

Samoa's 14 Priority Conservation Sites

The first scientific studies of the types of ecosystem sites in Samoa were carried out between the seventies and early eighties. Three comprehensive studies which formed the broad basis of current conservation and preservation programmes today were carried out between 1987 and 1996. These were the Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping Exercise in 1987-1991 by Pearsall and Whistler, the Ecological Survey of Lowland Ecosystems by Park and others in 1992 that was reviewed again in 1993, a Preliminary Upland Ecological Survey in 1994 by Clarkson and others and a full Upland Ecological Survey in 1996 by Schuster and others. A range of ecosystem types were described for Samoa from the results of these studies, and also a number of sites were recommended for a system of reserves, parks protected and or conservation areas which can best represent the ecosystems of Samoa's biodiversity.



In the earlier studies a list of 14 ecosystem sites were identified as of highest priority areas for conservation in Samoa due to their being rare and threatened by expanding developments. Furthermore, they consider 12 of these sites as highly significance to global biodiversity due to their world rarity and of endangered status or the concentration therein of endemic species which are found only in Samoa. These 12 ecosystems ranges from marshes, swamps and rain forests in and close to lowland areas of the coasts, to rainforests, mixed species swamps, and cloud forests inland at the ascends to the islands mountain ridges.

Listed below are sites recommended under their respective grades for priority conservation and protection. The Grade One Sites include Uafato-Tiavea Coastal Forest; Saanapu-Sataoa Coastal Wetland (mangrove Forest); Aleipata Islands; Aopo-Letui-Sasina Coastal Forest; and Vaoto Lowland Forest. The Grade Tow Sites include Apolima Fou Coastal Wetland, Saleapaga Lalomanu Coastal Forest, Vaiee-Tafitoala Peninsula, Vaipu Swamp Forest, Taga-Lata Salailua Lowland Forest, Siuvao Point, and Mulinuu-Tufutafoe.

The purpose of the upland studies by Clarkson and Schuster and others was to determine the ecological status of mid-slope and upland forests, with a view to identifying key sites of significance biodiversity value for conservation and protection. This survey shows a slow recovery of the forests at higher elevations of Savaii and at lower elevations of Salega, Gagaifomauga and Asau Savaii. The damage to the montane forests in much more extensive in Upolu tan Savaii. This is largely due to human induced activities. The vegetation in most areas in dominated by introduced species. Plans are envisioned to deal with the preservation and management of potential upland sites of significant biodiversity value identified in the survey.



Specific marine surveys have been carried out by expert biologists such as the survey of lagoons and reefs of Upolu by Zann in 1991, the Palolo Deep Marine Reserve by Lovell and Toloa in 1994 and several key sites of Aleipata and Safata by Andrews and Holthus in 1989 and Green in 1996. Since then, most of the marine surveys were carried out in established village fisheries reserves by the Division of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests, Fisheries and Meteorology, to assess fish and invertebrate diversity and abundance and as well as substrate composition of each reserve area. A major marine survey was carried out at the two sites of the marine protected area project at Aleipata and Safata.



Very little has been studied of freshwater ecosystems and their species are poorly described.

To protect and preserve sites of significance biodiversity potential, especially those identified as the minimum required to represent the types of ecosystems found in Samoa is the most important priority in ecosystem management. These include the lowland or coastal forests of: Uafato-Tiavea; Aopo-Letui-Sasina; Vaoto; Saleapaga-Lalomano; Taga-Lata-Salailua; Siuvao Point and Mulinuu-Tufutafoe; and Aleipata Islands; and the coastal wetlands of: Sataoa-Saanapu; Apolima-uta; Vaiee-Tafitoala Peninsula; and Vaipu.

The second priority is the creation and management of sites to protect rare and endangered species. Important initiatives for this purpose include the creation of a bird sanctuary in the islands of Aleipata and upland forests of Savaii.



A third priority is the protection of ecological systems invasive species of plants and animals.

Other general priorities which require the commitment of individual developers and village communities, such as the protection of ecological systems which are sources of food and materials for daily sustenance such as lagoon and reef systems, wetlands and the rest of terrestrial systems which support agriculture, fisheries and other grassroots social and economic development.

Nofoaga Autu e 14 o le Ola Faanatura i Samoa

O uluai su'esu'ega sa faia i ikosisitema o Samoa sa faatinoina mai tausaga tai fitusefulu seia oo mai tausaga taivalusefulu o le seneturi ua mavae atu e i latou nei. E tolu ni su'esu'ega auiliili tetele sa faia mai 1987 i le 1996 ua faavae ai le tele o polokalame autu mo le faasaoina ma le puipuia o oloa faanatura i le taimi nei. Ua aofia i nei su'esu'ega le Faafanuaina o Nofoaga Autu o le Ola Faanatura o Samoa sa faia e Pearsall ma Whistler i le 1987-1991; le Fuataga o le Ola Faanatura o ia Nofoaga i le 1992 e Parks ma isi ma sa toe iloiloaina i le 1993; ma le Fuataga o le Ola Faanatura o Atumauga Ikosisitema o Fanuaaluga po'o sa faia lona faata'ita'iga i le 1994 e Clarkson ma isi, soso'o ai ma lona auiliiliga atoa i le 1996 e Schuster

ma isi. O iuga o nei su'esu'ega tetele ua maua ai ni faamatalaga auiliili o ituaiga eseese o manu ma laau totino moni o Samoa o lo'o maua ai. O nei ikosisitema e 12 e aofia ai ni fanuavailalao, o faataufusi ma vaomatua e i fanuaalalo ma nofoaga tulata i le sami, atoa ai ma vaomatua, faataufusi o ituaiga fefiloi ma vaomatua i atumauga ma tuasivi o motu o le atunuu.



O lo'o lisi atu i lalo ni nofoaga ua fautuaina mo le faasaoina ma le puipuia, i lalo o tulaga o lo latou taua ua faatulagaina ai: O Nofoga Tulaga Muamua e aofia ai Vaomatua Tulata i le Sami o Uafato-Tiavea; Togatogo o Saanapu-Sataoa; Motu o Aleipata; Vaomatua Tulata i le Sami o Aopo-Letui-Sasina; ma Vaomatua i Fanuaalalo o Vaoto. O Nofoga Tulaga Lua e aofia ai Elelee Vailalao i Apolima-uta; Vaomatua Tulata i le Sami o Saleapaga-Lalomanu; Togatogo o Vaiee-Tafitoala; Vaomatua Vailalao o Vaipu; Vaomatua i Fanuaalalo o Taga –Lata-Salailua; Tolotolo o Siuvao; ma Vaomatua o Mulinuu-Tufutafoe.

O le autu o su'esu'ega sa faia e Clarkson ma Schuster ma isi o le fia faamatalaina o tulaga o le ola faanatura i atumauga, ma le filifilia o ni nofoaga o iai e aupito sili ona taua i tulaga tau i oloa faanatura ma e tatau nei ona faasao ma puipuia lelei. Ua faaalua i nei su'esu'ega le toe tutupu lauolaola o vaomatua i atumauga o Savaii ma nisi o fanuaalalo o Salega, Gagairomauga ma Asau i Savaii lava. O le faaleagaina o vaomatua i auvaemauga e sili atu ona tele i Upolu na i lo Savaii. E mafua mai lea i le tele o atinae eseese o lo'o faatinoina i Upolu. O le tele foi o vaomatua ua tutupu tele ai ituaiga o laau mai atunuu i fafo. O lo'o faataoto nei ni fuafuaga e faasao ma pulea lelei ai nofoaga aupito i taua i atumauga ua faaalua mai nei su'esu'ega.

Sa faia ni fuataga faapitoa o ituaiga o meaola o le ola faanatura o aloalo ma aau e nisi o tagata su'esu'e faapitoa, e pei o su'esu'ega o aau ma aloalo o le motu atoa o Upolu sa faia e Zann i le 1991, o ni su'esu'ega sa faia e Lovell ma Toloa i le 1994 o le Ogasami Faasao O le Loto o Palolo ma su'esu'ega a Andrew ma Holthus i le 1989 ma Green i le 1996 i nisi aloalo ma aau o le atunuu. E le o iai nisi su'esu'ega tetele na toe faia talu mai nei galuega, sei vagana ai su'esu'ega o lo'o faia e le Vaega o Faigafaiva a le Matagaluega o Faatoaga, Vaomatua Faigafaiva ma le Vaaitau, o lo'o faitauina ai ituaiga eseese o meaola o ogasami ua faasao mo fagotaga a nisi o nuu i tua. Sa faia foi lata mai nei se su'esu'ega o ogasami o Aleipata ma Safata o lo'o aofia i le polokalame o ogasami tetele faasao i Samoa.

E itiiti ni su'esu'ega ua faia i vaimagalo ma e leai ni faamatalaga mautu o ni meaola o lo'o i ai.



O le mataupu autu muamua mo ikosisitema o le puipuia ma le faasaoina o nofoaga e sili ona tele ma ola lelei ai manu ma laau o le ola faanatura ma o ni nofoaga o le a avea ma faataitaiga aupito sili ona lelei o ituaiga o ikosisitema taua ua maua i Samoa. Ua aofia i nei nofoaga vaomatua i fanuaalalo tulata i le sami o Uafato-Tiavea; Aopo-Letui-Sasina; Vaoto; Saleapaga-Lalomanu; Taga-Lata-Salailua; Tolotolo o Siuvaio ma Mulinuu-Tufutafoe; o taumafaiga ua amatalia mo le faasaoina ma le faaaogaina tatau o oloa faanatura o i nei nofoaga.

O lona lua o mataupu autu o le vaaia ma le puipuia o ikosisitema mai le faaleagaina i manu ma laau faalafua.

I tulaga lautele o lo'o moomia ai le lagolagoina i tagata taitoatasi ma faalapotopotoga i nuu le puipuia o tulaga lelei o ikosisitema o le vaomatua, punavai ma eleele e puna ai le suavai, togatogo, atoa ai ma ogasami mai aloalo i aau o lo'o avea ma faamoemoe o atinae tau faatoaga, soifua maloloina, aemaise o tu ma aganuu a le atunuu.

Childrens Corner



Answer True or False to the following questions.

1. An ecosystem is a place where nature creates a unique mix of air, water, soil and a variety of living organism to interact and support each other. True or False
2. If we destroy our ecosystem, our environment would be unhealthy. True or False
3. Most of the key sites for forests conservation are in Savaii. True or False
4. Our terrestrial Ecosystems are well protected by our people. True or False
5. Terrestrial Ecosystem refers to the living things in the sea. True or False
6. The two large Marine Reserve areas in Samoa are in Aleipata and Manono. True or False
7. Reserve Area is one of the most important method of protecting biodiversity. True or False
8. Freshwater Ecosystem refers to rivers, lakes and inland marshses in Samoa. True or False
9. The established National Parks and Reserves are priority conservation sites. True or False
10. A priority conservation site is rich in endemic and native species. True or False

Word Find

Ecosystem
Lowland
Forest
Reserve

Upland
Terrestrial
Ecological
Coastal

Management
Survey

M	L	A	U	G	L	A	F	Q	S	R	D	C	A	W
E	A	A	P	H	N	R	U	M	C	E	Y	O	G	L
T	R	N	L	N	E	I	R	J	C	S	R	A	P	I
S	E	E	A	O	L	N	R	U	C	E	E	S	A	M
Y	T	G	N	G	R	P	S	P	C	R	S	T	U	A
S	A	O	D	T	E	I	O	N	S	V	N	A	L	R
O	W	Y	E	A	I	M	P	H	A	E	O	L	A	E
C	H	S	F	D	O	P	E	L	P	C	I	I	R	T
E	S	N	L	O	W	L	A	N	D	T	T	S	S	A
B	E	E	T	E	R	R	E	S	T	R	I	A	L	W
H	R	E	R	O	S	E	O	N	V	A	E	A	B	H
H	F	O	Y	E	Y	G	S	U	R	V	E	Y	I	S
L	L	E	W	R	E	T	A	T	I	N	O	J	R	E
A	R	N	O	I	S	O	R	E	P	R	R	U	D	R
H	Y	D	R	O	L	A	C	I	G	O	L	O	C	E