

PROGRESS REPORT – INTERNATIONAL WATER PROJECT

1. Purpose of Submission

This report highlights the current status of International Water Project in Samoa. It is a regional project participated by fourteen countries. Samoa selected freshwater management as a focal area and two catchments as a pilot sites; *Apolima Tai and Lepa*.

1.1 Project Objective:

The primary objective of the project is to find ways of improving the management of freshwater resources for Lepa and Apolima Island in order for the communities to have access to the minimum standard of drinking water.

1.2 Project Progress:

1.2.1 Pilot Sites:

- Communities declared their own land for water reserve purposes. (approximately 30meters from river bank)
- New rules related to water management inserted in village council list of rules.
- Water management issues released to the communities organizations through various media.
- Upgrading of intake and construction of storage tank at Lepa.
- Demonstration of sustainable developments on communities land.

1.2.2 National:

- Water legislation
- Close coordination with relevant stakeholders (government and NGOs)
- On going monitoring of quality and quantity of water resources
- Communicate with communities, national and regional levels using print, electronic and broadcasting medias.
- National Events (National Water Day)

1.2.3 Sustainability

- Integration and mainstreaming of the project into Water Resource Division and other related project of the Ministry

2. Executing Agency

International - United Nation Development Programs (UNDP)

National - Ministry of Finance (MOF)

3. Implementing Agency

International - Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

National:

1999 - 2005 - Division of Environment (MNREM)
2005 - 2006 - Forestry Division (MNREM)
2006 - today - Water Resource Division (MNREM)

4. **Background**

The Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) International Waters Programme (IWP) commenced in 1999. The main objective of the IWP was to address critical environmental issues highlighted by the participating countries in the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the International Waters of the Pacific, which was endorsed in the 1995 Annual SPREP meeting. The PSIDS IWP was designed to assist governments and communities in the region deal with four main concerns associated with international waters, namely: waste management, marine and freshwater quality, sustainable coastal fisheries and marine protected areas. Samoa was one of 14 countries that participated in the programme. Samoa focal area is freshwater management and selected two catchment areas as project sites; Lepa and Apolima Tai.

5. **Funding Sources and Conditions**

5.1 External Assistance

The project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). It was executed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Programme (SPREP). The total fund of USD\$361,123 was allocated for IWP Samoa. Sixty three percent (63%) of the total fund already spend as of June 2006.

5.2 Local/Government Contribution

The local contribution is the provision of office space for the project.

5.3 Duration of the Project

Initially a 5 year initiative (1999 – 2004) but was extended to 7 years in 2003 (1999 – 2006) due to delays in the design and implementation of the Strategic Action Programme(SAP).

6. **Current Implementation Status.**

As the project reached at its final year, it is in the process of evaluating what has happened and documenting the lessons learned. At the pilot site the Local Project Committee (LPC) with the support of the Village Councils is expected to oversee the management of water resources programs at the ground level. At the national level, discussions on integration of the project with Water Resources Division (WRD) and other related projects will continue. The integration process continue the involvement of IWP on designing and implementation of WRD work plan on management of 16 water supply in the country.

7. Additional Resources Requested

7.1 External Fund

Funding will be required to complete the project implementation until December 2006. These project implementation including the ground level practical solution, mainstreaming of IWP into government priorities and replications of IWP to other catchment areas. A total fund of USD\$100,000 was requested for the above purposes.

7.2 Local Fund

Funding will also required from the government beyond 2006 on the completion of the project. These fund will be used on provision of technical support and monitoring purposes to the communities. A total of forty thousand (TS\$30,000) is requested.

8. Possible Implications on Project

8.1 Project reaching its objectives

The project so far partly reached its objectives as the communities are already aware on the impacts of their own traditional practices which damaged their water resources. Improvements of infrastructures has been done and sustainable guidelines has been demonstrated to the communities to develop their own land. These concludes to low level of microbiology in their water sources which provides them portable water.

8.2 Project sustainability

Water resource management is one of the main priorities not only in the government but also in the region and world wide. The project objectives and activities will be easily integrate and mainstream to government priorities as Water Resource Division just established under the MNREM plus other related projects under the SOPAC and others.

9. Summary of Issues

- The communities secure their commitments on management of water resources on the ground level.
- Management of water resources is one of the priority of the Government where the project activities can easily integrate into for its sustainability and replication.
- Lesson learned from the project is an appropriate tool to be used for designing and implementation phases of future related projects.
- Improvement of local infrastructures should always be a part of freshwater management.

- Involvement of government and non government organizations on decision making of the project activities and their implementations leads to a success of any project.

10. Signature of Executing Agency

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tui'u', with a small flourish at the end.

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

11. Date: 11 August 2006