

CDC Paper No.

**Memorandum
on
Project Appraisal
on**

**Enhancing Management Capacity for National Parks
and National Reserves of Samoa.**

**submitted by
MNRE-JICA
for
Cabinet Development Committee**

1. Sector

MNRE - Division of Environment and Conservation (DEC)/Forestry Division (F/D)

Name of Project: Enhancing Management Capacity for National Parks and National Reserves of Samoa

2. Executing Agency

MNRE - Division of Environment and Conservation (DEC)/Forestry Division (F/D)

And Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

3. Implementing Agency

MNRE - Division of Environment and Conservation (DEC)/Forestry Division (F/D)

and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

4. Summary of Issues

Based on the State of the Environment Report 1993, the protection and conservation of the terrestrial and marine environment is a matter of top priority for Samoa. The project aims at increasing sustainable management of natural resources and environment through national parks and national reserves systems, and providing best practice in the sustainable development and management of the country's natural resources and terrestrial biodiversity in partnership with all relevant stakeholders.

5. Project Appraisal Summary

Project Objective:

Institutional and administrative abilities of the authorities concerned (Forestry Division and Division of Environment and Conservation - MNRE) are enhanced to appropriately manage National Parks and National Reserves in Samoa.

Project Duration:

March 2007 - March 2010

Background:

DEC is mandated under the Lands, Surveys and Environment Act 1989, for the sustainable management of national parks and reserves; Part 8, Division I, 95(b) to ensure and promote the conservation and protection of the natural resources and environment of Samoa.

F/D enforces the Forestry Act of 1967 and Forest regulations 1979 to ensure compliance of the resources users to management strategies. These strategies were also identified in the Draft Forest Policy 1994, including the enforcement of the code of logging practice for harvesting of the native and plantation forests.

Beneficiaries and parties involved

1. MNRE - Division of Environment and Conservation (DEC)/Forestry Division (F/D)
2. General public of Samoa

Problems to be addressed

The current rates of forest depletion are high (and similar) on both Savaii and Upolu, which is estimated 1,500 ha per year, and therefore the accelerated deforestation is a major environmental problem. The loss of biodiversity due to forest clearing, attributed to

commercial logging (20%), agriculture and other activities (80%) and the spread of introduced/invasive species raise concern.

The management of National Parks and Reserves is the sole responsibility of MNRE, however insufficient number of qualified staff that have been trained in the field of resource management and or protected area management is a major problem. Other problems identified are the lack of baseline scientific information and data available, which is due to limited resources and insufficient funds to implement such effort.

Areas such as O le Pupu Pue national park have very limited information of species composition and lacks proper management plans. A major problem faced by management of O le Pupu Pue national park is the fast spreading Merremia vine (*Merremia peltata*). It has been identified in the National invasive/Alien Strategy and Action Plan 2004 Draft, that this vine is smothering native trees in the national park.

Another problem identified within this sector included limited technical expertise in certain areas of biodiversity inventories, research ability and skills in plant propagation and insufficient supporting resources (such as computers, database software for species composition, equipments for reserve landscaping) related to the implementation of activities. Some of the activities set out in the Yearly work plan are not met, is owed to government budgetary constraints.

Project Objectives and Strategy

Overall objectives

The two (2) following long-term goals highlighted the objective of the project. These goals reflected the MNRE mission and vision statements for the protection and conservation of natural resources.

- (i) Increase sustainable management of natural resources and environment through national parks and national reserves systems.
- (ii) Provide best practice in the sustainable development and management of the country's natural resources and terrestrial biodiversity in partnership with all relevant stakeholders

Project purpose

- (i) The projects short-term objective contributes to the above-mentioned goals addressing management capacity to increase sustainability of natural resources through best practical implementation of management systems in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders.
- (ii) Institutional and administrative abilities of the authorities concerned (Forestry Division and Division of Environment and Conservation - MNRE) are enhanced to appropriately manage National Parks and National Reserves in Samoa.

Expected Results

1. Management Plans for O le Pupu-Pu'e National Park and Vailima National Reserve are formulated.
2. O le Pupu-Pu'e National Park and Vailima National Reserve are properly managed based on the Management Plans.
3. Public awareness-raising activities on the importance of the conservation of National

Parks and National Reserves are strengthened.

Planned Activities

- 1.1 Examine policies, laws and measures in relation to National Parks and National Preserves
- 1.2 Conduct various surveys such as baseline survey on ecosystems, survey on infrastructure and visitors and survey on social and economic situations of neighboring communities
- 1.3 Develop a database based on the results of the surveys
- 1.4 Analyze the database based on the results of the surveys
- 1.5 Identify stakeholders related to National Parks and National Reserves and hear their views on drafts of Management Plans
- 1.6 Revise/Formulate Management Plans for O le Pupu-Pu'e National Park and Vailima National Reserve
- 1.7 Prepare a manual on formulating Management Plan for National Parks and National Reserves

- 2.1 Formulate Implementation Plans based on the Management Plans
- 2.2 Based on Management Plans and implementation Plans, develop necessary small-scale infrastructure with consideration to environmental and social situations
- 2.3 Based on the Implementation Plans, manage O le Pupu-Pu'e National Park and Vailima National Reserve

- 3.1 Formulate a basic plan for raising public awareness on the importance of conservation of National Parks and National Reserves (i.e. targets, contents, implementation methods and schedule)
- 3.2 Create contents for raising public awareness on the importance of conservation of National Parks and National Reserves
- 3.3 Organize workshops and/or events for raising public awareness on the importance of the conservation of National Parks and National Reserves

Project Revenues/Costs

Funds are executed according to JICA policy.

• Local

The following items are identified as in-kind support from the recipient government for the project.

In-kind	SAT\$
(1) Allocation of counterparts -	162,000.00 - 20% \$32,400
(2) Vehicle and driver	100,000.00 - 10% \$10,000
(3) Office space and office equipment	200,000.00 - 5% \$10,000
(4) Telecommunications	500,000.00 - 5% \$25,000
(5) Expenses for counterparts field trip daily allowance and accommodation	30,000.00 - 20% \$6,000

Assumptions

- There is no particular change in government's policies on nature conservation
- There is no particular change in natural conditions of Samoa
- There is no significant organizational change in MNRE affecting implementation of the project.
- Commitment by Samoan government and cooperation by authorities concerned are maintained
- Counterparts are not transferred to other departments and/or agencies
- Samoan government budget for F/D and DEC of MNRE is maintained at least at the same level as present

6. Proposed Funding Source and Conditions

Funds are executed according to JICA policy: consult JICA Samoa office if details are needed

7. Consultations with other Departments/Agencies

SPREP and the Ministry of Finance are identified as the members of Joint Coordination Committee (JCC). The project also works in close collaboration with Capacity Building section of MNRE.

8. Recommendations

CDC to approve the first report from MNRE.

9. Signature of Executing Agency

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

10. Date: **04 May 2007**