

PROGRESS REPORT – WATER SECTOR SUPPORT PROGRAM

COMPONENT 6: - SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

1 Purpose of Submission

This report provides a brief progress of the Component 6 of the Water Sector Support Programme (WaSSP) as funded by the European Union for a five year period from 2006 – 2010. This component addresses the sustainable management of water resources across Samoa.

1.1 Progress

There are five (5) main activities of the WaSSP - Component 6. All activities were proposed under Programme Estimate #1 (PE#1) and have been approved and sustained under Programme Estimate #2 (PE#2). They are:

1.1.1 Strengthening a focal point for Water Resources Division within MNREM:

The Water Resources Division (WRD) has been established as planned at Matautu-tai. The Division has three sections – Watershed, Hydrology and Regulatory. The latter is a new section whilst the Watershed was devolved from the Forestry Division and the Hydrology transferred from the Meteorology Division. A new ACEO has been appointed in May 2006 to head the WRD. The recruitment of 3 new staff (2 Principal Officers and 1 Senior Officer) will soon be realized upon the official signatory of their contracts by September 2006. Strengthening of WRD staff through local/regional training has been in good progress with some members of the division attending workshops on water related issues. However, there remains to be further trainings to complete as this element of capacity building is a continuous process. One key training aspect is the strengthening of water management and a local training will be carried out in September by Water Resource Specialist for two months.

1.1.2 Water Resources Management Strategy

The WRD has drafted an outline of the strategy which will be reviewed with the Component 6 - Working Group (WG-6) and the Specialist. Community and public consultations will soon follow before a final draft is approved.

1.1.3 Promote environmentally sensitive development of water resources.

It also equally important the Division has all the relevant data to guide future projects and activities. The collection of the baseline data will be a collective effort of all relevant stakeholders in particular the assistance from SWA, EPC and the Hydrology Section.

1.1.4 Improved conservation & protection of catchment areas & water resources

This activity is addressed under the Watershed Section and the International Waters Project. A review of the lessons learned from previous water projects is in

progress. This will enable replications of revised and new initiatives to function appropriately and effectively. Development of new catchment management initiatives is in progress and will be fulfilled before the end of the current financial year. All other activities will be implemented once the baseline data is complete.

1.1.5 Improve the assessment and monitoring of water resources.

The assessment of identified supply areas and sources also requires a collective input of all key relevant stakeholders mentioned earlier. This activity is now prepared to operate as planned in September with the assistance from the Specialist. Hydrological recording sites will be identified and construction works for installation of recording equipment will follow suit. The monitoring of the water resource is a continuous process and will be an ongoing task for the WRD.

2 Executing Agency

The executing agency for the WaSSP is the Ministry of Finance (MoF) through the Water Sector Management Unit (WSMU).

3 Implementing Agency

Component 6 of the WaSSP is lead & implemented by the newly established Water Resources Division within MNRE. This project driven division will take the lead on water policy development and implementation as well as ensuring Samoa's fragile water resources are managed in a sustainable manner.

4 Background of Project

The establishment of the sector wide approach is a long awaited vision of the government initiated by Samoa Water Authority. This approach was approved by the government in 2002, hence a strong partnership was formed with the EU and financial support of 60m tala was entrusted to the government for a 5 year period. The Samoa – EU partnership was officially signed in September of 2005.

5 Funding Sources and Conditions

Almost SAT\$500,000 from PE#2 has been approved to support component 6 activities in the current financial year (2006-2007). The WRD 3 new senior staffs currently financed under WaSSP is scheduled to be absorbed by MNREM by 2009.

6 Project Duration

The project period is from 2005-2010.

7 Current Implementation Status

The overall objective of the WRD is sustainable management of water resources. This objective has been partially achieved through the establishment of the

Division. The recruitment of additional staff will therefore ensure there is sufficient human resources to implement the main activities of the Division which contribute to the achievement of its objective. The division will work in close cooperation with key relevant ministries, (MoH, MoF), utility providers such as SWA, EPC and other non – governmental organizations and local community groups. This collaborative approach will ensure a pragmatic water resource management strategy is established to address water quality and quantity issues.

8 Outstanding issues & activities

There are no outstanding issues so far as the project is in its early stages. However it is imperative for the government to recognize the value placed upon the establishment of the Water Resources Division. Hence financial support must be realized two years before the end of project period. This will ensure that the future of this Division is not taken lightly by the government.

9 Project implementation for Samoa

Samoa to date, has found a platform through the sector wide approach which identifies appropriate actions to address water quality and quantity issues. Thus, there are no major achievements so far, in terms of concrete actions to reflect the commitment of the WRD on water resource management. However, efforts are underway to communicate and promote water issues and problems nation-wide especially across sectors through existing projects and programs.

10. Signature of Executing Agency



Tu'u'u Dr. Ieti Taule'alo
CEO, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Meteorology

11. Date: 11 August 2006