



Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment



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Ground Breaking of the National Emergency Operations Centre

The ground breaking ceremony for the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) commenced 6th February 2019.

One of the Centre's main functions is to support the nation's efforts to reduce its vulnerability to climate change from natural disasters through the provision of early warning systems and finance recovery tactics in the event of a disaster.

The NEOC will be equipped with the latest technology that will assist DMO with producing accurate information for the public during natural disasters. This will increase the resilience of Samoa and the Pacific region as a whole to natural disasters such as cyclones, coastal-riverine flooding, volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes by improving the quality of forecast and warning services.

In attendance were Xianqing Yu-World Bank Director (Strategy Operations), Cabinet ministers, Fuiavailili Egon Keil-Police Commissioner and members of the diplomatic community.

World Wetlands Day 2019



The commemoration of the World Wetlands Day 2019, store carbon.

was through a joint initiative by the Ministry and its partners as well as the local community. The official opening ceremony was conducted at the Samoa Convention Center followed by the launching of wetland awareness materials by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of MNRE, Honourable Fiaame Naomi Mataaafa.

‘Wetlands and Climate Change’ was the theme for World Wetlands Day 2019. It highlighted the importance of wetlands as the key to coping with climate change by providing natural solutions such as buffering coastlines from extreme weather, reduces floods and relieve droughts and naturally absorb and

The Wetlands costume competition by church youths was a terrific awareness opportunity to provide great fun and a huge awareness success. It is another mean of creating an emotional connection between wetland characters and the targeted audience. A tree planting was the final activity which was conducted at O le Pupu Pue National Park.

World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year in February to raise global awareness about the value of wetlands for humanity and the planet. It also marks the date of adoption of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar. World Wetlands Day was celebrated for the first time in 1997.



February 7th

YCAN Samoa First Pacific Youth Group to Win RAMSAR Convention Award for Young Wetlands Champions



Youth Climate Action Network for Samoa (YCAN) is the first ever Pacific youth group to be awarded the Ramsar Convention Award for Young Wetlands Champions. The award acknowledges a young person or a group of young people, between the ages of 18 and 30, who have long-term contribution and efforts to the sustainable use of wetlands within and beyond Samoa. The award received including a wetland trophy, a special price of US\$10,000.00

them secure their win include mangrove rehabilitation and restoration through planting and waste removal; coral reef rehabilitation and crown of thorns starfish control operations; and overall awareness of wetlands, coral reefs and climate change adaptation and mitigation activities in local communities. These activities were carried out in the villages of Vailoa-Faleata, Fausaga and Faleula on Upolu Island, and Auala, Matavai-Safune and Puapua in Savaii.

YCAN's most notable achievements which helped

February 19th-20th

Drupal Training



MNRE staff participated in the National Search Index Development & Drupal Training Mission. The training was carried out by Arve Solland, Technical Lead/Software Engineer at Griffith University in Australia and was facilitated by SPREP representatives, Billy Chan Ting and Tavita Su'a.

The objectives of the technical mission is to support the

Samoa Government and MNRE with training on the search index software platform, Drupal, and to scope the functionality, data and styling requirements for the search index.

Through Drupal, Samoa will have an information portal on climate change that can be accessed by the general public.

February 28th

Launch of E-Waste Collaboration



The Ministry has partnered with Samoa Stationary and recycling since we are continually importing electrical Books (SSAB) and HP New Zealand Company to and electronic products. The Waste Management Act collect E-waste, starting with HP toners and ink 2010 has been implemented as a guide in the cartridges, and shipping them overseas for proper sustainable management of E-waste at the national disposal and recycling. The launch of this partnership level. commenced at the SSAB Conference Room.

In his keynote address, MNRE-CEO Ulu Bismarck negatively impact the environment and affect human health if not properly managed as is the case in our business opportunities being presented with E-waste small island country.

March 11th

Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Working Group Workshop



Representatives from MNRE and other Ministries took part in a two week workshop commencing March 11th, focused on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Working Group on the analysis of land degradation trends for Samoa 2000-2018 with the use of Collect Earth and Trends Earth GIS Tools.

The main objective of the LDN Working Group workshop was to equip participants with the required GIS knowledge to analyse trends of land degradation on all landscapes of Samoa in order to ease the task of determining the exact land areas of hotspots as well as brightspots according to UNCCD global and data index.

Some key outcomes of the technical workshop are:

- Refresher training of GIS tools (Collect Earth & Trends Earth) for the LDN working group)
- Assessment of land degradation trends and associate drivers (LDN hotspots and brightspots)
- Generation and determination of near-accurate national data of Samoa's land cover distribution against the current UNCCD global land data
- Generation of land degradation hotspot and bright spot maps based on the trend analysis including a sampled updated map of Samoa's land cover etc.

March 13th

Ocean Planning in Samoa



With the aim to support Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) by implementing a national-scale Marine Spatial Plan (MSP = Ocean Plan) while strengthening community engagement in climate actions in Samoa, more than twenty participants from different Government Ministries and Corporations whom who had the key role in managing Samoa's ocean resources, were gathered to attend a one (1) day workshop on 13th March 2019 at Tanoa Tusitala Hotel in Apia.

The significance of Marine Spatial Planning not only in the management but sustainable development and

wise use of Samoa's Ocean Resources were highlighted in MNRE-CEO Ulu Bismarck Crawley's keynote address.

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) or Ocean Planning is a practical way of spatially organising the human use of marine areas to balance the demands of human activities with the need to maintain the health of the ecosystems on which those activities depend. This is especially important in Pacific Island countries where 98% of their area is ocean, and where livelihoods, food security, cultural wellbeing, and economic dependencies are inter-connected with the ocean.

March 15th-16th

NUS Students Learn About Samoa's Biodiversity and Conservation Efforts



More than fifty NUS Foundation Biology and 200 level environmental science students joined the Division of Environment and Conservation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) and the Samoa Conservation Society (SCS) to learn about conservation projects being implemented by the two organizations and to understand simple approaches to monitor biodiversity.

The students were engaged on a full day of activities with a feel of the actual surveys and research works

conducted for specific taxa and different ecosystems. The field excursion with students at the Malololelei Recreation Reserve took them through the various methodologies used for researching different species of plants and animals and their habitats.

To mark this first year of success for this program, a total of 2000 native seedling of montane and lowland trees were planted at the Malololelei Reserve to reinforce our commitment to environmental protection and biodiversity conservation for Samoa.

March 18th

Parks and Reserves Officer Receives Graduate Certificate from the University of Kent



Laulu Fialelei Enoka of the Parks and Reserves section from the Division of Environment and Conservation travelled to Jersey in the Channel Islands, UK February 2018 to take part in the Durrell Endangered Species Management Graduate Certificate (DESMAN course). Run by the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, the course focused on increasing the participants' critical understand of the theory and practice of endangered species management and recovery.

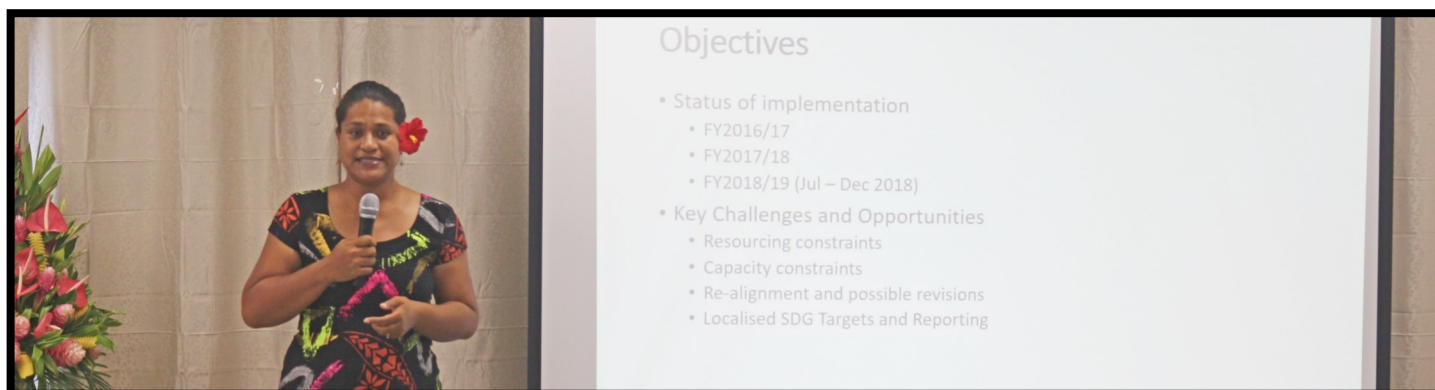
Kent was presented to Laulu Fialelei Enoka on March 18, 2019, in the presence of Honourable Fiamé Naomi Mataafa, Ulu Bismarck Crawley and Hester Whitehead from Jersey Zoo.

Fialelei was one of 15 students from countries around the world, from St Lucia to Sri Lanka, Nigeria, India, Seychelles, Indonesia, Canada, Brazil, Armenia, United Arab Emirate and Hong Kong SAR, China.

A graduate certificate validated by the University of

March 22nd

Mid-Year Review of the National Environment Sector Plan



A mid-term review of the National Environment Sector Plan (NESP) 2017-2021 commenced on Friday 22nd March, 2019 at the Water Resources Division Field Office.

The review of the NESP assessed the implementation and progress achieved in the first 2 and a half years, including key challenges and opportunities. It provided an opportunity for implementing focal points and

partners to review and improve on the remaining programme to ensure alignment with current initiatives and capacities.

The program facilitated by Frances Reupena, included stakeholder consultations, review of annual reports, budget KPIs and sector quarterly progress reports.

March 22nd

World Water and Forest Day



“Leaving no one behind, through sustainable water and forest management education” was the theme for this year’s World Water and Forest Day. This event took place at the Water Resources Division Field Office, which was officially opened on this same day.

The theme is based on promoting education on sustainable water and forest management through all levels of the community from the grassroots to the policy and decision makers, and involving everyone especially the often marginalised groups such as the elderly, women, children, refugees, indigenous people, etc.

Fiame Naomi Mataafa, Honourable Minister of Environment, declared the day’s events officially open with a welcoming address. In attendance were

members of the Diplomatic Corps, Non Governmental Organisations, Private Sectors, Village Mayors, students from various schools, etc.

An educational journey on water and forests was conducted taking students through the following areas:

- Water Resources Division Field Office
- Forestry Division Office
- SPREP
- Mt. Vaea Visitors Centre and Track
- SROS Water Quality Presentation
- SWA Treatment Plant
- Plant Nurseries and Tree Planting



March 22nd

Proposed Samoa Meteorology Bill 2019 Consultation



As part of the activities of the World Meteorology Day 2019, a stakeholder consultation was also carried out for the proposed Samoa Meteorology Bill 2019 (Bill). The Bill is to legally establish the Division of Meteorology currently under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

For years, it has carried out a number of functions which are critical to the safety of Samoa such as monitoring the climate and weather. Further, the Bill will highlight the different functions of the division such as the provision of meteorological services in the area of atmosphere, oceans and earth.

March 29th

Launching of Early Childhood Education DRM Materials



Associate Minister for the Ministry launched the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Disaster Risk Management (DRM) materials on 29 March, 2019.

effective teaching methods to assist teachers in their work. The three natural disasters that are part of the project are cyclones, earthquakes and tsunamis.

The materials and project packages presented are aimed to familiarise children with natural hazards and explanation of what to do when disaster strikes. Among the materials are illustrations with easy-to-follow messages that school children can practice in class with their teachers.

The main focus of the project is to increase children's knowledge and skills, along with sharing more

This is a collaborative effort between the Samoa Disaster Management Office in partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC). The ECE resources were funded by the European Union under the APU-EU Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific (SPREP) project which has been implemented by the Government of Samoa and the Pacific Community

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