

OUR ENVIRONMENT OUR HERITAGE



Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA - 2)



Vaiusu Bay Mangrove Area has been selected as a pilot sight for the PoWPA Project. Located on the western side of the Apia town area, at 90 ha it is the largest mangrove area in Samoa and considered to be the largest in Eastern Polynesia.



AERIAL PHOTO OF VAIUSU BAY MANGROVE AREA

MANGROVES

Mangroves are unique ecosystems of high scientific and environmental values. They form a very productive ecosystem and are a source of renewable resources in terms of the wide range of vital roles they provide on a continuous basis.

In Samoa, most of the mangroves grow in areas protected by a coral reef. The mangroves and the coral reefs have very special relationship: the coral breaks and reduces the force of the waves providing the mangroves with calm waters, while the mangrove roots act like a sieve filtering soil and dirt that can harm the coral reefs.

Mangroves form a very productive ecosystem with other types of plants and trees. Other plants are usually found closer inland while mangroves trees are normally nearer to the sea.

MANGROVE SPECIES

More than 80 species of Mangroves worldwide. Only 3 found in Samoa

1. Red Mangroves (*Rhizophora samoensis*)
2. Oriental Mangroves (*Bruguiera gymnorrhiza*)
3. *Xylocarpus moluccensis* - found only in Salailua Savaii.

VAIUSU BAY

- Mangrove Scrub surrounding the Vaiusu Bay is the largest mangrove area in Samoa.
- Starting from the Mulinuu Peninsula, it extends through Fugalei and ends up in Vaiusu and the other side of Vaitele.
- Largest mangrove area in Eastern Polynesian 116.8 Acres
- However, it is the most disrupted mangrove area in Samoa

THREATS

Yet these unique ecosystems are among the most disregarded and fast depleting habitats. Pressures from growing populations and urbanization have led to changes in land use and over utilization of mangrove ecosystems and resources, contributing to the rapid loss and destruction of these special habitats around Apia and around the country. Vaiusu Bay has recently been damaged by dumpsites, land reclamation, pollution from storm drains and rivers, as well as global climate change.

Rubbish disposal:

- Rubbish disposal into and around

mangrove areas especially by industries and companies.

- Pollution of nearby areas

Reclamation:

- Large areas of mangrove swamps and forests have been reclaimed/filled in with soil, to make land to support increasing populations and development

- Over clearing and cutting

- Poisonous wastes disposed into mangrove areas

PoWPA

Over the next two years the PoWPA Project will be working towards resorting balance back into the Vaiusu Bay Mangrove Area by: mangrove reforestation, restoration of Vaitoloa dumpsite, marine resources rehabilitation, improving waste management in Vaiusu Bay, reduces flooding and developing ecotourism.

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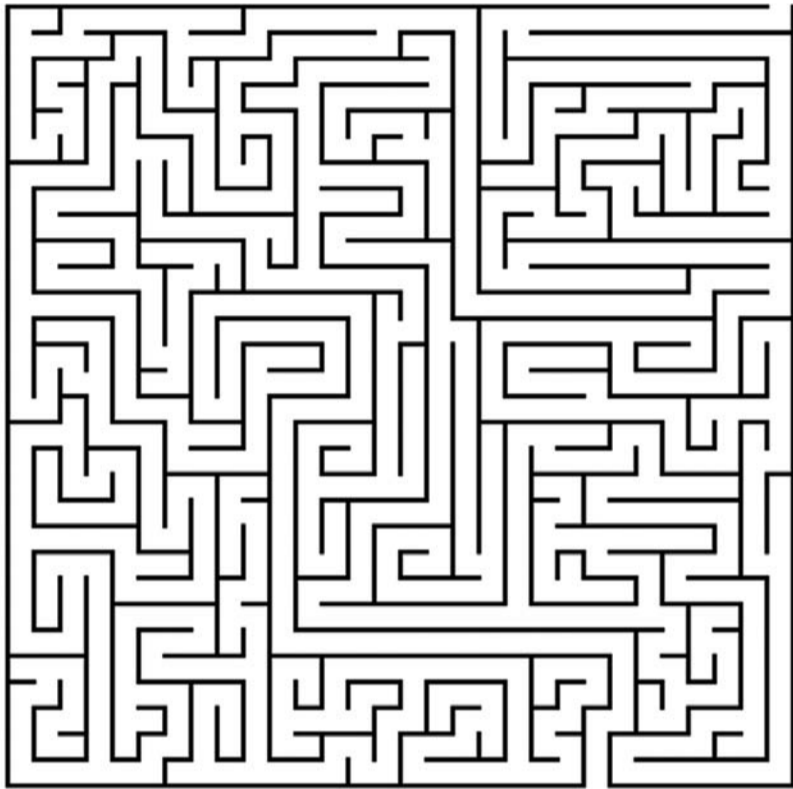
CHILDREN'S CORNER



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

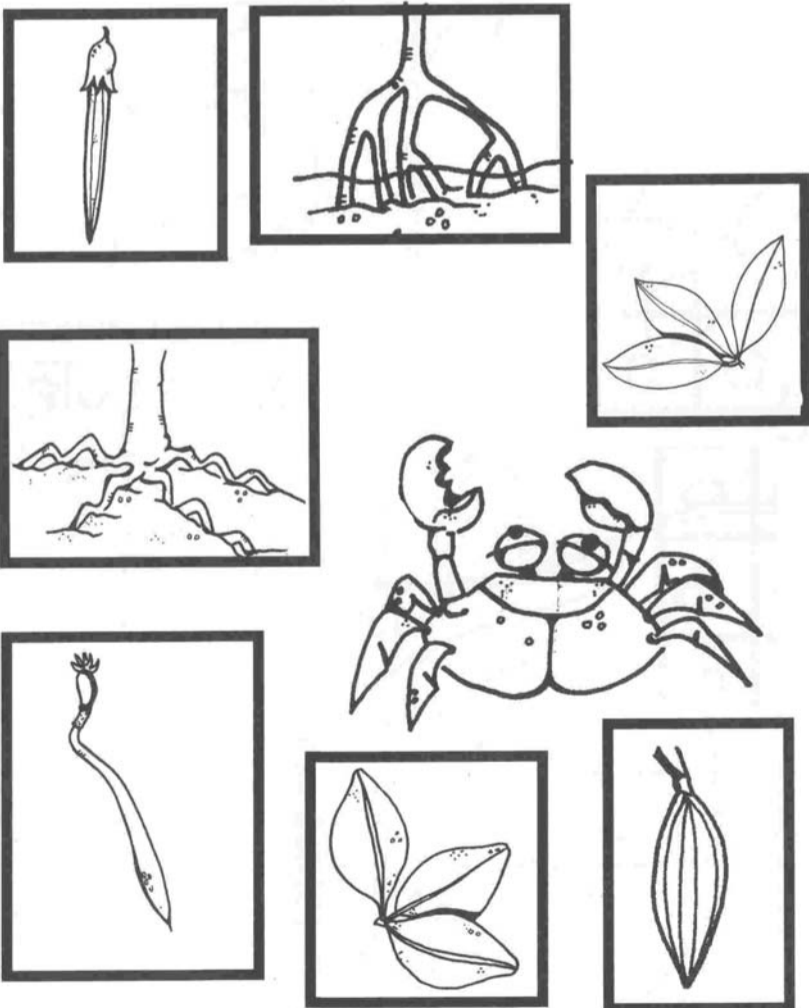
FIND YOUR WAY THROUGH THIS MAZE

Start



Goal !!

COLOR IN



THE MANGROVE CHALLENGE....

- Make a list of what you already know about mangroves
- List the location of at least 3 mangrove areas. How are they similar to and differ from each other?
- Name at least 5 animals that are commonly found in mangrove mud. Can they be found outside mangrove areas?
- What special adaptations do animals and plants need to live in mangroves? Why do they need these adaptations? Do plants and animals living in other areas need the same adaptations?
- List animals that can be found in a mangrove area and on a coral reef.

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 RESTAURANT
- BUSINESS SYSTEM

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