



Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment



Manumea bird costume by WIBDI

Independence Day Clean Up 2

Lufilufi Women's Committee Project 2

UN Secretary Visits Vaisigano River Project 3

Moataa Walkway Bridge officially opened 3

New CIM Plan launched to tackle Climate Change 4

72 hour Assessment Approach Sensitization Workshop 4

Celebrating 25 years of Samoa's Actions for Biodiversity 5

Samoa will soon commit to banning single use plastics 6

Other News 6

Protect the Native Species of Samoa

The Manumea bird or tooth billed pigeon is a bird species can only be found in Samoa. It is considered an Critically Endangered Species under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Endangered species. This means that its total population is less than 200 counted species including less than 50 breeding species.

The photo above was taken during the Biodiversity Day Celebration 2018, held in front of TATTE Building. The costume prepared by WIBDI was part of their participation in Biodiversity Costume Competition. The purpose of this competition is to promote awareness and build capacity of communities on various threatened native species of Samoa. Altogether, five (5) communities were invited to partake during the event. These communities include:

- I. Solosolo EFKS presented on Mangroves
- II. Vaimoso Methodist presented on Flying Fox
- III. WIBDI Committee presented on Manumea Bird
- IV. Faleaseela YCAN presented on Importance Coral Reefs
- V. Magiagi SDA presented on Ifilele plant species.

All communities showcased great knowledge on the species they've chosen. However, the best performance and costume was awarded to Vaimoso Methodist Youth group who compiled their performance by putting a modern twist into its item delivery.

The Biodiversity Day celebrations was a very successful event for the Ministry. With this years event, it was important to involve the communities in order to promote awareness of threatened native species that builds a healthy biodiversity for Samoa. **More information and photos of Biodiversity Day is available on page 5.**

1st June

Independence Day Clean Up



A glimpse of Clean Up Activities around the vicinity (PC. Fetalai Gagaeolo)

The Ministry had assisted the Ministry of Prime Minister and Cabinet (MPMC) in celebrating the 56th years of Samoa's Independence. The Ministry had took part in cleaning up the allocated compounds to ensure the safety and clean environment for the public.

This was a great opportunity for the Ministry to promote public awareness on the importance of proper Waste management not only during national occasions in public places and also for a healthier lifestyle. Although it is disappointing to see people disposing rubbish regardless of where, it provided great feedback for the Ministry; not all are aware of proper waste disposal. The Ministry continues to remind the public on proper sustainable waste management by putting into action the popular 4R's of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle or Recover.

- Reduce pollution by limiting the wastes produced when consuming products. Eg. Refusing of plastic bags at grocery stores
- Reuse of waste products. E.g Using a juice bottle as a refill water bottle
- Recycle wastes by using the product to recreate a new product. E.g Recycling of scrap metals to produce new metallic products.
- Recover of waste products by converting it into resource use. E.g Composting and Energy source. The Ministry also reminds the public to make use of proper disposal bins provided by its Waste Management Contractors and to safeguard the quality of these assets as these are installed to help the public minimize pollution in public areas.

Let us work together in keeping Samoa clean, protecting our environment from harm and reduce pollution.



6th June

Lufilufi Womens Committee Project



UNDP Sub Regional Rep - Filifilia Iosefa



Rev Fepai Kolia cuts ribbon



Aerial Shot of Village Pool



Lufilufi Womens Committee

The Ministry was invited to the grand opening of Small Grants Programme (SGP) Project titled "Puipuiga o Eleele ma Siosiomaga o Lufilufi", led by the Womens Committee of Lufilufi. The opening ceremony led by Rev. Aiva Lototau of the Catholic Church; followed by the grand opening and ribbon cutting by Rev. Fepai Kolia of the Methodist Church.

Rev. Fepai Kolia stated he had worked with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) for several years and he is glad to witness UNDP continues to provide financial assistance to community sustainable developments through the SGP.

Anne Rasmussen (ACEO-GEF, MNRE/Deputy Chairman SGP Steering Committee), represented the Ministry as she had delivered her remarks during the ceremony. She commented on the importance of sustainable developments in communities. With the rapid changing of Climate, one of the best approaches to combating such changes is through adaptation. By alternating our lifestyles in a sustainable manner that will withstand against Climate Change issues.

Afioga Lilomaiava Filia Iosefa (SGP SubRegional Coordinator, UNDP) commented on the tremendous work done by the community of Lufilufi, and he emphasized the importance of a partnership between International Organizations and communities. *"Communities are the core of our work, without the efforts put in by communities, all of our efforts to sustainably develop Samoa won't bear fruitful results as seen today"*, he said.

The project financial budget amounts to USD20,000. The budget covers all components outlined in the project; to fund for (1) the development of sustainable agricultural and farming practices, (2) the developing of a proper waste management system in Lufilufi (proper trash stands) (3) the conducting of various awareness campaigns throughout the community, (4) and the renovating of water spring wells and village pools in Lufilufi.

The Lufilufi Womens Committee and community acknowledged the support of UNDP and the Ministry in improving the livelihoods of their villagers through the project.

7th June

UN Secretary visits Vaisigano River Project



ACEO - Malaki Iakopo takes Mr Xu for a tour in Alaoa Hydrologger



ACEO - Anne Rasmussen briefs Mr Xu on areas covered by UNDP/GoS Projects



Group Photo with the UNDP and GoS after site visits

The UN Assistant Secretary General/Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific-Mr Haoling Xu had visited sites Alaoa and Vaisigano. The sites visited are of which the UNDP and the Ministry are in joint partnership in building resiliency within communities. The sites include: Vaisigano Protection Wall, Lelata and Leone Bridge, Alaoa Hydrologger/Hydro power/Water treatment plants.

Mr Haoling Xu commented "the purpose of the site visit today is to currently assess the progress of work between the Organization and the Government of Samoa. I've read the devastating news on how

Samoa was strongly impacted during Cyclone Evan and it is a privilege to see the progress of this partnership in protecting the vulnerable communities"

The Ministry had partnered with UNDP in carrying out activities laid out for its projects "Economy Wide Adaptation to Climate Change (EWACC)" and the recent GCF Project "Vaisigano Catchment Project". The two major projects provides funds that will assist the Government in protecting our communities living near Vaisigano River; as well as enhancing lifestyles of communities for the better resiliency, and to build sustainability within the communities of Samoa.

8th Jun

Moataa Walkway Bridge officially opened



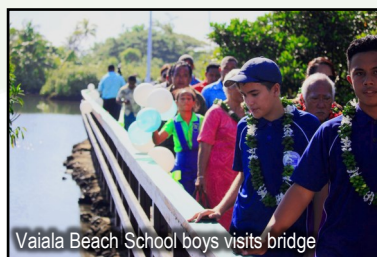
Asi Semisi Blakelock cuts ribbon



Happy faces along the Walkway bridge



Ulu Bismarck Crawley (right) and colleagues



Vaiala Beach School boys visits bridge

Moataa village is located near the town of Apia. The village has a large mangroves site which are affected by many developments along the wetlands. Over the years, the community have experienced the swells of tide moving inland as Climate Change continues to strike the vulnerable communities. The community had seek assistance from UNDP and the Government in the protection and conservation of these wetlands as it is their heritage and . Since then the community had worked towards the management of the mangroves through proposed project being led by Moataa Special Development Committee.

The project targeted to sustainably manage balancing ecosystem conservation monitoring with community development that provides convenient and safe access through the mangroves at all times and prevents further damage to the fragile wetland.

By doing so, the Community we able to establish the following components of their project:

1. Establish baseline data for ecosystem management planning by 100% by January 2018
2. Prepare and launch the Moataa Mangrove Wetlands Management Plan by January 2018
3. Conduct awareness and training programs during the study and

for the implementation of the Management Plan by January 2018

4. Improve pedestrian access through wetland area by 100% by end of 2017
5. Increased number of pedestrian movement though wetland by 100% by end of 2017
6. Improved mobility for children, elderly and disable through wetland area by 100% during severe weather conditions
7. Reduced flood levels at access point by 50% by end of 2017

To celebrate the success of the project, the Ministry was invited to the grand opening of the newly reconstructed 190 meter walkway bridge that stretches from Moataa Tai to Moataa Uta, Faatoia and Vini Fou. Acting Prime Minister-Tialavea Fea Leniu Tionisio Hunt, delivered his keynote address that emphasized on the importance of developing partnerships between Government and Communities. To ensure that the people is well protected from Climatic issues, the government hopes to develop a mutual partnership with communities to ensure a well coordination of integrating management on the development of our resources. The project was funded by the GEF & UNDP through the SGP program; co financed by the CSSP.

Local Communities assisted in tackling Climate Change



Communities around Upolu and Savaii had signed an agreement in partnership with the Ministry for committing in implementing the CIM Plan against Climate Change

The Ministry is committed in a partnership agreement with community representatives where both parties commit to work together to implement the Community Integrated Management Plans (CIM Plan) over the next 10 years, following a work-plan that has been coined between government and communities over the last year.

In responding to the risks of Climate Change, both development partners: the UNDP-supported project, 'Enhancing Resilience of Coastal Communities of Samoa to Climate Change' and the "Enhancing Climate Resilience of Coastal Communities project" under the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) regional program both focused on addressing key issues at the national, district and community-level.

The new CIM Plans (officially signed by communities) are the core components of this project; a genuine partnership between villages and the government in the integrated management of infrastructure, natural environment and resources; livelihoods and food security; and village governance.

"Such daunting challenge could only be addressed under a strong and inclusive partnership; a nation-wide deal with the highest level of government commitment and community ownership, to develop a

resilient and inclusive Samoa," said CEO-Ulu Bismarck Crawley

The resulting plans are a set of solutions covering the whole spectrum of development needs of the community; from utilizing district and village bylaws to guide court arbitration, to raise building foundations in cases of floods, create climate ready evacuation centers, purchase rainwater harvesting and storage systems, propose emergency escape routes, construct revetment walls, establish marine protected areas, rehabilitate spring pools, replant forests and coastal areas and create resilient market stalls to sell the local produce.

"The approach recognizes the significant role communities including women and youth plays in governing and managing their respective assets, resources and environment" added Hon. Fiame Naomi Mata'afa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister.

"Everyone in the villages gets involved to implement the CIM Plans. Women prepare food, while men carry heavy stones to build the wall. Youth showcased their talent in carving our canoes that'll be used for maintaining the mangrove, transport materials across the river and most importantly, to give river tours to tourist and generate income to pay for the mangrove maintenance that provides a natural protection against sea erosion" says Mr. Matafeo Sanele – Matai of Asaga

72 Hour Assessment Approach Sensitization Workshop



Amy Chong facilitates workshop

(L-R): Fulisia Saleuesile (MCIL), Aussie Simanu (DMO), Jone Vakalalabure (WFP)

Group Photo with participants from various Ministries

The workshop as facilitated by the World Food Programme is to strengthen capacity and capabilities of DMO and its ally partners to prepare for and respond to disasters in a timely, effective and well-coordinated manner by provision of support within WFPs global mandate, cluster lead agency responsibility and technical expertise.

One of the biggest problems faced by governments and organizations is the lack of information shared on the disaster impact after it struck. To identify which areas were deeply impacted, identifying evacuating sites as well as the number of households in need of food. Therefore the WFP has developed a 72 hour approach that will assist in identifying gaps to ensure the efficiency of our services to communities.

The 72 hours approach is to concentrate on transferring essential technical skills and operational knowledge to national institutions in identified gap areas. The strategies include: Logistics Cluster, Food Security Cluster, Emergency Telecommunications, WFP programmatic technical capacities including Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM), cash transfer modalities and social safety nets in emergencies

(CBT). The approach aims to provide decision makers with information at a very communicative manner within 72 hours. The general objective is to systematically improve services and information services to ensure that an International Organization such as WFP will be able to provide food security assistance.

The expected outcomes of the workshop is generally to familiarize the participants with the approach through various components of the approach. By linking the preparedness, response and recovery to the approach components of i) Data preparedness [including GIS & Mapping components] ii) Secondary Data Analysis and iii) Field Verification. However, the WFP team seeks to:

The workshop composed of technical presentations, consultative discussions and demos to seek for technical sensitization and political agreement among FSC members, Government partners, WFP and other UN and NGO partners. The discussions and conclusions from the training will lay a cornerstone foundation for the potential of the implementation of the 72 hours approach in Samoa.



Biodiversity Day 2018 Group Photo

We celebrate Biodiversity Day to promote the importance of our biological environment to our daily survival. Every day we threaten our biodiversity with our human activities. With our increasing population, human settlements have extended deep inlands. Floral and Faunal species are threatened at a daily basis. E.g Native species like Flying fox, Segavao and especially our Endemic specie – Manumea, which had gone extinct partly because of bird hunting. Land degradation and habitat disturbance is one of the major issues that is causing the Loss of Biodiversity in Samoa's environment. With the settlements extending inland, many do not take into account the importance of our natural surroundings to our survival. With limited surroundings, it will not be able to provide healthy Ecological Services we depend on such as Soil Fertility, Water absorption, vegetation cover and functional ecosystems and so much more. We should really consider holding on to our heritage. Our environment represents us, especially the communities that live around it.

Biodiversity Day was a successful event – its purpose is to promote and acknowledge our environment with the theme: "ACTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT". Associate Minister – Lemalu Taefu Lemi, delivered his keynote address where he emphasized on the importance of protecting our diverse environment and committing to our obligations to the International Conventions on Biological Diversity (CBD) of conserving our environment sustainably. *"If Samoa is committed to protecting and nurturing its Biodiversity, we would be able to fight against poverty; obtain healthy resources from our*

environment; and we'll be able to create a sustainable economy growth. Our Biodiversity will allow us to fulfill our actions towards SDGs" says Taefu Lemi.

The event also was a platform to launch the Biodiversity Materials:

- 1) Access and Benefit Sharing Project Products
- 2) Minamata Initial Assessment National Report on Mercury
- 3) SMSMCL Project Products
- 4) Shark Documentary
- 5) O le Malie o Situ ma Ana Uo
- 6) Manumea Children's Book

As we continue to work with organizations, agencies and Ministries to help fulfill our commitment in conserving our biodiversity, to sustainably use the components of biodiversity and to equally share the benefits we get from our resources. This ensures that we keep track and monitor our use of our Biological Environment. Whatever Biological Diversity we have left in our environment, we should cherish it and help rehabilitate our degraded lands to build our more functional environment that would provide natural services to our daily needs.

Plant a tree, any tree...but make sure it's a native tree. To prevent the spread of invasive plants into our forests and dominating our vegetation's and slowly killing off our native environment. Plant a tree today, and I guarantee you that tree will help you breath tomorrow. Be an environmentalist today by thinking environment and help protect and conserve our natural surroundings.



Solosolo Youth Group awarded 3rd Place



Associate Minister: Lemalu Taefu Lemi



UNDP Rep: Yvette Kerslake



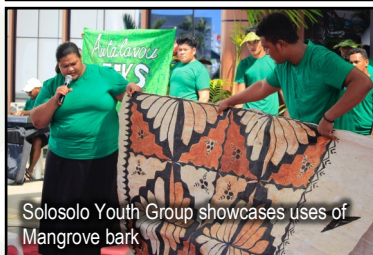
SPREP Rep: June Ward



Manumea Bird Costume by WIBDI



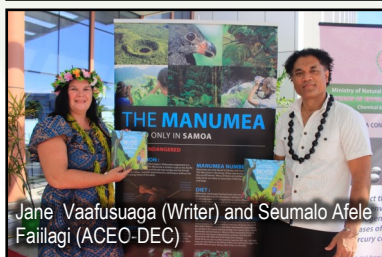
Flying Fox Costume by Vaimoso Methodist



Solosolo Youth Group showcases uses of Mangrove bark



Official opening for Photo Exhibition



Jane Vaafusuaga (Writer) and Seumalo Afele Faillagi (ACEC-DEC)



Schannel van Dijken & Maria Satoa



Faleaseela YCAN presents on Corals



Photo Exhibition showcases different species



Numerous plastics disposed in landfill



Empty Bottles that can be reused and recycled



Plastics disposed into river systems



Illegally dumped plastics in bushes

A new era is in place for Samoa as the island nation works towards phasing out a range of single-use plastics, joining global efforts to save our environment from the impact of plastics.

As of January 2019, the Government aims to ban single use plastic bags and straws. It is also intended that styrofoam food containers and cups will be banned once environmentally friendly options have been identified and are in use. It is proposed that alternatives to single-use plastic bags include reusable paper bags and reusable cloth bags.

"Samoa is proud to make this announcement as we enhance our Blue Pacific and join the global fight to restore our ocean and address damage caused by plastic," said Ulu Bismarck Crawley, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE).

"This issue is too large for us to sit by without taking any action. By making these changes as a nation, our positive impact will be felt not only by us in Samoa, but also by our global community."

At least 8 million tonnes of plastics leak into the ocean on an annual basis, with at least 51 trillion micro-plastic particles less than 5mm in diameter already in our ocean. The large-scale production and use of plastic dates back to 1950 when it was estimated that 2 million metric tons of plastic was produced, over the years the increase in plastic production has climbed dramatically. In 2015 the planet produced 32 million metric tons of plastic.

Studies now show that fish consumed by humans are ingesting the tiny ocean plastics, with 75% of the world's tuna landings from Pacific waters and national fish consumption in the Pacific is three to four times the global average, there is cause for concern.

The Ministry carried out a survey on waste generation and composition conducted in 2011 and 2017 showed a significant increase in wastes from

26,000 tons per annum in 2011 to 32,850 tons per annum in 2017. This is 20.85% increase of waste generation within a six year period. It is estimated that about 8,869.5 tons of plastic are generated in one year in Samoa.

In 2017, the Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi announced at the United Nations Ocean Conference, 12 National Voluntary Commitments by Samoa as part of the world leaders "Call of Action" to support and implement SDG Goal 14. Included in these efforts were commitments to address "ocean litter" as one of the key environmental challenge or Samoa. Around 70% of the all the litter in our urban coastal waters are made of plastic. Most of these plastics are single-use items which presents a huge threat to Samoa's marine wildlife.

"We congratulate Samoa for taking bold action and working together to make changes that will benefit us all," said Mr Kosi Latu, Director-General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

"Our Pacific island region is demonstrating immense global leadership in this area and we are pleased to support Samoa and our fellow Pacific island nations as they continue to make such positive changes. This will also have a positive impact as Samoa prepares for Pacific Games in 2019 in greening of the games. This could be the first plastic free Pacific games."

As such, national consultations will be conducted to discuss this initiative and finalise further types of exceptions for all proposed materials to be phased out. The Government agencies and Private Sector consultations will be conducted, together with community consultations taking place in the coming months. The consultations are coordinated by the Ministry with support of SPREP.

For further information please contact Seumaloisalagi Afele Faiilagi, ACEO Division of Environment and Conservation (MNRE) on 67200

Other News

Upcoming News for July



Small Grants Program (SGP) Capacity Building Workshop for Upolu/Savaii



Vaisigano Catchment Project Operational Manual Workshop



WRD School Awareness Campaign



Multi Hazard EWS Trainings - (RIMES)

For more information and queries, directly contact:

email: roland.setu@mnre.gov.ws Phone: (+685) 67200 ext(255) website: www.mnre.gov.ws

Your feedback is highly valuable for the improvement of our newsletter services to all