



MNRE PARTNERSHIP WITH CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

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



Sala Josephine Stowers - Fiu (MNRE Legal Officer), Tuuu Ieti Taulealo (CEO - MNRE), Dr Claude Gascon (Executive Vice President for Programs & Science)

Conservation International (CI) signed an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Government of Samoa through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) securing a long-term biodiversity conservation partnership. The South Pacific is currently faced with 50% of its wildlife species threatened or extinct. With climate change impacts then, 100% of our Pacific biodiversity is threatened.

Pacific cultures rely on their natural resources for their survivability. Conservation International also offer the Ministry important biodiversity services and have agreed to carry out to complete the Pacific First Finalised Key Biodiversity Area Gap Analysis for Samoa. This work is currently funded by UNDP/GEF at US\$250,000



RELATED ARTICLE

Conservation International opened Regional New Office and launched Samoa Tree and Bird Conservation Posters

The Prime Minister Hon. Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi, officially opened the Conservation International's (CI) new Pacific office in Apia, and launched two new posters of Native Trees and Birds of Samoa was funded by CI. The event was attended by senior management of Conservation International from CI's Headquarters in Washington DC, led by Dr. Claude Gascon, Vice President for Programs & Sci,



Birds of Samoa poster

members of the diplomatic corps, staff from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) along with other partner organisations including UNESCO and UNDP.

Conservation International is a global conservation Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) active in more than 40 countries in the world with a mission to save the most threatened and unique reservoirs of life on earth. CI's Pacific Islands Program includes 10 staff in three countries and was established in 2005.

Conservation International Pacific is part of the Indonesia-Pacific Field Division of CI and covers the Polynesia - Micronesia region and New Caledonia.

The Pacific region has suffered more species extinctions than almost any other region in the world and is therefore a focus of CI's global efforts to save threatened biodiversity and endangered ecosystems.

The MOU formalises a collaboration that has been ongoing for three years in a number of areas including invasive species management, marine conservation, threatened species recovery, environmental awareness programs and site based conservation including reserve and national parks management.



Native Trees of Samoa poster



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SURVEYS FIND MARINE INVADERS IN SAMOA



A two-day joint workshop on marine invasive species between American Samoa and Samoa was attended by Juney Ward with over twenty participants looking to forge a partnership to address the threat of invasion by foreign marine animals and plants.

Participants heard presentations on the results of surveys that were carried out in the Archipelago since 2002.

The surveys, carried out mostly in Pago Pago and Apia harbours, found many species brought into the Archipelago from places as far as the Caribbean, western Atlantic, Australia and the Indian Ocean.

Shipping is the likely cause of how these foreign species arrived in the Archipelago, as most of them were found in the harbours. Those found in Apia were also likely to be found in Pago Pago.

While most of the species appear to be staying within the harbours, two species of brown and green seaweeds have moved away from the Apia Harbour and are growing on reef slopes in Vaiala and Vaiusu villages.

"These introduced seaweeds, one comes from Queensland in Australia and the other from south-east Asia, are forming large meadows in areas that previously were occupied by local animals and plants"

says Dr.Posa Skelton, a marine seaweed specialist who led the surveys for invasive species in Apia.

"The cost of trying to remove these invasive species is in the billions of American dollars", adds Anthony Talouli, the Marine Pollution Advisor for SPREP. This is a price that the small island countries like Samoa cannot afford.

The not so good news for the Archipelago is that invasive species is like the flu. If one catches an invasive species, eventually it will hit the other. The joint workshop was therefore a catalyst for an Archipelago-wide discussion on issues like marine invasive species and the best way to manage them.

The workshop was supported by the United States National Marine Sanctuaries Program, American Samoan Division of Marine and Wildlife Resources, the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology and the American Samoa's Department of Commerce.

The outcome of the workshop will feed into a planned meeting between the two governments in April to create a road-map of cooperation in environmental management.

The public is encouraged to be on the look out for unusual animals and plants that may suddenly appear along the coast and to report these to the authorities.



VAIMAUGA COLLEGE STUDENTS HELP INJURED NATIVE BIRD



Two Environment Officers from the Terrestrial Conservation Section, Division of Environment & Conservation, responded to a call from the Vaimauga College early Friday morning, 28th March 2008, to rescue a Crimson-crowned Fruit dove (Manutagi) found tangled on the school fence surrounding the compound on the same morning. The bird has several injuries and it was still alive when the Officers arrived. It was taken to the National Parks and Reserve compound to care for by the Officers until the injuries recovered then released back to the wild. The Manutagi bird is slowly recovering from the accident thanked to the Vets of the National Parks and Reserves.

This is an important effort contributed by the students and teachers of Vaimauga College which shows appreciation of Samoa's natural biodiversity and protection of our natural heritage. It is also a tremendous support shown to the Ministry's biodivers-

ity conservation work and a great feedback to our ongoing Environment Awareness Raising programmes.

The Officers thanked the Vaimauga teachers present at the time of the scene and has presented them with 10 plant poster, 10 bird posters of Samoa and two Recovery Plans of the Maomao & Manumea to further increase environment capacity and understandings of the students and teachers on Samoa's natural biodiversity and allowing them to continue contributing to conservation programs of the Ministry.



'Manutagi' - Crimson-crowned Fruit dove. Rescued by Environment Officers escaped a few injuries now ready to fly off again.....

CORPORATE SERVICES

Performance Management in the Samoa Public Service

The ACEO Corporate Services Mr Elisaia Talouli and Ms Tuiolo Schuster attended a full 1 week training coordinated by the PSC on "Performance Management in the Samoa Public Service". The training workshop provided the opportunity for participants from various Ministries to work on developing a Guidance Manual to ensure managers and staff understand the principles of Performance Management and how they are applied to managing staff within the Samoa Public Service.

What is Performance Management?

Performance management is the process of ensuring that staff members are focused on achieving goals in their own work that contribute to the overall goals and success of their organization. This process of managing the performance of a staff member is based around three key steps as follows

- setting work objectives
- monitoring and reviewing performance by the staff member against these agreed objectives
- recognising performance or non-performance appropriately.

Performance Appraisal is the process of formally monitoring the performance of a staff member through a documented exercise and more widely applied to the whole process of coaching and guiding a staff member, setting goals, and both informal and formal evaluation of work performance.

An in-house training for MNRE Divisions will be organised by the Capacity Building Section to discuss Performance System processes and procedures in the coming weeks.



Training participants...

WATER RESOURCES

WATERSHED CONSULTATION

The Watershed section is currently monitoring works implemented in the villages of Letogo and Vailele, Laulii, and Vaisigano upper catchment. This month the watershed section started consultations for Falese'ela. The awareness day conducted on the 12th of March at Falese'ela was to raise awareness of the community on the role of the Water Resources Division with special emphasis on Watershed Management Issues.

The end result will be the establishment of a Falese'ela nursery, rehabilitation works to improve the watershed area as well as the review of the watershed management plan.

Background:

The prioritization of Water Resource Management has led the government to adopt a sector wide approach known as the Water Sector Support Programme (WaSSP) jointly funded by the European Union (EU) and the Government of Samoa. This sector wide approach supports the Government's national vision of "For every Samoan to achieve a better quality of life" through the implementation of a common sector goal of "Ensuring community access to water of sustainable quality and appropriate quantities to meet all reasonable health, environmental and economic development needs".

The Water Resources Division (WRD) is one of the key sectors and works closely with the Ministry of Finance for the management and implementation of the project. The main activities undertaken within the project include Component 1 - Sector Orientation and Component 6 - "Sustainable Water Resources Management".

One of the highlights of these activities is the prioritization of national watershed areas under sub activity 6.4 "Improved conservation and protection of water catchment areas and water resources". 8 sites have been prioritized with 7 in upolu and 1 in savaii i.e Letogo and Vailele, Laulii, Vaisigano, Fuluasou, Falease'ela, Piu, Tafitoala and Palauli.



Falese'ela residents.....

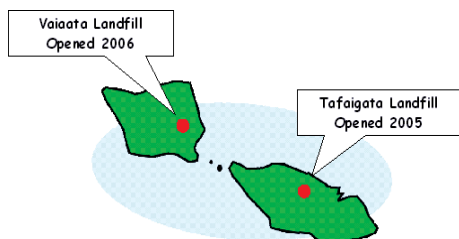
WASTE MANAGEMENT



WHERE IS YOUR WASTE DISPOSED?



After waste is collected, there are several ways to dispose them. It depends on the regulation and its capacity of the country. In Samoa, collected waste is dumped at landfill. There are two landfills in Samoa. Tafaigata landfill in Upolu and Vaiaata landfill in Savaii.



Tafaigata landfill in Upolu was transformed from a messy and smelly open dump to a clean landfill using Fukuoka Method, completed in 2005. The transformation process was funded by Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), at a cost of US\$400,000. Following next year, Vaiaata landfill in Savaii was also implemented Fukuoka Method funded by Government of Samoa at a cost of \$200,000.

Tafaigata landfill is the first landfill implemented Fukuoka method in the pacific region and now it became the successful model.

MNRE FAREWELLS SAILIMALO...

18 YEARS OF SERVICE AND PROUD OF IT!



Sailimalo Pati Liu

The DEC held a farewell function for Sailimalo Pati Liu who has been with the Ministry for 18 years. Sailimalo who had served Samoa for 33 years (10 years with the department of Agriculture, 5 years in the Private Sector and 18 years with MNRE) was proud of his contributions to the development of the country and the developments within the Ministry since it was first established.

In his farewell remarks Sailimalo emphasized the value of honesty, accountability, humility and teamwork towards achieving our goals.



Division of Environment & Conservation with Sailimalo Pati Liu
All the Best!! Good Luck!!

FORESTRY



ASIA PACIFIC FORESTRY WEEK PHOTO CONTEST

Win a trip to Hanoi to attend the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week!!!!

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is launching a photo competition for the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week (APFW), to be held in Hanoi, Vietnam, 21-26 April 2008.

For more information about the event and how to register, visit :www.fao.org/forestry/site/44755/en/ or email AP-Forestry-Week@fao.org

or contact Aokuso Leavasa of the Forestry Division, MNRE
ph# 23800 email - Aokuso.Leavasa@mnre.gov.ws

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