

## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



The commemoration of the World Environment Day 5th June was marked with a mangrove cleanup and replanting at Mulinuu. This World Environment Day is a global initiative to promote environment for sustainable development and this year's theme on "Melting Ice, A Hot Topic" reflects global concerns over the impacts of climate change. Climate change is one of the most worrying issues confronting the world today as it affects the security of food and water supplies, health, environment, natural resources, economic wellbeing and survival of the human race.

The mangrove clean up and replanting initiative was to strengthen existing mangroves to increase Samoa's resilience to the effects of climate change and was jointly coordinated by MNRE and its partners: SPREP, UNDP, GEF Small Grants Fund and the TALAVOU Project with the Division of Youth ( Ministry of Women, Community & Social Development ) with the Pacific theme "Strong Islands Strong Future". The initiative encouraged cross-sectoral collaboration from schools, private sector, government and agencies to work together to raise awareness of the importance of conservation of natural systems. It also encouraged our local people to help protect and promote the environment.

More than 1,000 mangrove seedlings were replanted behind the Parliament House and the soon to be built headquarters for the Ministry of Justice & Court Administration. As well as the protection of mangroves; a signed agreement between UNDP and the Government of Samoa was also launched for the granting of the USD\$100,000.00 for climate change adaptation works. This marked the implementation of the National Adaptation Plan of Action for Climate Change. This funding will be used to continue the seawall from behind the Parliament towards the existing seawall at the end of the Peninsula.

### DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT TRAINING FIJI

Ms. Filomena Nelson attended a Risk Management Programme Training held in Nadi, Fiji 18th to 22nd June. The main purpose of the five day course is to provide the information and skills required to develop and manage programmes related to risks, emergencies and disasters. The main subjects of the course include risk management, disaster risk management approaches, working group meetings, planning, organizing, leading and controlling. The participants of the course were those individuals who, at various levels within public and private agencies and organizations, have responsibilities related to the development and management of risk programmes.

Ms Nelson also attended the 13th Regional Disaster Managers Meeting was convened in Majuro from the 27th to 29th June and was chaired by the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The theme of the meeting was – Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management in Pacific Island Countries: Policy to Action with broader goals of: Strengthening capability of disaster managers to support their role and responsibilities towards mainstreaming of risk management at national, local and community level; Improving understanding of the DRM support capabilities provided by the Pacific DRM Partnership Network; and, Increasing understanding by disaster managers on the status of global and regional DRM Initiatives were achieved.

The meeting was well participated by representatives from Pacific Island Countries. The meeting was also attended by members of the Pacific Regional Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network and other international, regional and national organisations.

Strong islands. Strong future.



St Mary's School students participated in the World Environment Day at Mulinuu with the MNRE CEO Tu'u'u Dr. Ieti Taulealo



MNRE and UNDP staff

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## FOREST GENETICS RESOURCES (FGR) CONSERVATION, MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE USE IN THE PACIFIC REGION AND ISLANDS - WORKSHOP

With the support of AusAID, through the Pacific Governance Support Program, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, German Technical Cooperation and Ensis, the Forest Genetic Resources Workshop was held in Nadi, Fiji, from 25 to 29 June 2007, under the title of "Development of a Pacific Islands regional research and development agenda and Action Plan for improved governance in the conservation and sustainable utilization of forest genetic resources".

The Workshop was attended by Tolusina Pouli and Einstein Simanu of the Forestry Division with representatives from 15 countries and several regional and international organizations.

The aim of the workshop was to update the Pacific Region Action Plan developed in Apia in 1999. The revised plan would provide an agreed framework which suit the needs and priorities of each country and would be strongly linked to its wider development priorities. Although there has been a notable increase of interests among PICTs in developing research and action plan for FGR, there have been modest achievement due to management and governance issues, limited national budgets and shortages of trained personnel to implement approved FGR programs.

The workshop objectives were to:

- Develop a Pacific Region Action Plan for improved governance in conservation, management and sustainable utilization of forest genetic resources, including a plan of follow-up activities after the workshop.
- Strengthen and explore opportunities for collaboration amongst PICTs, other international and regional organizations and donors agencies with emphasis on forest genetic resources conservation and management and its application to poverty alleviation, rural development and climate change, within a community forestry framework.

Participants were encouraged to consider a "Vision for Research and Development in Forest Genetic Resources" FOR 2020.

## ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY SECTOR OUTLOOK STUDY

### What is the APFSOS?

The Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS) is a wide-ranging initiative to gather information, examine the evolution of key forestry issues, and review important trends to identify the range of outcomes, and implications for forestry, that may arise from actions taken today. Its main purpose is to support policy review and reform.

The purpose of the APFSOS is to describe how forests in Asia and the Pacific might look in the future. It will develop a coherent and collective vision of the range of choices and options for action – and draw conclusions about the range of outcomes that might flow from these choices. APFSOS will help countries place their own policy objectives in a regional and global context, to facilitate better national policies and planning.

APFSOS seeks to draw a broad picture of change, to enable improved decision-making.

The specific objectives of the APFSOS are to:

Identify emerging socio-economic changes impacting on forests and forestry

- Analyze probable scenarios for forestry developments to 2020; and
- Identify priorities and strategies to address emerging opportunities and challenges.

The study commenced in October 2006 and is expected to be completed by December 2008.

## INCEPTION WORKSHOP FOR SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT (SLM) PROJECT

On Thursday 28 June 2007, an Inception Workshop for 'Samoa's Capacity Building and Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management Project' took place at Pasefika Inn, Matautu.

### Background

The overall expected outcome of the Project is the promotion of effective Sustainable Land Management in Samoa through the strengthening of local and national capacities. The four main outcomes of the Project include:

- i. Completion of NAP
- ii. Capacities Built for SLM
- iii. Mainstreaming of SLM, and
- iv. Medium Term Investment Plan for SLM.

The Project is funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and is implemented by MNRE in partnership with the UNDP Office. It was officially launched earlier this year during a short ceremony where representatives of MNRE, UNDP and the Ministry of Finance signed the Project Document marking the commencement of the Project.

The project recognizes and emphasizes the importance of adopting a consultative process with all stakeholders throughout project implementation. Hence, stakeholders from all relevant Government Ministries, Non-Governmental Organizations and Regional Organizations were invited to attend the first Inception Workshop for the Project. About 50 representatives from 7 Government Ministries and 6 Non-Governmental Organizations attended the Workshop.

### Purpose

The main purpose of the Workshop was to introduce the Project to participants and also to gauge input on its Activity Work Plan and Implementation Strategy. In addition, the expected roles of all relevant stakeholders during the implementation process were defined during the Workshop.

### Workshop Programme

The Workshop was officially opened by Afioga Soialo D. Fong (ACEO-DLM) who extended a warm welcome to all participants and presented a brief opening address on the Project and expected outputs of the Workshop. This was followed by various presentations by the SLM Project Unit and UNDP counterparts to provide sufficient information for participants during working group discussions.

Participants were then divided into working groups to engage in lively discussions regarding the Project's Implementation Strategy. This was followed by reportback presentations by each Group during which further recommendations were made by participants to enhance the Project's Work Plan and Implementation Strategy.

### Results

The Workshop was a success with the following achieved during its proceedings;

- Confirmation of Project Activity Work Plan and
- First Draft of the Project Implementation Strategy

### Way Forward

The SLM Project Unit is now currently working on compiling a concise Inception Workshop Report in which all recommendations and comments made during the Workshop are to be recorded and presented to the Project Executive Group for endorsement. In addition, information from the Workshop will also guide the development of the First Annual Work Plan for the Project to commence activity implementation.

### Acknowledgement

The SLM Project Unit wishes to thank all participants from all Agencies involved and particularly to SPREP and UNDP Office for their assistance as resource personnel during the Workshop.

**31st UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
NEW ZEALAND**



The 31st meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee was held in Christchurch New Zealand from the 23 June – 2 July 2007. This was the first Heritage Committee meeting to be held here in the Pacific region and over 180 countries/state parties which have ratified the World Heritage Convention attended with more than 800 delegates. Of the 187 state parties 13 Pacific island countries including Samoa attended the meeting and this very important gathering offered an opportunity for the Pacific Island State Parties to bring the heritage of the region to the attention of the World Heritage Committee and to also gain from exposure to the processes of the World Heritage Committee. Ms Tuiolo Schuster ( National Heritage Coordinating Committee ) attended the meeting with representatives from the UNESCO Apia Office. ( Mr Hans Thulstrop, Mr Mali Voi & Ms Laura Bedjero )

The meeting of the WHC in Christchurch offered an opportunity to showcase Pacific Island heritage and draw the Committee's attention to the regional need for resources to implement the Convention and to complete the Pacific 2009 Action Plan. The Pacific is the most under-represented region on the World Heritage List, despite its sheer size. Excluding Australia and New Zealand only one site from the Pacific Island State Parties, that of East Rennell in the Solomon Islands, has been inscribed on the World Heritage List. In 2004, UNESCO's World Heritage Centre initiated a 5-year program, the 'Pacific 2009 Action Plan for World Heritage in the Pacific' to redress this imbalance through a number of specific strategies developed in consultation with representatives of Pacific Island State Parties in Tongariro New Zealand in 2004.

**3rd NCSA REGIONAL  
WORKSHOP  
COOK ISLANDS**



Mr. Elisaia Talouli and Ms. Tilafaiga Imo of the NCSA project attended the 3rd Regional NCSA workshop that was held in Cook Islands on the 6 – 8 June 2007.

The NCSA project is a 5 phase process which sees to assess Samoa's capacity to implement obligations of the 3 Rio Conventions on climate change, biodiversity and land degradation. Regional trainings have been carried out for phases one, two and three. This workshop is part of phases four and five of the NCSA process.

The main objectives of the workshop were:

1. Learning methods and approaches on the development of the Cross-cutting Assessment and Action Plan
2. Mainstreaming of the NCSA process in National planning and implementation process
3. Share experiences and lessons learnt between regional countries undertaking the NCSA process
4. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms

The workshop provided participated countries approaches and methods in completing their thematic assessment phase, cross-cutting phase and in developing their Action Plan.

Since Samoa is ahead of all regional countries undertaking the NCSA process by completing its Action Plan, the overall workshop has provided further insights for Samoa's NCSA Action Plan. There were few issues that have been overlooked by Samoa NCSA project unit in developing its Action Plan and this workshop has suggested and recommended approaches that can improve its Action Plan.

The NCSA Action Plan is seen as another window of funding opportunity for more programmes and initiatives to improve sustainable development in Samoa. However, this cannot be achieved if this process is not mainstreamed nor considered as a priority in national planning and implementation.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY DIVISION STRATEGY PLAN 2007 - 2017

Most countries in the world, both developed and developing, view energy issues as a high priority. Concerns about climate change, sustainability issues and the like reinforce the significance and immediacy of energy issues. Effective strategy plan and policy initiatives are required to identify energy systems that are technically, economically, environmentally and socially feasible and responsible in their approach to the energy needs of society.

Renewable Energy Division was set up on January 2007 by the MNRE has completed preparing a Strategy Plan for implementation. The Strategy Plan is developed as a main component of the Division which designs to focus on Climate Change Mitigation, Sustainability, Bio-fuel and Renewable Energy Resources Activities thus contributing to the achievement of national and international obligations for Energy and Environmental development programs.

The overall objective of the strategy plan is “to reduce greenhouse gas emission and air pollution by increase the use of renewable energy resources and improve energy efficiency technologies to all sector of Samoa economy.” Its goal is “to achieve an environmentally sound and economically viable system of transportation and energy production.”

In order to achieve its overall objective over ten years period of execution , the Renewable Energy strategy plan will be implemented in seven key components as outlined in figure 1. Renewable Energy Division Strategy Plan Framework 2007-2017. Seven key components and focus area are organized as follows:

**The seven key components therefore for achieving the strategy objective are as follows:**

- Component 1: Improved energy efficiency in the electricity sector.
- Component 2: Improved energy efficiency in the motorized transport sector.
- Component 3: Developed potentials of the non-motorized transport sector.
- Component 4: Improved potentials of hydropower.
- Component 5: Improved efficiency of energy use in buildings & infrastructures.
- Component 6: Developed potentials of bio-fuels.
- Component 7: Developed potentials of other indigenous renewable energy sources.

**Monthly Summary of Earthquake Events in Samoa  
June 2007**

Total number of earthquake events recorded:	11
Highest magnitude event recorded	6.0 New Britain (Papua New Guinea)
Lowest magnitude event recorded	4.1 Tongan Region
Average magnitude of events recorded	5.2
Major region(s) of events' occurrence	Approximately 80% of the events recorded occurred in the Tonga Islands region; the remaining 20% occurred in other parts of the Pacific Rim as well as adjacent regions.



## COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION

Some Rare Pride campaign managers create conservation impacts in their community that are felt for decades. In Samoa, Toni Tipamaa is one of those conservationists. In 1993-1994, Toni's Rare Pride campaign-- in partnership with the Division of Environment and Conservation (DEC)-- successfully built community support for protection of the endemic Manumea (Tooth-billed Pigeon) and its forest habitat. Today, Toni continues to draw upon his Rare Pride training and tools to conserve the biodiversity of the island, using a variety of social marketing techniques to protect other endangered birds, such as the Maomao (Giant Honeyeater). Over a decade later, Toni's continued success in inspiring his community to support local conservation initiatives generated the excitement and momentum that lead to the start a 2nd Pride campaign in neighboring American Samoa in 2006. This time, campaign manager Christianera Tuitele chose the green and hawksbill sea turtles as the symbols of her environmental outreach campaign. Christianera's overarching objective of protecting the islands' abundant marine biodiversity has three main goals: promoting awareness and conservation of sea turtles and marine protected areas; long-term trash reduction; and long-term reduction in sand mining. Litter and plastic bags can cause sea turtles to choke and die, while sand mining disturbs their nesting sites. Both pose serious environmental threats to turtles. Through their common tie to Pride, Toni and Christianera are not only collaborating to support each other's environmental outreach efforts on the islands, but also building camaraderie and friendship. While on vacation last September, Toni took some time to visit Christianera and talk with her about her campaign. Several months later, Christianera gave a presentation on her conservation work during several Environment Week festivities Toni had planned. The talk was so successful that Toni has asked her to come back in November 2007 to give another presentation. Today, Toni and Christianera are not only building capacity at the local level, but they are also becoming a voice for environmental outreach on a much grander scale. Toni is now training other employees of the local DEC to use Pride tools in their environmental education programs. In addition, Toni's Manumea mascot was chosen as the official mascot for the upcoming South Pacific Games! While Christianera continues to be a great conservation leader in her community, she is also a speaker at local and international events. In March, she gave a presentation at the Coral Reef Task Force meeting in Washington, DC.

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**Natasha Siaso - Kolose**  
*Principal Sustainable Land Management Officer*