



A Practical Guide to Landfill Management in Pacific Island Countries and Territories

*- How to improve your waste disposal facility and its operation
in an economical and effective way -*

Volume-1: Inland-based waste disposal

(2nd Edition)



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Foreword

Solid waste management is an environmental priority for most islands in the Pacific. Unfortunately, lack of recycling and reduction initiatives, poor waste collection systems, open dumpsites, and environmental pollution are still common in many countries in the region. Despite this general outlook, there are a number of positive changes being made to improve waste management policies and practices in Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs), including improvement of collection systems, implementation of container deposit schemes, and the upgrading and construction of sanitary landfills.

This practical guide to landfill management is an important example of positive change. It draws on the experience of Japan, the country that has developed the Fukuoka type semi-aerobic landfill and has facilitated the construction and upgrading of several dumpsites into Fukuoka-type landfills in Palau, Samoa, and Vanuatu, as well as other countries in Asia. This varied experience has enriched the development of this guideline, which provides practical, useful tips and invaluable guidance to waste practitioners in PICTs.

As the name of this guide indicates, it is a practical document which can be followed step-by-step to improve the management of landfills. But it is more than that. It is also a useful tool for waste practitioners to build their capacity through self-learning. It is my sincere hope that you find this guideline useful, and that you take advantage of the opportunities it represents.

A lot of experience and hard work has gone into the preparation of this document, but our work does not stop there. SPREP members are calling for more resources to be dedicated to waste management, and we stand ready to answer that call through continued partnership with partners such as JICA, and through future solid waste management initiatives with other partners.

In closing, I refer to the acronym 'NIMBY' - **Not in My Backyard** - which has been used in this guideline. Typically, NIMBY describes the public's attitude towards waste disposal facilities, but let us now apply it to ourselves as waste practitioners. Let us no longer allow poor waste disposal and poor waste management to take place in our backyard. I entreat you to use this guideline and take whatever further action is necessary to ensure sound, practical, and sustainable waste management practices in your 'backyards'.

David Sheppard
Director
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

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