

“The WaSSP programme funded members of the Samoan GIS User Group to deliver a training course in introductory and intermediate GIS. Given the technical nature of the course it was invaluable to have bilingual instruction and to involve local technical experts. Sixteen participants representing 5 ministries and government departments took part in the 2 day course and learned how to manipulate spatial data and how to extract spatial information from their own data sets. In addition, participants were instructed on best practice for data management and given a demonstration of the systems and protocols in place for WRD and the Electricity Power Company (EPC). These practices are relevant to all agencies and showed how easy is it to get things right from the start when implementing a GIS system. Feedback from the course was positive, and it is the intention of the instructors to reconvene the group in approximately 6 months to follow up on progress within each of their respective departments. Commitments were made by the students to try to implement their own GIS systems and to further their learning through practice and knowledge sharing between each other.”

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### International Events

**27 Apr – 01 May, 2009** – Regional Launch Workshop of the Center for River Basin Organizations and Management, Solo City, Indonesia

**26-28 May, 2009:** Workshop on Developing Water and Climate Change Adaptation Guidelines, Selangor, Malaysia

**2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2009:** Stakeholder Consultations on Draft Philippine National Sewerage and Septage Management Program, Manila, Philippines.

**01-03 July, 2009:** New Thinking on Water Governance: A Regional Consultation Workshop on Improving Water Governance, Singapore

**13-14 July 09,** Non-pacific IWRM Workshop, East-West Centre, Honolulu, United States Minor Outlying Islands

**19-22 Aug 2009:** Launch of Knowledge Hub on Water Quality Management in River Basins, Incheon and Daejeon, Korea)

**7-11 Sept, 2009:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> International conference on Rainwater Harvesting & Management, University of Tokyo, Japan

**26-30 Oct, 2009,** International Network for Small Community Water Supply Management, Saint Lucia

**4-6 Nov 2009:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia Pacific Regional Young Water Professionals Conference, Beijing, China

**25-26 Nov 09,** 5<sup>th</sup> Asian Water Development Outlook 2010 Team Meeting, Manila Philippines

### National Events

**20th Jan 2010:** Launching of Rehabilitation & upgrade of Independent Water Scheme - Matautu (Savaii)

**25th - 29th Jan 2010:** Oriented Monitoring Visit for the EU funded Water Sector Support Programme - Mr. Robert Canessa

**24th - 25th Feb 2010 :** Signing of contracts for Patamea & Vaiaata - Independent Water Scheme & site visit with contractors and supervisors

**03 Mar 2010:** Launching of Rehabilitation & upgrade of Independent Water Scheme - Saoluafata



## OPEN FORUM

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

[infowassp@mof.gov.ws](mailto:infowassp@mof.gov.ws)

Visit us on the Web

[www.waterforlife.org.ws](http://www.waterforlife.org.ws)

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## Water Sector Support Programme

Issue 7 (Jul 09 - Dec 09)



## SAMOA WATER NEWS



### Message from the JWSSC

Welcome to the seventh edition of the Water Sector Newsletter! This last quarter of 2009 saw the Water Sector Management Unit lose two key figures from this special programme, the former WASSP Programme Management Advisor, Mr. Ludo Prins because of his contract terms expired; and former Water Sector Coordinator, Mrs. Fetoloai Yandall Alama to Fiji because of family commitments. 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.

Through this newsletter we would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all our Implementing Agencies who are working very hard with their respective projects and professional collaborations to accomplish objectives and goals of Water Sector Support Programme before the end of June 2010.

As you may aware that there will be a transition in the EU funding with the end of WASSP project and the beginning of the Water Sector Budget Support Programme effective from 30 June 2010. We are now at the stage of fulfilling promises and gaining valuable lessons learnt while we move forward to a new era.

Malo lava le galulue!!

### Inside this issue:

Message from JWSSC

Interview with PMA

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**Your contract in Samoa has just about finished after almost four years in Samoa with the Water Sector and the EU WaSSP. What are some of the highlights since working in Samoa?**

The tremendous efforts of the water sector stakeholders in the preparation of the Water for Life document, culminating in the approval by the JWSSC and CDC have undoubtedly been a few of the main achievements during my stay in Samoa. The subsequent formulation of the different policies on water services, sanitation and water resources have also been great strides forwards in establishing a solid framework for the water sector. Similarly, the establishment of the Independent Water Supply Schemes Association has been a major achievement, and with the recognition of Government, it has both a promising and a challenging future ahead of it. I am also particularly proud of the JWSSC and the WSMU who have matured so fast and are now recognized as permanent structures rather than project related organisations to manage Samoa's water sector.

**What is your general opinion on the progress of the Water Sector so far and what more do you see skill needs to be done?**

The situation that I found when I arrived and the situation that exists now are really of two different worlds. Water organisations now meet regularly to coordinate and cooperate. The JWSSC and the WSMU has played an important facilitating role in this improved communication and also the eight WaSSP working groups, including the temporary working group on education, have also been instrumental in achieving this astonishing progress. In terms of skills needs, each of the water related organisations will have to continue to improve their planning, budgeting and procurement processes as well as their data collection and performance monitoring systems. The managers of these water related organisations and their individual units should at all times have a clear awareness of where they stand in terms of technical and financial progress towards achieving their targets. Finally, on an inter-personal level, I am very happy with a number of professional relations that have really grown into remarkable personal relationships.

**What were some of the challenges that you had to overcome for the good of the Water Sector?**

Apart from the challenges that I did manage to overcome, there are a few that I have, until my last day in Samoa, not been able to fully deal with. First of all, I found it difficult when people unexpectedly would not be in the office, either because of an overseas conference or training or on an in-promptu local field trip with or without overnight stay. When the possibility would arise to get out of the office, the opportunity was more often than not happily and immediately taken, irrespective of earlier agreed and planned activities. Secondly, the many times I would enquire and express my concern about something, no effort would be spared to assure me that everything was all right, that there was no reason to be worried. Unfortunately, as I found out, this did not prove to be always correct, leaving me wondering why I as long-term and highly paid palagi expert, whose sole purpose was to help, would not be consulted.

**Your last words of advice for Samoa's Water Sector?**

With budget support coming on line in the next six months, preparations for the water sector budget should already be in full swing (...). I would suggest that sufficient provisions are made for capacity building and not that all attention goes to creating new infrastructure as sustainability is far more important than the absorption of funds. Furthermore, on the national level, I would love to see a continued and improved cooperation and coordination, including the free exchange of data and information. Surely there are clear differences between ministerial and regulatory functions and functions of service providers, but as long as the objectives and targets are jointly agreed, the next thing to do is to look for win-win situations, of which I am sure there are ever so many. On the international level, I would suggest that Samoa carefully listens to what international financing agencies and consultants have to say, but that it decides as much as possible on its own behalf. Nobody will ever understand the Samoan realities better than the Samoans themselves and the Sector Wide Approach for the water sector will only be successful if the Samoan Government is in the driving seat through the JWSSC supported by the WSMU.

**What are some of the things you will miss about Samoa?**

Now having returned to the winter cold of the Netherlands, I am already missing the Samoan sun. However, and more importantly, I will surely miss the large number of Samoa colleagues and friends, the wide variety of shades of green and blue of Samoa's land and sea, the different smells and sounds including the uninhibited laughter of the Samoans, and last but not least, the Tropicana...



Mr. Ludo Prins  
Programme Management Adviser  
2006-2010



Pacific and European Union Cooperation and Relations updates



Construction of water Tank



Alii & Faipule (IWS Matautu launching)



Tank attached to an independently-run sanitation scheme 2009.

The flow to budget aid:

Samoa is in line to be one of the first Pacific countries where EC aid will be channeled directly to the government’s budget, specifically the water and sanitation sector where the EC has already built up expertise. The switch to budget support builds on previous EDF programmes for the sector and is testament to the government’s good public finance management, says EC officials.

Under the €30 allocation from the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development (2008-2013) for Samoa, a €25.5m sum is earmarked for a Water and Sanitation Sector Policy Support Programme. The other main focus is a €3M Civil Society Support Project and €1.5M for general technical assistance, studies and training.

The focus on water and sanitation fits with the Government’s Strategy for Development of Samoa (2008-2012) which highlights the sector as a key service area. fThis is expanded upon in the “Water for life: Sector Plan and Framework for Action’ and the ‘National Water Resource Management Strategy 2007-2017’.

The EC has become the lead donor in the water and sanitation sector. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is also providing finance. The 8<sup>th</sup> EDF (1995-2000) funded a Rural Water Supply Project (RWSP); a mix of water infrastructure and public sanitation schemes. This was followed by the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF’s €20.1M Water Sector Support Programme (WaSSP) where funds were used for construction of pre-fabricated water storage facilities, installation of chlorination plants and for the rehabilitation of distribution systems to connect household and public sanitation units, covering both schemes of the Samoa Water Authority (SWA) and those run by independent communities which currently supply 15 percent of the country’s population.

Logical step:

“The next logical step is to give increased ownership to the government, and to root the sector in a favourable public finance management and macroeconomic environment through budget support”, explains Thomas Opperrer, Head of the EC’s Office in Samoa. The 9<sup>th</sup> EDF (2000-2007) paved the way for the transition from a project to sector approach, which will also target increased institutional cooperation, improved planning and water resource management whilst continuing to fund infrastructure for water and sanitation schemes run by both the SWA and independent communities, says Nick Roberts, and EC-funded technical expert working in Samoa’s Ministry of Finance. Noumea Simi, Samoa’s deputy National Authorising Officer who manages donor projects says that the running of the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF programme ahead of budget aid had “made us look in depth at our own public management systems”.

Thomas Opperer says the transition to budget support reflects Samoa’s stability oriented macro-economic policy, improvements in the public finance management system and the well defined policies in the water sector. The 10<sup>th</sup> EDF budget support will be disbursed in tranches in dialogue with the Samoan authorities on the fulfillment of a set of criteria including increased access to safe and reliable drinking water, increased cost recovery for water and sanitation services and an improved local governance by village managed water schemes.

The institutional framework in the sector has been established under national leadership supported by the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF Programme. The Joint Water Sector Steering Committee involves government, civil society, service providers and development partners. It guides and coordinates sector development effectively and is the engine of Samoa’s integrated approach towards water resource management as well as capacity building for all implementing agencies including the independent water schemes association.

Civil society’s key role:

The 10<sup>th</sup> EDF’s €3M four-year Civil Society Support Programme (CSSP), due to get off the ground in 2010, will build on others finance by the EC since 1995, backing small income generating and social projects run by community-based organizations and NGOs. In an interview, Deputy Prime Minister Misa Telefoni told us that he sees such income-generating micro-projects as one of the country’s priorities for economic development. They work particularly well in Samoa where there is a strong sense of community.

According to a 2002 household survey, 7.6 percent of Samoans live below the food poverty line and 20.3 percent below the basic needs poverty line, lacking access to employment opportunities and basic services such as health and education.

Under previous EDFs, the recipients of EC funds contributed 25 percent of the total cost of income-generating projects and for social projects, 10 percent. At the time of going to press, finishing touches were being put to the outline of the new four-year 10<sup>th</sup> EDF CSSP programme which is also expected to permit contributions in kind from recipients such as building materials or labour, as well as cash. The new CSSP also aims to strengthen the management and business orientation of recipients as well as assisting dialogue of NGOs with government and networking.

Other donors who have pledged funds to the CSSP are: NZAID €950,000.00, (New Zealand), and AUSAID €1.41M (Australian) and the GEF Small Grant Scheme €380,000 (Global Environment Facility). D.P.

Article from – The Courier Magazine of Africa Caribbean Jul – Aug 2009

REPORT ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRATION INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE IN EC DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION SEMINAR, FIJI, 26TH – 29TH OCTOBER 2009

COURSE TITLE: Environmental Integration including Climate Change in EC Development Co-Operation

I. COURSE OBJECTIVES: The aim of the seminar is to integrate or mainstream environmental (including climate change-related) issues in the EC Development Co-operation. The main objectives of the seminar include:The link between environment and development. How the environment relates to your work/sector of activity. Overview of the main environmental integration tools (in the cycle of operation) and Know how to access further support

II. COURSE COVERAGE: We started off with the definition of what “mainstreaming” meant and in this seminar we specifically looked at the environmental aspects and how this is mainstreamed into the EC. Development Co-operation. EC mainstreaming” is the process of systematically integrating a value/idea/theme into all domains of EC development co-operation. In this seminar, the “selected value/idea/theme” became the Environment including Climate Change-related issues being integrated into EC’s DC.

Why Integrate the Environment?

It is important to integrate Environment because of:

(1). the links between environment and poverty (2). the links with human development, economic activity, health, peace and security, vulnerability etc.. (3). its importance for the sustainable development of partner countries and (4). by addressing environmental issues through environment projects only is not enough!

Sectors with Direct and Indirect Impacts (on Environment and CC), Sectors with Direct Impacts: Transport, Agriculture, Energy, Environment, Sectors with Indirect Impacts:Trade, Macro-economic reforms, Institutional strengthening, Social Programs. All these sectors whether having direct or indirect impacts on the environment are also interlinked to each other in some way or the other. Tools for Integrating Environment into Development Programmes: The training provided a detailed introduction to the tools used in EC development cooperation to ensure that environment and climate change is mainstreamed in all stages of their development cooperation programmes. The main tools that are used are guidelines for the screening of projects or programmes to decide whether further more detailed assessments need to be undertaken. For projects with significant potential impacts on the environment and/or implications of climate – a full environmental impact assessment (EIA) should be undertaken. This has become standard practice in most countries. For programmes and policies the EU is now introducing strategic environmental assessments (SEA), which will allow an early review of potential negative impacts and the opportunity to make adjustments at the sector planning stage. This is a relatively new approach, which will shortly be introduced as a requirement for EU projects. There is currently draft guidelines for integration of environmental issues in development programmes, which are due to be formally approved. In future project/programme proposals will be required to follow these guidelines and the proposal documentation will require a summary of the findings from the environment/climate change screening process at the identification stage

III. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1). We found that the course was useful in ways that we also discovered that there were some tools/requirements that EU had used but were not yet known to be used by our country such as the Strategic Environment Assessments (SEAs) and Climate Risks Assessments, Environment Management Plan, Ex Post EIAs amongst other Assessments. (2). We would recommend extensive reading and updating on our knowledge base of EU procedure and process as they tend to change/amend/update on their policies every now and then without necessarily notifying partner countries (Handbook into the recent Guidelines – Draft) (external capacity building issue). (3). It is also recommended to arrange additional internal training by TA to the NAO for the staff that are involved in EU projects including those from Aid Coordination and Loans Mgmt division, Budget Division for a better appreciation of the very complex. EU procedures (internal capacity building issue). (4). The Ministry of Finance in consultation with MNRE may wish to consider the use of strategic environmental assessments in sensitive sectors with major impacts on the environment/climate change as part of the sector planning guidelines. This is important as choices that are made at the sector planning stage may have significant impacts and by the time detailed projects are prepared it becomes very difficult to consider alternatives. (5). We should consider undertaking a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in the water sanitation sector once detailed investment plans have been prepared in order to check that the approach is considering all environmental and climate change issues. This would be a good learning exercise for MoF and MNRE on the SEA tool. (6). The environment is becoming an increasingly important issue in view of growing consumption and affluence leading to increasingly negative impacts on the environment. On a small island preservation of a healthy environment will be critical to the future sustainability of our way of life and economy with tourism largely based on the quality of the environment. With the limited landmass of our island environment we cannot afford to make mistakes and we need to ensure that management of a healthy environment is an overriding factor in the planning and design of all development programmes and policies. It is therefore suggested that we should consider developing a sector wide approach for the Environment sector under MNRE. The EU could be approach to consider supporting this sector after the 10th EDF and resources could be made available now in terms of capacity building and technical support to pave the way for a sector-policy support programme with budget support modality under the 11th EDF. The EU has identified the environment and management of natural resources as a high priority in the Pacific. Faafetai lava!

Participants: Mr Nicolas Roberts: TA to NAO, MoF, Ms Lita l'amafana: Principal Officer, Aid Coordination & Loans Management Division, Mr Mataia Mataia: WASSP Programme Manager & Deputy Coordinator, Water Sector Support Management Unit, MoF