

OUR ENVIRONMENT OUR HERITAGE

CLIMATE CHANGE - SAMOA

● Climate Change – SAMOA

1994 – United Nations Convention on Climate Change – (UNFCCC)

1999 – Initial National Communication Report to the UNFCCC

2000 – Kyoto Protocol

2002 – Capacity Building Development of Adaptation Measures in Pacific Island Countries (CIDA)

● SNC – CBDAMPIC V&A Process

NCCCT can use this as an example to carry out V&A within relevant sector

How to conduct detailed V&A assessments on national, sectoral and community level
Examples from Saoluaifata and Lano:

Focus groups, questionnaires, household survey
Semi-structured and open-ended questions

Responses provided insight into how climate impinges on village livelihoods and well being

● Coastal

Coastal erosion
Inundation

Sedimentation

Salinisation of coastal springs and swamps
Coral Bleaching

● Water

Salt water intrusion
Damages to coastal springs and mangroves during flooding
Tap water affected during floods
Damages to drainages (blocked) during extreme flooding and rainfall

● Health

Vector borne diseases.
Water borne diseases
Loss of lives

● Agriculture

Decrease soil fertility (flooding, erosion)
Decrease in quality and quantity due to increase diseases and pests
Less crop yields due to prolonged period of droughts
Damages to plantations from hurricanes and strong winds

● Increased Vulnerability due to further developments such as:

Sand mining especially in coastal area
Deforestation
Vulnerable to flooding, landslides and droughts
Poorly planned sea walls, lano ford

● Adaptive Strategies to reduce vulnerability

Build seawall
Ban sand mining
Coastal rehabilitation
Restore drainage and springs
Reforestation
Conservation of mangroves and wetlands
Establish marine protected areas
Coral gardening
Better management of drinking water
Restore bridge

● If we do not adapt now:

- Increase Vulnerability
- Increase damages
- Social and Economic Environment

KYOTO PROTOCOL

THE KYOTO PROTOCOL

On 18 November 2004, the world stood and applauded Ambassador Andrey Denisov of Russia as he handed to Secretary-General Kofi Annan his country's accession papers to the Kyoto Protocol.

The symbolic act, during an exceptional meeting of the United Nations Security Council, meant that the Treaty had now secured the necessary 55 per cent of the world's industrialised emissions to be given legal life. Life that became reality on 16 February 2005.

What does this mean to us here in Samoa and the South Pacific?

According to Samoa's Principal Climate Change Officer, the coming into force of the Protocol means two things for Samoa.



SETTING THE TARGETS

The Protocol sets targets for industrialised countries to cut their greenhouse gas emissions aimed at reducing global emissions.

Below are gases considered at least partly responsible for global warming.

TARGETED GASES

Carbon dioxide (CO₂)
Methane (CH₄)
Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)
Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)
Sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆)

The protocol, demands a 5.2% cut in greenhouse gas emissions from the industrialised world as a whole, by 2012. The industrialised countries have committed to cut their combined emissions to 5% below 1990 levels by 2008 - 2012.

Each country that signed the protocol agreed to its own specific target. EU countries are expected to cut their present missions by 8% and Japan by 5%. Some countries with low emissions were permitted to increase them. There is not even any certainty that the 15 countries that were members of the EU in 1997 will meet their collective target of an 8% reduction on 1990 levels. France, Sweden and the UK have already done so, but others - such as Spain, Portugal and Ireland - have made no progress at all.

One of the ways countries will look at for reduction is Emissions Trading.

Emissions trading works by allowing countries to buy and sell their agreed allowances of greenhouse gas emissions.

Highly polluting countries can buy unused "credits" from those which are allowed to emit more than they actually do.

Countries are also able to gain credits for activities which boost the environment's capacity to absorb carbon.

These include tree planting and soil conservation, and can be carried out in the country itself, or by that country working in a developing country....



WHAT CAN I DO TO CUT MY EMISSIONS

With the Kyoto protocol now in force, just how guilty should I feel about my own impact on the environment? Thanks to scientists at the University of East Anglia, I now have a rough idea. And the answer is, despite my best intentions, quite guilty, actually....

...As for the climate change movement, the immediate future will be about regaining the momentum that brought the industrialised nations together in 1997.

.....Typical ocean temperatures have increased since 1960 by between 0.5C and 1C, depending largely on depth. Dr Barnett said: "The real key is the amount of energy that has gone into the oceans. If we could mine the energy that has gone in over the past 40 years we could run the state of California for 200,000 years... It's come from greenhouse warming."

Because the global climate is largely driven by the heat locked up in the oceans, a rise in sea temperatures could have devastating effects for many parts of the world.

"Personally, the Climate has changed. The changes are that we have more cyclones than ever before. The sea-level has risen. The weather in Samoa is certainly hotter, our average temp has risen from 26 to 30 degs C. You talk to the fishermen and they say there's less fish and they see coral bleaching. The signs are there, changes are happening which are putting serious strain on the ecosystems. Our global community needs to act now before it's too late."

This article was compiled and written by Fatu Tauafafi and was first published in TAPU Magazine, March 2005.

Note that this is only parts of the article, to view and read the full piece obtain a copy of the TAPU magazine, March 2005 edition.

For more information contact our divisional office Meteorology at Mulinu'u

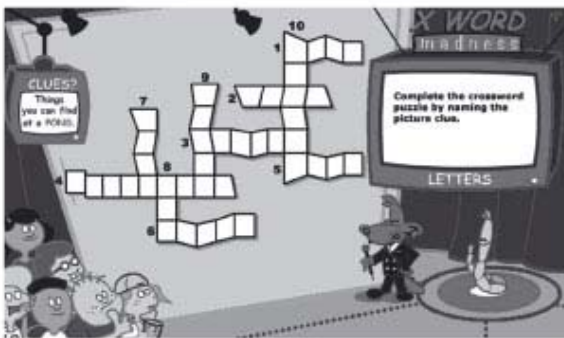
– Climate Change Section –
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OUR ENVIRONMENT OUR HERITAGE

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Children aged 9-14 are invited to answer the following corner. The name of 3 students with top scores at the end of every month will be posted under the "Children's Corner" for special prizes. "Children's Environment Awareness 2006 Awards will be given to 10 students with top total scores in November during the 2006 National Environment Week".

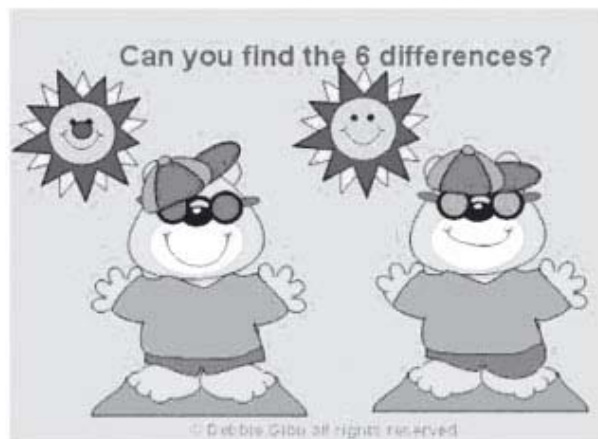
X WORD



- ACROSS**
- -
 -
 -

- DOWN**
- -
 -
 -
 -

Can you find the 6 differences?



QUIZ

Answer the following statements.

- Where is Kyoto located?
- What is the Kyoto Protocol?
- State a brief definition of the word 'protocol'.
- What does the protocol demands?
- What is the Emissions Trading?
- What is the second aspect of the Protocol for Samoa?

Fill in the Gaps

With the words below – fill in the 13 gaps with the right word.

fishermen, climate, hotter, weather, cyclones, changes, act, serious, temperature, global, ecosystems, bleaching, risen

The _____ has changed. The _____ are that we have more _____ than ever before. The sea-level has _____. The _____ in Samoa is certainly _____, our average _____ has risen from 26 to 30 degrees Celsius. You talk to the _____ and they say there's less fish and they see coral _____ the signs are there, changes are happening which are putting _____ strain on the _____. Our _____ community needs to _____ now before it's too late.

CONGRATULATIONS

To our last month's winners – come down to our Tamaligi office to uplift your prizes.

- Deborah Utulau
- Frank Faumuina
- Bernetta Pogi

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to acknowledge and thank the following companies for sponsoring our children's corner.

- Samoa Biscuit.
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- SPREP

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