



Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment NEWSLETTER 2020

January-February, 2020

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ENVIRONMENT SECTOR STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY VALIDATION WORKSHOP

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SAMOA'S THIRD NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS & BIENNIAL UPDATE REPORT NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

REFRESHER TRAINING FOR ALL MNRE STAFF IN RELATION TO NEW AMMENDMENTS OF THE WORKING CONDITIONS & ENTITLMENTS 2015

BIRD HIDE TRAIL IN SAMOA-UAFATOI FAGALOA

Upcoming Events

National Environment Sector Steering Committee-2/03

Special, Unique Marine Areas Workshop (SUMA)-4/03

Mangrove Programme for Puapua under the UNDP-3/03

World Meteorology Day & Water & Forestry day-23/03

SMSMCL PROJECT- OPEN TENURE WORKSHOP

February 12th 2020

The SMSMCL workshop focused was to implement the series of steps of the open tenure software on the field, known as a mapping tool and a mobile app for Sustainable Land Management in Samoa and is used for monitoring the critical landscapes specifically to local communities.

The open tenure software was chosen due to its quality in terms of, supporting the better governance at the community level, this is where communities has to own the results and it would be a community decision as to how the results of the mapping would be used and shared.

It is an open source software, not internet dependent, less cost, and very compatible with the open source software now used for Samoa land administration system, Solutions for Open Land Administration (SOLA), open source QGIS and has brought a very important aspect of Landscape management which is community land tenure governance.

The outcome of this mobile app will be to support community based crowd sourcing approach to the recording of tenure rights, customized open tenure and community server for Samoa village communities as well as configured for community purposes and land use mapping.

6th February 2020

ENVIRONMENT SECTOR STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP



The National Environment Sector Steering Committee(NESSC) in partnership with SPREP through its INFORM project held a stakeholder consultation workshop based on the development of the Communication Strategy in order to enhance climate change, disaster risk reduction awareness, knowledge and understanding through a coordinated and sector wide approach.

In this regard, the workshop has involved the engagement of the stakeholders, key representatives of respective ministries/organizations in order to gauge their views and recommendation to shape the development of the sectors communication framework. There were intense group discussions and sharing of knowledge based on the existing communication issues and challenges from stakeholders, using strengths weaknesses opportunity and threat (SWOT) analysis approach.

The outcome of this workshop is to improve data and knowledge information management in the region through INFORM project managed by SPREP.and to strengthen the effective communication of stakeholders, enhanced access information for informed and strategic decision making all of which will greatly contribute to the management of Samoa's natural resources and environment.

12th February 2020

LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY VALIDATION WORKSHOP



Samoa is already on its path to completing its LDN-TSP and prior to this, **Samoa's National Action Programme to Combat Land Degradation and Mitigate the Effects of Drought 2015-2020** is an active document whereby land degradation issues are identified and proposed solutions contributes to the LDN baseline data.

The 2nd Tentative programme for the National LDN Stakeholders Validation Workshop was carried out to review the data which was completed in September, 2019.

The facilitator Eti Laulala from Electric power and Corporation (EPC) presented the final results and discussed on useful and imperative information of data collected which can be of useful for research on Samoa's land coverage.

In addition, there are also national strategies, policies and legislations in place that supports the achievement of LDN for Samoa such as *“Taking of Land Act 1964”*, *“The Alienation of Customary Land Act 1965”* and others. Representatives from MAF, LTA, EPC, SBS, MWTI and various divisions of MNRE were present during the LDN workshop.

12th February 2020

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION ON SUSTAINABLE WATERSHED



The Water Resource Division carried out its initial Community Consultation on Sustainable Watershed today 12th February 2020 with the village of Nuusatia situated in the Safata District, the village is blessed with fresh water from the mountains catering for community water supply and livelihoods.

This initial workshop aimed at rekindling the partnership between the village and MNRE to look at better ways to manage land use and bring about sustainable water resource for future generations. The workshop was held at the Methodist Church Hall and was attended by approximately 150 people from the different village bodies.

Impacts and potential solutions were discussed and the village council approved the development of a Watershed Management Plan for the Nuusatia Catchment as well as village bylaws. Future surveys and workshops are planned for watershed characterization and P3D Model Development together with the communities. This has been a bottom up Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) approach also known as “Community to Cabinet Ridge to Reef” -Safune and Puapua in Savaii.

February 13th 2020

SAMOA'S THIRD NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS & BIENNIAL UPDATE REPORT NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP



The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment through its Climate Change and GEF Division hosted the Third National Communication and Biennial Update

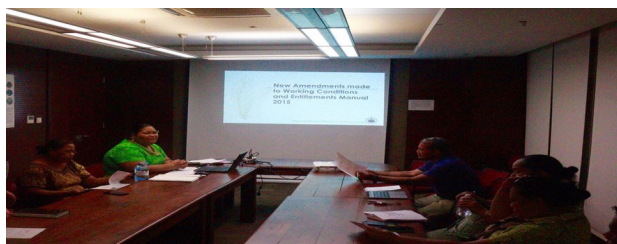
Report National Stakeholder Workshop and Consultation at Sheraton on the 12th of February, 2020.

Samoa's Third National Communication and Biennial Update Report National Stakeholder Introductory Workshop which aimed to congregate all members/representatives from all sectors to discuss the data collection, identify and address avenues to improve and strengthen the technical and policy information as

climate change is a cross-cutting issue. Its main objective was to inform key stakeholders on how to correlate and formulate accurate data sets and information requirement not only to meet Samoa's reporting obligations to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) but also to strengthen and enhance the development of our national policies.

19th-21st February 2020

Refresher training for all MNRE staff in relation to New Amendments of the Working Conditions and Entitlements Manual 2015



The training was focused on the new amendments of the Working Conditions and Entitlements Manual 2015 (WCEM) for all public servants. The amendments were specific on certain determinations such as;

- Holidays
- Counting of Service

Maternity & Paternity Leave

- Bereavement Leave
- Special & Standard Leave (TOIL)
- Cessation of Employment upon Retirement etc

This refresher training has shed light on the discrepancies that enable all employees to understand the nature of work and how its govern normal operation of the day. The Ministry has reached 400 number of employees therefore there is a need to conduct refresher trainings prior to working conditions monthly in order to improve performance on the job.

7th February 2020

BIRD HIDE TRAIL IN SAMOA-UAFATO FAGALOA



The very first Bird Hide trail in Samoa is located at Uafato Fagaloa Village. The Division of the Environment and Conservation under the Vailima National Parks and Reserve team had worked hard on this project until the launching month 11th March 2020

Uafato is known as the village ideal with the largest conservation area in the Pacific contained most of the endemic flora and fauna and marine species.

Building the first bird hide trail at Uafato Fagaloa will enable site visits for the ministry and the people of Uafato to observe and keep track of the birds and where they are most likely to be seen, what birds are there depending on the season, where to find them and how to keep record according to their extinction due to Climate change.

Uafato has a very unique socio-cultural situation and the economic benefits of having a conservation site extends at the local, national and regional level. Its lush rainforest, rugged topography, accessible waterfalls, considerable species diversity, coral reefs and unique cultural features gives the Uafato area great significance and potential for consideration as a possible nomination under "mixed site" for Samoa's Tentative list.

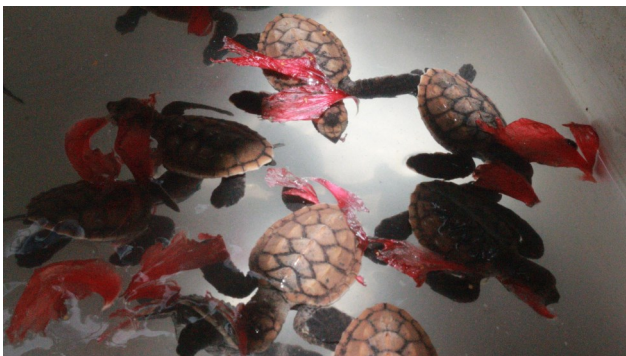
This Bird trail project will also attract tourist to visit Uafato rural area thus gives local residents an increased incentive to safeguard its natural areas for endemic species birds and marine species.

WARNING: SAVE OUR MARINE SPECIES– TURTLES

It's the season of baby turtle hatchlings

Watch out for this endangered species as they are attracted to lights !!!.

Please contact MNRE if you see a sick or injured sea turtle.



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

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