

# OUR ENVIRONMENT OUR HERITAGE

## World Environment Day

- taking action to reduce the impacts of climate change

On World Environment Day, Tuesday 5 June, MNRE, SPREP, UNDP, GEF Small Grants Fund, and the Talavou Programme is coordinating the "Strong Islands. Strong Future." mangrove cleanup and replanting at Mulinuu. This is to strengthen existing mangroves to increase Samoa's resilience to the affects of climate change. The key partners will work with schools and youth groups to clean up and replant 500 mangrove seedlings behind the Parliament House.

### Healthy coral reefs and mangroves help to protect Pacific islands from the effects of climate change:

The stronger they are, the greater the protection to your island home. Many coral reefs and mangroves in the Pacific are degraded or under stress due to development activities. Their resilience or ability to cope with sea level rise caused by climate change is greatly reduced. Healthy coral reefs are stronger and able to recover quicker from the effects of climate

change. The stronger the coral reefs, the greater the protection. Mangroves protect the shoreline from erosion, and protect our coasts from the effects of stormsurges.

This World Environment Day, give back to the natural systems that protect your island home.

### Climate Change in the Pacific:

Pacific islands are extremely vulnerable to climate change. Pacific island culture, traditions, economy and environment will be affected by the effects of climate change, marking an urgent call for partnerships and collaboration to increase the resilience of communities to adapt to these changes.

More than 80% of Pacific Islanders live on or near the coast. Community action will ensure that Pacific islands are strengthened to reduce the impacts of climate change such as sea level rise and storm surges. This global change requires island action to protect your island home for future generations.

### How will climate change affect the Pacific?

The biggest impacts of climate change include loss of land and coastal infrastructure, more intense cyclones and droughts, failure of subsistence crops and coastal fisheries, loss of coral reefs, and the spread of disease. This will greatly affect the sustainable development of Pacific island countries and territories if not integrated into national planning methods and strategies.

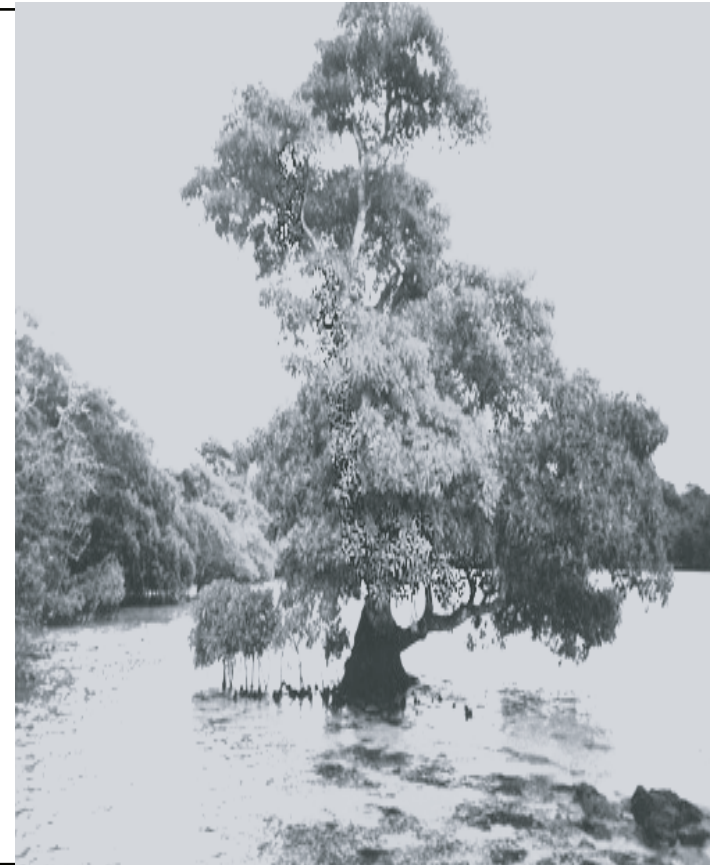
There is also a need to encourage greater collaboration and partnerships to strengthen the cultural and social capital of Pacific communities to strengthen adaptation.

### What causes climate change?

The blanket of gases that keeps the surface of the earth warm and able to sustain life is getting thicker. This is caused by the release of greenhouse gases as we burn fossil fuels for energy and cut down forests.



*Rhizophora samaensis*



*Bruguiera gymnorhiza*

Carbon dioxide, one of the main greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, has significantly increased in concentration, trapping more heat in the atmosphere and causing global warming. This in turn is causing extreme weather conditions.

### Climate change facts:

The Earth's surface temperature will rise between 1.1 and 2.9 degrees celcius by the end of the 21st century (IPCC AR4, WG 1, 2007). Higher temperatures will result in melting of ice-caps and thermal ocean expansion resulting in sea level rise. A mean sea level rise of between 25 - 58cm is projected by mid 21st century along the coastlines of Pacific island countries. Higher sea surface temperatures will result in bleaching of coral reefs which means less diversity of fish and other animals. Mangroves will retreat inland which may not be possible in built up areas or where infrastructure will affect this growth. The stronger the coral reefs and mangroves, the more resilient they are to cope with the effects of climate change.

### Mangroves:

Mangroves are amazing trees that live half way between the sea and land. Mangroves are very important to Samoan communities. They protect our coastlines from storm surges and sea level rise. They also provide food for our families, act as nurseries for small fish, and homes for fish and birds. Mangroves also have important cultural and medicinal purposes. Flowers found in mangroves are used in traditional ceremonies, we use the mangroves to dye handicrafts, and we use the plants to keep us healthy. Although we may use mangroves for firewood, it is important that we take only what we need. Some people think that mangroves are rubbish dumps! Mangrove are not dumps! They an important home for animals, a place for

food, and also protection for our homes. Many countries are removing mangroves to make way for roads and other developments. With sea level rise and other effects of climate change, we need to start thinking about how important mangroves are to our culture, and future, and start giving back.

### Replant mangroves or coastal trees:

In many Pacific islands, mangroves are used as rubbish dumps, trees are cut down and the land filled in for housing and other development. This World Environment Day, give back by replanting some mangroves in an area near you.

SOURCE: SPREP World Environment Day Information Kit  
For more information on SPREP's education and awareness activities visit  
- [www.sprep.org/topic/awareness.htm](http://www.sprep.org/topic/awareness.htm)

Strong islands. Strong future.



Rubbish dumped in the mangrove area at Vaitoloa



For more information contact our Capacity Building Section

--Matautu--

Ph # (0685) 25419 or (0685) 30966

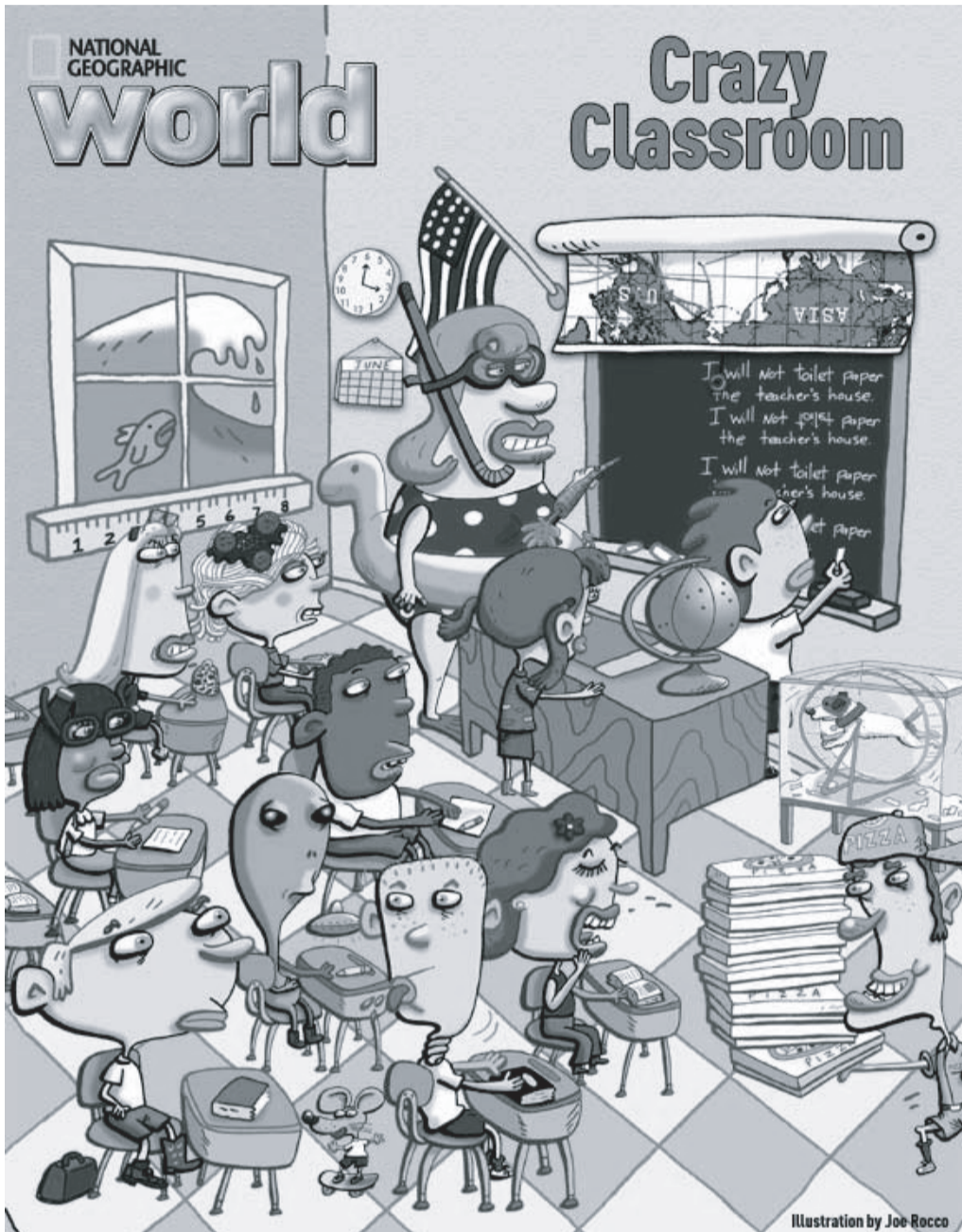
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## Children's Corner



Children aged 9-15 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 2007 Awards will be given to 10 students with top total scores at the end of the year.



Kids can you find 20 wrong things in this classroom!!!!!!!

### SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the following -

1. strogn ilsands
2. replatn manrogves
3. wera buel
4. cotasal trese
5. climate change
6. pariamelnt ouseh
7. pafciic isladns
8. evnironment ady
9. stornq futeur
10. preotct Smoaa
11. heahlty surorunidng
12. natruat systmes
13. colra refes
14. carobn dioidxe
15. lgobal wamring
16. isanld hmeo

## BLUE! BLUE! BLUE! BLUE!

If YOU really care about the ENVIRONMENT and the MANGROVES! - show it by wearing blue on this day - WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY - 5th JUNE

### CONGRATULATIONS

To our last month's winners - please come down to our office at Matautu (MOT old building) to collect your prizes.

1. Palepua Solaese
2. Fritz Kruse
3. Losan Mah Dar

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

- Business System Ltd
- Samoa Biscuits.
- West End Company Ltd
- McDonalds Restaurant

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