

## FOR MNRE WEBSITE ARTICLES

1. **PACIFIC SIDS WORKSHOP ON LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY TARGET SETTING PROGRAMME (LDN TSP) from 08 -12 OCTOBER 2018; VENUE: TANOA HOTEL, APIA-SAMOA.**



This was a week-long workshop training from 8-12 October 2018 on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) focusing on Target Setting Programmes (TSP) in Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

It was well-attended by various Ministries of the government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as well as from the region and development partners. About five participants from the Republic of Fiji attended the five-days training with each participant representing various sectors of Fiji; government, SPC, FAO and NGO.

The training focused specifically on educating the participants with LDN-GIS related tools, namely the Collect Earth and Trends Earth Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tools to assist Pacific SIDs with analysis of land degradation trends in their countries. In this respect, the workshop piloted Samoa and Fiji given their current capacity as LDN Pacific SIDs with Samoa, ahead of Fiji is leading Pacific islands in the process of implementing the LDN process alongside the rest of other LDN SIDs and the world of UNCCD country Parties.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) in its capacity, as Samoa's UNCCD national and operation focal point, is spearheading the national LDN process for Samoa and is committed to set voluntary LDN targets to achieved by year 2030. Together

with the UNCCD-Global Mechanism and FAO Samoa Office, the MNRE organized this Pacific SIDS national workshop with the aim of bringing together key national and regional stakeholders to identify LDN voluntary targets and opportunities for transformative projects and programmes (TPP) for Pacific SIDS.

In the global context, LDN is also set within the confines of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development which seeks to protect the planet from degradation. This means achievement of LDN is pursued through sustainable consumption and production, sustainable management of its natural resources and in taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and of future generations (Preamble of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development).

In the nutshell, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) is envisaged as benefiting significantly from achieving LDN. SIDS are perceived as maritime countries with common development challenge: e.g. small but with growing populations, limited resources, remoteness, susceptibility to natural disasters, and high vulnerability to external shocks, excessive dependence on international trade, and fragile environments. The unique and particular vulnerabilities of SIDS make preserving the productive potential of their limited land resources increasingly important and pressing especially considering the potential of land to deliver high-quality nutritious food, cultural services, resilience to environmental change and shocks, and many more ecosystem functions and services.