



Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

Matagaluega o Punaoa Faalenatura ma Siosiomaga



CONTENT

Ozone Day	2
Disposing Mercury Substances	2
Environment Week	3
Highlights of Environment Week	4
Samoa Launches Fire Reduction Strategy	5
National Toilet Day	5
10th Water and Sanitation Sector Annual Performance Review for the Fiscal Period 2016 - 2017	6
P3D Modelling in Sili	7
Community Awareness Program	7
Happy Energy Day	8
Controlling Invasives in Samoa	8
National Environment Sector Plan 2017 - 2021	9
Other News	10

Help Build A Resilient Samoa

Samoa is currently experiencing the impacts of Environment Deformation and Climate Change. With the rising of sea level, frequent Cyclone threats and degradation of our lands due to human activity; the Ministry is assisting the communities of Samoa in building the ability of communities to cope against the negative effects of Environmental Deformation and Climate Change through awareness programs, consultations, workshops and through projects implementations. Through these developed activities, the Ministry targets to guide communities in becoming resilient by being **Resistant** to catastrophes, to **Recover** well and immediately from threats, and to **Transform** communities through adaptation and community development.

The Ministry initial approach to building resilience is to advise Samoa on all practices that causes environment deformation and climate change. For instance, burning of plastic bags, land excavation, deforestation or pollution. These practices have caused a backfire to human society and had caused many environmental issues that have endangered the lives of many. However, the Ministry has also been working in helping communities recover and prepare for future threats that may occur in the near future.

In this Newsletter edition, it will showcase some of the activities from the months of September to early December; which had taken place to build resiliency directly and indirectly for communities of Samoa. The Ministry will continue to work with communities to enhance their livelihoods through proper resilient approaches and sustainable developments.

Ozone Day 2017



The Ministry commemorated the National Ozone Day at the Meteorology Office at Mulinu. This year's theme, **"Caring for all life under the sun"** addresses the adverse effects of ozone depletion but also climate change through reducing global-warming HFCs under the Montreal Protocol. The theme coincides with the current agreement to amend the Montreal Protocol to include the management of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) which are not ozone depleting substances but have high global warming potentials. Samoa is now working towards ratifying the Kigali amendment to phase down HFCs under the Montreal Protocol.

The Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister, *Afioga Fiamē Naomi Mataafa*, delivered her keynote speech in which she had congratulated the Ministry for the achievements reached since

Samoa had implemented the Project 30 years ago. She emphasized on the importance of our contribution to the world in the protection of the Ozone layer and towards combating climate change. As a small island compared to the big developed foreign countries, Samoa is doing a job in accordance to our movement towards combating climate change through mitigation actions.

The Weather services also took this opportunity to launch its newly installed Himawari Cast System that will help develop weather information capacity to improve Disaster Risk Reductions within Samoa region through developed weather services. This is a system donated by Japan Meteorological Agency. The event ended with the RAC Industry Talent Show and Prize Giving for all the participating colleges.

Disposing Mercury Substances

Promoting Energy Efficiency in the Pacific



The PEEP Project (ADB & GEF Funded) had donated a lamp contractor to the government of Samoa through the Renewable Energy Division.

The PEEP2 is now conducting Component 3 where Energy Efficiency Programs are being implemented around Samoa. The purpose of this phase is to improve the use of energy efficient light appliances in Samoa at the same time reduce the emission of GHG from electricity generation.

Part of this component is the distribution of the new T-5 Lamps that

would replace the insufficient energy consuming T-8 Lamps. However, in order to properly dispose the T-8 Lamps containing mercury, the PEEP project through Renewable Energy Division has officially handed over the Lamp Compactor to the Chemical Waste Management Section of DEC-Division of Environment and Conservation for management and utilization.

The DEC has now stored the lamp compactor safely in the facilities at Tafaigata, as they await for Professional training which is in pipeline with the Chemical and Waste Management section.



ENVIRONMENT WEEK 2017

'**HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT, HEALTHY PEOPLE**' is the theme of the National Environment Week. The event marks the 28th year since Samoa commemorated this event, to promote environment awareness and environmental issues.

Monday 30th October - The official opening of the event by the Hon. *Fiame Naomi Mataafa* launched for :

- Tree planting campaign with the communities around Upolu and Savaii, in the rehabilitation of degraded forest and watershed areas that provides habitat for native biodiversity, as well as clean air and good quality water.
- Free native seedling distribution tents, located at Eleele-fou in front of the Central Bank and the Salelologa Market in Savaii. This program forms part of the Two Million Tree Campaign the MNRE is implementing with the support of farmers and communities.
- Other plans including the launching of the Sustainable Land Management Plans for Uafato and Safa'atoa; the BIORAP Survey Report; Soil Conservation and Management Manual; and the signing of the Revised MOU between MNRE and Faleaseela Village.
- A workshop for stakeholders, on Disaster Management Private Sector Preparedness Partnership with the initiative aims to strengthen the partnerships between the Ministry and the private sector during times of disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

Tuesday 31st October:

- An Inception Workshop to launch the IMPRESS Project (*- Improving the Performance and Reliability of Renewable Energy Power System in Samoa*) between UNDP and MNRE funded through the Global Environment Facility. This workshop

follows on from the signing of the MOU between the Government and UNDP in August, on this new project to improve the sustainable and cost-effective use of renewable energy sources such as biomass. This project will assist us in realizing our commitment at the international stage, to be 100% renewable by 2025 under the Paris Agreement, and in meeting our indicators under the Sustainable Development Goal7.

- Taimua Samoa Environmental Program for schools was organized by the Leadership Samoa Class of 2016, to look at young champions for the environment, initiating innovative projects on recycling and reforestation.

Wednesday 1st November

- Inception workshop to launch the Ridge to Reef Project between the SPC and MNRE which aims to integrate land, water and coastal management at the Fagalii Watershed Area.

Thursday 2nd November

- The Environment Sector Annual Review program for stakeholders.
- Community program for Faleaseela community on environment conservation, tree planting and mangrove maintenance.

Friday 3rd November

- An emergency evacuation tsunami drill in Savaia Lefaga, to coincide with the World Tsunami Day 2017.
- A Nature Walk at the Le Pupu Pu'e National Park targeting young researchers
- Closing of the week with a tree planting activity at the Malololelei Reserve.

Highlights of Environment Week



Faleaseela Community



Ridge to Reef Workshop



Mr. Latu & Mr. Crawley during Opening Ceremony



Private Sector Preparedness Partnership



Launching of Materials for SMSMCL Project



Nature Walk at Ma Tree



Closing Ceremony at Malololelei Watershed Catchment



Manumea awareness Campaign



IMPRESS Project Workshop



Students engaging in Community Consultation



Evacuation & Fire Drill



Tree Planting Campaign

Samoa Launches Fire Reduction Strategy



The Government of Samoa in partnership with the South Pacific Community (SPC) and Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) launched the Fire Reduction Strategy with the intention to reducing the number of fires whilst increasing fire safety awareness across the country.

Hon. *Fiame Naomi Mataafa* officially launched the Strategy with the focus on structural and domestic fires that occur across the country whilst increasing support for our Fire and Emergency Services in times of largescale disaster. The implementation of this strategy will occur over the coming years in partnership with SPC and our partners at the Metropolitan Fire Brigade in Melbourne, Australia with a commitment to preventing loss of life and loss of infrastructure here in Samoa.

The Strategy will directly support FESA to better understand the cause of fire, conduct fire investigations with qualified officers, and develop fire awareness programs to reduce the impact of fire and loss of life because of these incidents.

This work is part of the Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific Project (BSRP) implemented by the Pacific Community and funded by the European Union and ACP Group of States.

In addition to the launch of the Fire Reduction Strategy materials to support in disaster preparedness were handed over including a power generator for the National Emergency Operations Centre, 100 firefighters helmets, a Mobile Emergency Operations Vehicle and HF radios to increase communications during times of crisis in Samoa.

NATIONAL TOILET DAY



This years celebration took place at Convention Centre, TATTE Building. The National Toilet Day was officiated by the Honourable Prime Minister in which he highlighted on Samoa's movement towards improving the uses of wastes in terms of treated waste waters and for Renewable Energy sources.

The Water Sanitation Unit launched of 3 projects:

- Aopo Nature Loo Project
- Garden Toilet Projects
- Vaitele Biogas Project

These projects focuses to increase awareness on the importance of proper waste management and waste disposal within the communities.

Forum on presenters who had done research studies in ways to improve lifestyle with regards to wastes, waste water and water quality. These studies were done by;

- **Tuifuisa'a Dr. Patila Malua-Amosa** (NUS), who had presented on "*Profiling the Chemical and Microbiological composition of the Vaisigano and Fuluasou rivers.*"
- **Margaret Rimoni-Yoshida** (Pacific Applied Science Consult), who had presented on "*Environmental Impact Assesment.*"
- **Dr. Rupert Craggs** (NIWA), who had presented on "*Development of the National Effluent Standards.*"
- **Anna Aiolutotea**, who had presented on "*Engineering design of Septic Tanks and Wastewater Systems suitable for high water table areas, flood vulnerable and costal areas.*"
- **Malama Jasmine Siamomua** (Think Environment Consult), who had presented on "*Environmental Assesment Survey of Diarrhoea and Gastroenteritis in villages in the Apia Urban Area (AUA) AND North West Upolu (NWU)*"
- **Emil Adamas** (Sanjoe Consultancies), who presented on "*Unreported health issues and sanitation assessment across the IWS network.*"

10th Water & Sanitation Sector Annual Performance Review for the Fiscal Period 2016 - 2017.



The Sector Annual Performance review marked a decade of the sector's review processes. The review allows Implementing Agencies, Key stakeholders and development partners to actively engage in reviewing the progress of the sector at a yearly basis.

Hon. *Fiame Naomi Mataaafa* delivered the keynote address which highlighted on the importance of the Sectors duty in creating an improved quality of life for Samoa. She had acknowledged the Sector for the ongoing work and for having an annual review process which clearly strengthens Samoas partnership with international agencies and it had helped Samoa develop both sustainably and economically. The sector acknowledged the support from the development partners namely EU, JICA, Japan Fund and Asian Development Bank for assisting Samoa and the

Pacific to attain a healthy lifestyle through sustainable developments.

The theme; ***"Water and Sanitation in a Changing Environment"***, the sector looks to improve their services of providing reliable, clean and affordable water and improved sanitation within the framework of Integrated Water Resources Management for a resilient Samoa. This movement will allow Samoa to sustain a healthy environment, healthy lifestyle and to counteract poverty.

The ongoing Review provides avenue to revise the developments made and raise issues regarding the impact of climate change on water supply and how to effectively manage the resources and infrastructure that improves water quality and supply.

Highlights of Annual Review



Mele Tanielu (DWQ Subsector, MoH)



More participants during annual review



Luis De Torres Bonachea (EU Rep)



Dr. Rupert Craggs – NIWA



Fonoti Emil Adams - Researcher



Toaigaaloaloo Matthew Wendt (LTA)

P3D Modelling in Sili



The 3D Modelling method uses data (ie. topographic information from contour maps) and transforms into a 3D model to give a physical appearance of a selected watershed area. The 3D Model tool will assist the participating communities to analyze problems and make informative decisions accordingly. This tool is also widely used as a planning tool to plan conservative actions that would cater for environmental problems causing degradation and disruption of watershed catchment areas.

Mr *Asuao Malaki Iakopo* (ACEO - WRD) delivered the keynote address in which he emphasized the protection of watershed areas especially upper regions that are mostly undisturbed and lush with green vegetation. He also clarified the importance of how the Model will benefit the community through increased awareness and

developed knowledge and capacity on the protection of essential resources.

With the final stages of identifying developments along the areas such as livestock, plantations, infrastructure and forest degradations; the community seemed applauded with a visual presentation that had educated them of practices that may have caused harm to the water resources available. This was the perfect opportunity to raise awareness on the importance of practicing sustainable developments along the ridges and water catchment of Sili.

The workshop had also provided spatial learning, land & resource planning and management as well as environmental informative decision making.

Community Awareness Program



An awareness program for the community of Lufilufi on sustainable developments (SD). The community leaders had requested for this program from the Ministry as they believe it will assist the communities with sustainable developments (SD) around the Community. Representatives of the Ministry from the Divisions: *Planning & Urban Management Agency (PUMA)*, *Global Environment Facility (GEF)* and *Division of Environment & Conservation (DEC)*, had collaborated with representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF). The awareness program covered the topics of Climate Change (CC), Waste Management, and Environmental Laws & Policies and agriculture practices.

The community was reminded by the Ministry to contribute in Samoa's mitigation actions against CC by refraining from burning plastic and rubber materials; but to properly dispose any wastes in a segregation onto the rubbish stands for contractors to collect and transported to our wasteland in Tafaigata. The MAF representatives had also reminded the communities to refrain from using any type of pesticide as it will cause harm to soil quality and texture as well as it will threaten our watersheds. The Ministry will continue to work in partnership with the MAF to assist the communities with SD.

HAPPY ENERGY DAY



PC: Samoa Observer



PC: Samoa Observer



The purpose of the event is to raise awareness and educate the public on the value of different renewable energy options, their impacts, costs and benefits; energy conservation as well as promoting energy efficient products and disseminating available information so people can make smart choices for their future; and it is presented with this years theme, **“Sustainable and Affordable Energy for All.”**

Samoa needs to reduce its reliance on imported fuel so as to reduce the levels of greenhouse gas emissions by focusing on the development of renewable energy alternatives that are locally viable. This will also support social and community development through

income generation as well as raising environment sustainability. In today's modern world, energy has become one of the most essential requirements for existence better life. Each one of us has a role to play in promoting energy aspects.

The Government relies on the cooperation of stakeholders and communities for the successful implementation of the energy reform movement. However, every action taken place towards sustainable energy is made possible with the help from Ministry of Finance (MoF), Electric Power Corporation (EPC) and NGOs. As well as the financial support from the Projects: IMPRESS Project and PIGGAREP Regional Project.

Controlling Invasives in Samoa



Not many are fully aware on the importance of native birds to the state of our environment. These native birds are endemic to Samoa. They represent our natural heritage and culture significance to the world.

The DEC team carried out a Rat (rodent) monitoring program at Malololelei Reserve Park. This is to monitor the bait stations that were installed over 65 hectares reserve. The purpose of these bait stations is to control the invasion of rats that threaten the existence

of native birds that dwell in the area; specifically the manumea and ma'oma'o birds.

Once the baits were distributed, the conservation team monitored each station a week after the distribution. So far the trials were unsuccessful as observed during monitoring; the rodent baits were untouched. However, the team are analyzing the data collected from the monitoring in order to improve the pest control program for Samoa.



The National Environment Sector Plan (NESP) 2017 - 2021 was launched on the 13th December. It outlines the vision, mission and goals that are framed to guide Samoa in conservation and sustainably use its natural resources that surrounds our environment. The NESP 2017 - 2021 updates on the previous NESP 2013—2016; and it was built on the achievements and

lessons learnt from the previous NESP. Also, the Sector had also conducted consultations with various target groups from private sector, public sector and communities to assist in the formulation of the NESP 2017—2021 by identifying key areas that is a concern to the target groups.

Staff Graduates



Striving for
Excellence



Viliamu Motusaga



Fialelei Enoka



Aliitasi Faumuina

The Ministry is happy to announce the achievements of the above mentioned staff members who had achieved a milestone over years of hard work. These staff members are currently employed by the Ministry where they had done part time studying. Viliamu Motusaga (Driver) had graduated from National University of Samoa with the Certificate in Horticulture. Mr. Fialelei Enoka (Parks & Reserves Officer) graduated from the LDS-Self Reliance Centre with a Certificate in English Language. Ms. Aliitasi Faumuina (Principal Administration Officer) had graduated from APTC with the Certificate in Leadership and Management. Although these may be personal achievements for the staff; the Ministry is blessed to have staff members who are willing to strive for excellence beyond the experiences and knowledges they have obtained throughout the years of work and previous education backgrounds.

A big faamalo and congratulations to Viliamu, Fialelei and Aliitasi! Malo le tauivi!

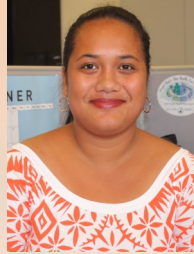
Welcoming New Recruits



Name:
Talafou Talalelei

Position:
Driver

Division:
Corporate Services



Name:
Olioliilealiielaunoa Faletese

Position:
P&R Enforcement Officer

Division:
Water Resources Division



Name:
Fitu Vaafai

Position:
Driver

Division:
Corporate Services



Name:
Kotoni Faasau

Position:
Scientific Officer

Division:
Meteorology Division



Name:
Leasivao Misa Pouvi

Position:
Accounts Revenue

Division:
Corporate Services



Name:
Terava Loia

Position:
Senior Land Registry Officer

Division:
Land Management Division



Name:
Felila Pese

Position:
Office Assistant

Division:
Corporate Services



Name:
Eleanor Bronwyn

Position:
Senior Legal Officer

Division:
Legal Services



Name:
Sio Sio

Position:
Driver

Division:
Corporate Services

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

Phone: (+685) 67200 **email:** roland.setu@mnre.gov.ws **website:** www.mnre.gov.ws

Or visit us at Level - 3, Tui Atua Tamasese (TATTE) Building, Sogi

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

Acknowledging Ms.Melania Galumalemana for assistance in compilation of this newsletter edition.