



## BIODIVERSITY AWARENESS DAY



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

"Reducing the impacts of invasive species" was the theme of the 2008 Biodiversity Awareness Day that was commemorated on the 21st of May 2008. The theme simply highlights one of the Ministry's current priorities in relation to invasive species.

The event was well attended by relevant stakeholders, public as well as students from several schools in town to hear the special presentations delivered on 'Invasive Species in Samoa'.

Rev. Efu Efu of Aai o Niue (C.C.C.S parish) led the ceremony with an opening prayer followed by welcoming remarks by Tuuu Dr Ieti Taulealo. The Minister of MNRE Hon. Faumuina Tiatia Liuga delivered the keynote address and officially launched the recently approved and government funded "Myna Control Project".

### Special Presentations of the day:

- 1) A presentation on the impacts of invasive species in general was carried out by James Atherton of Conservation International.
- 2) Tolusina from Forestry Division presents the impacts of fue lautele which affect not only conserved forestry areas, plantations and families gardens from all corners of Samoa.
- 3) Malama Momoemausu introduced the two marine algae from the Apia harbour and vicinity now recorded invasive. These are the green algae (*Codium arenicola*) and brown sea weed (*Spatoglossum macrodontum*).
- 4) Susau Siolo focused on the impacts caused by Myna bird species in Samoa. The two species are Jungle myna (*Acridotheres fuscus*) and Common myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) known by all people with its main roosting site on pulu trees in town, opposite the Government building in Matafele.

These presentations mainly highlighted:

- (i) the species of terrestrial and marine flora and fauna which are now recorded invasive for Samoa,
- (ii) their impacts on the terrestrial and marine biodiversity, and
- (ii) the Ministry's current work programs geared towards achieving the so-called theme.

The Myna Control Project aims to control the numbers of myna birds in the country. Humane traps from Australia are used to catch the myna birds as the only and main method approved for used at the time being. This mechanism gives at least three day free feeding routine and one day catch. The two myna species is known to be very intelligent and aggressive given the fact that they influence not only our biodiversity but human health as well.



A few Invasive Species....(photos: James Atherton's presentation)



At the Official Opening....



Students looking at the displays.....

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## METEOROLOGY

## Drilling Operation at Togafu'afu'a and Vaimoso Uta Bridges.

The drilling operation took place from 13th May until 21st May 2008. It was done for the Kramer Samoa LTD. The purpose is to investigate the soil and rocks for the upgrading of the two bridges.

Three boreholes were drilled, one at Togafu'afu'a and two at Vaimoso Uta bridges. The depths of the boreholes were 38 meters for Togafu'afu'a; 30 meters for Vaimoso Uta borehole 1 and 24 meters for Vaimoso Uta borehole 2. The results showed that 18 meters of soil and alluvium was found at Togafu'afu'a on top of a 10 meter thick, highly weathered basalt rocks of the Fagaloa formation. Fresher rock was found at a depth of 31 meters. Investigation at Vaimoso showed that 10 meters of soil, alluvium and boulders is on top of highly weathered basalt rocks of the Salani Formation. Fresher rock was found at about 22 meters at Vaimoso Uta bridge.

The bridges will be reconstructed according to the client to cater for the increasing traffic and flooding in the area.



Men at work....drilling

## WATER RESOURCES

## Water Resource Division (WRD) continue works at Apolima Island

Apolima Island is one of the pilot sites for the International Waters Project (IWP) which's main focus was *"the demonstration of best practices and appropriate methodologies for the sustainable management of freshwater resources within the pilot site communities"*. This project was a five (5) year programme commencing from 2001 till 2006. The project was completed with a securely fenced rehabilitated watershed area, a systematic designed water intake and bathing pool as well as a nursery located near the watershed protected area.

The continual protection and monitoring of the pilot site has become a core function of the Watershed Section of the Water Resources Division (WRD). The review of these existing management initiatives has funding available under the "Water Sector Support Programme (WaSSP) Component 6 work activities which focuses on *"the sustainable management of water resources"*.

On the 21st of February 2008, the Hydrology, Policy and Watershed Sections of the WRD conducted a field inspection to monitor the current status of the water resource of Apolima and to review the existing management initiatives as well as a request bought forward by the Apolima peace corp. volunteer. As a result of this field inspection upgrade works were

conducted on the 13th-14th May 2008 for the brick barrier and channel in order to cover all exposed rebars and prevent the water intake from further contamination, inundation and soil erosion.

Apolima Island will be continually monitored at regular basis by the Watershed and Hydrology sections as well as to continue to increase community awareness on water resources management and conservation issues.



WRD men at work....

## OVERSEAS



## Sub-Regional Workshop on MDG-based Planning, Costing and Budgeting COOK ISLANDS



Ms. Nielsen with other Samoa's participants....L-R - Faauiga Multitalo (MWCS), Litara Taulealo (MOF), Rumanusina Maua (MOH)

Ms Molly Faamanatu Nielsen of the Corporate Services division attended a Sub-Regional Workshop on MDG-based planning, costing and budgeting organized for Polynesian countries by the UNDP Pacific Centre in collaboration with the UNDP Multi-Country Office based in Apia held in the Cook Islands from 26-29 May 2008.

This sub-regional workshop is the third being held in the Pacific region. Last year, the UNDP Pacific Centre in collaboration with other UN Agencies and the UNDP Regional Centres in Colombo and Bangkok organized a similar sub-regional workshop for the Micronesian countries in June and for the West Pacific and Melanesian countries in November 2007, reflecting the spirit of "One UN". Therefore, this workshop focused on addressing the specificities, unique needs and priorities of the Polynesian sub-region.

Participants were from Samoa, Cook Islands, Tonga, Niue and Tokelau and it comprised both government and civil society representatives.

This year is a milestone year for the Millennium Development Goals and the Millennium Declaration as this year represents the mid-point year for the MDGs, with half-way between the Millennium Summit of 2000 and the deadline of 2015 to achieve the MDGs.

At this mid-point, much attention is understandably being placed on the performance of countries in their pursuit of the achievement of the MDGs and the partnership and global support required in reaching these goals by 2015.

The sub-regional workshop was important because it brought together countries with similar human development levels to share experiences and learn from each other. In this context the United Nations family in the Pacific, which consists of 14 United Nations Agencies, in collaboration with 14 Pacific Governments and stakeholders have developed a UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2008 - 2012 based on the needs and priorities of governments of 14 Pacific

Island Countries - Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Vanuatu, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Tonga, Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa and the Solomon Islands.

The workshop as well directed responds to the needs and priorities of countries present. The various sessions strengthened understanding of how national and local development priorities can align with the MDGs, how they can inform policy formulation at sector and national level and how they relate to sector and national plan and budgets. As Governments have a primary responsibility to meet the basic needs of their people, it is hoping to better equip government officials to fulfill this role as duty bearers.

The workshop also further detailed and deepened understanding of the various MDGs and what needs to be done, and that Civil Society Organizations as right holders will work with Governments to contribute to achievement of the MDGs, holding governments accountable where necessary.

The sub-regional workshop was not meant to be a one-off event. Rather, it was intended to further increase awareness and develop national capacities in policy, planning and budgeting. Recognizing that some countries have developed relatively strong national capacities in some of these areas, building on these by introducing innovative approaches to planning to achieve national priorities and the MDGs.

The workshop's highlight was the introducing of sectoral **costing tools** developed by UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo and the UNDP Bureau for Development Policy.

These costing tools can support governments to estimate expenditure in Education, Health, Gender, Energy, Environment, Infrastructure and other sectors, and also support prioritizations of interventions and policy options.

Participants had the opportunity to identify areas where further support is needed at country level so that capacity strengthening and enhancement takes place on an ongoing basis.

For Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tokelau the UNDP will be placing national Strategic Planners in the Ministries of Planning to support the process of mainstreaming MDGs into national development planning.

Samoa was also represented by ACEO-MWCS, CEO-SUNGO, MOH, MOF, and MFAT.

**EXTRA ACTIVITIES**

**MNRE - Water Pistol tops Independence Paddling Regatta**

The MNRE- Water Pistol (mix) paddling team made up of people from our very own ministry made history in the Samoa Outrigger Canoeing Association Independence Regatta.

The MNRE Water Pistol paddling team came first in the semi finals held on Saturday 31st May 2008 making it to the finals for the Independence celebration. It was a hard challenge since paddling is new to most of our crew and the sacrifice during training, however in the finals held on Monday 2nd of June 2008 MNRE- Water Pistol came first right from the starting line till the finishing line.

The MNRE-Mens' team also challenged the local clubs and made it to the finals as well. A big faamalo to our team and we would also like to take this prestige opportunity to thank all our supporters from MNRE, our families, friends and peers who have contributed to this success and celebration. Faafetai tele lava!



MNRE staff paddling their best.....Yeah!!!!



**INVASIVE SPECIES**

**MYNA BIRD TRAPS**



For more information contact the Division of Environment & Conservation - DBS building - Floor 5

**NOTICE BOARD**

**PROMOTING STAFF:**

- Fogaa Lio - Land Lease Officer
- Faanimo Warren - Principal Valuation Officer
- Natasha Doherty - Senior Ranger - Reserves Officer

**TRANSFER WITHIN MINISTRY:**

- Pisila Pauli - Accounting Officer
- Elizabeth Kerstin - National Reserves Officer
- Toai Bartley - Urban Management Officer

**NEW RECRUITS:**

- Sefulutasi Taase - Land Development Officer
- Toiata Apelu - Watershed Extension Officer
- Vaitoa Toelupe - Senior Disaster Management Officer