



Malo o Samoa

# Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment

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Chief Executive Officer

## CDC Project Progress Report

### 1. Project Title

Samoa Heritage Project

### 2. Purpose of Submission

To report on the progress of the National Heritage Project as part of its requirements under the World Heritage Convention.

### 3. Executing Agency

Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade

### 4. Implementing Agency

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE)

### 5. Background

Samoa became a state party to the WHC when it ratified the Convention in 2001. The Convention was seen as an important tool for the protection of cultural and natural heritage. MNREM in partnership with other government ministries namely the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, NGOs, academic institutions and UNESCO Apia Office have been working towards coordinating activities under the WHC for the identification, protection and conservation of Samoa's natural and cultural heritage sites.

### 6. Funding Sources and Conditions

USD30,000.00 was approved by UNESCO for the Government of Samoa to facilitate the preparation of Samoa's Tentative List. A special GDP account (1 0000 000 435523) was established under the Ministry of Finance. Since the ratification of the World Heritage Convention by the Government of Samoa in 2001, two funding proposals were approved by UNESCO for the following components:

#### (1) Public Awareness and Educational Programmes for Schools

USD\$5,000.00 was received for the implementation of the Awareness and Educational Programmes. This component of the project is on-going. Funds under this component was payable in 2 installments as per Activity-Financing Contract No. 4500017015.

Payment No.1, USD\$4,000.00

Payment No.2, USD\$1,000.00

Tamaligi	Savalalo	Vaiala	Matautu	Mulinuu	Vailima
(685)23092/23800/26957	(685)22481-22485	(685)30100/31197/31198	(685)23702/2541932744	(685)20855/20856	
(685)20599/25407/21054					
Fax: (685)23176	Fax: (685)23692	Fax: (685)25869	Fax: (685)25422	Fax: (685)23141	Fax: (685)
29707					

(2) Preparation of the Tentative List.

USD\$30,000.00 was approved for the preparation of the Tentative List. The progress report, financial statement and Samoa's Tentative List were submitted to UNESCO on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2006 as per amended Activity-Financing Contract No 4500025727.

USD\$30,000 is payable in 3 installments upon certification by UNESCO of satisfactory fulfillment by the Ministry of the following conditions corresponding to each payment:

Payment No.1, USD\$17,000:

The first installment of USD17,000.00 was fully expended to cover the purchase of equipment, site visits and consultations, publication of awareness materials and 2 Heritage workshops. The financial statement and progress report were forwarded to UNESCO in June 2006 as per Activity-Financing Contract No.4500025727 with copies of proforma receipts.

Payment No.2, USD\$8,000:

Upon submission of the progress report on the implementation of project activities, the interim financial statement and submission of proforma receipts for items purchased. The second installment of USD\$8,000 was received in September 2006.

Payment No.3, USD\$5,000:

This final payment will be made available to Samoa upon submission of the Tentative List, final report, technical workshop report, and financial statement with justifications as per Contract.

Reports and related documents were submitted to UNESCO on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2006 and correspondence received from UNESCO ( April 2007 ) confirmed that the final payment will be made once UNESCO have approved the reports .

**Additional Resources Requested**

An additional request will be made for funds to assist Samoa with its nomination of sites.

**7. Duration**

The project commenced from July 2005. The original completion date for the project as per Contract No. 4500025727 was June 2006. However, due to the delay in the negotiation process with village communities, the project was extended to December 10<sup>th</sup> 2006.

**8. Implementation Progress**

**a) Heritage in Young Hands Secondary Schools Poster Competition and Media Awareness Activities**

The Ministry in partnership with other ministries, NGOs and UNESCO Apia Office has continued efforts towards establishing awareness campaigns with schools, village communities and the general public on the importance of natural and cultural heritage. The official launching of the Secondary Schools Poster Competition and community workshops organized by MNRE and the National Heritage Coordinating Committee ( NHCC ) since April 2005 was intended to generate interest amongst children about the meaning of Heritage, the World Heritage Convention and the value of conserving and protecting the natural and cultural heritage sites of Samoa.

Two open day workshops were organized for secondary schools in Upolu and Savaii. Prizes for the Poster Competition were presented during the Heritage Awareness Day which was commemorated together with the National Biodiversity Day on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2005. Winning posters from 5 schools were used to compile the Heritage Calendar 2006 to further promote heritage awareness around schools and the local communities.

Feature articles regarding information on the WHC was printed in the local newspapers through Ministry's environment column "Our Environment Our Heritage Page".

A joint workshop organized with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme ( SPREP ) called "Postcard from the Future Youth Activity" was conducted for schools and youth groups. This joint effort focused on getting the youths' view on environmental issues, ways to help protect the environment and perceiving the environment as their heritage.



Awareness workshops with schools



Presentation of calendars



#### b) Preparation of the Tentative List

As a requirement of the Convention, Samoa completed the Tentative List of sites suitable for consideration on the World Heritage List and was submitted to UNESCO on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2006.

#### The inventory phase

An inventory of sites of natural and cultural heritage in Samoa was conducted by the Heritage Coordinating Committee (NHCC). The inventory phase is an ongoing activity to collect and compile information on all national sites/monuments/buildings as well as associated stories/legends. Preliminary field visits were conducted by the NHCC including sites considered by the committee with potential world heritage sites.

A national heritage database was also developed to record the sites and all information related to each site. All the information collected during the inventory phase is fed into the national heritage database operated by MNRE.

#### Technical Training

A technical training for all members of the committee in the identification, preparation, conservation and management of potential world heritage sites in Samoa was conducted in April 2006. This training was important for members of the NHCC in preparation of Samoa's TL. Dr. Anita Smith of the State Government Heritage Agency (Melbourne, Australia) was contracted to conduct the 2 week Heritage Capacity Building Workshop from 5 – 13 April 2006.

The outcome of this workshop was a preliminary draft TL of Samoan sites for nomination to the UNESCO World Heritage List. Samoa was fortunate enough to be able to recruit Dr. Anita Smith given her wealth of

experience and knowledge in cultural heritage management in the Pacific as well as being a member of the Executive of Australia ICOMOS.

Samoa also hosted the Sub-regional Capacity Building Workshop on World Heritage Nominations at the UNESCO Office, Samoa from 24 – 28 April 2006. This workshop further enhanced the capacity of the NHCC members by building on what was covered in the previous Samoa workshop. A field visit was also conducted to Uafato Conservation Area. An important part of the workshop was completing practical exercises based on the field visit to Uafato.

### Samoa's Tentative List

A draft Tentative List for Uafato/Tiavea and Manono, Apolima and Nuulopa Islands was compiled during the two workshops. The NHCC conducted a series of consultations with communities from the Uafato-Tiavea area, Manono, Apolima and Nuulopa Islands to help finalise and completing the TL. The original list of possible sites considered by the NHCC for the TL contained 4 sites, however, with the Heritage Assessment Workshop conducted by Dr Anita Smith, 2 key sites were strongly recommended for Samoa's Tentative List. These are:

- Fagaloa Bay - Uafato/Tiavea Conservation Area
- Manono, Apolima and Nuulopa Islands

The Uafato/Tiavea area will be considered for nomination as a 'Mixed Site' and Manono, Apolima and Nuulopa Islands to be considered for possible nomination as a "cultural landscape".

Following from the workshop undertaken in April 2006 by Dr Anita Smith, a number of recommendations was noted for the completion of Samoa's TL with sites identified. Consultations with the islands of Manono, Apolima and Nuulopa were delayed due to getting a consensus from all the mayors from these islands. A questionnaire was prepared for the communities to be used as a survey to help confirm some of the information required. The survey was conducted for Uafato, Tiavea, Manono and Apolima during October and November 2006.

The process with the preparation of the TL has been quite long and slow, however, there are a number of protocols that had to be observed in due process. Given that the sites identified involved customary lands which are a very sensitive and serious issue to the communities, it was recognized that a negotiated participatory approach at the community level was needed to get the approval and support from the communities.

The last consultations held with the villages of Uafato and Tiavea was completed by November 2006. A residential retreat for the final write-up was also completed in time for submission. The final report submitted to UNESCO will be made available to the communities as part of the schedule of events planned for the Heritage Project. Although the Contract for the Heritage Project was officially completed on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2006, the NHCC will continue to implement the final phase of the project to discuss the TL with the communities and to prepare Samoa's Nomination File. A documentary for the sites will also be completed and forwarded to UNESCO.

## 9. Remaining Activities

- The final payment of USD5,000.00 will be used to complete the documentary of heritage sites for Samoa. A sample promotional cd was produced by the Committee for the Regional Heritage workshop in Tongagiro NZ in February, however, the NHCC will continue to work on this for the preparation of the documentary.
- A request for technical assistance to commence Samoa's nomination of sites will be forwarded to UNESCO before February 2008.

- The NHCC will continue efforts to update the Tentative List for Samoa and the inventory of national sites.
- The 31<sup>st</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee will be held in Christchurch in June and the “Pacific Appeal” prepared by Pacific members countries in February 2007 will be presented. ( attached ).
- The NHCC will continue to meet on a monthly basis and to finalise translating the TL Report in Samoan.
- Discuss details to develop Management Plans for the selected sites

## 10. Project Implications for Samoa

Preparation for the Tentative List worked towards combining efforts among local and national authorities as well as the communities. Although it may appear that MNRE and the communities carried out the major part of conservation efforts and heritage sites, strong national implications exists. The WHC is an international instrument ratified by state parties and commitment is on a national level. Thus, the Convention requires each state party to provide full socio-economic and technical support to Heritage sites within its borders. The process begins with an agreement on heritage values followed by site identification commitment to abide by WH inscription responsibilities and the assurance of a management plan.

Although heritage awareness has improved recently most people are unaware of heritage sites maybe some do not care. Thus, the World Heritage mechanism works to the advantage of conserving our natural resources when all national, local, and community stakeholders fully understand the responsibility for site preservation is principally in their hands.

It is expected that the implementation of the Heritage Project will benefit Samoa by:

- Enhancing the enabling environment for national development;
- Increasing awareness among Samoans about their natural and cultural heritage;
- Promoting greater understanding and appreciation of Samoan cultural identity;
- Improving public access to heritage sites;
- Encouraging the protection and conservation of heritage sites and
- Supporting income-generating activities based on heritage resources including world heritage listing

## 11. Signature of Executing Agency



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

## 12. Date

04 May 2007