

PROGRESS REPORT No. 2 TO CABINET DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

UNCCD SAMOA'S CAPACITY BUILDING AND MAINSTREAMING OF SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT MEDIUM SIZED PROJECT GDP: 435431

1. PURPOSE OF SUBMISSION

This submission reports on the progress of implementation of the above mentioned project for the financial year period 2005/2006.

2. EXECUTING AGENCY

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

3. IMPLEMENTING AGENCY

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

4. BACKGROUND

Addressing land degradation is a priority issue for Samoa. The country's First National Report to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Global Environment Fund (GEF) Capacity Development Initiative Report both identified unsustainable agricultural practices and deforestation as the two main contributing factors to land degradation. Land degradation in Samoa has not been studied in detail to ascertain the extent of the problem. In recognition of national and global environmental benefits the overall expected goal of this project is the promotion of effective sustainable land management in Samoa so as to promote ecosystem health, integrity, stability, functions and services.

The National Action Plan (NAP) is under current formulation and it is the main tool to implement the Convention's obligations. Its purpose is to identify factors contributing to land degradation in the context of desertification and the practical measures necessary to combat land degradation and to mitigate the effects of drought. The NAP is part of the national economic, social development and environment protection plans which shall be developed in a coherent manner with other environmental strategic and planning frameworks. The Convention mandates the implementation of the Convention with the full participation of local communities as well as key national stakeholders.

The Medium Sized Project on Capacity Building and Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management has been approved as the financial mechanism to implement part of the NAP or some of the actions proposed in the NAP in recognition of the need to build effect capacities of key national and local stakeholders to combat land degradation. In recognition of national and global environmental benefits the overall expected goal of this project is to promote effective sustainable land management in Samoa so as to promote ecosystem health, integrity, stability, functions and services. This project has been submitted under the LDC-Small Islands Developing States (LDC-SIDS) Portfolio Project and it aims at achieving the objectives of Operational Programme 15 and Strategic Priority 1 relating to Targeted Capacity Building for sustainable land management. Its objective is to strengthen local and national capacity for Sustainable Land Management (SLM), including mainstreaming SLM issues into national development strategies and policies for high-level recognition as well as improving the quality of project design and implementation, and ensuring that all relevant stakeholders' views are reflected and integrated into the process.

5. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project will contribute towards the achievement of the following long-term aspirations;

- **Long-term Goal:** *That the project is contributing to the mitigation of land degradation, through capacity development and mainstreaming of sustainable land management in Samoa.*

- **Overall Objective:** *To strengthen the enabling environment for sustainable land management while ensuring broad-based political and participatory support for the process, in four key areas.*

The project will have four outcomes and thirteen outputs as detailed below;

- **Outcome 1: Completion of the National Action Plan (NAP)**
 - Output 1.1 Preparation of NAP
 - Output 1.2 Adoption of NAP

- **Outcome 2: Capacities Developed for Sustainable Land Management (SLM)**
 - Output 2.1 Enhanced capacities for the effective administration and sustainable management of land and land-based resources.
 - Output 2.2 Strengthened capacity for sustainable agriculture particularly in drought prone areas
 - Output 2.3 Enhanced capacities for the rehabilitation of degraded coastal areas.
 - Output 2.4 Enhanced governance to promote proper land use of degraded watershed areas.
 - Output 2.5 Assessments of appropriate uses of land
 - Output 2.6 Enhanced SLM through improvements of individual, systemic and institutional capacities including relevant national plans and policies.
 - Output 2.7 Development of monitoring and evaluation systems on the effectiveness of the implementation phases of the SLM Project

- **Outcome 3: Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management**
 - Output 3.1 Mainstreaming of SLM
 - Output 3.2 Sharing of knowledge on SLM

- **Outcome 4: Medium Term Investment Plan**
 - Output 4.1 Development of a Medium Term Investment Plan with associated resource mobilization plan that incorporates SLM.

6. SUMMARY OF OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS

The Table below provides the summary of the overall preparatory and implementation phases of activities for the development of the MSP-SLM Project Document Proposal. This proposal is an enabling tool for Samoa to access \$US500,000.00 for the implementation of projected national actions proposed in Samoa's NAP.

Timeframe	Activity	Details
April 2005	Access funds for Development of Project Document (PDF-A)	UNCCD Unit submitted application to GEF to access \$US25,000.00 through the submission of a proposal to extract funds for the preparation of the Project Document proposal
June 2005	Receipt of PDF-A Funds (\$US25,000.00)	Received approval and funds for the development of the Project Document
July 2005	Recruitment of Consultant	Development of the Project Document Proposal commenced with the recruitment of a consultant to develop a Draft of the Proposal.
November 2005	Final Submission by Consultant	The Consultant submitted a Final Draft to UNCCD Unit for review and finalization of the Proposal
	UNCCD Unit continued development of Proposal	UNCCD Unit was required to complete and review the draft in close collaboration with UNDP representatives.
December 2005	Completion of Project Document Proposal	UNCCD Unit completed the development of the Project Document Proposal.
January 2006	Official submission to UNDP-GEF	The development of the SLM project proposal was completed in December 2005. It was officially submitted to UNDP-GEF for approval in early January 2006.
July 2006	Received notification of the approval of Samoa's SLM-MSP Proposal	During the Pacific Regional Workshop for Sustainable Land Management held in Apia, GEF Officials announced the approval of Samoa's Proposal as the first in the Pacific and third globally.

Current Status:

Still pending is the receipt of official approval of the SLM Proposal as well as receipt of funds from the UNDP-GEF in order to set in motion the implementation of the SLM project.

7. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Date	Project Activity	Details	Expenditure Amount	Balance
14 June 2005	Partial Fund Transfer from UNDP-GEF (50% of Total Project Development Fund)	To fund the development of the Project Document Proposal	-	\$US12,500.00 \$ST32,666.17
29 July 2005	First Payment of Consultancy Fees (40% - \$US2,400)	Preparation of Final Draft for Project Document Proposal	6,735.89	
18 Aug 2005	Traveling Costs for Regional Workshop on Sustainable Land Management	Funding for Samoa's delegation (2) to travel to Fiji for Regional Workshop on the development of Project Document Proposals	7,580.44	
2 Nov 2005	Second Payment of Consultancy Fees (40% - \$US2,400)	Submission of First Draft	6,772.08	
7 Dec 2005	Final Payment of Consultancy Fees (20% - \$1,200)	Final Submission of Draft Proposal by Consultant to UNCCD Unit	3,335.19	
17 Nov 2005	Awareness Program	Conducted during the National Environment Week to boost awareness of SLM issues.	2,500.00	
Sept 2005 – May 2006	Stakeholders Meetings	Stationery for preparation of necessary materials. (printing/photocopying costs, A4 paper, ink, etc.)	2,029.95	
		Catering Costs	978.24	
Total Expenditure				\$ST29,931.79
Balance				<u>\$2,734.38</u>
<i>Plus</i> Remaining 50% of Total Fund	This is to be reallocated for the implementation of the Project and added to the pending \$US475,000.00 to be received for project implementation.			\$US12,500.00

8. OUTSTANDING ISSUES:

There are no major outstanding issues except for the completion of the Samoa's National Action Programme and proceeding towards implementing the MSP-SLM project now currently stands approved by the GEF.

9. STATEMENT OF SUPPORT:

The MSP-SLM project is the financial mechanism for implementing some of the actions in the NAP. Approval of the MSP at this stage is an indication enough of how well Samoa has

progressed towards meeting the global and local benefits of implementing environmental programmes.

10. **SUMMARY OF ISSUES**

At this stage in time, there are no major issues until after the project is well underway with its implementation within duration of 3 year period.

11. **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the CDC committee endorse the approval of '*Samoa's Capacity Building and Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management Project*' proposal if not already done so as well as this UNCCD *Progress Report* focusing primarily on reporting on the development of the MSP-SLM, *for the financial year 2005/2006*.

12. **SIGNATURE OF EXECUTING AGENCY**



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

13. **DATE**

11 August 2006