



Government of Samoa

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT



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His Majesty King Charles III Visits some of Samoa's Environmental Heritage Sites: Moata'a Mangrove Conservation Area and the O Le Pupū Pu'ē National Park — October 24, 2024

His Majesty King Charles III during his historic first visit to Samoa as part of the 27th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), toured two significant environmental sites, demonstrating the Kingdom's continued commitment to conservation and climate action across the Commonwealth.

The day began at the Moata'a Mangroves where His Majesty was received by Hon. Toeolesulusulu Cedric Pose Salesa Schuster (Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Lands), and then participated in a restoration walk alongside local community leaders, environmental experts, and government officials. Mangroves are vital coastal ecosystems which serve multiple critical functions including protecting shorelines, supporting biodiversity, sustaining local livelihoods, and sequestering significant amounts of carbon. The community-led rehabilitation efforts at Moataa village, exemplify Samoa's grassroots approach to environmental stewardship. During the restoration walk, His Majesty was able to view local fishers catching fish and mangrove crabs using traditional canoes and sustainable fishing methods. At the end of the walk is a freshwater pool, and here he met with traditional leaders and talked about community led conservation efforts.

His Majesty then visited the O Le Pupū Pu'ē National Park, one of Samoa's premier conservation areas. The park showcases the nation's rich biodiversity and stands as a testament to Samoa's commitment to preserving its natural landscapes for future generations. The National Park was dedicated as part of Queen Elizabeth II's Commonwealth Canopy in celebration of her Platinum Jubilee in 2022. During his visit, His Majesty unveiled a commemorative plaque, symbolizing Samoa and the Kingdom's shared vision in preserving indigenous forests across the Commonwealth of Nations. His Majesty also visited the Togitogiga Waterfall which is one of the many natural features of the Park, while being tailed by eager school children and local communities within the area.

During the visit, King Charles III praised Samoa's environmental leadership: "The dedication shown by the people of Samoa in preserving their unique natural heritage is truly inspiring. The Government of Samoa's protection of mangroves, rainforests and other critical ecosystems demonstrates exemplary stewardship that supports local livelihoods, enhances biodiversity, and grounds this year's CHOGM theme of *One Resilient Common Future-Transforming Our Common Wealth*."

Honourable Toeolesulusulu Cedric Salesa Pose Schuster, thanked His Majesty and further highlighted the "significant opportunities which CHOGM will hopefully provide to secure and strengthen further partnerships between Samoa and the Commonwealth in addressing environmental challenges". He also acknowledged the support of the Village Councils from Moataa, Siumu and Falealili, as well as all the partners contributing to nature conservation around the country.

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