES



## \* Infrastructure

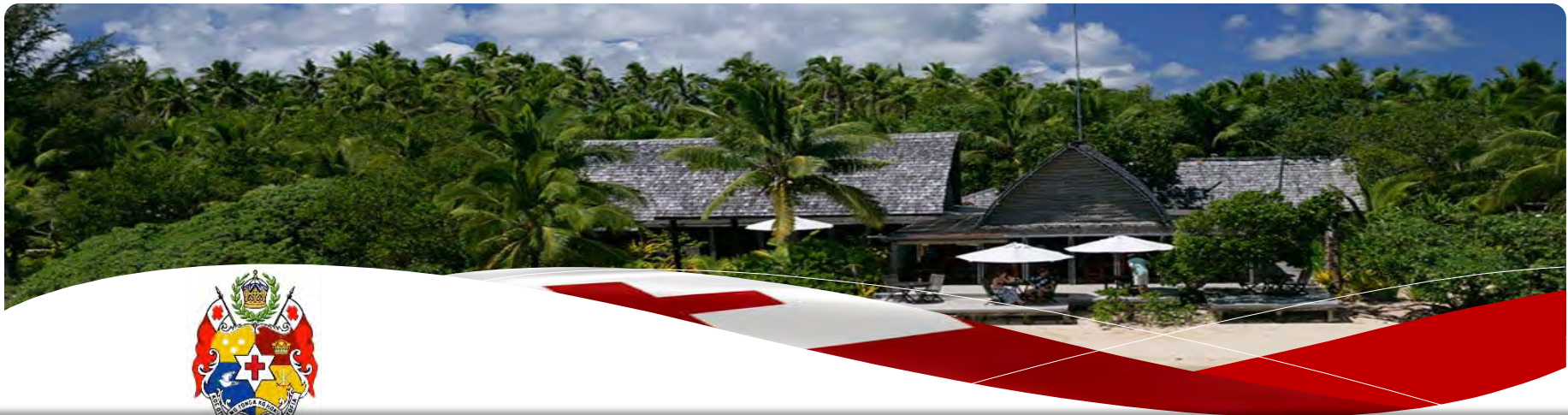
1. Status of existed Infrastructure not a motivation to drive the Recycling industry
2. Equipment's is not available due to its high cost for locals business such as baler, compactor, crusher, etc.
3. Limited in the amount of recyclables waste to attract investors and even local recyclers

## \* Financing

1. No clear Circular economy policies and plan
2. Financial limitation for high cost of Infrastructure, machinery, and equipment's
3. Sustainable markets for Recyclers and especially the key waste collector entity







Outputs	Implementation Status/Achievements 2024/25	Challenges/Comments	Solution/Way Forward 2025-26
<b>Tonga Marine Litter Project</b>  Coastal clean-ups along the Nuku'alofa waterfront to improve marine species restoration, habitat rehabilitation, prevention of disease outbreaks and air quality (SWAP, 2024)	Achieved / Complete	-Delay in receiving of funds	Improve project planning and implementation phases
<b>Used Oil Management Pilot Project</b>  Identify potential location for constructing a bulk used oil storage. Establish a Used oil storage facility for bulk storage and provide equipment to assisting the collection, transfer and transport of Used oil.	Achieved / Complete	-Procurement process have caused delays in project equipment shipment arriving to Tonga -Delays in shipment of project equipment caused delays in completion of project activities.	PMU team to better plans for procurements of project equipment from overseas.
<b>GEF Islands Pacific Project</b>  Rehabilitations of the Ha'apai and Eua Landfill.	On-going	-GEF PMU- Employee Overturn	On-going commitments from country implementation partners

# WAY FORWARD



- \* Keep knocking on Government budgetary support for local funded initiatives
- \* Comply with Donor/Development partners and support programme relevant to in-country implementation
- \* Strengthen the partnership with Recyclers, NGOs, Civil Societies, and Private Sectors
- \* Continue and maintain Institutional Capacity building throughout the National level
- \* Compile Information and Improve accessibility and dissemination of waste information and data to the public
- \* High Level and Political support and involvement

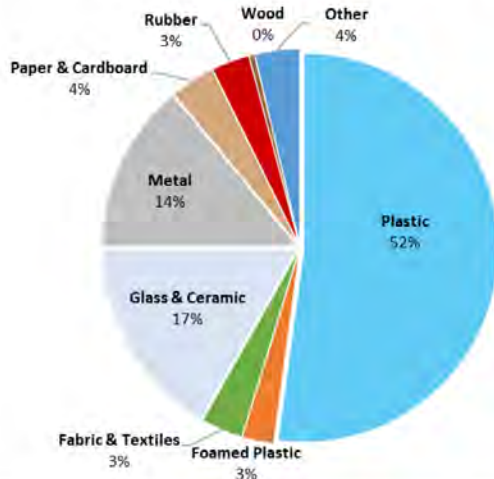


# Case Studies



## Tonga National Waste Audits Report on Marine Litter

Tonga ML Beach Waste Category  
Distribution by Total No. of Items 2021 - 2024



### 2024 Activity Report



A COLLABORATION BETWEEN  
THE COMMITTING TO SUSTAINABLE WASTE ACTIONS IN THE PACIFIC  
(SWAP)

THE PACIFIC OCEAN LITTER PROJECT (POLP)

IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABLE LOW AND NON-CHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT  
IN SIDS (ISLANDS)





# Tonga Feasibility Study



**Feasibility study to develop  
a national used oil management plan for Tonga**





**MALO 'AUPITO!!**

