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SUSTAINABLE  
TOURISM



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ORGANISATION



**SPREP**  
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme



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PROJECT



*Reducing Single Use Plastics in Pacific Tourism:  
A Regional Approach to Sustainability*

# **Standards and Certification Programme**

to phase out single use plastics in the Pacific tourism industry

Dwayne Bentley

Project Coordination Officer – Pacific Ocean Litter Project  
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Global Sustainable Tourism Council – Global Conference 2025

6<sup>th</sup> August 2025

# Outline

Plastic pollution

Pacific Ocean Litter Project

SPREP/SPTO Partnership

Standards and Certification Programme



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**Australian  
Aid** 

# The Why – The problem of plastics

A global problem – triple planetary crisis

- Single-use plastics

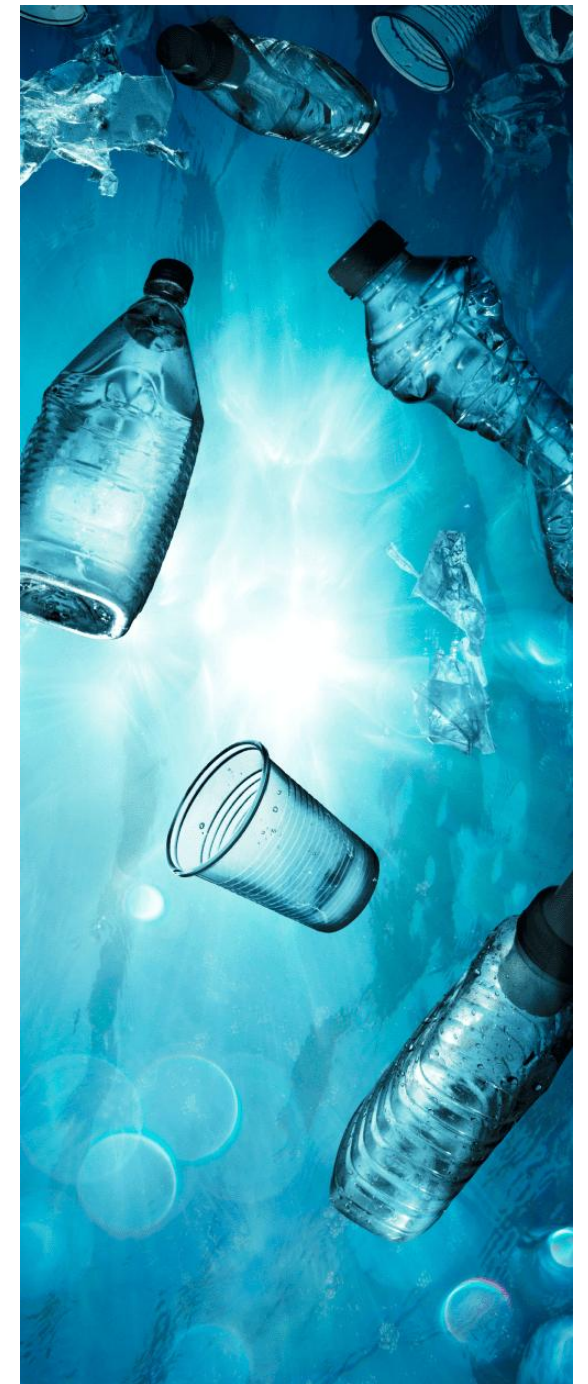
- Marine plastic litter

Plastic pollution in the Pacific

Pacific responses

- Cleaner Pacific 2025*

- Pacific Regional Action Plan Marine Litter 2018-2025*



# Pacific Ocean Litter Project

Single-use plastics from land-based sources occurring in the near-shore environment of Pacific Island Countries.

*Takeaway food and beverage containers, single-use plastics employed in tourism enterprises, and single-use plastics found in general household refuse*



## POLP Priorities

01

**REFUSE**

02

**REDUCE**

03

**REPLACE**



# POLP Outcomes

Measures, policies or practical strategies to reduce single-use plastic are developed and provided to pilot countries

Local and visiting consumers (women, men, girls and boys) are using less single-use plastics and more alternative products

**Target sectors, companies and businesses adopt plastic reduction measures**

Alternative products are identified for adoption



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## THEORY OF CHANGE

**REFUSE - REDUCE - REPLACE  
SINGLE-USE PLASTICS**

1

### **COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS IN PICS**

Are cleaner and less polluted by plastic

### **CONSUMERS (LOCAL AND VISITING) IN PICS**

2

Are using less SUPs and more non-plastic alternatives

### **POLICY & STRATEGY MAKERS**

Policy & Strategy makers

3

### **TARGET SECTORS AND BUSINESSES**

Are adopting plastic reduction measures and non-plastic alternatives

### **POLP**

Have provided support to SPREP to implement the PRAP  
Have developed and advocated policy and strategy measures to reduce SUPs

Provided information about non-plastic alternatives to

4

# Tourism Intervention

Growing movement to reduce dependence on single-use plastics. - Millions spent on single-use plastics every year creating a huge environmental footprint.

Land-based activities generate significant amounts of waste.

Opportunity to show leadership.

Visitor preferences are changing.

Tourism depends on a healthy and pristine environment



# The Foundation – SPREP/SPTO Partnership

Foundation - SPREP Regional Goal 3, Cleaner Pacific, Marine Litter Action Plan, POLP outcomes, Pacific Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework – Destination Standards

Targeted regional approach (synergies to design a fit for purpose programme, informed by Pacific voices and guided by global and international tools

Response to achieving Goal 4 of the Pacific Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework



# The What – Standards & Certification Programme

PACIFIC SUSTAINABLE TOURISM  
INDUSTRY STANDARD 2.0

**Standards and Certification Programme**  
for Phasing Out Single-Use Plastics in the Pacific Islands Tourism Industry





# Tourism Industry Phaseout of SUPs in PICTs

## Standards

### 1. Effectively phaseout SUPs

- 1.1 Procurement policy and action plan to phaseout SUPs.
- 1.2 Procurement of goods and services to phaseout SUPs.
- 1.3 Information and support for implementation.

### 2. Promote locally sourced plastic alternatives and substitute products

- 2.1 Promotion of locally sourced plastic alternatives and substitute products and services.
- 2.2 Incentivisation of community-led solutions.
- 2.3 Sustainable partnerships for circular economies.

### 3. Policy obligations and compliance

- 3.1 Responsive to relevant international, regional, industry or domestic policies, regulations, agreements.
- 3.2 Comprehensive preventative and management plan.

## Certification Framework

### Tier 1

Procurement baseline established by 2027



### Tier 2

35% reduction from procurement baseline by 2030



### Tier 3

70% reduction from procurement baseline by 2033



### Tier 4

100% reduction from procurement baseline by 2035

## Toolkit Outline

- Procurement policy template
- Action plan template
- Baseline and impact assessment guidance
- Key concepts encyclopedia
- Supplier directory
- Product directory including safer alternatives
- Directory of local/fair trade providers
- Directory of policies, regulations, and agreements
- Directory of local circular sector providers
- List of hazardous/non-essential SUPs
- Science-policy briefs
- Training and education tools
- Interpretation products
- Recording/reporting templates
- Target setting guidance
- Procurement decision tree
- Guide for zero waste and circular approaches
- Just transition guide
- Guide for local participation and benefit sharing
- Evaluation of sustainable plastic management
- Safe plastic management guide
- Precautionary principles
- Prevention best practices
- Emergency response plan template
- Brand audit guide
- Partnership Working Agreements Template and Guide.



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17<sup>th</sup> June 2025