

OUR ENVIRONMENT OUR HERITAGE

SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Water is a scarce natural resource mainly due to the variability of precipitation and the uneven distribution of precipitation across Samoa. This situation is aggravated by pollution and adverse land use, with certain areas experiencing frequent and prolonged periods of water supply shortfall. Over the years degradation of catchments has been a direct consequence of unsustainable land use practices. Such circumstances are exacerbated by various kinds of pollution in particular solid waste and poor sanitation, particularly by communities residing near rivers.

The management of water resources in Samoa is taking a new approach which will ensure all agencies managing and implementing water-related activities are working together to meet common goals and objectives. Sustainable and beneficial utilization of the available water in Samoa can be achieved by adopting a sustainable water resources management approach. This would include several key initiatives, namely:

- Thorough understanding of the water resources
- Protection of the water resources including improved catchment management
- Efficient use of the available water
- Maximizing the beneficial use of the water resources
- Sound institutional arrangements and appropriate policy and legislation

The sustainable management of Samoa's water resources under the new approach recently adopted by the Government, emphasizes coordination amongst key agencies. This new approach is known as the sector-wide approach "Water Sector Support Programme" (WaSSP) and is guided by the emerging Water for Life: Sector Plan and Framework for Action. Appropriate linkages between various related departments supported by effective institutional structures will ensure that there is provision of high quality water supply, safe disposal of wastewater, and sustainable management of Samoa's water resources. In addition to the sector-wide approach was the establishment of a new Water Resources Division within MNRE. This division will take the lead on water policy development and implementation as required to guide and regulate the various activities and initiatives.



Furthermore, building local community capacity to manage their water resources is a crucial component of this new programme. Educational programmes will promote mitigation measures to reduce adverse land uses and pollution. Several specific tasks have been identified for implementation such as:

- Promote and enhance local community efforts to preserve and conserve water in areas that experience seasonal water supply shortfall.
- Develop an appropriate policy to address issues of governance in the management of water resources shared amongst villages, and with differing types of land tenure
- Promote training and capacity building for management and implementing staff
- Implement a land rehabilitation programme to reduce the risk of soil erosion, and to improve the production of the land.

These activities will ensure our water resources are managed in a sustainable manner however, it does not necessarily ensure that the available water is used effectively. In view of water scarcity, it is imperative that there are appropriate measures to recover and reduce water losses, particularly in domestic households. On the other hand previous and existing water related programmes have supported the fact that the real problem is the management of water, not water scarcity.

Water resources assessment and management of this nature can only be controlled if there is a water loss control programme in place. In addition appropriate monitoring, data collection, data processing and data archiving is essential. Data collected should include rainfall, runoff, water levels, water quality and water use.

A thorough understanding of the surface water and groundwater resources is essential to ensure sustainable development and use of the resource. This will ensure that the water resources are not over exploited and that adequate water supplies are available to meet future demands. It is therefore necessary to

undertake water resources situation assessments of key catchments and develop long term strategic water resources development plans.

The sustainable management of our water resources will ensure water as the ultimate provider to every living forms existence is used wisely and protected for our needs today and tomorrows generation. It is undoubtedly the most fundamental natural resource in securing a healthy environment for everyone. Water completes the interconnected web life depends on and serves to sustain life, cultures and society as a whole.

It is after all everyone's responsibility to ensure our water resources are managed and utilized appropriately.



For more information contact:
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**Come and celebrate with us Water Day
on Thursday 2nd November at the Tooa
Salamasina Hall, 9am -1pm**

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".

Find the words in the box

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. catchment | 9. quality |
| 2. community | 10. reduce |
| 3. governance | 11. regulate |
| 4. land | 12. safe |
| 5. life | 13. supply |
| 6. management | 14. sustainable |
| 7. monitor | 15. water |
| 8. policy | |

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

True or False

- The management of water in Samoa is a government responsibility
- Water is scarce mainly due to misuse of water
- Water pollution can be prevented
- Protection of water resources must include the management of catchment areas
- Appropriate water policies and regulations is required to guide the management of water resources in Samoa
- Water governance is a government issue / problem to solve
- The real problem is the management of water, not water scarcity
- Educational programmes should promote mitigation measures to reduce adverse land uses and pollution
- Building local community capacity to manage their water resources is a waste of time and money
- It is everyone's responsibility to ensure our water resources are managed and utilized appropriately



Your right to water, Your right to life

STAY TUNED KIDS

For our last month's winners names !!!



"some of the wonderful and educational prizes for our winners - kids there are more great prizes to give away"



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

- Samoa Biscuits.



Produced by the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Meteorology

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