



## Promoting Environment Education



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

The Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment (MNRE) in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (MESCC) and other line agencies (such as the Samoa Water Authority, National University of Samoa, Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health) has recently finalized the Environment Resource Education Guide for Years 7 to 10. This was undertaken in the past months, through the financial support of the Water Sector Support Programme (WaSSP) and the assistance of a local consultant Ms. Masa Faasau.

The new revised Environment Resource Education Guide covers six (6) thematic areas:

- Marine Ecosystem
- Mangroves
- Waste Management
- Biodiversity
- Water Resources
- Climate Change

with the focus of supporting the principles outlined in the MESCC National Curriculum Policy Framework.

With the first phase completed, the steering committee facilitating the implementation of this initiative held a four days In-service training for selected primary and secondary school teachers. This workshop was coordinated by the Environment Education Resource Guide Committee for both Upolu and Savaii from 23 - 27 June, 2008 on the use of the guide.

At the end of the workshop, the committee decided to pilot 17 primaries and 17 secondary schools for the trial of the resource guide. These pilot schools in Upolu and Savaii will be visited by the committee to ensure that this resource guides were in good use for the students.



Upolu primary school teachers.....for the pilot trials



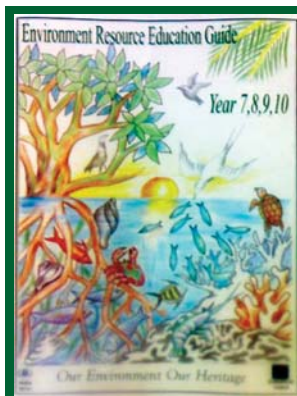
Savaii primary and secondary school teachers.....



Upolu secondary school teachers.....for the pilot trials



At Savaii.....



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Years 7 - 10

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## National Water Resources Management Strategy



The Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance (MOF), Ministry Women Community and Social Development, Ministry of Health (MOH) & Samoa Water Authority (SWA) launched the **National Water Resources Management Strategy (NWRMS) 2007 - 2017** and the **Water for Life Sector Plan** on the 27th of June at the Sails Restaurant.

The development of the NWRMS for Samoa is a manifestation of the government's commitment towards sustainable management and development of the country's water resources.

The NWRMS is a framework for the protection, conservation, development and management of Samoa's water resources. It supports the national vision "For every Samoan to achieve a better quality of life" by ensuring community access to water of suitable quality and appropriate quantities to meet all reasonable health, environmental and economic developments needs.

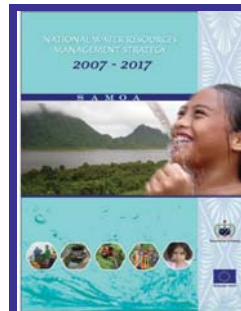
To achieve its overall goal, the following objectives were formulated:

- To strengthen the control, management and protection of water resources
- To improve knowledge and enhance understanding of water resources and their uses
- To develop and strengthen existing measures and mechanisms to protect the quality and sources of freshwater

- To build and strengthen capacity of key implementing agencies and other relevant stakeholders
- To create greater public awareness of water resources issues
- Promote partnerships to support the management of water resources
- To secure finances/resources to support sustainable water resources management programs

With the involvement of different agencies in the sustainable management of water resources, it is anticipated that the NWRMS will used as a guide and platform for close collaboration between implementing agencies.

The NWRMS is but one of the many tools that will be developed to strengthen the management of water resources in Samoa. Nevertheless its development is an important milestone that will set the pace for integrated water resource management at all levels.



Front cover - National Water Resources Management Strategy

## TECHNICAL SERVICES



### VERTICAL CONTROL NETWORK & DATUM



The Survey Section is currently undertaking Precise Levelling around the Main Coast Roads of Upolu and later on Savaii. This leveling is part of the Second Infrastructure Asset Management Program (SIAM-2), Component 5.01 (Sustainable Management, Land Administration and Survey Project.)

The existing Vertical Control Networks should be upgraded to and extended throughout the country to provide a network of heights based on Mean Sea Level Datum. The extent will cover the perimeters of both Upolu and Savaii islands.

The project includes establishment of Bench Marks approximately 1 - 1.5 kilometers apart and leveling between these marks. The project started in May 2008 with 2 weeks of Training

plus another two weeks of practical field work around Apia Town Area. It has now completed a run of 49 kilometers from Apia to Falelatai on the 3rd week of June thus start leveling to the eastern side of Upolu extend to the far east and around the southern side of the island. The project is expected to complete by May 2009.

The picture below shows part of the training session around Apia:



## METEOROLOGY

### Total Phase out Management Plan - Technician Training in good refrigeration practices

The National Ozone Unit completed the first phase of the Total Phase out Management Plan (TPMP) technician trainings on Friday 27th June carried out at the Institute of Technology - National University of Samoa. The three day training was officially opened by Mulipola Ausetalia Titimaea Assistant CEO of the Meteorology Division on Wednesday 25th June.

The Ministry through financial assistance from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) coordinated the technician training program in collaboration with the Samoa Refrigeration Association. The aim of the program was to strengthen the ability of all technicians working in the Industrial Sector in handling of Refrigerants that are also Ozone Depleting Substances. It is through these training programs; that capacity of the technicians will be enhanced including the use of good effective practises to prevent the release of ODS into the atmosphere.

The training program comprised of theory and practical exercises was reflected upon by the

participants as an effective method of refreshing their skills and encouraging good practises in handling Ozone Depleting Substances. The 15 technicians from various companies around the country were able to complete this training. They were presented with "Good refrigeration practices" certificates signifying their ability to effectively handle Refrigerants containing Ozone Depleting Substances. The Assistant Chief Executive Officer (Mulipola Ausetalia Titimaea) for the Meteorology Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment provided the closing speech acknowledging the great efforts from the trainers in conducting this training. He also congratulated the certified technicians that completed the course and encouraged their continued support in fulfilling Samoa's obligations to the Montreal Protocol to save the Ozone Layer.

This training program is the first in a series of training programs that will be carried out in the country to prepare Samoa for the Total Phase out of all Ozone Depleting Substances in 2031.



Participants....

## EARTHQUAKE FELT



### FELT EARTHQUAKE - JUNE



An earthquake with magnitude 5.5 in the Tongan Region has occurred at 15.256 deg S, 173.627deg W with a depth of 10 km on Sunday 1st June 2008 at 05:19:47pm (Samoa Local Time). The distance is 260 km South West of Apia, Samoa. We would like to inform the public that there was **NO DESTRUCTIVE TSUNAMI** generated by the

earthquake as confirmed by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Ewa, Hawaii.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

IF YOU NOTE ANY SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO YOUR HOME, PROPERTY, OR PUBLIC UTILITIES AS A RESULT OF AN EARTHQUAKE EVENT, PLEASE NOTIFY THE NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT OFFICE OF THE SAMOA METEOROLOGY DIVISION FOR DOCUMENTATION.

**MNRE/JICA Annual Project Progress Workshop 2008**

The MNRE/JICA joint Project on **'Enhancing Management Capacity for National Parks'** held its *1st Annual Project Progress Workshop* with the objectives to inform the relevant stakeholders on the status of progress and to take stock of achievements and planned activities. It was also an important opportunity to get feedback from the respective communities on important matters regarding project implementation and to discuss other issues.

Over 80 stakeholders from the respective communities around the Togitogiga NP and the Vailima Reserve areas participated in the 1 day workshop. Guided by the overall vision 'Working for our Heritage', the three ( 3 ) year project aims to upgrade and enhance the management of Samoa's Nationals Parks and Reserves through the following key components:

1. *Formulation of Management Plans for 'O le Pupu-Pu'e National Park' and the Vailima National Reserve*
2. *Effective management of the 2 sites based on the implementation of Management Plans*

3. *Public awareness raising activities on the importance of the conservation of NPs and NRs are strengthened.*

Given that this was the first progress workshop from a series of stakeholder workshops conducted for respective villages around the *O le Pupu-Pu'e National Park'* and the *Vailima National Reserve*, for the purpose of the workshop, the purpose was to get feedback from the representatives and to discuss ways to better manage these areas.

The series of workshops already conducted was a positive recognition of the role of communities with the emphasis on the partnership with the respective communities and encouraging their active involvement in the decision making process and to ensure the sustainability of these areas.

Presentations prepared by the Ministry provided the overall progress of the project with emphasis on the work currently being undertaken to improve the state of the conservation areas at Togitogiga and the Vailima Reserve.

**OVERSEAS**

**TWENTY EIGHTH SESSIONS OF THE UNFCCC SUBSIDIARY BODIES & SESSIONS OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUPS:**



From the 2 - 13 June, several meetings took place in Bonn, Germany, as part of ongoing negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ( UNFCCC ) and Kyoto Protocol.

The twenty - eighth sessions of the subsidiary Body for the for scientific and Technological Advise (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) of the UNFCCC was also held on the 4- 13th of June. In addition, the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG - LCA 2) and the resumed fifth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex 1 Parties under the Kyoto Protocol ( AWG - KP5 ) were also held.

These meetings are a part of ongoing discussions to enhance international cooperation on climate change, including for the period after

2012, when the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period expires. The UNFCCC sets out a framework for action aimed at stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases to avoid *"dangerous anthropogenic interference"* with the climate system.

Anne Rasmussen of the Meteorology Division represented Samoa to these meetings and is a useful process for Samoa to participate in to keep up with the international response to climate change.

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■ *Pauani Asi*  
Asst. Mapping Officer

■ *Mafutaga Sela*  
Asst. Scientific Officer