

OUR ENVIRONMENT OUR HERITAGE

International Waters Programme (IWP)

- the finale

After six long years since January 2000, IWP is now completed, an initiative implemented in 14 Pacific Island States. The aim was to strengthen the management and conservation of marine, coastal and freshwater resources in the Region. For Samoa IWP was implemented in two sites, Apolima Island and Lepa. The goal was to ensure access to minimum standards of drinking water for rural communities. As presented in the Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E) Plan a Freshwater Management Plan for the two sites would be developed and implemented, along with two main outcomes.

- Improved national capacity to manage freshwater resources
- Improved understanding of the causes of declining freshwater quality.

The management of freshwater resources for Apolima Island and Lepa entailed community and national participation and involvement. Various consultative programs assisted in the production of the Problem Profile: Participatory Situation Analysis and Initial Stakeholders Identification, Root Cause Analysis and Identification of Solution (s) for the two sites.

Solutions applied were addressed based on a preventative approach. The approach depends on the cause of the problem, the condition of the land and size of the impact. The use of river banks for cultivation and livestock farming resulted in the establishment of a 30m boundary / buffer zone on both sides of the rivers path. Diminished level of river flow together with poor water quality led to the upgrading of existing water intakes at both sites. A water quality program was in place to monitor various contaminants and sources of contamination.

Replication and sustainability of results achieved is expected to be addressed in some of the work of the European Union (EU) funded water system (WaSSP) project. MNRE/WRD is currently replicating the participatory community entry processes with other catchment areas. In addition a sustainability plan will make recommendations on sustaining the results of the post IWP. Moreover it is expected that the upcoming SOPAC executed Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) project Samoa will participate on will also continue some of the work of the IWP. Now with the recent establishment of the Water Resources Division, with its prime mandate to manage freshwater resources, some of the approaches made by the IWP will be considered in the participatory community entry processes.

All in all the benefits of the IWP include the following:

1. Skills transfer and knowledge shared at the national and community levels, with training workshops held, guidance manuals disseminated, and the hiring of local and international technical experts.

2. Anecdotal evidence from the evaluation mission, and indications from PIC publications, suggest that many of the works of the Samoa IWP have improved the quality of life and environment in the communities where they were conducted.

However, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment / Water Resource Division acknowledges the limited results gained at the completion of International Water Project and will endeavor to address lessons learned in future water related projects.



Water in its natural form

Pure water is colorless, odorless (has no smell) and tasteless. Most sources of water have some amount of dissolved solids in them. These are usually metals such as iron, calcium and sodium. Small amounts of these substances do not effect the general quality of water although the watercolor may change. Most groundwater contains some dissolved solids however; the water is usually fit for drinking.

Combination of Two Gases

Water is formed from two very important gases found on Earth. These gases are oxygen and hydrogen. Both oxygen and hydrogen are flammable gases. That means they burn very easily. In nature, when oxygen and hydrogen gases get together, under the right conditions, they make water. Even though oxygen and hydrogen are flammable, water is used to put out fires!

Water in its states in Nature

Water can be found in all three different states in nature, as liquid, as solid and as a gas. The water that falls as rain and flows into the rivers or sits in the lakes is in its liquid form. The water that we cannot see - the water vapor around us - is a gas. In very cold countries and at the North and South Poles of the Earth, water has frozen to form huge icebergs and glaciers. This is solid form of water.

CLEVER WAYS TO STOP WASTES ENTERING OUR RIVERS AND WATER SUPPLIES:

Reduce - don't put plastic bottles or plastic shopping bags that you won't be able to reuse, compost all biodegradable wastes

Reuse - all your plastics containers, glass bottles, cardboards and papers

Recycle - where possible, try and return glass, paper, cans and tyres at our Landfills

NEVER - pour oil, paints and poisonous substances down the drain or even into the toilet.

For more information contact:

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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.

WISE WATER SCRAMBLE

Put the letters in the right order to complete a WISE WATER THOUGHT! An example has already been done for you.

Eg: All living things need water (t3a2w1er)

- When water evaporates, it travels into the air and becomes part of a _____ (dlo4cu)
- Less than 3% of all water on earth is _____ (se5frh) water.
- We _____ (i7kr6dn8) water in the liquid form.
- Check for leaks and save hundreds of _____ (tirs9el) of water a day.
- You'll save water by taking a quick _____ (howser)
- Wash bikes and cars with a _____ (kec10but) and a sponge instead of a running hose.
- Ask your _____ (mfaiyl) to look for ways to save water,

Numbers have been placed next to letters in the above activity. Place these in the correct places in the box below and find out what word is formed.

1	2	3	5	6	10	4	8	9	5	6		2	3	7	4	8
w											v					



CONGRATULATIONS

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

- Fritz Kruse**
- Theresa Ah Kuoi**
- Dannicah Chan**

WATER QUIZ

- Water is formed from**
 - soil
 - oxygen and hydrogen
 - food scraps
- Plants return water to the atmosphere through**
 - urination
 - transpiration
 - defecation
- Water is formed from very two important gases**
 - oxygen and CO₂
 - oxygen and hydrogen
 - hydrogen and CO₂
- Water can be found in all three different states in nature as**
 - liquid, solid and gas
 - solid, water, and liquid
 - gas, more gas and solid
- The water vapor around us is a gas**
 - true
 - false
 - not sure
- The IWP is now completed after six years**
 - false
 - true
 - don't know
- IWP in Samoa was implemented in to sites**
 - Moataa and Fagalii
 - Apolima and Manono
 - Apolima Island and Lepa

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Ministry wishes to acknowledge the following companies for providing our children's prizes

- Samoa Biscuits
- Business System Ltd
- West End Company Ltd
- McDonald's Family Restaurant

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Capacity Building & Human Resource Development Section

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Government of Samoa