



National Climate Change Summit



Your cooperation is necessary to improve our Monthly News letter, so please give us information about coming events and projects.

The Government of Samoa held its first National Climate Change Summit from the 28-29 May 2009. It proved successful in meeting its objectives. The opening ceremony of the Summit was well attended by high-level officials of the government, donor communities and development partners and agencies.

The Ministry recognized the importance of the Summit as an opportunity for the Government to update stakeholders on climate change developments in Samoa. It also highlighted some of the most visible impacts of climate change in water shortages, rapid coastal erosion, agriculture and food security as well as in public health risks, forest and biodiversity and other disciplines and sectors.

The summit set the scene in most of the discussion questioned to Samoa's responses and actions at all levels of intervention (international, regional, national, community and individual). In conventional fashion it steered discussions explicitly into adaptation programs, policies and actions followed by a comprehensive account of mitigation programs, strategy and plans. An overview of global climate change by Dr. Morrell of UNDP drew results from the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and what it means for Samoa and its partners, and the implications to its responses and actions. Samoa's active participation within the UNFCCC processes was echoed in a presentation prepared by climate change advisors from the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Mr. Taito Nakalevu and Mr. Espen Ronnenberg.

The group sessions into key sectors (health, agriculture, tourism, forestry, etc) saw continuous active participation from members of government ministries and corporations (MOH, MAF, Fire Services, MWTI, MNRE, MWCSO, MOF, MFAT, STA, and more); the local NGO group - Samoa Umbrella of Non Government Organizations (SUNGO), international NGOs and organizations (CI, IUCN, Red Cross Society); affiliate members of the Christian religion; private sector (Samoa Health Association, IPA, PECL and Samoatel). Local and international academics (University of Auckland, USP, NUS); donor representatives (AusAID, JICA, NZAid) and UN Agencies (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNEP, FAO, UNESCO, ILO, UNDSS, WHO (Samoa, Malaysia) proved the issue required more team work of very diverse stakeholders if addressing the issue at the national and regional levels were to be sustainable and much more effective.

The Summit launched Samoa's Second National Communication (SNC) Report to the UNFCCC project that started in 2006. The Report is an obligatory requirement of Samoa as a party to the international convention on climate change which Samoa signed back in 1994. The UNDP/GEF funded project is another milestone for Samoa and UNDP-Samoa in its partnership as it continues to actively build the capacity of all players in addressing climate change. Samoa completed its first national communication report in 1999.

The 'Grim Reality' DVD continually being campaigned by UNDP-Samoa was one of the climate change films screened at the Film Show Reception to close the Summit. The Government of Samoa in partnership with UNDP is looking at another opportunity to facilitate the next Summit with gratitude to the active participation and the well participation of various stakeholders.

The Ministry would also like to thank our climate change partners on behalf of the Government of Samoa: GEF, UNDP, World Bank, Governments of Japan, Italy, Austria and Australia and SPREP.

"Climate Change does not discriminate here in Samoa, we are all equally affected by climate change impacts - we must work together."



MNRE CEO, Tu'u'u Dr. Ieti Taule'alo chaired the summit with Climate Change Project Manager, Anne Rasmussen.

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PIC NETWORK FOR ODS OFFICER'S FIRST MEETING



Samoa hosted the First Meeting of the Pacific Island Countries Network of ODS (Ozone Depleting Substances) officers. The meeting enabled ODS officers from developing countries to learn and share experiences on the phase out of ozone depleting substances. Pacific Island countries like Cook Islands, FSM, Niue, Palau, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Is, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Fiji, Australia and New Zealand along with other representatives from the Ozone Secretariat, Multilateral Fund Secretariat, SPREP, WB, UNDP, UNIDO and other resource persons attended the meeting.

The four days agenda was full which included the main task of the participants on how to translate the Network from a concept into a functioning platform for regional cooperation. The meeting also prepared the Pacific Island Countries to reach a common understanding up front on what they mean by the network and how it should work.

Samoa in hosting this meeting would be able to generate awareness among other government agencies and the public on ozone issues and the phase out policy and strategy.

The theme "A New Era for Ozone Layer Protection" can be understood in several meanings. First, it is a new network era for the Pacific Island Countries. UNEP established the first Regional Network in 1992 for South-East Asia and the Pacific with support from the Government of Sweden.

This regional network extended around the world and the Executive Committee added the newest branch when it approved the *Pacific Island Country Network* as part of UNEP's Compliance Assistance Programme.

The second meaning of "new era" is the end of CFCs. In seven months time, the world will cross a historic milestone when CFC production and consumption worldwide will be reduced to zero, a world free of new CFCs and the Pacific Island countries must understand what that means. For those countries with any residual CFC use, this new era means knowing how to manage existing stocks of CFCs to meet servicing needs for existing equipment.

The third meaning of "new era" relates to the 2007 decision of the Parties to accelerate the phase out of HCFCs, which some have likened to a new Montreal Protocol. The issue at this meeting centers around HCFC Phase out Management Plans, which will establish accurate consumption baselines and contain the blueprints for future projects and activities. The participants also need to iron out practical matters such as deciding on the most effective mechanisms and modalities to prepare each country's HPMPs. This is a unique region that requires innovative approaches for the CFC phase out. The participated countries need to apply that same innovation to tackling the HCFC challenge, and thus need to learn from the CFC experience, notably the Regional PIC Strategy.

Since this year there are meetings of the Parties of both the Kyoto and Montreal Protocols. This is also a new era in ozone-climate connections. It is noteworthy that a Party in this region - Federated States of Micronesia - and another small island developing state - Mauritius - have recognized the climate-ozone link and proposed a draft amendment to the Open-Ended Working Group to strengthen the Montreal Protocol by controlling HFCs.



MNRE CEO, Tu'u'u Dr. Ieti Taule'alo with participants

CORPORATE SERVICES

Pacific Regional Work Attachment Programme



Ms. Tuiolo Schuster, Principal Capacity Building Officer attended the Pacific Regional Work Attachment at Canberra, Australia from 4th - 15th May.

The 2 weeks attachment was coordinated by the Australian Public Service Commission in Canberra with funding provided under the AusAID's Bi-lateral Aid Programme. The 2008/09 Pacific Regional Attachment Programme is the 3rd training programme coordinated and conducted by the Australian Public Service Commission in Canberra, in close collaboration with the Samoa Public Service Commission.

Representatives from 6 Pacific Island Countries (Samoa, Fiji, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Tonga, PNG) representing different Government Ministries and Departments welcomed the opportunity to share their experiences and concerns on HR issues; and to further enhance their knowledge on some key HR management tools and approaches. Although the focus of the attachment was on HR Management, the second part of the work attachment with different Government Agencies provided more practical opportunities for the participants to observe 'on-the-job' approaches and ways to help address HR issues.

The main overall objective for the attachment programme was designed for public servants working in HR areas to have a more direct work experience with representatives from the Australian Public Service Commission; and to share information on key HR Management issues and challenges.



Participants for the 3rd Pacific Regional Work Attachment Programme



A visit to the Parliament House

HR NEWS from the Public Service Commission

LONG SERVICE LEAVE:

Following a large number of requests for payment of Long Service Leave the Commission has *"put on hold"* all considerations of these requests.

A decision has been made to review the current policy on payment of LSL especially in light of the current global economic recession.

SICK LEAVE:

Clarification has been sought recently regarding the application of Determination 13B Sick Leave. The question has been posed concerning whether or not Saturday and Sunday counts towards the 3 days allowable days without a certificate if an employee is sick on a Friday. The Determination states the employees are entitled to only 3 consecutive working days on sick leave without producing a medical certificate as evidence. Periods of 4 days or

more, must be accompanied by a medical certificate from a medical practitioner in the form approved by the CEO.

By way of explanation leave with pay for any one period of absence from duty allowed under this Determination is to be calculated in consecutive working days and not consecutive days. *"Working day"* means a day in which an employee is usually required by the terms of their employment to be on duty.

So this means if an employee who works each day from Monday - Friday and is sick on Friday and Monday then no certificate is required. But if an employee whose normal working days include Saturday and/or Sunday then Saturday and/or Sunday do count towards the 3 days. So if an employee is sick Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday they do need to produce a medical certificate in order to access paid sick leave.

You can view more HR News from the PSC at the website www.psc.gov.ws

Another Flow Gauge in the Vaisigano River

Expanding the hydrological monitoring network can sometimes be hard work, but for the WRD staff who installed the flow gauge at the Vaisigano River in the Alaoa Middle branch in April and May, it was also great fun.

For most new gauges, the installation of the equipment itself is the main task. In this case however, there was a large accumulation of rocks and sediment in the downstream channel. Upstream water levels were recording values higher than what would properly reflect the magnitude of flow going down the river. WRD staff were required to remove the blockage by hand (and shovel!).

The team took 3 days to clear 40m of the concrete-lined channel; a total of approximately 20m³ of material. The material was then spread out over the banks so that it wouldn't get washed back into the channel. Once the blockage was cleared, water levels at the staff plate were observed to drop by 120mm.

Fortunately for the team, the cool river waters and partly shaded surroundings made work in this spot quite bearable. Long lunches and a bit of home-baking also provided an extra incentive to get the work done!

The location of the gauge is immediately upstream of the EPC hydropower pond; a strategic spot to monitor the flow rates available for electricity production. This part of the river was previously monitored between 1985 and 2001, and the intention is that a long flow record will be continued well into the future.

IWRM IN ACTION

What is IWRM?

The Pacific Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Programme assisting Pacific Islands countries to establish and implement effective IWRM and Water Uses Efficiency (WEU) plans based on best practices and demonstrations.

The IWRM project is executed by Secretariat of the Pacific Applied Science Commission (SOPAC) with support from United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), both funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The timeframe of the project includes the Inception Phase from March to September 2009 and implementation from September 2009-2013.

IWRM VISITS:

On Tuesday, 26th of May 2009, Ms Ruth Urben, the Community Assessment and Participation Adviser of GEF Pacific IWRM Project, visited Samoa to provide technical assistance for implementation of activities for the Inception Phase Period of the Project (March till September 2009). The visit was for one week and included discussions on the Letter of Agreement (LOA) of the project and Samoa, the inception log frame and work plan as well as a field visit to the Apia Catchment. Ms Urben's visit was concluded with a meeting with the IWRM major stakeholders on Friday, 29th May 2009. The main objective of the meeting was to introduce the project as well as introduce the expert from the Regional Project Coordinating Unit (PCU), Ms Ruth Urben and discuss the progress of activities. The Water Resources Division is now implementing activities for the inception phase in preparation for the inception workshop in September, 2009.



The completed flow gauge housing



Ruth Urben with Watershed crew at the Vailima Watershed Nursery

FORESTRY

The Second Pacific Extension Summit on Agriculture and Forestry

FIJI

The 2nd Pacific Extension Summit on Agriculture and Forestry was held in Nadi, Fiji on 18 - 22 May 2009. The Summit was organized and hosted by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and sponsored by the CTA, EU, GTZ, FAO and USP. The theme for the 2nd Summit was *"Transforming extension and outreach in the Pacific for Sustainable Development."* This provides an avenue for the leaders, academics and intellectuals in agriculture and forestry to critically look at strengths and opportunities for extension and outreach to meet the challenges of changing social, climatic, food security, economics, political and global environment for the Pacific region.

The summit covered areas such as: policy directive on extension and outreach, changing role of extension and outreach in the current global financial and subsequent food crisis's, stance of extension and outreach for sustainable development, role of extension and outreach in regional and international trade, Engaging youth in Agriculture and Forestry sector, Private-Public Sector partnership, Capacity Building for Extension and Outreach service providers, and role of networks and information and communication technologies (ICTs) in extension and outreach in the Pacific.

The Second Pacific Extension Summit 2009 has provided an atmosphere that was highly interactive and sure to spark new ideas and strategies to build bridges across different disciplines and sectors to take extension and outreach services to a new height in the Pacific region. Samoa was represented by representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Women in Business and Development, Samoa Farmer Association and Tulusina Pouli from Forestry Division, MNRE.



Tulusina Pouli with other participants from Samoa

Inception Meeting for *"Improving Governance and Building Capacities for Safe Movement of Tree Germplasm between Pacific Island States Project"*

The Project Inception Meeting was held at the Secretariat for Pacific Community (SPC) Headquarter, Suva, Fiji from 26 - 28 May 2009. The meeting was funded by the AusAID through its Pacific Governance Support Program, the FACT Project funded by EU and SPC.

Pacific Island Country (PIC) partners in the recently-completed PGSP project Development of a Pacific Islands Regional Research and Development Agenda and Action Plan for Improved Governance in the Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of Forest Genetic Resources" and "South Pacific Regional Initiative on Forest Genetic Resources (SPRIG) clearly identified poor access to tree germplasm as one of the main constraints on effective conservation and sustainable utilisation of PIC forest genetic resources for the benefit of the Pacific Island peoples.

One significant activity recommended in the Action Plan was the development of a "Regional Forest Tree Seed Centre" to facilitate the regional exchange of wild and improved germplasm of several important tree species. The facility will temporarily be known as the Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees - Tree Germplasm Unit (CePaCT-Tree Germplasm Unit) in the SPC in Suva.

A Regional approach is now required to ensure that realistic and practical procedures and practices (including risk assessment and mitigation) are standardised and adopted by all countries. Some PICs may initiate changes in relevant Legislation and Regulations as an Outcome of this Activity. The six priority countries for the project are Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Is. PNG, Tonga and Samoa. Tulusina Pouli of the Forestry Division, MNRE represented Samoa to this meeting.



Tulusina discussing forestry issues at the meeting

ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION

SAND MINING WEAKENS THE RESILIENCE OF THE COASTS AGAINST CYCLONES & WAVES



By removing sand and coral rubble from any part of the coastline, you will lose more land due to coastal erosion, therefore increasing the risk of damage from cyclones on your land and property.

THINK SUSTAINABLE SAND MINING TO HELP SAVE SAMOA

For more information contact our Environment & Conservation Division

WATER RESOURCES



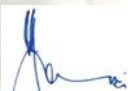
Government of Samoa

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACT 2008

NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT

I, **FAUMUINA TIATIA LIUGA**, Honourable Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Water Resources Management Act 2008 (the Act), **NOMINATE Monday 6th April 2009** to be the commencement date for the Act.

Dated this 16th day of March 2009


 (Hon. Faumuina Tiatia Liuga)
MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT



GUESS WHO??



Can you guess who is standing next to Elisaia?

Hint: Ministry's corporate review in 2006....

- Mail/Send your answer to Molly @ the Capacity Building section - Level 3
- You never know you might get a sur-prize!!!!
- First Come First Serve!!

NOTICE BOARD

New Recruits:

- Foini Jancey Uili
Senior Clerk, Administration

Promotions:

- Taupau Maturu Paniani
ACEO, Forestry
- Setoa Apo
Principal Terrestrial Conservation Officer
- Filipino Tui
Assistant Mapping Officer

Resignations:

- Fetoloai Alama
Principal Sustainable Development Officer
- Mutaaga Isara
Senior Training Officer
- Nanai Tony Leutele
ACEO, Forestry

All the Best with your future endeavors!!!!