



Government of Samoa

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Level 3, Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Efi
Building (TATTE), Sogi, P.O Private Bag,
Apia, SAMOA.
Website: <http://www.mnre.gov.ws/>

Telephone: (+685) 67200
Email: environment@mnre.gov.ws

Please address all correspondence to the
Chief Executive Officer, Private Bag, Apia,
Samoa.
Faamolemole faatuatusi uma mai
fesootaiga i le Ōfisa Sili.

Press Release – MNRE Hosts Commonwealth Heads Of Government Meeting (CHOGM) Tree Planting and Carbon Offset Program, October 24, 2024 - Vailima Botanical Garden.

“Successful CHOGM Tree Planting and Carbon Offset Event at Vailima Botanical Garden”

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) is pleased to announce the successful completion of the CHOGM Tree Planting and Carbon Offset Program held at the Vailima Botanical Garden on October 24, 2024. This milestone event was organized as part of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) initiatives and represents a major step forward in Samoa’s commitment to environmental conservation and climate resilience. The tree planting coincided with the launch of Samoa’s Marine Spatial Plan, which was developed by MNRE in partnership with Conservation International and supported by the Waitt Institute.

The program saw the planting of over 6,000 native trees, which will contribute to offsetting carbon emissions from CHOGM 2024 while restoring vital ecosystems in Samoa. Leaders, dignitaries, and community members from across the Commonwealth came together to participate in this symbolic event, further solidifying the Commonwealth’s dedication to addressing the urgent issue of climate change.

Over 4,000 trees were planted at the Vailima Botanical Garden, symbolizing the Commonwealth’s united efforts to mitigate climate change and promote sustainable development. The planted trees are expected to sequester carbon emissions generated by CHOGM, moving the event closer to being carbon-neutral. The use of native species not only supports carbon offsetting but also helps restore and protect Samoa’s unique biodiversity.

Hon. Toeolesulusulu Cedric Salesa Pose Schuster, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment said;

" This initiative represents Samoa’s ongoing leadership in climate action and sustainability, and we are proud to leave a legacy that will benefit future generations."

The event brought together international leaders to collaborate on this significant climate initiative. The Vailima Botanical Garden, a key site for conservation in Samoa, served as the perfect setting for this effort to both offset emissions and foster environmental education.

Participants were involved in hands-on tree planting, learning about the importance of reforestation and the long-term benefits it will bring to Samoa’s ecosystems and the global fight against climate change.

The Ministry will continue to monitor and maintain the newly planted trees to ensure their growth and contribution to carbon offsetting efforts. The success of this program sets a precedent for future CHOGM events and positions Samoa as a model of environmental leadership within the Commonwealth.

The Ministry wishes to acknowledge the Government of New Zealand, Green Climate Fund and Conservation International for making this event possible

END.

For more information, please contact Theresa Fidow, Communications Officer, MNRE
Samoa | Tel. +685: 67200 ext. 319, E: theresa.fidow@mnre.gov.ws | www.mnre.gov.ws

