



“Coastal Mangrove Re-planting and Waste Clean-up Program for Vaigaga Village under the guidance of the Division of Environment and Conservation.”



In national efforts to restore coastal mangrove ecosystems, Vaigaga Village has proceeded to contribute to the drive and held their mangrove replanting and waste clean-up program on Saturday the 25th of February 2023. The program implementation was guided by the technical support of the Division of Environment and Conservation (DEC) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) in partnership and close collaboration with the community through its Project Committee.

The village community of more than 100 people who participated in this program, together with staff of the Marine Biodiversity Conservation Section and Waste Management team were able to plant over four-hundred (400+) mangrove seedlings; only two types of Mangroves out of the three found in

the country were planted. As a breakdown, 218 seedlings for *Brugueira gymnorhiza* or commonly known as Oriental Mangrove (togo tane) and 186 seedlings of *Rhizophora samoensis* or Red Mangrove (togo fafine). The total coverage area for the mangrove replanting activity is 507 m² along the coast of Vaigaga. A Waste Clean-up activity was also done within a 100 meters' boundary of the whole mangrove area to facilitate a waste audit to determine the type of wastes and the most abundant one being disposed of in the mangrove area. This was also done to help relieve the mangrove area of the accumulating rubbish and waste materials. The other critical part of the overall program was the opportunity to raise awareness and understanding on the importance of mangrove ecosystems and the impacts of poor waste management on these habitats and the ecosystem services they provide, through visual presentations and dialogue.

MNRE and the community of Vaigaga will continue collaboration on monitoring efforts and restoration activities for the existing mangrove habitat along their coastal area.

The realization of this undertaking was possible with the financial support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Small Grants Programme (SGP) for community-based projects. The Ministry acknowledges the commitment of the village of Vaigaga and the continuous financial support of GEF UNDP SGP in coastal and marine conservation undertakings at the grassroots level.

For more information regarding mangrove ecosystem and habitat conservation efforts contact Taiatu Maria Satoa email: maria.satoa@mnre.gov.ws

More photos: [Vaigaga Mangrove Rehabilitation Photos](#)