

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2026 | [capacity@mnre.gov.ws](mailto:capacity@mnre.gov.ws) | 685-67200



## GENDER MAINSTREAMING TRAINING UNDER GEF-7 INVASIVE SPECIES PROJECT

January 16, 2026

## New Recruits



Division of Environment and Conservation (DEC), recently conducted a specialized training at the Tanoa Tusitala Hotel focused on mainstreaming gender equality within invasive species management. Under the GEF-7 Samoa Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Project, ACEO Su'emalo Tumutalie Foliga emphasized that invasive species create significant hurdles for Samoa's biodiversity, agriculture, and economy. Because men and women often hold distinct roles and knowledge systems within these primary sectors, the Ministry recognizes that integrating a gender perspective is essential for developing more effective prevention, control, and eradication measures that reflect the lived realities of all community members.

The training was designed to equip participants with practical tools and strategies for gender-responsive management, including the monitoring of specific gender indicators and the enhancement of women's participation in local decision-making. By focusing on inclusive consultation and social engagement, the initiative aims to strengthen the overall impact of biodiversity protection efforts across the country. The Ministry acknowledged the vital support of the UNDP as a key implementation partner and thanked the lead consultant for her leadership in advancing this critical work toward a more inclusive and resilient environmental framework for Samoa.



**Name:** Audrey N Lee Hang  
**Designation:** Enforcement Officer Policy & regulatory  
**Division:** WRD



**Name:** Angela Hazelman  
**Designation:** Scientific Officer  
**Division:** MET



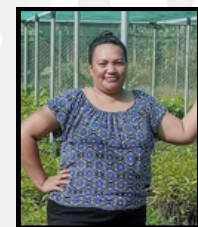
**Name:** Tiatia Fa'apito Usoalii  
**Designation:** Driver - Main  
**Division:** CSD



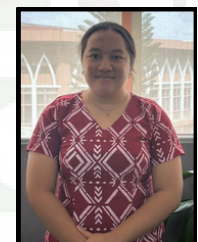
**Name:** Jimmy Siasoi Tapusoa  
**Designation:** Driver  
**Division:** WMPC



**Name:** Peter Tanielu  
**Designation:** IT Officer - Database/Programmer  
**Division:** ICT



**Name:** Siiae Emosi  
**Designation:** Forestry Officer - West Savaii  
**Division:** Forestry Division



**Name:** Christina Mosile  
**Designation:** Marine Officer  
**Division:** DEC





## 7TH CBD REPORT WORKSHOP

January 19, 2026



The National Inception Workshop, supported by the UNDP, was convened on January 19, 2026, to initiate Samoa's Seventh National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This reporting process fulfills requirements under Article 26 to assess progress against the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and Samoa's updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2025–2030. By engaging government agencies, civil society, and the private sector, the workshop established a unified methodology and data-sharing framework to ensure an evidence-based assessment. This report will serve as a vital national roadmap for conservation and contribute to the global biodiversity review at CBD COP 17. The session prioritized identifying critical data gaps and establishing quality assurance protocols to ensure the final document accurately reflects local environmental trends. Stakeholders emphasized the necessity of a "whole-of-society" approach to meet ambitious 2030 targets effectively. Furthermore, the outcomes of this workshop will streamline reporting efforts to align with broader national development goals and international obligations. Continued collaboration remains essential as the reporting process moves into its intensive data collection phase.



**Name:** Valerie Avasio Lepanona  
**Designation:** Cashier - Main  
**Division:** CSD



**Name:** Angela Mary Roseline Kofe  
**Designation:** Land Regulatory & Inspection Officer  
**Division:** DEC

## Overseas

*Meetings/Workshops/Seminars*



**Mr. Sepi Gafa & Mr. Aloali'i Liu to attend the 106<sup>th</sup> American Meteorological Society (AMS) Annual Meeting to be held in Houston, Texas, from 25-29 January 2026.**

Both Mr. Sepi Gafa and Mr. Aloalii Liu were selected for their extensive expertise in the Weather Forecasting Section, where they are responsible for overseeing the issuance of daily weather bulletins, warnings, and multi-hazard information like Severe Weather Bulletins (SWB). Their roles involve the precise monitoring, preparation, and dissemination of weather products to both the public and key stakeholders, including the compilation of observed parameters for weekly and fortnightly outlooks. By participating in the AMS Annual Conference, they will be able to present critical updates on the development of early warning systems in the Pacific Region while gaining vital insights into the integration of AI within the field. Ultimately, this opportunity allows them to explore the future significance of AI technology to enhance forecasting accuracy and disaster resilience for Pacific Islands such as Samoa.





## GACMO REFRESHER TRAINING

January 22, 2026



Climate Change Division, in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and KVAConsult, conducted a refresher training program on the Greenhouse Abatement Cost Model (GACMO). This initiative focused on the GACMO 8-Step Methodology to enhance national climate mitigation planning and ensure alignment with Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) tracking and Biennial Transparency Report requirements. Representatives from across the energy, transport, and agriculture sectors gained hands-on experience in updating baseline data and mastering Marginal Abatement Cost (MAC) curve analysis. By strengthening technical capacity for evidence-based strategies, the program reinforces Samoa's collective commitment to data-driven climate action and long-term sustainability. This collaborative effort serves as a critical step in refining the country's ability to implement and report on effective carbon reduction measures. The training also facilitated a vital exchange of sectoral data, ensuring that mitigation models reflect the most current realities of Samoa's infrastructure and land use. By bridging the gap between theoretical modeling and practical policy application, the division is better positioned to prioritize high-impact investment opportunities.

## Overseas

*Meetings / Workshops / Seminars*



**Mr. Manu Solomona & Ms. Taumeasina Fomai to attend the Workshop on strengthening climate prediction capabilities within WMO Regional Climate Centres and focus countries in the Africa, Caribbean-Pacific regions to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, 26–30 January 2026.**

Taumeasina Fomai is the Senior Scientific Officer of the Climate Section at the Samoa Meteorological Service. Her role is central to climate monitoring, analysis, and the development of tailored climate services for Samoa. Participation in this workshop is essential to advance her technical proficiency in seasonal and sub-seasonal prediction and the co-production of sector-specific climate products. The training will directly enhance the Service's capacity to provide high-quality, actionable climate information, strengthening national resilience and supporting evidence-based decision-making across key sectors. Her attendance will also reinforce Samoa's strategic engagement as a Pacific focus country within the WMO and ClimSA programme, ensuring the integration of global best practices into Samoa's climate services.

Manu Solomona is a Senior Scientific Officer of the Weather and Forecasting sub-section at the Samoa Meteorological Service. His extensive expertise in operational forecasting, severe weather monitoring, and early warning systems is essential for Samoa's disaster resilience. Attending the workshop will equip him with advanced skills in seasonal and sub-seasonal climate prediction, directly enhancing the Meteorological Service's capacity to produce actionable climate information. His participation will also strengthen Samoa's engagement with WMO Regional Climate Centres and foster collaboration with other ACP nations, ensuring that Samoa remains at the forefront of climate service delivery in the Pacific.





## Overseas Cont'

### Meetings/Workshops/Seminars



#### **Ms. Josephina & Ms. Bella to attend the Nevada-Samoa Disaster Management Office (DMO) Preparedness Exercise Subject Matter Expert Exchange, Nevada US - 19<sup>th</sup> Feb - 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026.**

The Nevada-Samoa Disaster Management Office Preparedness Subject matter expert exchange program has been an ongoing collaboration between Samoa through the MNRE-DMO and US-Nevada National Guard. Previously, the Nevada National Guard have implemented knowledge exchange exercises in Samoa in 2024 and 2025 in which Ms Chan Ting has been a lead focal point for Samoa DMO. Furthermore, Ms. Josephina Chan Ting in her capacity as the lead for Risk Reduction and Intel and Planning during emergencies is well aligned with the expectations and objectives of the proposed workshop. The subject matter expert exchange aims to showcase emergency coordination protocols and disaster management practices around Nevada which will further enhance her technical capacity in intelligence gathering, situation reporting and action planning to support effective emergency response operations.

Ms Bella. Smieti holds a senior leadership role with direct responsibility for national emergency logistics planning, warehouse and supply chain coordination, and the deployment of relief resources during NEOC activations. This position carries decision-making authority and a central role in interagency coordination and exercise planning. Participation in the Subject Matter Expert Exchange is well aligned with the role's responsibilities, ensuring that technical knowledge and best practices gained will be directly applied to strengthening Samoa's emergency response systems and the development of a future national mass casualty exercise.

## Overseas

### Meetings/Workshops/Seminars



#### **ACEO MET Afioga Afaese Dr. Luteru to attend the 64<sup>th</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the regional outreach for Asia and the South-West Pacific**

Dr. Luteru Tauvale's attendance at the 64th Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in Bangkok, Thailand, from March 24–27, 2026, is vital because it ensures that the unique scientific needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) like Samoa are prioritized in the upcoming Seventh Assessment Report (AR7) cycle. As a seasoned Pacific meteorologist and a previous contributing author to the IPCC, his presence provides the technical expertise necessary to advocate for "urgency, inclusivity, and relevance". By participating in discussions on the AR7 timeline and the review of governing principles, he helps ensure that the IPCC's foundational procedures remain robust and inclusive of the Pacific's specific vulnerabilities. Furthermore, Dr. Tauvale's participation is essential for grounding Samoa's national policies in the most current and authoritative global climate science. The session facilitates a critical "regional outreach for Asia and the South-West Pacific," allowing Samoa to align its local resilience efforts—such as village-level adaptation and the safeguarding of vulnerable communities—with international scientific standards. His attendance reinforces Samoa's leadership in the Pacific region and strengthens its moral authority in demanding ambitious global climate action that prioritizes those most exposed to sea-level rise and extreme weather.





## Overseas Cont' *Meetings/Workshops/Seminars*

## PICTORIAL *Update*

Manuwanu Survey Form February 4th



**Ms. Lisi Seumanutafa to attend the Asia-Pacific Shelter & Settlement Forum - Karachi, Sindh Pakistan**

Ms. Lisi Seumanutafa Lisi serves as the Senior Community Disaster Preparedness Officer, supporting and leading the delivery of the Community Disaster and Climate Risk Management (CDCRM) Programme at the community level. In this role, she works closely with communities and relevant agencies to ensure well prepared at all times. The CDCRM programme plays a central role in building community capacity and resilience to a wide range of hazards. Participation in this workshop is a great contribution to her career pathway as this is one of the important components of the CDRM program her section is leading is to ensure there are safe shelters available for community in time of natural disaster. These engagements will provide her with exposure to regional and international best practices in humanitarian, shelter and settlement. The skills and experience gained will strengthen her ability to support the Disaster Management Office (DMO) in facilitating and leading the CDCRM program and related initiatives, ensuring that Samoa's communities remain prepared, resilient, and responsive to climate and disaster risks.

During the event, she engaged in technical sessions and site visits—including tours of community-led reconstruction projects following Pakistan's major floods—to see how policy becomes a reality on the ground. These experiences are vital for ensuring that Samoa's safe shelters are more than just temporary buildings; they are integrated systems designed to protect dignity and withstand future climate threats. Her attendance strengthens the Disaster Management Office's (DMO) ability to bring global best practices back to Samoan villages, ensuring our communities remain prepared and responsive to the unique challenges of the Pacific.





## COASTAL CLEAN-UP BOOSTS KING'S BATON RELAY 2026 CAMPAIGN

January 26, 2026



The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, in partnership with the Samoa Recycling and Waste Management Association and the Samoa Conservation Society, organised a high-profile coastal and waterfront clean-up along the Mulinu'u seawall to coincide with Samoa's King's Baton Relay 2026 activation and support the Commonwealth Clean Oceans Plastics Campaign; carried out in the afternoon sun from the Mulinu'u Peninsula to the Fish Market, the activity used designated baton transfer stations to display collected waste, share waste-audit findings and celebrate past successes in plastic reduction and responsible waste practices, while demonstrating Samoa's ongoing efforts and progress under national initiatives and global commitments such as the Global Plastics Agreement—though the Government leads anti-littering campaigns and contracted waste services in Apia, the Ministry emphasised that sustainable, lasting change requires active participation from communities, the private sector and individuals, and thanked all partners, stakeholders and participants for their collaboration.

## JOINT WATER SECTOR STEERING COMMITTEE REVIEWS PROGRESS

January 26, 2026

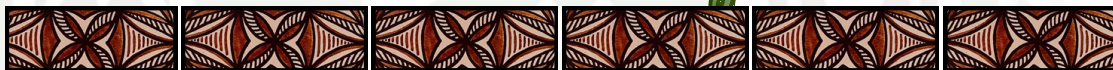


The Joint Water Sector Steering Committee met at the Tanoa Hotel, Sogi, to review a nine-month progress report (April–December 2025) on Samoa's water and sanitation initiatives, bringing together government ministries, implementing agencies, community and private partners to ensure a whole-of-sector approach, address implementation challenges, identify collaboration opportunities, and plan next steps—including a Water Sector Consultation with the Ministry of Finance on Feb 4 and the WASH Sector Annual Review on Feb 23—with the Committee scheduled to reconvene in May 2026 to assess Q1 progress.

## INTERNAL INCEPTION WORKSHOP ON THE SAMOA ENVIRONMENT –YOUTH ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

January 29, 2026





## NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT SECTOR STEERING COMMITTEE (NESSC) – MEETING NO. 2

January 29, 2026



The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment convened the second NESSC meeting for Quarter 2 of FY2025/26 to review progress by implementing agencies against the four Long-Term Outcomes of the National Environment Sector Plan (NESP) 2022/23–2026/27. The Ministry extends its sincere appreciation to the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) for support through the Samoa GEF OFP Grant, and thanks all participating stakeholders for their continued engagement and cooperation.

## SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY DISASTER AND CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

January 29, 2026



The Ministry, through the Disaster Management Office and the Meteorological Service Division, in collaboration with the Samoa Fire and Emergency Services Authority and key response agencies, successfully delivered the national Community Disaster and Climate Risk Management (CDCRM) Programme in Foaaluga, Savai'i, from 26–29 January 2026. Over four days, the programme included community-based learning sessions on vulnerability assessment, weather information, and Village Response Team roles, culminating in a tsunami simulation exercise that demonstrated the community's preparedness. This initiative, funded by the EU-ACP through the SPC under the BSRP II project, reflects strong multi-agency collaboration and marks the first of five villages targeted for CDCRM rollout this year.

## MNRE WELCOMES NEW STAFF FOR UPOLO WITH AN INDUCTION SESSION

January 26, 2026



The Ministry held an induction session for its newly appointed staff members on 4 February 2026, covering the Code of Conduct, values, working conditions, employee entitlements, and performance appraisal procedures to ensure recruits understand MNRE's vision and mission. The session emphasized professionalism, integrity, and ethical behavior, while also outlining leave entitlements and the performance evaluation process. At the conclusion, Chief Executive Officer Afioga Lealaisalanoa Frances Brown Reupena formally presented certificates to the new staff, and the Ministry expressed confidence that they are well-positioned to contribute to safeguarding Samoa's natural resources for future generations.





## ENHANCING DRONE PILOTING CAPABILITIES

February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026



The GEF-7 Samoa IAS Project, in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) and UNDP, conducted a five-day drone training program in February 2026, facilitated by Sky Eye Pacific to boost technical skills in aerial imagery and terrain mapping. This initiative equipped 15 staff members with advanced capabilities for monitoring environmental health and protecting Samoa's ecosystems from Invasive Alien Species (IAS). The project is funded by the Global Environment Facility.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY DISASTER AND CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT

February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026



The village of Sālelolōga, including the sub-villages of Foua, Sā-le-Tagaloa, and Sā Malietoā, successfully completed a four-day Community Disaster and Climate Risk Management (CDCRM) program from February 3–6, 2026, aimed at strengthening local resilience. Coordinated by the MNRE's Disaster Management Office and implemented by the Samoa Red Cross Society with various partners, the initiative involved training and a final simulation exercise to enhance natural hazard preparedness. Supported by the EU-ACP and the Pacific Community's (SPC) BSRP II Project, this initiative strengthens local capacity to manage climate risks.

## MONDAY

### Faigalotu

February 2nd Conducted by Climate Change Division



February 9th Conducted by Forestry Division



February 23rd Conducted by Environment Sector Coordination Division



March 2nd. Conducted by Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector





## STRENGTHENING CLIMATE DATA MANAGEMENT IN SAMOA THROUGH CLIDE

February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026



This initiative specifically targets officers within the Water Resources, Disaster Management, and ICT divisions to ensure that climate data is effectively integrated into water security and disaster risk reduction strategies. By focusing on advanced quality control, the aggregation of Automatic Weather Station (AWS) data, and the rescue of historical climate records, the program creates a more comprehensive and secure national database. These efforts guarantee that decision-makers have access to high-quality, reliable information for both local planning and international reporting.

Furthermore, the shift toward "CliDE-in-the-Cloud" marks a significant upgrade in Samoa's data security and accessibility. This modern approach allows for better system scalability and ensures that vital climate archives are protected against local hardware failures. Through this collaboration with the Australian and New Zealand governments, the MNRE is not only preserving Samoa's environmental history but also building a high-tech foundation for future climate resilience and sustainable development.

March 2nd. Conducted by Disaster Management Office



March 16nd. Conducted by Meteorology Division

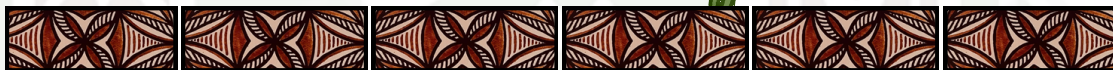


March 16nd. Conducted by Waste Management and Pollution Control Division



March 16nd. Conducted by the Office of the CEO





## IMPLEMENTATION COMMUNITY DISASTER AND CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

February 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026



The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), led by the Samoa Fire and Emergency Services Authority (SFESA), successfully completed the Community Disaster and Climate Risk Management (CDCRM) program in Foailalo, Savai'i, from February 9–12, 2026. This initiative focuses on the vital role of local communities as the first line of defense against unavoidable natural hazards. Through comprehensive training and Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (VCA), the program established and equipped four specialized village response committees to manage everything from disaster coordination and security to damage assessment and recovery.

The four-day session concluded with a rigorous tsunami table-top exercise and a tropical cyclone simulation to test the readiness of the newly formed response teams. These practical exercises allowed participants to apply their training in weather information and disaster frameworks to real-world scenarios, ensuring they are prepared to lead their community during an emergency. Funded by the EU-ACP and implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC), this program significantly enhances Foailalo's long-term resilience and its ability to respond effectively to future climate and disaster risks.

## STAFF

# achievements Congratulations



**Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting and Economics**

**Name**

Lameko Noaese

**Designation**

Accountant  
Expenditure



**Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Computing Applications.**

**Name**

Sasamamao

Kalolo

**Designation**

Scientific Officer



**Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Computing Software.**

**Name**

Lua Tuala

**Designation**

Capacity Building  
Officer





## SAMOA'S INVASIVE SPECIES EMERGENCY

### RESPONSE PLAN - EQUIPMENT HANDOVER

February 16, 2026



The formal handover of essential biosecurity equipment marks a critical transition for Samoa from strategic planning to active field implementation. This equipment directly supports the Samoa Invasive Species Emergency Response Plan (SISERP) 2025–2030, providing the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) with the tools needed for early detection and rapid response. By strengthening these surveillance and delimiting survey capabilities, Samoa is better positioned to protect its unique biodiversity, food security, and local livelihoods from the devastating impacts of invasive species.

This milestone is the result of a powerful regional partnership under SPREP's PRISMSS and the Protect Our Islands (POI) project, with significant backing from the United Kingdom and New Zealand. The collaboration highlights a unified approach to biosecurity, aligning national environmental priorities with international support to safeguard Samoa's natural ecosystems. As these new resources are deployed, they represent a cost-effective investment in the nation's economic resilience, ensuring that emerging biological threats are managed swiftly before they can undermine national development gains.

## GENDER IN DISASTER RISK

### MANAGEMENT POLICY REVIEW

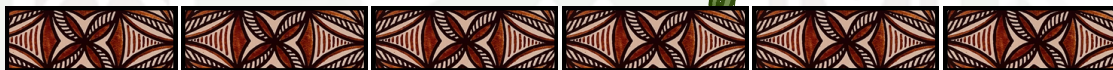
February 17th, 2026



The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) recently hosted a national workshop to review the Gender in Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Policy 2015, a critical step in modernizing Samoa's approach to inclusive disaster governance. Recognizing that disasters disproportionately affect women and girls by exacerbating existing inequalities and increasing the risk of gender-based violence, the review aims to align the policy with the National Disaster Management Plan 2025–2035. This process ensures that preparedness and recovery efforts are specifically tailored to the diverse needs of all community members, fostering a safer and more equitable environment during times of crisis.

Supported by UN Women, the consultation brought together various sectors to integrate gender perspectives directly into national disaster systems. By incorporating lessons learned from past responses and addressing emerging challenges, the revised policy will strengthen Samoa's commitment to "gender-responsive" resilience. This collaborative effort ensures that as the country faces increasing climate risks, no one is left behind, and that the protection of vulnerable groups remains a core priority in Samoa's long-term disaster management strategy.





## PREPARING FOR ACTION: KOBOTOOLBOX TRAINING SUPPORTS GEF-7 SAMOA IAS SURVEY

February 16, 2026



The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) in Samoa has trained staff on KoboToolbox to support the upcoming GEF-7 Samoa Invasive Alien Species (IAS) project's KAP survey. This initiative aims to strengthen community engagement and data accuracy for invasive species control across Upolu and Savai'i, with activities scheduled for February and March 2026.

## GENDER RESPONSIVE DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT THROUGH NATIONAL POLICY REVIEW

February 17 & 18, 2026



MNRE in partnership with UN Women, has conducted a national consultation to update the Gender in Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Policy, aiming to strengthen inclusivity and evidence-based strategies in national disaster planning [1]. Driven by 2023 Gender and Environment Survey data showing increased burdens on women, the revision process aims to formalize gender-responsive budgeting, mandate sex-, age-, and disability-disaggregated data (SADDD), and boost women's representation in decision-making [1]. Further details on this consultation are available from UN Women.

## GENDER IN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY REVIEW

February 17th, 2026

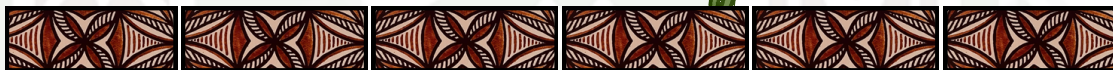


MNRE, officially received fifteen Home Biogas Systems donated by the Government of Israel during a ceremony at the National Emergency Operation Center. This donation marks a significant milestone in the partnership between the two nations, focusing on sustainable, community-based energy solutions. By converting organic waste into clean, renewable gas, these systems provide households with a reliable energy source while simultaneously improving waste management and reducing the country's carbon footprint.

During his keynote address, the Honourable Minister Ale Vena Ale emphasized that this technology is a vital tool in reducing Samoa's heavy reliance on expensive imported fossil fuels. He noted that the initiative particularly benefits rural communities by enhancing livelihoods and fostering environmental stewardship at the household level. The introduction of biogas adds a practical, decentralized layer to Samoa's green energy strategy, directly supporting the lives of everyday citizens through innovation and waste reduction.

This initiative arrives at a critical time as Samoa works toward its ambitious goal of 70 percent renewable energy use by 2031. The Home Biogas Systems complement existing national projects in solar, wind, and hydropower, aligning with Samoa's Third Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Through this collaboration with Israel, MNRE continues to strengthen the nation's energy security and climate resilience, ensuring a more sustainable and low-carbon future for all Samoans.





## GGGI LEADERSHIP ON THE GROUND IN SAMOA

February 11-19, 2026



The GGGI Pacific Regional Director, Mr. Sakiusa Tuisolia, and Country Representative, Ms. Shomi Kim, conducted a high-level mission to Apia to deepen Samoa's transition toward a low-carbon economy. Hosted by MNRE, the mission followed Samoa's official membership into the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). The delegation engaged with senior government officials, development banks, and international partners to align GGGI's technical expertise with Samoa's national green growth ambitions.

The consultations focused on critical frameworks for climate finance, including the Climate Finance Access Network (CFAN) and the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency. By meeting with a wide range of ministries and diplomatic missions, the delegation ensured that GGGI-supported projects are well-coordinated and effectively address Samoa's specific needs in financial system greening and climate adaptation.

Looking to the future, the mission explored innovative opportunities in electric mobility, climate-resilient buildings, and private sector engagement. This strategic visit reaffirms GGGI's commitment to providing country-driven solutions that scale up mitigation efforts and strengthen institutional systems. Through this partnership, MNRE and GGGI aim to mobilize the necessary resources to accelerate Samoa's journey toward a sustainable and resilient future.

## 18TH ANNUAL PERFORMANCE

### REVIEW OF THE (WASH) SECTOR

February 24th, 2026



The MNRE, alongside key partners, held the 18th Annual Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Sector Performance Review to assess Samoa's water security progress. A major highlight was the launch of the National Drought Policy and Management Plan 2024–2034 and the SWA Water Supply Master Plan, both designed to modernize infrastructure and strengthen resilience against climate-induced water scarcity. These frameworks provide a strategic ten-year roadmap to ensure that access to safe water remains a top priority for national health and economic productivity.

The event also underscored the importance of international cooperation, particularly with the European Union, which has committed approximately WST \$41 million to support Samoa's water and climate initiatives. Technical reports showcased advancements in watershed rehabilitation, drainage management, and hydrological monitoring over the past year. Moving forward, MNRE will focus on putting these new policies into action, ensuring that robust asset management and proactive risk planning continue to protect Samoa's communities from the impacts of extreme weather.





## NEW SAVAI'I EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE

February 27, 2026



MNRE has officially broken ground on the new Savai'i Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) at Maota, a project designed to transform disaster response on the nation's largest island. This dedicated hub will serve as a central coordination point for national and local agencies, enabling real-time data analysis and seamless communication during crises. A critical feature of the facility is the inclusion of a storage unit for prepositioned Humanitarian Emergency Response Supplies (HERS), which will significantly reduce reliance on transport from Upolu and ensure that life-saving support reaches families and villages immediately when travel is disrupted by severe weather.

Funded by the European Union (EU) and delivered by the Pacific Community (SPC) through the Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific (BSRP II) project, the centre is a strategic investment in Samoa's long-term climate resilience. During the ceremony, the Honourable Minister Ale Vena Ale emphasized that this facility strengthens the government's ability to protect at-risk communities by enhancing early warning and preparedness systems. By bringing together better equipment, streamlined procedures, and localized resources, the Savai'i EOC ensures that the island is better equipped to act independently and effectively in the face of natural disasters and climate change.

## FARMERS SIGN MOU UNDER THE

## FAMER'S GRANT (3MILLION CAMPAIGN)

February 28th, 2026



Savai'i farmers have officially signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with the MNRE under the Farmer's Grant component of the 3 Million Tree Planting Campaign (2022-2028). This partnership provides local communities with the necessary support to plant and nurture trees aimed at restoring degraded lands and protecting Samoa's forests. By involving farmers directly, the initiative ensures that environmental conservation is paired with enhanced livelihoods, making the community a central pillar in the fight against climate change.

The signing marks a transition toward the campaign's ambitious goal of reaching three million trees by 2028, building on the foundations laid by previous national planting efforts. The MNRE highlighted that this collective action is vital for safeguarding Samoa's natural heritage and building long-term ecological resilience. Through these agreements, Savai'i farmers are empowered to lead local restoration projects that will ensure a greener and more climate-secure future for the next generation.





## ADVANCING BIODIVERSITY MONITORING

March 9, 2026

## PICTORIAL

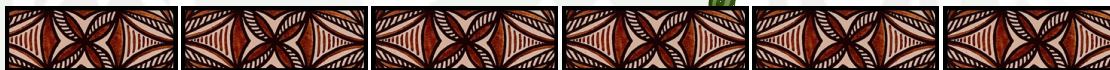
*Update*

Faigālotu a le Mālō i Aso Lulu ta'itasi (11 Mati, 2026)



Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) took a significant step in enhancing environmental governance by introducing the Central Biodiversity Monitoring System (CBMS). This centralized platform is designed to unify the collection and analysis of environmental data, which is currently fragmented across various organizations using different methodologies. By integrating these diverse datasets, the CBMS will provide a whole-of-government approach to monitoring Samoa's natural heritage. The system aims to standardize monitoring indicators and provide advanced tools like dashboards and mapping to support evidence-based decision-making. It will directly facilitate the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and help prepare the State of the Environment (SOE) Report. Additionally, the CBMS will ensure Samoa meets its international reporting obligations under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Financial support for this initiative is provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the Kunming Biodiversity Fund (KBF). Following the initial introductory meeting with stakeholders from across government, academia, and the private sector, technical consultations are continuing to ensure the system aligns with existing institutional mandates. This collaborative effort marks a transition toward a more transparent and effective national environmental reporting framework.





## SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO THE COMMUNITY AWARENESS ROADSHOW ON IAS SURVEY CONDUCTED IN UPOLU AND SAVAII

March 12, 2026

## SNITT MRRYINH OG 2026 & PRESENTATION OF THE SAMOA IAS INFORMATION SYSTEM

March 20, 2026



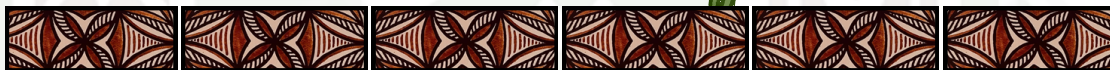
The MNRE, through its GEF-7 Samoa IAS Project, has successfully completed a series of community roadshows across Savai'i and Upolu to combat the spread of invasive alien species. These events engaged 1,200 participants from diverse groups—including women, youth, farmers, and people with disabilities—ensuring an inclusive approach to environmental protection. By unveiling project signboards in participating villages, the Ministry and local communities formalized a shared commitment to proactive stewardship of Samoa's natural ecosystems. A core focus of the roadshow was the implementation of a Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) Survey. This survey provided the Ministry with essential baseline data on how different communities perceive and manage invasive threats. This evidence-based approach allows the project to move beyond general awareness and instead design targeted interventions that address the specific biological threats prioritized by each village, such as controlling invasive plants or animals that disrupt local livelihoods.



The Samoa National Invasive Species Task Team (SNITT) held its first meeting of 2026 on March 17 to review invasive species (IAS) management progress since August 2025. Chaired by the CEO of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), the technical working group brought together experts from government agencies, research institutions, and NGOs like the Samoa Conservation Society and SPREP. This collaborative effort, funded by the GEF-7 Samoa IAS Project, remains central to protecting Samoa's unique environment, economy, and local livelihoods from biological threats.

A major highlight was the presentation of the new Samoa IAS Information System, an interactive platform designed to improve national data management. The meeting served as a consultation session to ensure the system's dashboard is user-friendly for both the public and specialized researchers. Once launched, this digital tool will provide centralized access to species-specific data and publications, supporting more coordinated, evidence-based decision-making for the effective control of invasive alien species across the country.





## VALIDATION WORKSHOP FOR SAMOA'S NDC 3.0 IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP AND INVESTMENT PLAN

March 26, 2026



The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the UNDP validated Samoa's NDC 3.0 Implementation Roadmap and Investment Plan, aimed at reducing emissions and strengthening resilience by 2035. Supported by the UNDP Climate Promise, the plan outlines strategies to mobilize roughly US\$748 million in investments and aligns with national development priorities.

## STRENGTHENING CLIMATE COMMITMENTS: SAMOA NDC 3.0 IMPLEMENTATION PATHWAY

March 26, 2026



The MNRE, in partnership with the UNDP, successfully convened a validation workshop for Samoa's NDC 3.0 Implementation Roadmap and Investment Plan on March 26, 2026, at Taumeasina Island Resort. This strategic document, developed under the UNDP's Climate Promise initiative, outlines a pathway to reduce emissions and strengthen climate resilience by mobilizing approximately US\$748 million in investments by 2035. By bringing together government, private sector, and civil society stakeholders, the Ministry ensures that Samoa's climate commitments are supported by a nationally owned and actionable framework that prioritizes both energy security and sustainable development.

## LAUNCH OF VAILUUTAI HOUSEHOLD WASTE SEGREGATION PILOT PROJECT

March 30, 2026



The MNRE, in partnership with JICA, officially launched the Vailuutai Household Waste Segregation Pilot Project on March 27, 2026, to address Samoa's growing waste challenges and limited landfill space. Officiated by the Honourable Minister Ale Vena Ale, the initiative provides households with wheelie bins to separate PET plastics and aluminum cans, with lessons learned set to inform the upcoming National Waste Levy and future recycling frameworks. Supported by the J-PRISM 3 Project and driven by the local Eco Green Warriors youth, this pilot aims to improve data collection and extend the lifespan of the Tafaigata Landfill through community-led behavioral change.

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**Lealaisanoa Frances Brown Reupena**  
Chief Executive Officer

