

PROGRESS REPORT No. 1 TO CABINET DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

SAMOA'S CAPACITY BUILDING AND MAINSTREAMING OF SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT MEDIUM SIZED PROJECT (SLM-MSP) GDP: 435431

1. PURPOSE OF SUBMISSION

This is the first report on the First Phase of the MSP-SLM implementation following the Preparatory Phase of the Project (refer to previous CDC Report).

2. EXECUTING AGENCY

Ministry of Finance

3. IMPLEMENTING AGENCY

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

4. BACKGROUND

This Project is part of the LDC-SIDS Targeted Portfolio Project for Capacity Development and Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The total grant under this project is US\$500,000.00.

The Preparatory Phase of the Project (refer Previous CDC Report) involved the development of a Project Document Proposal for which US\$25,000.00 had been allocated. However, only 50% (US\$12,500.00) of this amount had been utilized for the development of the Proposal. The remaining 50% (USD12,5000.00) will be reallocated back to the rest of the project fund (USD47,500.00) to implement project activities. The estimated amount expected for receipt to implement the SLM project is USD487,500.00. The Project Document Proposal was completed and submitted to UNDP-GEF in January 2006. Samoa received official notification of approval in July 2006. In February 2007, the Project was officially endorsed by Government of Samoa and launched on same date before Government Officials and UNDP Representatives.

The project is currently undergoing its Inception Phase beginning with the recruitment process of a Principal SLM Officer as the Project Coordinator responsible primarily for coordinating its implementation. The interview process for securing a Project Coordinator is planned for the 11 May 2007 whilst efforts to secure funds from UNDP to start the project are currently undertaken. The Coordinator will commence immediately with the implementation of the following in this initial phase of the project;

- Development of an Annual Work Plan
- Inception Workshop

5. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project will contribute towards to the achievement of the following long-term goals and objectives;

- **Long-term Goal:** That the project will contribute to the fight against land degradation and mitigation of effects of drought, 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.

There are four major outcomes of the Project and 12 Outputs as presented 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 following table presents a recap on activities undertaken since the development of the Project Document Proposal and whilst awaiting the first transfer of implementation funds.

Timeframe	Activity	Details
July 2005	Commenced development of the Proposal	Development of the Project Document Proposal commenced with the recruitment of a consultant.
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.
February 2007	Official endorsement and launching of the Project Document	On 8 February 2007, Government Officials together with UNDP signed the Project Document to officially launch the project.
March 2007	Advertisement for a Principal Officer for Sustainable Land Management	The successful applicant would assume responsibilities for the overall management of the project.
April 2007	Development of an Annual Work Plan for the First Year of the Project	This is currently being initiated by the Ministry and UNDP representatives.

	Preparations for activities under the Inception Phase of the Project	Inception Phase is the first implementation stage for the project and will commence upon the receipt of funds and recruitment of the Principal Officer
--	---	---

Project Inception Phase:

The main activity under this phase is the implementation of an Inception Workshop (IW) which will be conducted with the full project team, relevant government counterparts, co-financing partners, UNDP representatives, and UNDP-GEF officials.

The fundamental objective of the IW is to assist the project team to understand and take ownership of the project's goals and objectives and to finalize the preparation of the project's first Annual Work Plan.

Current Status:

MNRE is in the process of securing a Project Coordinator thus formally designated as the Principal Sustainable Land Management Officer.

7. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Summary of the MSP-SLM funds & Expenditure

Sources of Fund	Amount	Detail		
GEF	USD 500,000.00	Total SLM Project funds. This requires co-financing ratio of 1:1.		
CO-FINANCIERS:				
UNDP	48,000.00	Cash Contribution		
GoS	300,000.00	Technical Support Assistance		
MAF	20,000.00	Technical Assistance		
MNRE	110,000.00	Inkind Contribution and Technical Assistance		
	<u>USD500,000.00</u>			
Date/Year	Item	Details	Amount of Expenditure (US Dollars)	Balance (US Dollars)
2005 - 2006	Proposed SLM Project	Proposed/Approved Amount	None (Amount Brought forward)	500,000.00
	Development of the MSP-SLM Project Proposal	To finance a Consultant and implementation of consultative activities with various key stakeholders	25,000.00	475,000.00 plus
		First transfer from UNDP of 50% of the 25,000.00 to MoF for development of Proposal	12,500.00	<u>\$487,500.00</u>
2007	Project Advance	Initial Project Management setup under current request to UNDP. Yet to be expedited from UNDP.	20,000.00 (expected transfer)	\$467,500.00 (anticipated remaining fund)

Since the last CDC report which provided a more detailed spending of the SLM proposed (currently approved) funds, the above table records a summary of the current financial spending of same SLM funds. The remaining balance of the SLM project funds for 3 years activity implementation is US\$487,500.00. A project advance of US\$20,000.00 is currently under request from UNDP to enable the SLM project management setup and to initiate inception activities of the project. The estimated remaining amount at UNDP after transfer of the anticipated requested amount would be somewhere US\$467,500.00.

8. OUTSTANDING ISSUES:

Outstanding issues are yet to be noted, perhaps until after the project is well under implementation

9. STATEMENT OF SUPPORT:

The MSP-SLM Project is a financial mechanism for implementing some of the action programmes in Samoa's National Action Programme to combat land degradation and drought mitigation in Samoa. The MSP-SLM focuses more specifically on building national capacity to implement SLM issues and concerns at the community level.

10. SUMMARY OF ISSUES:

None as noted in section 8

11. RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the CDC endorse this Progress Report.

12. Signature of Executing Agency



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

13. Date: **04 May 2007**