

OUR ENVIRONMENT OUR HERITAGE

Development Impact - Environmental Noise



As Samoa's economy grows so too has the noise that comes from transport, construction, commercial and industrial sources. If this is left unchecked, this sort of noise can lead to mental stress and hearing loss and also can interfere with daily activities such as doing homework, watching television, talking on the telephone and sleeping. That is why the Planning and Urban Management Agency (the Agency) has made sure that major forms of environmental noise are under statutory control. The Planning and Urban Management Act (PUMA) 2004 provides the Agency with the right to control environmental noise to ensure a safe, healthy communities and sustainable development.

WHAT IS NOISE?

Excessive Noise is defined as any noise that is under human control and of such a nature as to unreasonably interfere with the peace, comfort and convenience of any person.

WHY EXCESSIVE NOISE SHOULD BE MINIMIZED?

Excessive noise is a nuisance and can certainly affect the amenity of the community specifically to residence with sick or elderly parents. Excessive noise is not only a nuisance but it has detrimental health effects particularly to human sense of hearing. Prolong exposure to loud noise damages a larger amount of cells, and ultimately collapses the Organ of Corti, which causes deafness.

HOW TO MITIGATE AND CONTROL NOISE

There are a variety of strategies for mitigating noise. Roadway or traffic noise can be mitigated by using noise barriers, limitation of vehicle speeds and heavy duty vehicles. Industrial noise can be control by using buffer zones from sensitive land uses such as residential. Site layout design can also mitigate noise impact but considering the surrounding area and possible noise impact to the proposed development.

THE NOISE POLICY

Under the PUMA 2004(Section.63) requires the Agency to control the emission of noise and to mitigate any negative effects of noise. The Agency has developed a 'Noise Policy' to provide guidance on how the Samoan planning system can be used to minimise the adverse impact of noise without placing unreasonable restrictions on development or adding unduly to the costs and administrative burdens of business.

The Noise Policy sets out standard noise limits for every land use and is applied generally to both urban areas and on large scale developments in the rural areas. (A copy of this policy can be obtained from the Office at 5th Floor DBS building, Savalalo)

The impact of noise is one of the considerations of the Agency when assessing a proposed development through the development consent process. The Agency will ensure that existing and proposed developments do not cause an unacceptable degree of disturbance or is 'excessive'. The Noise Policy sets out noise limits which the Agency has adopted to manage noise and conditioning development approvals. Noise intensity is measured in decibels (dBA) units by using a sound level meter.



WORLD PLANNING DAY

On the 8th November every year celebrates the World Planning Day. It is an annual event to recognise and promote the role of planning in creating liveable communities. The world planning day is celebrated in 30 countries.

For more information contact our PUMA division - DBS building - Level 5 - ph# 23800

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. "2008 Young Environmentalist Star Awards" will be given to 10 students with top total scores at the end of the year.

MATCHING DEFINITION

Match the following words with their appropriate meanings (below)

- Sound level meter _____
- Decibel _____
- Excessive noise _____
- Noise barrier _____

- (a) interfere with the peace, comfort and convenience of a person.
- (b) way of reducing noise.
- (c) unit measurement for
- (d) a device/equipment used to measure noise intensity.

FILL IN THE GAPS

noise minimize Amenity frequent
Agency effects health Excessive

Complaints over _____ are increasingly becoming _____. The PUMA 2004 requires the _____ to control the emission of noise and to mitigate any adverse _____ of noise. _____ noise is recognised as having detrimental _____ impact and also affects _____ values of communities. The Noise Policy provides guidance on how to _____ the adverse impact of noise.

KIDS STAY TUNED!!!!!!

FOR OUR LAST MONTH'S

THREE WINNERS!!!!!!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

- STRICKLAND BROS
- DIGICEL  The Bigger. Better Network.
- McDONALD'S
- BUSINESS SYSTEM

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NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT WEEK

5th - 8th NOV 2008

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US IN COMMEMORATING THIS YEAR'S ENVIRONMENT WEEK What is the purpose of the National Environment Week?

As part of the Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment's (MNRE) programme on public awareness, the National Environment Week has been an ongoing annual event since the 1990s. Thus every year the Ministry commemorates Environment Week with a series of activities organized to focus attention on the environment, improve community awareness on environmental issues and foster public participation in natural resource management and sustainable development.

The variety of events organized for the week include presentations, public consultations, work displays from the different Divisions and stakeholders, and a trial demonstration of the second tsunami early warning system on Wednesday 5th after its official opening.

The National Environment Forum on Friday 7th November at the PSC Conference Room presented topics by various presenters on a number of important issues that would be of great interest to the general public and stakeholders. Presenters were invited to share knowledge and develop a better understanding on some of the environmental concerns to Samoa. The Open Awareness Day on Thursday 6th November invited the public to attend and view displays put up by different divisions of the Ministry. It was also an important opportunity by the Ministry to showcase and inform the public of their services.

The official opening was held at the Development Bank Building Conference Room - Level 6 on Wednesday 5th November followed by a series of events as outlined below.

Wednesday 5th Nov - DBS building - Level 6 - @ 9:00am Official Opening

Welcome: Tu'u'u Dr. Ieti Taule'alo
(CEO - MNRE)

Opening Prayer: Rev. Ioane Petaia
(EFKS - Vaoala)

Keynote Address: Hon. Faumuina Tiatia Liuga
(Minister of Natural Resources & Environment)

- Presentation (mobile communication)
- DAC meeting
- 2nd Tsunami Drill



Thursday 6th Nov - DBS building - Level 6 / 5 / 3 - @ 9:00am Open Awareness Day

DBS Level 3

-Land Management/ Technical Services

DBS Level 5

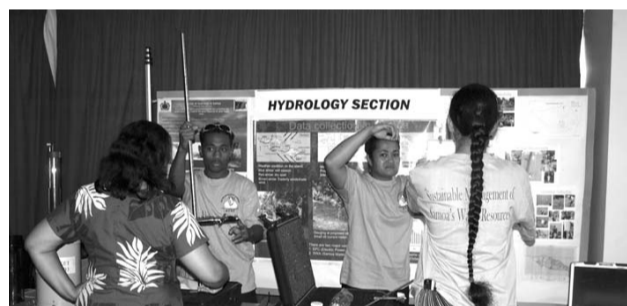
-Environment & Conservation
(Marine Conservation / Forestry)

DBS Level 6:1

-Water Resources

DBS Level 6:2

-Climate Change Mitigation/Adaptation Display



Friday 7th Nov - PSC Conference Room Govt building - Level 2 @ 9.00 am - 5.00 pm National Environment Forum

- 1. The Sustainable Management of Customary Lands in Samoa - Lessons from other Pacific Islands**
Tu'u'u Dr Ieti Taule'alo & Leota Laki Sio
- 2. Facing climate variability and change with Indigenous Environmental Knowledge**
Darren N.T King, Apanui Skipper & Pene Lefale
- 3. The Biblical Christian Worldview, Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Development in the Two Samoas and Other Pacific Islands**
Dr. Nacanieli Tuivavalagi & Filifilia Tuivavalagi
- 4. Fetaia'i i Gafa - We Shall Meet in Our Children**
Saumaeafe Dr. Vanya Taule'alo
- 5. Biomass Gasification - options for Samoa**
Dr. Hitofumi Abe
- 6. Integrating Climate Change Risks into the Agriculture and Health Sectors in Samoa**
Dr. Steve Brown, Dr. Stanley Dean, Peseta Frank Fong, Mulipola Ausetalia Titimaea & Anne Rasmussen
- 7. Energy Efficiency - the most cost effective ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and energy costs**
Mataia Uaine Silailai & Sala Josephine Stowers

8. Effective data management for water resources monitoring

Suluimalo Amataga, Michael Wrathall & Lameko Asora

9. Butterfly Conservation in Samoa - diversity, concerns and possible action

Eric Edwards, Faleafaga Toni Tipamaa & Dr. Hitofumi Abe

10. Improving Land Security in Samoa

Vitaoa Peleipu Fuatai, Elisapeta Leato Fenumiai & Filisita Ikenasio Heather

11. Marine Invaders in Samoa - a challenge to the country's Marine Biodiversity

Malama Siamomua-Momoemausu, Posa A. Skelton, Juney Ward, Isamaeli Asotasi, Pulea Ifopo & Lilian Penaia

12. Combating land degradation in Samoa through the Sustainable Land Management Project

Patea Malo Setefano

Side-Events - Launching

1. Coral Reef booklet
2. Environment Resource Education Guide for Years 7 - 10
3. Water Resources documentary
4. Sand mining documentary
5. Awareness Strategy & Action Plan for National Parks and Reserves

Saturday 8th Nov - Tree Planting - Vailele - Head of States Residence @ 7:00am - 8:30am

Welcome: Tu'u'u Dr. Ieti Taule'alo
(CEO - MNRE)

Closing Prayer: Rev. Iupeli. Ieremia
(EFKS - Fagalii)

Keynote Address: Hon. Faumuina Tiatia Liuga
(Minister of Natural Resources & Environment)

- Presentation of National Environment Awards 2008
Individual Category - Faafetai Sagapolutele
Group Category - Pacific Recycling Company

- Tree Planting



Produced by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment