

activities prioritized under the sanctuary Management Plan. The sanctuary Management Plan also covers other marine species not currently protected or insufficiently protected by local legislation. Special consideration is also placed on species endemic to Samoa and those that are or can be in danger of becoming locally extinct. Offshore habitats, such as offshore reefs and seamounts, are productive areas which are essential sources of resource recruitment to near-shore reefs on which local people depend for food and income. Some of these habitats, particularly reefs, need to be protected in order for them to continue to fulfill their vital function in enhancing/augmenting recruitment to near-shore areas accessible by local communities. Activities do occur in the marine area that are destructive to both the resources and environment. There will also be new activities including researches and exploration that could be detrimental. All these activities need to be monitored, regulated and assessment conducted to minimize their impacts. There is generally a lack of awareness concerning marine subjects. The introduction of the "western" system of marine tenure has led to the gradual loss of local marine stewardship. The basic biology of key species is virtually unknown in Samoa waters. These are necessary for sound and informed decision making for management. Traditional knowledge on marine resources and management are disappearing but is vital in management decision. The project paves a path for stakeholders development and stewardship. It improves education material based on local examples and it presents an excellent opportunity for cross-sectorial management of the marine resources and environment.

10. Expected outcomes:

A practical management system for improved protection of marine animals and habitats.

A more conscious and informed public in issues pertaining to sustainable utilization and resource management.

A better understanding of the life cycles of marine animals leading to more appropriate and informed decision for management and sustainable utilization of the resources.

Expanding environment-friendly development directly benefiting communities.

Better stewardship and respect for oceans and its resources, protection of biodiversity endemic marine species.

Improved local capacity to conserve, manage and conduct research and to sustainably utilize marine resources.

Traditional knowledge on the marine resources and environment documented and incorporated in the management and development schemes.

Declaration of reserve(s) on special marine habitats.

Improved collaboration in government agencies involved in marine resources management and development.

Established collaboration and relation with national and overseas universities and research institutions.

11. Planned activities to achieve outcomes:

Regulations development, biological research and monitoring, production of educational material both in Samoan and English, information collection and compilation on traditional knowledge and management, eco-tourism development, in-situ conservation, creation of specific marine reserves and parks on special habitats.

12. Stakeholders involved in project:

Government agencies [Department of Lands, Surveys and Environment; Fisheries Division; Department of Police and Prisons; Ministry of Transport; Department of Education; Treasury Department; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Internal Affairs; Visitors Bureau; Department of Trades, Commerce and Industry; NGOs involved with environmental issues, private sector [hoteliers, dive tours operators, sportfishing, fishermen], local communities [initially in the Management Plan Development then on operation].

13. Information on project proposer:

The project will be coordinated by the Division of Environment and Conservation of the Department of

Lands, Surveys and Environment, Government of Samoa [in consultation with stakeholders].

14. Information on proposed executing agency (if different from above):

As in 13. above

15. Estimated budget (in US\$ or local currency):

GEF: US\$ 750,000.00

Co-financing: US\$ 150,000.00

TOTAL: US\$ 900,000.00