



Pacific workshop on plastic pollution and material substitutes

Exploring material substitutes and green finance as part of solutions for SDG 14 and 12

17-19 October, 2023

Venue: Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva, Fiji

WORKSHOP AGENDA

DAY 1 – The plastic pollution and ocean litter challenge

8:15 Welcome coffee

9:00 Traditional opening

- Opening prayer – Rev. James Bhagwan – Pacific Conference of Churches
- High-level opening remarks: Director Sandeep Singh – Environment

9:15 Welcome remarks by co-organisers and supporting institutions (2-3 min each)

- UNCTAD
 - Ms. Diana Barrowclough and Mr. David Vivas Eugui
- UNDP
 - Ms. Tuyra Altangeral Resident Representative (tbc)
- Office of the Pacific Oceans Commissioner
 - Dr. Filimon Manoni (tbc – via video)

9:45 Workshop agenda / 3-day agenda presentation

- UNDP – Ms. Marissa Asen

9:50 Round of introductions

- Introductions by participants and expectations from workshop – Marissa Asen

10:00 Ocean Economy and Plastic pollution in the Pacific: The Regional Problem presented.

Moderator: UNCTAD Henrique Pacini

- Overview presentations by UNCTAD: (7-10 min each)
 - 2023 Trade & Environment Review: building a sustainable ocean economy (UNCTAD – David Eugui)
 - 2023 Trade & Development Report (UNCTAD – Dr. Diana Barrowclough)
- Plastic pollution challenges and opportunities in the Asia-Pacific Region
 - Mr. Alexey Kravchenko, UNESCAP



- Comments / Q&A

11:15 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30: Global trade, regulatory and financial response measures to plastic pollution in the INC process (7-10 min each).

- Control measures, Prevention & Mitigation services
 - Mr. David Vivas & Mr. Henrique Pacini, UNCTAD
- Financial and industry policy dimensions of plastic pollution
 - Ms. Diana Barrowclough/ David/ Henrique
- Q&A

12:30 – 13:30

- Lunch break

13:45 Regional and National views (7 min max each)

Moderator: Ms. Diana Barrowclough, UNCTAD

- Presentation by UNDP (Plastic Circularity and Waste Management – Ethno-Graphic study) - Dr Mohseen Dean
- Experiences and views by country representatives and other relevant stakeholders

15:15 Field visit (Registration required)

- South Pacific Waste Recyclers (CONFIRMED 3PM - Lot 5 Bulei Road Laucala Beach Estate)

End of day 1

DAY 2 – Natural-based material substitutes

8:15 Welcome coffee

9:00 Day two: Understanding key natural based plastic substitutes and their place in the INC ZERO Draft document

Moderator: Ms. Marissa Asen, UNDP (7-10 min max each)

- UNCTAD presentation plastic substitutes, their trade relevance, and material substitution trade-offs
 - Mr. Henrique Pacini, UNCTAD
- Scientists' Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty (SCEPT) position on plastics substitutes
 - Professor Richard Thompson – University of Plymouth
- Critical sectors for material substitution: Agricultural mulch, food packaging and fishing nets: A value chain analysis of substitution options



- Dr. Kate Ringvall, Curtin University
- Remarks and discussion on the place of natural based plastic substitutes in the INC ZERO Draft document
 - Open discussions

10:45 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 Substitution potentials on the ground (open dialogue on experiences) (5-7 min max each)

- Natural fibre association voices / Private sector (e.g. Pure Fiji)
- Local natural packaging materials
- Expert findings on financing aspects of plastic substitutes and end-of-life management
- Insights by participating government representatives

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break

14:00: Field visit (Registration required)

- Pure Fiji

End of day 2

DAY 3 – Finance and Industry Policies to enable pollution-free and climate-aligned development

8:20 Welcome coffee

9:00 Session agenda & Setting the scene (7-10 min max each)

Moderator: Diana Barrowclough, UNCTAD

- Blue and Green New Deal: Ms. Diana Barrowclough, UNCTAD
- Experiences and views of country and sectoral delegates (Pacific Island Region)
 - Tonga, Samoa, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Nauru & Fiji.

10:30 – 10:45 Coffee break

10:45 – Roundtable: Policy Proposals and next steps – what do we want

- Financing and trade policy
 - Mr. Karlos Lee, Pacific Islands Forum
 - Ms. Karishma Narayan, Fiji Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives, SMEs and Communications (tbc)
- Agro-industry, renewable energy and tourism policies
 - Mr. Vineil Narayan – UNDP Pacific
 - Mr. Prashant Chandra – PMO Climate Change Division (tbc)
 - Mr. Sivendra Michael – UNDP Pacific (online)



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- Green finance policy interventions
 - Mr. Sameer Chand, International Finance Corporation (IFC)
 - Ms. Kritika Raj, Fiji Department of Environment / Prime Minister's Office.
 - Mr. Isoa Wainiqolo, Asian Development Bank

12:15 Open discussions with national officials

- Follow-up: UN Oceans Forum and Ocean Conference (2025)
 - Mr. David Vivas – UNCTAD
- WWF
- UNESCAP
- Fiji Development Bank

12:50 Closing remarks

- UNDP Pacific Office
- Ms. Bedi Racule, Ecological Stewardship and Climate Justice, Pacific Conference of Churches

13:00 Lunch

14:00 End of workshop