



Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment



January 2019

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The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) in Samoa, is once again bringing to the forefront the importance of supporting communities who are facing a lot of risks in their fragile ecosystems. Ten applicants were awarded financial grants from the GEF-SGP, totalling a sum of over 218,000 USD, which will be utilised to implement projects spanning numerous GEF Focal Areas (FAs).

Two inception workshops were conducted in January to congratulate the successful applicants in both Upolu and Savaii, including Community Based Organisations (CBOs) for embodying the very essence of sustainable development, “thinking globally, acting locally”. the inception workshops also provided an opportunity for the SGP team to clarify queries and to help build their capacity in implementing the approved work plans.

January 10th-13th

International Renewable Energy Agency 9th Assembly



The Honourable Fiamē Naomi Mataafa and Mrs Vanda Faasoa-Chan Ting represented Samoa at the 9th Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

A Small Island Developing States (SIDS) high level meeting was also held prior to the Assembly for discussions on accelerating SIDS' energy transition. Fiamē emphasized that climate change is the single greatest threat to SIDS as there is an urgency to take effective action immediately to mitigate against the adverse climate change impacts.

January 24th-25th

Tree Planting in Savaii for Forestry Division



The Forestry Division conducted a two day tree planting workshop in Vaipouli, Savaii. The workshop highlighted the importance of forests and the Forestry Act 2011, which enforces harvesting of forestry resources and registration of portable sawmills operating in the country.

Workshop participants were able to discuss and exchange ideas on ways to improve the Two Million Tree Campaign, in meeting its target by 2020 and addressing forestry issues.

A visit to the Masamasa/Falelima National Park was also conducted to enable staff to capture the message behind the campaign; to enrich our forests, increase forest cover, preserve biodiversity and to mitigate climate change impacts, etc.

January 22nd-23rd

Rat Trap Monitoring



The Ministry conducted a baited rat trap monitoring at the Malololelei Reserve. Those involved hiked the reserve to record the effectiveness of baits, which were placed at numerous trap stations. GPS data of each trap station were also updated to make monitoring work less of a hassle.

One of the main purposes for rodent control work is to reduce the impact of rats on the ecosystem. Rats threaten the existence of Samoa's endemic birds, such as the endangered Manumea.

January 31st

Plastic Ban in Effect for Samoa



A ban on plastic shopping bags and straws is now in effect for Samoa.

As stated by the Honourable Fiame Naomi Mataafa in Parliament; Samoa is a small country, waste is growing and if we are not careful by not taking the protection of our environment seriously, we will do a lot of damage ourselves.

Although the Government has set policies to enforce the plastic ban, Fiame understands that it is not enough. "There's a need for a whole new change in mind-set towards this new form of challenge against manufactured rubbish, if we want to be more effective in the protection of our environment", she said.

January 31st

First Aid Certification Hosted by DMO



Nine staff members attended a first aid training hosted by the Disaster Management Office (DMO) from 30th January to 1st February, and are now certified first responders.



The first aid training covered topics such as; drowning, adult/child choking, CPR, moving/transporting casualties, shock and fainting, etc.



CERTIFIED STAFF:

- Meripa Siasosi—CSD
- Katie Niupulusu—CSD
- Tufalaaia Tuipoloa—CSD
- Kehaolani Manoa-Slade—CSD
- Malia Pisa—DMO
- Wesley Hakai—DMO
- Alex Seumalo—Environment Sector
- Lotomauualalo Tuitaalili—Forestry
- Claudia Milikini—Water Sector



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