



**NATIONAL  
ENVIRONMENT  
WEEK 2026**

19 MAY, 2026 |  
SHERATON HOTEL

**DAY 2:**

Environment Forum  
**Tofa fa'asoa mo le puipuiga o le  
Si'osi'omaga**

*"Local Actions for Global Impact"*

<b>PROGRAM</b>	
8.30am	Registration
9:00am	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b> <i>CEO, MNRE</i> <i>Lealaisalanoa Frances Brown Reupena</i> <b>Opening Prayer</b> <i>Fr. Mikaele Mataafa, St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Mulivai</i>
9.30am	<b>Keynote Remarks</b> <i>Hon. Minister, MNRE</i> <i>Afioga Ale Vena Ale</i>
9.40am	Group Photo & Morning tea
<b>PANEL 1 – Local Actions for Global Impact – experiences from Small Grants Project</b> Moderator: Su’a Sapeti Tiitii <i>KIWA Initiative Program Manager, Conservation International</i>	
<b>PANEL 2 – Enhancing Resilience With Communities – sharing perspectives of Environment Volunteers</b> Moderator: Iliganoa Feagaimaalii Soti Mapu <i>Tausala o Samoa / Youth ERG Member</i>	
12.00pm	Lunch Break
<b>PANEL DISCUSSION 3 – Environment, Waste Management, Climate Change and Disaster resilience – exploring youth perspectives</b> Moderator: Asuao Malaki Iakopo <i>Regional BOLD Program Manager, SPREP</i>	
2.00pm	Closing & Afternoon tea

## **PANEL 1: Local Actions for Global Impact- experiences from Small Grant Project**

Abstract: Local Actions for Global Impact underscores the power of effective partnerships and collaborative action in driving meaningful change at the village and community level — change that ripples outward to benefit both local and global environments. These actions focus on advancing environmental sustainability through nature-based conservation and restoration; strengthening resilience to climate change and disaster through community-driven initiatives; and building a more secure built environment through sustainable waste management. Together, these efforts foster a sustainable and protected environment that supports food security, social stability, and economic livelihoods — eventually enhancing the well-being of communities today and for generations to come.

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**Moderator: Su'a Sapeti Tiitii**

KIWA Project Manager, Conservation International

### **PANEL MEMBERS:**



**Tusanilefaiaao Iosefatu Reti**

He a Community Leader of Savaia Village and a pioneering environmentalist whose wisdom and lifelong dedication to conservation have inspired his community to become active stewards of their natural environment. A champion of sustainable resource management and environmental restoration, Tusanilefaiaao leads by example — demonstrating that empowered communities are the foundation of a resilient and sustainable Samoa.

Project: Savaia Marine Protected Area Management

## **Sili Valerie Saena Tuia**

She is the co-founder of Faalapotopotoga o Aiga Maleale (FAMA), an association supporting vulnerable low-income families in urban Apia. A seasoned scientist with a strong background in plant genetic resources and tissue culture across the Pacific region, she applies her expertise at the community level — promoting horticultural ornamental gardening, and sustainable agriculture to build resilient livelihoods for families in need. She also supports communities for sustainable natural resource restoration projects.



## **Moeumu Uili**

She is the CASN and Threatened Species Coordinator for the Sosaiete Faasao o Samoa (Samoa Conservation Society), with extensive experience in terrestrial conservation and biodiversity protection. Her work centres on partnering with local communities to strengthen conservation awareness, protect threatened species and habitats, and promote sustainable environmental practices across Samoa.

Projects: Enhancing the Samoa Conservation Area Network



## **Fata Chris Aluni**

He is a development practitioner and grant adviser with over 16 years of experience working with donor-funded programmes and community organisations across Samoa. Through his long-standing partnership with the Small Grants Programme, he has supported a wide range of community-based environmental initiatives — from mangrove conservation and spring pool rehabilitation to biogas systems and solar lighting — helping communities build lasting resilience through sustainable development.



## **PANEL 2: Enhancing Resilience with Communities - sharing perspectives of Environment Volunteers under the Ridge-to-Reef Resilient Samoa Project.**

Community empowerment lies at the heart of building resilience through environmental conservation and preservation. By providing technical assistance while letting communities lead and drive implementation, we foster genuine ownership of initiatives — ensuring solutions are locally grounded and locally sustained. This approach sparks innovation, deepens environmental appreciation, and cultivates a culture of continuous learning. Communities hold invaluable knowledge of their own landscapes and needs; partnering with them not only strengthens outcomes but creates rich, reciprocal learning opportunities for all involved. Ultimately, when communities are empowered to steward their natural resources, sustainable management becomes not an obligation but a shared commitment.



**Moderator: Iliganoa Feagaimaalii Soti Mapu**

Miss Samoa

### **PANEL MEMBERS:**



**Isabella 'Peti' Roberson**

She is currently based on the south coast of Upolu. Holding a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Hawai'i Mānoa, with expertise in freshwater management and climate adaptation, she works with local communities on organic gardening, coral reef restoration, youth engagement, and waste management.

## **Nyah Lues**

She holds degrees in Environmental Science and Global Studies, and with a background in wetland and grassland conservation, she works with local schools, women's committees, and community groups to establish sustainable gardens, plant nurseries, and educational opportunities for all. She is currently serving in the big island of Savaii.



## **Gus 'Tasi' O'Brien**

With a background in sustainable and community-centred Industrial Design and hands-on experience in coral restoration and ecotourism across Southeast Asia, he brings a passion for people and planet to his work in waste management, coral reef restoration, and environmental education here in Samoa. He is currently serving on the island of Savaii.



## **Marc Camanag**

He is currently serving in Savaii, focusing on environmental education, waste management, and sustainable agriculture. A Georgetown University graduate with a background in U.S. environmental policy and congressional affairs, he brings valuable governance experience to community-level environmental work in Samoa.



## **PANEL 3: Environment, Waste Management, Climate Change and Disaster resilience - exploring youth perspectives**

**Abstract:** The youth are not just the future of our society, they are pivotal decision-makers for our planet today. Meaningful youth engagement in environmental sustainability goes beyond consultation; it means amplifying their voices and ensuring their active involvement in the planning, design, and implementation of interventions at every level. Through hands-on participation in conservation, waste management, and resilience-building initiatives, youth develop the knowledge, skills, and sense of purpose needed to make wise decisions for the Samoa they will inherit. Creating spaces where young people are seen, heard, and valued is equally important. When youth feel recognised and appreciated, they thrive — and in thriving, they become bold advocates and responsible stewards of our environment and natural resources.



**Moderator: Asuao Malaki Iakopo**

BOLD Loss and Damage Regional  
Program Manager, SPREP

### **PANEL MEMBERS:**



**Fiti Togatuki**

Vailele Christian Fellowship Youth.

B.A double major in Geography &  
Management

## **Norma Umaga**

Voice of Christ Youth Sale'ia  
Studying BA at NUS



## **Sooleaso Pala'amo**

Sui Autalavou EFKS Toamua  
Payroll, Tax & Treasury Executive officer  
at BAT (British American Tobacco) Samoa



## **Romario Pose**

Taitai Autalavou EFKS Vaimoso  
Principal Policy Analyst at the Ministry of  
the Prime Minister and Cabinet



## **Matthew Pitovao**

Member of the Samoa Deaf  
Association

