

Submission to the Cabinet Development Committee

1. **Project Name:** GDP 435947: Improved Management of Samoa's First Ramsar Site Lake Lanoto'o"
2. **Purpose of Submission:**
 - 2.1. The purpose of this submission is to inform and update the Cabinet Development Committee (CDC) on the implementation of the abovementioned project.
 - 2.2. The project was proposed by MNREM under the Ramsar Convention's Small Grant Scheme immediately when Samoa ratified the Ramsar Convention in 2004, to formulate a management plan for Lake Lanoto'o that was selected then as Samoa's first Ramsar site.
 - 2.3. The Ramsar Convention is the first international environmental convention ever signed by nations in the city of Ramsar in Iran in 1971. Its purpose is to conserve and develop the sustainable development of the world's wetlands – lakes, marshes, rivers, mangroves, swamps, lagoons & coral reefs.
 - 2.4. It is co-funded by the Ramsar Small Grants Scheme the World Wildlife Fund for Nature Conservation WWF a US based intergovernmental organisation and the Government of Samoa.
3. **Executing Agency:** Ministry of Finance
4. **Implementing Agency:** Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Meteorology
5. **Project Objective(s):**
 - 5.1. Complete a detailed site an ecological survey, species and resources use inventory of the Ramsar site to inform planning, identify areas of degradation that require attention, and confirm the distribution and status of biodiversity in the area;
 - 5.2. Promote wise uses of the resources within the Ramsar site, as well as target necessary rehabilitation work;
 - 5.3. Develop a wise use management framework through consultations with the customary owners of the land and other government agencies as necessary;
 - 5.4. Raise awareness among stakeholders of the importance of protecting Lake Lanoto'o';
 - 5.5. Develop, promote and implemented alternative income generating activities for the local people in order that unsustainable landuse practices are discontinued; and
 - 5.6. Establish appropriate monitoring to ensure the ecological character of the site is retained and any threats to this can be detected as early as possible.
6. **Project Funding (Aid & Local Budget):**
 - 6.1. Original Cost 62,000 CHF (Swiss Francs)
 - 6.1.1. External Funding – Ramsar SGP 40,000 CHF (Swiss Francs); WWF 9,000 CHF; Main Stream Environmental Consulting 3,000 CHF
 - 6.1.2. Local Funding – MNREM & MOF 10,000 CHF: For salaries of staff that manage the funds, organize and implement the project activities and all transportation, communication, and office operational costs.
7. **Duration**
 - 7.1. As the project was scheduled to take place from July 2005 to June 2006, however due to approval and arrangements for the transfer to funds from Ramsar Secretariat and WWF which also took about two months to complete, actual implementation only started at the beginning of September 2005.
 - 7.2. The project therefore is as requested for an extension to 31 December 2006.
8. **Current Implementation:**
 - 8.1. The following project milestones/outcomes are achieved:
 - 8.1.1. Reports of existing information on Lake Lanoto'o
 - 8.1.2. Compilation of GIS maps on the site's ecology, land tenure, land use and land capabilities

- 8.1.3. Identification of Landowners and land tenure statues
- 8.1.4. Initial implementation of flora and fauna survey plans
- 8.1.5. Bird surveys under the Manumea & Ma'oma'o Project.

9. Outstanding Issues:

- 9.1. The following milestones/outcomes are yet to be completed:
 - 9.1.1. Strategy for stakeholder management plan formulation & stakeholder consultations
 - 9.1.2. National stakeholder consultations
 - 9.1.3. Draft Lake Lanoto'o Management Plan
 - 9.1.4. Freshwater ecology baseline survey

10. Project Implication for Samoa

- 10.1. The project contributes to the formulation of an effective long-term management plan for Samoa's second National Park 'The Lake Lanoto'o National Park' which is also Samoa's first Ramsar site.

11. Signed by:



Tu'u'u Ieti Taule'alo

Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Meteorology

12. Date: **11 August 2006**