



Malo o Samoa

Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Meteorology

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CDC Project Progress Report

1. Project Title

Heritage Project

2. Purpose of Submission

To inform the Cabinet Development Committee of the progress to date of the National Heritage Project.

3. Executing Agency

Ministry of Finance (MoF)

4. Implementing Agency

Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Meteorology (MNREM)

5. Background

Samoa became a state party to the WHC when it ratified the convention in 2001. In light of the increasing threat to cultural and natural heritage, their unique and irreplaceable values, the convention was seen as an important tool for the protection of cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value and most importantly in facilitating international cooperation and collective assistance to assist at the national level.

MNREM in partnership with other government ministries namely the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, NGOs, academic institutions and UNESCO Apia Office have been working towards coordinating activities under the WHC for the identification, protection and conservation of Samoa's natural and cultural heritage sites.

6. Funding Sources and Conditions

Total Cost to date is US\$35,000

Funding Agency – UNESCO

Two funding proposals were submitted and approved by UNESCO for components (1) Public Awareness and Educational Programmes for Schools and (2) Preparation of the Tentative List.

- (1) US\$5000 was received for the implementation of the Awareness and Educational Programmes. This component of the project has completed.

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(2) US\$30,000 was received for the preparation of the Tentative List. Activities are based on a signed contract between UNESCO and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Meteorology. Financial support of US\$30,000 is payable in 3 installments upon certification by UNESCO of satisfactory fulfillment by the Ministry of conditions corresponding to each payment:

As per Activity-Financing Contract No.4500025727 a progress report including an interim financial statement with proforma receipts has been submitted for the second installment of US\$8,000. This will fund remaining activities such as consultations and assessments in finalizing and completing the Tentative List. The funds will be transmitted directly to the Heritage GDP account.

7. Duration

The project has been extended to December of this year. Initially the project was scheduled to be completed with the final report and Tentative List submitted by July of this year. Delay was primarily due to the late transmission of funds from donor. Because of this delay the NHCC is putting in all efforts in implementing the remaining activities for finalizing and completing Samoa's Tentative List within the proposed time frame.

8. Implementation Progress

1) Heritage in Young Hands Secondary Schools Poster Competition and Media Awareness Activities

MNREM in partnership with other Ministries, NGOs and UNESCO Apia Office have continued efforts towards establishing awareness campaigns with schools, village communities and the general public on the importance of natural and cultural heritage.

Two open day workshops were organized for secondary schools on the main island of Upolu and Savaii. Prizes for the Poster Competition were presented during the Heritage Awareness Day which was commemorated together with the National Biodiversity Day on May 20, 2005.

2) Preparation of the Tentative List

As a requirement of the Convention, Samoa is preparing a Tentative List of sites considered suitable for inscription on the World Heritage List.

Activities Implemented:

The inventory phase – ongoing

The NHCC conducted an inventory of sites of natural and cultural heritage in Samoa. Priority was given to natural and cultural sites of world heritage potential. The inventory phase is an ongoing activity to identify, collect and compile information on all national sites/monuments/buildings as well as associated stories/legends. Preliminary field visits were conducted by the NHCC including those sites considered by the committee as potential world heritage sites. A national heritage database was also developed to record the sites and all information related to each site. All the information collected during the inventory phase is fed into the national heritage database.

Research – ongoing

The NHCC has appointed a sub-committee to work exclusively on reviewing existing studies, documents etc to help finalize Samoa's Tentative List. The sub-committee comprises of members from MNREM, a member each from the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture; Samoa Tourism Authority; Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development and a US Peace Corp Volunteer.

Technical Training – completed

A technical training was required for all members of the committee in the identification, preparation, conservation and management of potential world heritage sites in Samoa. This training was important for members of the NHCC in preparation of Samoa's Tentative List.

Dr. Anita Smith of the State Government Heritage Agency (Melbourne, Australia) was recruited to conduct a 2 - week Heritage Capacity Building Workshop from 5 – 13 April 2006. The outcome of this workshop was a preliminary draft Tentative List of Samoan sites for nomination to the UNESCO World Heritage List. Field visits to the sites considered to be of world heritage potential were included in the Workshop programme to provide participants with hands on experience in assessing and recording of these sites.

Samoa also hosted the Sub-regional Capacity Building Workshop on World Heritage Nominations at the UNESCO Office from 24 – 28 April 2006. This workshop further enhanced the capacity of the NHCC members by building on what was covered in the previous Samoa workshop. A field visit was also conducted to Uafato Conservation Area. An important part of the workshop was completing practical exercises based on the field visit to Uafato. This exercise helped to further consolidate Samoa's preliminary draft Tentative List.

Finalizing the Tentative List – current

A draft Tentative List for Uafato/Tiavea and Manono, Apolima and Nuulopa Islands was compiled during the two workshops. The NHCC is now working on finalizing and completing the Tentative List by conducting further research and assessment.

Samoa has selected two sites to be included in its Tentative List. These are:

- Uafato/Tiavea Area
- Manono, Apolima and Nuulopa Islands

The Uafato/Tiavea area will be nominated as a 'Mixed Site' and Manono, Apolima and Nuulopa Islands to be nominated as a cultural landscape.

The two sites were selected based on information gathered from preliminary consultations whilst conducting the national heritage inventory of all the sites in Samoa. These sites were critically analysed to see if they meet international standards and criteria for outstanding universal value. The committee is undertaking more rounds of consultations on the two sites to finalize their nominations.

9. Remaining Activities

Samoa still needs to conduct more assessment and research as well as consultations to finalize and complete the Tentative List. Consultations with villages are now underway starting with Manono, Apolima and Nuulopa Islands. From these consultations the NHCC will:

- Affirm agreement of the communities to the implications that nomination to the World Heritage list may have in regard to their use of resources and non-traditional development, tourism and infrastructure;
- Confirm how resources in the sea and on land are allocated;
- Identify the relationships between the people and the environment and how they have developed over time;
- Document traditional ways in which people have used the land and the sea;
- Gather anthropological data on current and historic settlement patterns as an expression of the fa'a Samoa;
- Confirm traditional stories about the landscape;

- Document relationship of crafts to the forest and conservation values;
- Finalize boundaries and establish buffer zones and
- Undertake comparative Analysis

In the case of Uafato/Tiavea area, remaining work will mostly centre on:

- Affirming agreement of the communities following consultation as to the implications that nomination to the WH list may have in regard to their use of resources and non-traditional development, tourism and infrastructure;
- Description of the number of people/families and their relationships;
- Drawing up a list and description (with photographs and map) of the structures in each village and their use;
- Recording of current landscape including settlement patterns and landuse;
- Anthropological data on current and historic Samoan settlement patterns as an expression of fa'a Samoa;
- Confirming traditional stories about the landscape;
- Documenting relationship of crafts to the forest and conservation values;
- Finalising boundaries of sites and
- Undertaking a comparative analysis

Villagers from Manono and Apolima Islands have agreed for the Islands to be listed on Samoa's Tentative List and have also pledged their support to the NHCC in making themselves available for consultations and interviews necessary for collating and confirming of information. Uafato and Tiavea have also shown their interest in being listed on Samoa's Tentative List but have yet to confirm their participation in the project.

10. Project Implications for Samoa

It is expected that the implementation of the Heritage Project will benefit Samoa by:

- Enhancing the enabling environment for national development;
- Increasing awareness among Samoans about their natural and cultural heritage;
- Promoting greater understanding and appreciation of Samoan cultural identity;
- Improving public access to heritage sites;
- Encouraging the protection and conservation of heritage sites and
- Supporting income-generating activities based on heritage resources including world heritage listing



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11. Date: 11 August 2006