

Fourth Regional 3R Forum in Asia

“3Rs in the Context of Rio+20 Outcomes – The Future We Want”

Ha Noi, Viet Nam, 18-20 March 2013

Country Analysis Paper

(Draft)

< Solomon Islands >

This country analysis paper was prepared by Solomon Islands as an input for the Fourth Regional 3R Forum in Asia. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations.

COUNTRY REPORT FOR SOLOMON ISLANDS

This report was jointly prepared by the Environment and Conservation Division of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Meteorology and Disaster Management and the Environmental health Division of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services

a. List major initiatives and achievements in the areas of 3R policies, programmes, and institutional measures;

In our country we have Japan Technical Cooperation Project for the Promotion of Regional Initiatives on Solid Waste Management (J-PRISM) with the main focus on enhancing sustainable solid waste management in the Pacific region by strengthening the appropriate human and institutional capacity base in the member countries of which Solomon Islands is a member. One of the key components is promoting 3R. There are two pilot sites for the project, namely Honiara City and Gizo town.

In promoting the 3R, we have in place a 3R communication strategy that will be use to communicate/ disseminate information related to 3R.

In our work plan for this year, some pilot schools were identified in the two pilot sites to introduce 3R. In Honiara 10 schools were identified while in Gizo 5 schools. We expect to implement these activities this year. The successful school(s) will be empowered to share their experience with other schools, in the hope of spreading the concept to other schools throughout the country, ultimately encouraging our citizen to practice 3R at home or at work.

Also in the work plan for this year is the development of a National 3R Policy and Strategies. This policy will form the basis upon which 3R legislation will be drafted.

Empowering government officers to carry out waste management activities are the following legislations:

1. Environment Act 1998
2. Environmental Health Act 1980
3. Litter By law, 2009 (Honiara)
4. Litter By law, (Gizo)- never been enforced due to lack of corporation by the police officers. It will be reviewed and attempts will be made again this year to enforce this.

Current programmes:

The Environmental Health Division of the Honiara City Council with the assistance of a Japanese volunteer is conducting environmental education in interested schools in the city, educating them how to utilize waste materials into teaching materials

A J-PRISM counterpart in Honiara namely, Kastom garden is also promoting organic farming utilizing composts.

In Gizo, a citizen is using the organic waste from the market to practice organic farming. The produce are sold for his income.

There were also a number of activities conducted in Honiara which are also of interest to 3R activities

1. Incoming waste survey
2. Waste characterization survey

b. List major initiatives and achievements in promoting 3R technologies and infrastructure development;

There are companies which buy scrap metals and used cans and export to recycling companies overseas.

There is a need for us to explore more into appropriate 3R technologies and infrastructure.

c. List examples of specific policy initiatives or measures in dealing with new emerging waste streams such as - e-waste, plastics in coastal-marine environment, chemicals and hazardous wastes;

SPREP is in the process of developing a Hazardous waste policy in the Pacific region. This will defiantly be of benefit to our country.

We are in the process of submitting a proposal to SAICM requesting assistance to developing a policy on sound chemicals management and also awareness of such chemicals.

d. List specific policy initiatives or strategies for promotion of 3Rs in industry and business sectors, including small and medium size enterprises (SMEs);

These areas will be covered in the proposed 3R policy and strategies

e. List specific policy initiatives or strategies for promotion of 3Rs in agriculture and rural sector in support of rural livelihood generation.

Composting

-Kastom garden is by far the active organization in promoting composting in the agriculture sector.

As mentioned above, in Gizo, the town council provide the organic waste from the market to a citizen for his organic farm for free. The citizen in turn, sells his produce for his income.

(Note: In addition to the Country Analysis Paper, if you wish to share any documents (master plan, strategies, guidelines, etc.) available in your country with regards to 3R promotion, you are most welcome).

For Small Island Developing States (SIDS)/Pacific Island Countries, we would appreciate if the Country Analysis Report could address the following aspects:

- a. Specific issues and challenges (policies, institutional, technological, and infrastructural gaps) in handling various wastes, including e-wastes (WEEE) and plastics in coastal-marine environment;**
 1. Human resource- we lack the number of personnel to address the issue highlighted. Even more so, we are general practitioners, hence the need for specific training or even technical assistance to guide us in addressing the above issues.
 2. Lack of adequate financing for waste management activities. As population increase, the demand for such services increase but with inadequate budgetary support.
 3. The absence of relevant Policy is a setback to addressing the issues highlighted. However, the prospect of having a Hazardous waste policy and possibility of receiving assistance from SAICM to develop a sound chemical management policy is seen as a way forward to addressing the issue.
 4. Political will. With change in government, there is also change in government's priorities which sometimes does not favour waste management.
 5. Lack of the appropriate mechanism in dealing with the e-waste. This could be due to absence of a relevant policy.

- b. Government policies and programs in advancing/promoting multi-stakeholders partnerships (at national and international level) to help address some of the critical waste management issues, including gradual phasing out of land-filling practices and turning them into 3R opportunities (e.g., recycling business for employment creation, waste to energy, composting for sustainable farming, etc.)**

With the National Solid Waste Management Strategy in place, there is a multi-stakeholders committee. This is the same committee used to implement the J-PRISM project in the country.

Our focus now is on encouraging our population to practice 3R and be environment conscious.

Waste energy is not viable as the amount waste at our open dump site is not enough to produce electricity.

There are NGOs which encourage their members which are female to utilize waste, turning waste into products which are then sold E.g. plastic to make hand bags are other hand crafts.

There is also a women's association called the Solomon Islands Women in Business Association. It is looking at the prospect of recycling PET bottles. As part of the programme, women will be supported to run this business.