

Report of Group Study Tour to Auckland, Hamilton and Wellington (New Zealand) 6 – 13 February 2009. Prepared by: ACEO/PUMA, MNRE

Background and Overall View: The Group Study Tour proposal for selected representatives of the National Sanitation Taskforce was endorsed by the Joint Water Sector Steering Committee on 29 January 2009, and approved by Cabinet on 4 February 2009. With the kind assistance of our New Zealand counterparts the study tour achieved its objective and is considered a success by the participants. Information packages were also distributed and referrals to other sources were made.

Implementation Schedule and Assessment : There were no problems encountered. However, the representative from the Planning and Urban Management Agency had an emergency situation and had to return to Samoa immediately. The situation in New Zealand is relatively advanced with technologies and application, however, their attempts have only recently made headway over the last decade. There is substantial support offered by the New Zealand government within and across government at all levels.

Lessons Learned for Policy Development: Lessons Learned and Recommendations include: Requirement for new developments to prepare a preliminary environmental assessment incorporating health impact/risks assessment for on-site systems.

Immediate to Short-Term Implementation: Regulators must have a productive working relationship to facilitate good decision making and strengthen compliance and enforcement. Suggest introducing and developing a MOU to formalize the arrangement between MWTI/PUMA/MOH. Strengthening cross-government support and partnerships to improve sanitation services and compliance. Building Division to explore establishing a Section that is primarily responsible for assessing septic tank code compliance, reporting function, other functions yet to be determined.

Short/Medium-Term Implementation: Introduce a small grants/subsidy programme that offers assistance to target group (eg low-income, rural, low-lying coastal zones, etc) aimed at improving sewage treatment and disposal for individual households specifically to: (a) upgrade poorly performing systems and/or (b) construction of new on-site systems. PUMA/SWA/ to recruit an Environmental Health Officer to address impacts of wastewater.

Immediate to Short-Term Implementation: GOS reps access NZ/Aus training for relevant regulators to build local expertise and capacity. Subsequently, utilize the experts to develop and implement training programs for community and individuals. Develop communication and public awareness such as "how to" guides/technical publications for public access. Wide public consultation to be implemented using appropriate village protocols and groups such as the Komiti Tumama. Possible delivery mechanism to be under the MOH.

Acknowledgement: The participants extend their gratitude for the support from the Government of Samoa and the financial assistance from the Water Sector Support Programme.

UPCOMING EVENTS

International Events

26th - 29th April 2009, Water Loss 2009, Cape Town, South Africa

11th - 15th May 2009, WSSCC Annual Planning Meeting, Geneva

<http://www.wsscc.org/>

13th - 15th May 2009, Water Industry Operations Group of New Zealand Conference, Dunedin, NZ

<http://www.wiog.org.nz/>

19th - 20th June 2009, 2nd meeting of the International network of Drinking Water Regulator, Singapore

22nd - 26th June 2009, 26th Pacific Islands Environment Conference, Saipan, United States Minor Outlying Islands

18th - 22nd May 2009, 34th WEDC International conference, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Sustainable Development and Multi-sectoral Approaches, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

National Events

25th May - 6th April 2009
Leak detection specialist mission - technical assistance to SWA leak detection and non-revenue water unit

25th March - 20th April 2009
Ground water hydrologist mission

4th - 22nd May 2009
World Health Organisation specialist - Geraldine Peralta : Implementation of the new National Water Quality standards

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www.waterforlife.org.ws

For more information, contact

- Fetoloai Yandall-Alama**
WaSSP Sector Coordinator
WSMU/MOF - 34386
fetoloai.alama@mof.gov.ws
- Ludo Prins**
Programme Advisor
WSMU/PMS - 34316
ludo.prins@mof.gov.ws
- Peni Allen**
Database Officer
WSMU/MOF: 34397
peni.allen@mof.gov.ws

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Readers and stakeholders involved in the Water Sector can contribute to our newsletter via:

infowassp@mof.gov.ws

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Water Sector Support Programme

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Samoa Water News



Message from the Joint Water Sector Steering Committee

Welcome to the sixth edition of the Water Sector Newsletter! The first quarter of 2009 saw the Water Sector Management Unit lose Mrs. Nadia Meredith-Hunt, the former WaSSP Programme Manager to the Private Sector, resulting in attempts to recruit two new staff for the unit. This subsequently caused a delay in the write-up of this edition, however, despite this minor setback, water sector activities were still being carried out at full speed.

The theme for this sixth edition focuses on 'International Cooperation' to highlight the need for international partnerships in improving the livelihoods of communities, with 'water' as a social issue that needs special attention. Of particular note is the continuing relationship that Samoa has with the European Union. The European Union has been an active partner of the Government of Samoa in stewarding Samoa's Water Sector approach to improve the enabling environment for the management and sustainable development of our water resources and infrastructure. This partnership will be further enhanced by the move towards 'sector budget support' which is expected to take effect in June 2010. The issue on Sector Budget Support is clarified further by Thomas Opperer of the EU office & Noumea Simi of the Ministry of Finance.

Through this newsletter we would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to all our stakeholders who have contributed one way or another to the ongoing work of the Water Sector from the members of the JWSSC, to the members of the Technical Steering Committees, Working Groups, the Special Task Forces, the Implementing Agencies, Water Sector Management Unit, Private Sector, our TA teams and not forgetting, our own Communities.

Malo lava galue!!

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Noumea Simi, the ACEO of Division for Aid Coordination — Ministry of Finance, speaks on behalf of Government.

The European Union and the Government of Samoa are about to agree on Sector Budget Support for the water sector, to commence in June 2010. What are some of the main changes expected for the sector as compared to the current situation?

In the first instance, we would no longer deal with donor procedures - these will be dispensed with and replaced by Government of Samoa systems / procedures. We should also see strong ownership and leadership of the sector program and a more cohesive and collaborative approach by all stakeholders involved. More targeted capacity building.

Under the Sector Wide Approach, the Government of Samoa is in the driving seat while donors are to align to government policies, plans, systems and procedures. Has this been achieved in general in the Water Sector programme?

Overall what has been achieved under WaSSP has been the consolidation of the Sector policy framework, financing framework (medium to long term) and alignment to SDS objectives. There has been a proactive transformational approach gradual it may be that would ensure sustainability in the future.

What are the main challenges ahead and how can the stakeholders assist with this transition from direct EU project support to Sector Budget Support through government budgeting?

Challenges is the ability of stakeholders to continue and maintain momentum post financial and TA support. Being proactive in forward planning prioritizing, coordinating and effective sector management. Activating monitoring / evaluation framework including risk management and requisite capacity building for all stakeholders.

Thomas Opperer, the Head of Technical Office, of the Delegation of the European Commission for the Pacific, speaks on behalf of the European Union.



The Water Sector Support Programme has had 3 to 5 years of implementation. How do you perceive the main results achieved so far and how do you see the current performance of the water sector?

The Water Sector Support Programme has successfully initiated sector wide integration, planning and prepared the ground for a transition from discrete projects to a sector approach, including increased institutional cooperation, improved planning, and the establishment of an enabling environment for Integrated Water Resource Management. The preparation towards sector budget support and the activities under the WaSSP have resulted in a robust sector which is equipped with a sound policy framework, an effective coordination mechanism and defined performance measurement system. However, remaining challenges include to finalize the Medium Term Expenditure Framework and to develop the capacity of the institutions further.

The European Union and the Government of Samoa are about to agree on Sector Budget Support for the water sector. How does this intention compare to other EU aid programmes in the region and how do you see this new approach impacting on development cooperation with Samoa?

As the logical next step, Sector Budget Support will root the water sector in a favorable public finance management and macroeconomic environment through contributing to an efficient public finance management and a stable macroeconomic framework. It is expected that the programme will further increase national ownership and improve the policy framework as the basis for the development of the sector. As results and not inputs matter in the context of sector budget support this new approach will encourage both, donor and Government to look at the actual results of their actions, thus taking their commitments on aid effectiveness seriously. On a national level the programme will compliment initiatives of other donors such as the ADB "Samoa Sanitation and Drainage Project". On a regional level the programme is linked to the "Pacific Regional Action Plan of Sustainable Water Management" and the "Pacific Framework for Action on Drinking Water Quality & Health".

Pacific Water Conference and Expo in Tonga, 30th July - 3rd August 2009



(From left - right)

* Patrick Amini (Chairman)

* Latu S Kupa (Executive Director)

The Pacific Water & Wastes Association (PWWA), in collaboration with the Tonga Water Board is holding its second annual Pacific Water Conference and Expo (PWC) on the beautiful shores of Vava'u Tonga. The conference runs from 30 July until 3 August 2009. Other key sponsors and partners of the Conference include the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC).

Initially, located in Suva, Fiji, the regional organisation was founded as the Pacific Water Association in 1995 to support the water industry in the Pacific facing ongoing water resource challenges. The eagerness of the initial founders, comprising only a handful of Pacific Island water utilities at the time, spread to the other water utilities in the Pacific region, increasing its membership in a short time.

Today, the Association has been renamed the Pacific Water and Wastes Association to reflect the integrated nature of water and sanitation in the water cycle as well as the significance of sustainable wastewater management in ensuring that people have access to safe drinking water supplies. With its current location in Apia since September 2007 and secretariat services provided by KEW Consult Ltd., the Association stands today with a combined membership of 38 active and allied members (including some individual members). The PWWA Board is chaired by Patrick Amini of the PNG Water Board and includes Saimone Helu of the Tonga Water Board, Taito Delana of Fiji's Department of Water & Sewerage, Ta'inau M. Titimaea of the Samoa Water Authority, Denis Harahan of Econova and Latu S Kupa as Executive Director. Nadia Meredith of the Samoa Water Sector Management Unit, resigned earlier in the year and vacated the seat on the Board representing allied members.

The PWC's theme for this year is "Shared Opportunities, Shared Water", intended to reflect the 'Pacific Way' of doing things such as the sharing of resources and openly discussing and addressing issues through a common gathering of leaders and representatives of the village, church, government and communities.

This Conference aims to promote and continue the practice of collaboration and sharing, not only amongst the Pacific Island peoples but with a much broader audience that shares water and wastewater interests. To achieve this, PWWA is working together with Event Polynesia - an Auckland based Marketing and Event Management Company specialising in Pacific promotions. Conference delegates and participants expected to attend include policy makers, governmental heads, non-governmental organisations, academics and researchers, business interests, suppliers, contractors and consultants, donors and the general public who are eager to contribute towards improving the water and sanitation situation in the Pacific region. The five day programme includes presentations from active and allied members, water quality experts, consultants, contractors and suppliers working in the water industry, donor agencies, a Water Safety Planning Lessons Learned workshop facilitated by WHO and SOPAC, a programme on benchmarking and PWWA's 8th Annual General Meeting (AGM). An Expo will also be held in parallel to the Conference, featuring international exhibitors showcasing their range of water and wastewater products, technologies and solutions. This major water event promises to not be 'all work and no play'. It guarantees some fun through quizzes and live local entertainment through the performances of the jingle and speech competition finalists. The Tonga Water Board is involving local school students in the promotion of water and wastewater issues through creative expressions and visual arts. This is in recognition of our young people as promoters and activists - the knowledge they gain today will be put into action now and in the years that follow. The winners of the school jingle, speech and poster competitions will be judged live by the Conference delegates and awards will be presented at the Closing ceremony of the Conference. A logo competition which is open to all members of PWWA is in progress and the winning logo will be selected then as well.

5th WORLD WATER FORUM, 16-22 March 2009, INSTANBUL, TURKEY

The 5th World Water Forum (WWF) was held in Istanbul, Turkey from 16 - 22 March 2009. The Forum was attended by Samoa with the representation of the Minister and the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) and the Independent Chairman of the Joint Water Sector Steering Committee (JWSSC). It was attended by about 30,000 participants from all over the world representing governments, UN agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia, the media and other civil society groups.

In the last three days (20-22 March) of the Forum a Minister Conference took place, attended by over two hundred Ministers from all over the world in which they had adopted and agreed on the Ministerial Statement and Istanbul Water Guide.

The Minister presented the statement on behalf of Samoa and the Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDs) sub-region during the Asia-Pacific Regional Session. From the regional and national perspective water related problems are already taking place and have negative impacts on social and economic development of many small island countries including Samoa. Although many of these water related problems have been addressed by many countries of the world a lot of gaps are being identified which need to be bridged.

In Samoa, the use of septic tanks is very common in the village settlements and it appears to be an ideal and acceptable system and while many families can afford it, it is recommend that Government reinforce building codes and health programmes, to help lessen the burden of further investments in the near future.

(Prepared by : Independent Chairperson of the Joint Water Sector Steering Committee - Seumanutafa Malaki Iakopo)

This major water event promises to not be 'all work and no play'.

(continued from page 1)

The programme will capitalize from regional projects such as the EU funded "Pacific-HYCOS" (2006-2009) and the "IWRM planning programme" (2007-2010), which aim to improve water resource management and policy development.

How will the European Union continue their involvement with the water sector and how will this compare with the involvement under WaSSP?

The use of sector budget support will change the nature of involvement of the European Union in the water sector. It will shift the focus of the activities towards monitoring and pursuing an outcome focused dialogue at political, strategic and technical level on key areas such as national and sectoral policies and as well as the macroeconomic framework and public financial management.

International Conference on

IMPLEMENTING ENVIRONMENTAL WATER ALLOCATIONS.

Introduction

Water is a fundamental requirement for sustaining life, economic productivity and ecological sustainability in any country. One critical component of water resource management is the allocation of water resources appropriately to avoid over-abstraction and competing uses of the resource in over-stressed surface and groundwater sources. Water allocation is a new phenomenon in Samoa and as such requires a diverse and extensive field of expertise. It is a multi-disciplinary process that requires diverse skills and detailed information to determine minimum flow levels for rivers, lakes and aquifers to maintain the integrity and hence the reliability in supply of water resources. The international conference on implementation of environmental water allocations could not have come at a better time than now, when global change (migration, food and water security, energy shortage, climate change, etc) impacts are seen and experienced all over the world. Water in the environment sustains the natural functioning of the ecosystems (aquatic and terrestrial) and ensures maintenance of the resource base from which goods and services provided are used for the benefit of humans, socially, economically and environmentally. Developing nations and small island states like Samoa are vulnerable to adverse impacts on the quality and quantity of freshwater resources. Constrained by their relative small size, natural vulnerability, and limited human and financial resource base, small island developing states face challenges in managing their water resources effectively. Attempts to establish a balance between economic development and environmental / ecological sustainability are therefore very difficult to achieve and sustain. With the opportunity to attend this international conference, Samoa was fortunate enough to be part of such a diverse group of specialists, artisans, and managers working with and on water issues, that facilitated discussions towards lasting solutions in mitigating some of the challenges relating to the implementation of policies, plans and strategies for environmental water allocations.

In addition, this conference also provided a platform for sharing knowledge and skills, advising and informing each other on how to promote the sustainable use of rivers, wetlands, estuaries and groundwater.

TOPICS

- * Integrated management and use (surface and ground water, water quality and quantity, biophysical and socio-economic development),
- * Institutional mechanics (from local to international, stakeholder participation, training and capacity building),
- * Decision-making and trade-offs (awareness, policy and legislation, in knowledge-poor environments, balancing development and resource protection, valuating ecosystem services),
- * Delivering environmental water (delivering floods, maintaining variability, constraints and solutions)
- * Monitoring and adaptive management.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the conference:

To identify and critique global trends in the implementation of environmental water allocations: policy and legislation, integrating ecosystem protection with socio-economic development, defining and involving stakeholders, decision making for sustainable use, operational and management of water allocations.

CONCLUSION

Stakeholder participation was reiterated as vital in the implementation of environmental flow requirements. The involvement of local communities from the start will enable them to understand a broad spectrum of water management issues and therefore are able to engage in water issues locally. **Ecological flow requirements** are needed to sustain river flows. The current competing uses of water resources are clearly a result of increasing demand. To address this problem, countries need to build their institutional and technical assessment capacities to develop and implement environmental flows. The **Scenario-based approach** is a widely used approach in the implementation of environmental water allocations (EWAs) across South Africa. In cases where there is insufficient information/data to make informed decisions, scenarios are created for consideration of possible outcomes should certain courses of actions are taken. The scenario-based approach will greatly enhance the application of the **precautionary principle** to water resources management in Samoa. That is, where there is insufficient scientific data to determine whether a proposed activity may adversely affect the resource, then a decision to protect the resource rather than to exploit it shall be made. **Adaptive management** or 'learning by doing' was also advocated to be a useful approach in light of the many challenges faced by many countries in implementing environmental flows. The lag between policy development and implementation was recognized by many as the main problem in IEWAs. Again this is one of the biggest issues in Samoa where emphasis is always on developing plans that more than often end up collecting dust in shelves and never fully implemented or implemented at all in many cases. Evidently all resources like time, effort and money used to put together a plan are wasted unnecessarily. Adaptive management encourages managers, policy makers and scientists alike to be more creative and innovative in learning and adapting new and applicable ideas to improve water resources management in any country. **Development space** was a new concept that received much attention at the conference. The new concept promotes the balance or equilibrium between economic development and resource protection. This according to Dr. Jackie King who has 35 years of research experience and 21 years experience on environmental flow assessments will result in its long term conservation of natural resources and economic growth. The question however remains how do we deal with this?

(Report taken by Suluimalo Amataga Penaia and Francis Reupena on 23rd - 26th February 2009: Feather Market Centre, Port Elizabeth, South Africa).

Participants from Samoa: Implementing Environmental Water Allocations : 23rd - 26th February 2009: Feather Market Centre, Port Elizabeth, South Africa).



Suluimalo Amataga Penaia
ACED WRD - MNRE



Francis Reupena
Principal Policy & Regulatory Officer
WRD - MNRE

The international conference on implementation of environmental water allocations could not have come at a better time than now.....

Recent Events

20 January - 9 February: WASSP, Bernard Collignon, Punivalu Isikuki, Water Service Policy mission

6 February: Joint Water Sector Steering Committee Special Meeting on Water Services Policy

4-14 February: SSDP-PIAC, Christine Harris, Community Liaison Specialist

15-21 February: WASSP, PIA, Tom Burkitt, IT-GIS Expert

17 February: Joint Water Sector Steering Committee Special Meeting on SSDP-PIAC contract

18 February-4 March: SSDP-PIAC, Dr Martin O'Dell, Project Director

4-24 March: SSDP-PIAC, Daniel Todd, Environmental Specialist

24 March-13 April: WASSP, PIA, Frank de Zanger, WR Expert

End March: WASSP, PIA, Bruce Trangmer, Project Director

End March: EU Mission to assess water sector capacity building needs

2nd March: SSDP-PIAC Training on EIA preparation