

Marine Litter in the Pacific Islands Region

David Haynes, Anna Markic and Tony Talouli



Marine Plastic

- Marine plastic litter is a major source of pollution in the Pacific
- Has environmental, aesthetic and commercial impacts
- Around 80% of marine debris is sourced from coastal areas
- Mostly a consequence of poor waste handling and management



GPA: Protection from Land Based Activities

1. Regional Solid Waste management Initiative 2011-2015 – cost-benefit of disposal options for used oil (re-use for power generation was best).
2. Basil Convention and Waigani Convention projects: used oil, and E-waste management cost options; hazardous waste management training.
3. SPREP-KIOST assessment of waste disposal sites on marine water quality.
4. Marine debris adviser appointed at SPREP in 2014.
5. New position “Marine Pollution Officer” at SPREP on secondment from Australian Marine Safety Authority.



Samoa Demonstration Project

Four Key elements:

- Public media campaign
- Port waste management
- Community participation in improved waste management



Public Media Campaign

- Development of media resources on marine debris and waste management
- Documentary film
- Billboards
- TV and radio advertisements



Improved Waste Management

- Audit of port waste reception facilities
- Oil spill response training for Port authorities



Engaging Communities in Improved Waste Management

- Clean-up of Rivers
- Community beach clean-ups
- Providing trash stands
- Waste craft training for women's groups



Training in Deployment of Marine Litter Booms

- In Partnership with UNEP, AMSA, IMO
- SIDS demonstration project
- Community co-management
- Ongoing guided community monitoring of boom litter collection rates



- 5-yr GEF programme on hazardous waste management (USD2.5M)
- Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN)
- Training on investigating illegal discharge from vessels.
- National oil spill training and NTPLANs.
- Regional workshops - International Convention on Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships.
- Ballast Water Management Compliance Monitoring & Enforcement training.



Waste Management and Pollution Control

Outcome: Strengthened community awareness resulting in reduced litter and healthier living environments



Key Outputs

- ✓ National Marine Pollution Prevention Legislation developed in Nauru and Solomon Islands
- ✓ Climate proof waste management system in Fiji
- ✓ Improved integrated solid waste management in Wallis and Futuna



Other Highlights

- ✓ MOU with the BCRC China signed
- ✓ Improve integrated waste and associated invasive species management in French Polynesia

Waste Management and Pollution Control



Outcome: Comprehensive waste management plans developed for Members and priority actions implemented.

Key Outputs

- ✓ Used oil Cost Benefit Analysis completed for Samoa
- ✓ Standardised waste audit methodology developed for the region

Other Highlights

- ✓ Publication of 3 waste management case studies/summaries
- ✓ Marine water quality compiled for Tonga and FSM
- ✓ Model E-waste and used oil regulations developed

Lessons Learned

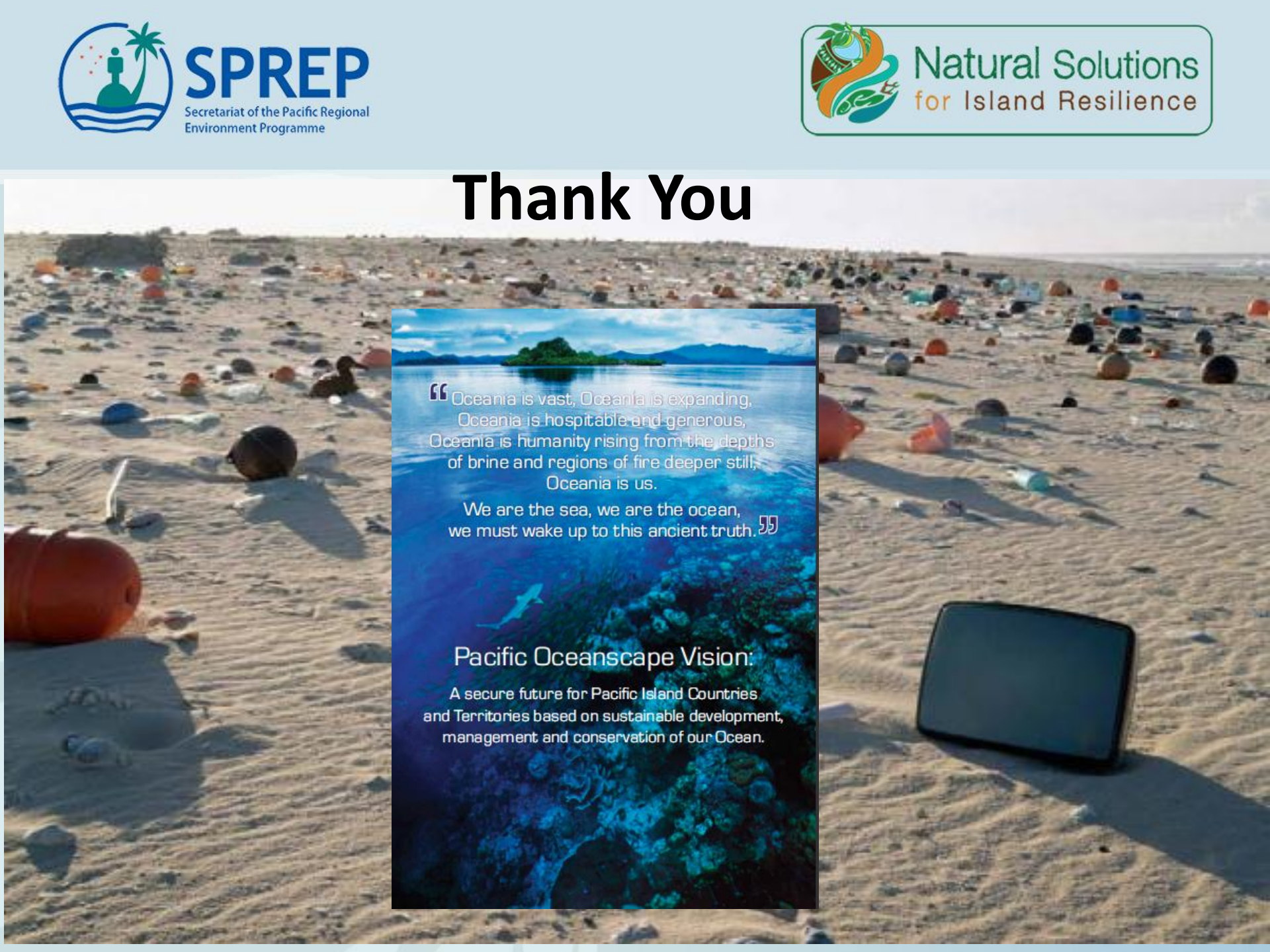
1. **Where knowledge on ML is better**, information on environmental impacts is also better.
2. **Shoreline debris** mostly from local sources (correlated to coastal population/development) - Australian study, also reflected in Pacific Island countries.
3. **Education and Awareness** must include emotive messages principals (rubbish is ugly, it can destroy our fish and damage your health; our culture of ownership of our environment).
4. **CleanUp campaigns may be** less effective in LDC scenarios; All campaigns need follow-up activity & messaging between events.
5. **Greater collaboration with industry** needed (land-based and fisheries) to find solutions for production/use of litter producing materials and for minimising ALDFG.
6. **Integrated regional approach** to research and to developing solutions.

SPREP Long-term Regional Marine Litter Priorities

1. The Honolulu Strategy
2. Regional source/fate modeling
3. Micro-plastics – occurrence, dynamics
4. Impacts on marine fauna/ mega fauna
5. Co-operative networks and information exchanges
6. Community based clean-up and education programmes
7. Integrated waste management services
8. Port reception facility improvements
9. Extent and impact of ALDFG in the region
10. Regional invasives transport



Thank You



“Oceania is vast, Oceania is expanding,
Oceania is hospitable and generous,
Oceania is humanity rising from the depths
of brine and regions of fire deeper still,
Oceania is us.

We are the sea, we are the ocean,
we must wake up to this ancient truth.”

Pacific Oceanscape Vision:

A secure future for Pacific Island Countries
and Territories based on sustainable development,
management and conservation of our Ocean.