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Moving forward with developments

The Apia Waterfront Development Project administrated under the Ministry, continues to move forward with the implementation of the Waterfront Plan, as witnessed by the public during its official ground-breaking ceremony for the Event Space and Clock Tower Boulevard which was held in front of the FMFMII Government Building along the waterfront in Apia.

The Event Space and Clock Tower Boulevard project is funded with the great assistance from the Government of New Zealand, with works to begin soon after the ground breaking ceremony within the next 12 months.

The Hon. Prime Minister and Chairman of the Waterfront Project Steering Committee, Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi in delivering the keynote address spoke about the importance of the waterfront project and acknowledged all involved. *“This ground-breaking ceremony provides evidences of the commitment to activate and to carry out plans already in place for the beautification of our city of Apia.”* said Tuilaepa



Group Photo participants

The Government of Samoa (GOS) in partnership with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have started the implementation of the “*Integrated Flood Management to Enhance Climate Resilience of the Vaisigano River Catchment in Samoa*” project referred to as the Vaisigano Catchment Project (VCP).

The project aims to reduce the effect of recurring flood related impacts within the Vaisigano River Catchment. It was designed to strengthen the adaptive capacity and reduce exposure to Climate Risks, infrastructure and the human built environment in the Vaisigano Catchment Area (the river that flows through the Apia Urban Area) for the following vulnerable communities:

Aai o Niue, Avele, Faatoialemanu, Lelata, Leone, Letava, Levili, Magiagi Uta, Maluafofou, Matautu Uta, Papauta, Tanugamanono, Vaiala Uta, Vailima, Vaipuna, Vaisigano, Vaoala, Vinifou.

During the two day workshop, the participants reviewed and commented on the Draft Operation Manual that will be used as a guide for operations within the 6 year project duration. There were discussions on sub activities under activity 2.2, as well as its implementation phase; discussions on key concepts and project objectives that can assist with the Operational Manual Review; and the workshop also identified gaps and actions to be undertaken under Activity 2.2 as well as developing corresponding Monitoring Matrixes.

12 & 13 July

Small Grants Program - Capacity Building Workshop



Group Photo Participants

The Ministry and its partner UNDP had facilitated a workshop for communities with its overall objective of Orienting, inform and educate the applicants of the requirements crucial for completion of full proposals for grants. Also, the workshop looks to increase understanding and knowledge of groups and communities, in terms of the environmental benefits that they could gain from the Program as well as being on top of its issues through adaptation approaches. During the workshop, the SGP team had presented in details on the proposal forms and clarified the each sections required for each applicants. Communities were then divided into groups according to community project areas and had communicated their queries to fill gaps and build capacity of all applicants.

At the moment, the program is focused on areas of: ecology,

agroforestry, biodiversity, persistent organic pollutant, international waters, climate change and capacity building. However each proposed projects does not limit to environmental concerns, it can also be used to create social and economic benefits. However, grant can only be provided if and only if all requirements needed to complete full proposals are met and provided for the Technical Committees analysis.

The program hopes that with the program in place to assist communities, it is expected that our communities can evolve and be better in terms of sharing best practices, ideas and knowledge on how to achieve the very essence of sustainable development by “Thinking globally” and “acting locally”.

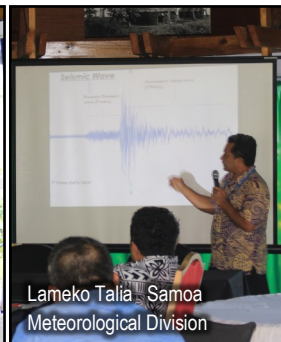
Training of Trainers on Multi Hazard Early Warning Systems (EWS)



Participants



Group photo Participant

Lameko Talia - Samoa
Meteorological Division

Samoa is highly exposed to natural hazards – both of hydro-meteorological and geo-physical in nature. Storms/cyclones, storms/wave surges, floods, and strong winds, are among the recurrent climate-related hazards in the country. Tsunami, an infrequent but high-impact geo-physical hazard, was experienced in Samoa on September 2009. Impacts from these hazards have been devastating.

The early warning system (EWS), an integral and indispensable component of effective disaster risk reduction (DRR) and resilience, encompasses sectors and activities from the technical aspects of hydro-meteorological and geo-physical parameters monitoring, data analysis, and forecasting; potential sectoral impacts assessment; sectoral warning formulation; preparation of sector- and location-specific response options; dissemination thereof to at-risk communities, and community response. In a nutshell, EWS encapsulates all the processes involved from the generation to application of relevant risk information.

Research in forecasting have improved reliability, and spatial and temporal resolution of weather- and climate-scale information. Enhanced and low-cost technologies at tsunami risk assessments

enable estimation of potential tsunami wave height and inundation, for informing development planning. Breakthroughs in telecommunications have made possible access to information at an unprecedented rate and ease.

While capacities at generation and communication/dissemination of hazard/risk information have significantly improved over the years, the systematic and comprehensive application of multi-timescales, multi-hazard information, in key sectors, remains to be improved through mechanisms that integrate such hazard/risk information into sectoral plans and decisions.

This training is therefore undertaken, through the lead of Samoa Meteorological Division (SMD), under the aegis of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), and with the support of the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), to promote the integration of SMD-generated multi-timescales, multi-hazard information into short, medium, and long-term plans and decisions of risk-sensitive sectors in Samoa, for enhancing resources and risks management, and resilience.

Steering committee on National Waste Management Strategy (NWMS)



Steering committee on National waste - Participant

SPREP Pollution Advisor:
Anthony Taloui

Public Stakeholders

The meeting for the Steering Committee is part of the broad process for the development of the National waste Management Strategy together with plastic banning initiative. It is evident that Samoa and its neighbouring Pacific Islands is undergoing a period of social and economic development. Consequently, these developments lead to the significant amount of wastes being generated. It is in this context, that a coherent waste management strategy must be formulated to ensure that Samoa's environment and public health are not adversely affected by the ongoing economic developments. The development of the NWMS is one of the Ministry mandates

addressed under the Waste Management Act 2010. It is currently under drafting processes by the Division of Environment & Conservation (DEC) and assisted by the JPRISM 2 Project. During the formulation processes, communities and stakeholders were given the opportunity to provide input on the development of the Strategy. The Steering Committee functions as the board who will approve the final drafting of the NWMS. It also allows the committee to monitor the implementation of the NWMS as well as coordinating the technical working groups.

Ground Breaking for new Events Space and Clock Tower Boulevard



"In 2016 we launched the Apia Waterfront Development Plan for the decade 2026. The primary focus of this plan is to lay out a vision by the government for the development and use of the Apia Waterfront by our people in the long term. I would like to convey our very sincere appreciation to the government of NZ and the NZAID programme for the grant financing that not only supported the development of the Apia waterfront plan but also committing right through to the grant financing to the infrastructure which is about to begin." Tuilaepa added.

The New Zealand High Commissioner to Samoa, His Excellency David Nicholson in his remarks spoke about the importance of this project for Samoa and its tourism developments and acknowledged the continued friendship between the two countries. *"Today's ceremony marks a major milestone in the NZ-Samoa partnership that is the 'Apia Waterfront Development' project."* Said Mr Nicholson. *"NZ has been involved in supporting the development of the Apia waterfront since 2015, which began with the establishment of the Project Management Unit, development of the Apia Waterfront Plan, and implementation the Plan through immediate and early development activities.*

"The upgrade will result in enhanced facilities and a more functional Event Space – with improved vehicle and pedestrian access, enhanced aesthetics and amenities to better cater to future public events hosted in this area. These have included, in the past, the Samoa Teuila festival and Independence Day

celebrations." The total value of the project amounts to SAT10.5 million, which will contribute to an improved Apia waterfront experience for local and tourists alike, drawing more people to the waterfront as a safer and more enjoyable place to be with family and friends, and to learn about and appreciate also Samoa's waterfront history, heritage, art and culture.

The Event Space and Clock Tower Boulevard covers the outdoor performance space from in front of the FMFMII Government Building and onwards to the Clock Tower with an attractive pedestrian walkway to the waterfront edge.

The Waterfront Plan has identified four distinctive areas along the waterfront for redevelopment: Mulinuu Waterfront – from Mulinuu to Sogi; Apia Waterfront Central – from the Savalalo market to the Mulivai Bridge; Apia Waterfront Harbour – Beach road towards the Matautu wharf; Vaiala Waterfront – from the Palolo Deep Reserve to part of the Taumeasina area.

Improving the Apia Waterfront will also help to showcase Apia as one of the leading sustainable tourism destinations in the Pacific region, opening Samoa up for investment while creating more jobs and business opportunities for locals.





During the past week environmental education in Samoa came alive. Year Seven and Eight students from four Aleipata District schools became the first Samoan youth to participate in the full GUARDIANS Campaign program. The schools were Lalomanu, Vailoa, Ulutogia and Satitua Primary Schools.

Building on the highly-successful Sa Moana Folauga pilot campaign last year, Conservation International Samoa has brought a strong network of partners together to augment the Va'a-based educational program to include a more comprehensive, interactive environmental education component in a new campaign **"Tausi Lou Fa'asinomaga"**. Fun and interactive lessons and field trips emphasize empowering the youth of our communities with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to inspire environmentally sustainable behaviour.

Lessons were structured into five themes identified by communities, government and other partners during the initial May 2018 scoping workshop as priority issues for conservation in Samoa. Students participated in small-group lessons followed by games and activities that consolidated the learning objectives, including trash relay races, investigative adventures to the mangroves, snorkelling on the reef at Vailoa, and boarding the 'Gaulofo', Samoa's traditional voyaging canoe; by becoming Coral Champions, Wise Fishers, Tree Guardians, Trash Stars and Samoan Voyagers, graduates of the GUARDIANS program have the impetus to become Guardians of Samoa's rich environment and cultural traditions.

The highly-interactive program was delivered in equal partnership by the GUARDIANS Team, which included members from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Ministry of Natural

Resources and Environment, Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development, Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program, National University of Samoa, the Samoa Conservation Society, Youth Climate Action Network, Samoa Voyaging Society, Conservation International Samoa, and the principles and teachers from primary schools in Aleipata district. Guardians team members undertook a high-level training in July which they created and adapted the educational activities to the Samoan context.

During the Talanoa session hosted by the Guardians Team to gather community feedback after the program, positive responses from the community were recorded all round. They recognized that the children are Samoa's future, and thus the importance of teaching the children at a young age so that they growing up with an environmental ethic. They were also supportive of the campaign because it serves as a wake up call or reminder to communities on understanding current environment issues and their own responsibility to take action. "At the end of the day we know we are responsible for the management of our natural resources" – a comment shared by Matai within the meeting.

The Guardians campaign is part of a two-year project implemented by CI in partnership with the Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund, looking to enhance the environmental literacy of targeted youth and communities. The first phase of the campaign at Aleipata reached 81 students in the core program with an additional 200 participating in evening outreach event. It will continue with the other four schools in Aleipata district this week and be rolling out to other districts in Samoa through 2018-2019.

For more information and queries, feel free to contact us.

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We welcome any feedback to improve our newsletter and services to all.

Acknowledging Ms. Diane Sharlene Gay for assistance in compilation of this newsletter edition.