MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY: SUSTAINING PEOPLE AND THEIR LIVELIHOODS

Valuing our Lives our Line of Defence Against Biodiversity Loss and Poverty in the Pacific

Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation
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- Integrated approach at National Level
- Overview of Sector and Multi-sectoral Activities - Samoa
- Lessons Learnt
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Samoa is a signatory to 23 International and 8 Regional Conventions:

International Conventions that have formed part of legal and policy framework for biodiversity conservation:

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 1994
- World Forest Charter (1994)
- UNCLOS relating to the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks 1996
- World Heritage Convention on Cultural and Natural Heritage Sites (WHC) 2001
- Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COB) 2002
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands 2004
- Conventions on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora 2005
- United National Framework on Forestry 2003
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals 2005
- Nagoya Protocol 2014



Relevant policies and sector plans that form the legal and policy framework for biodiversity conservation in Samoa

- Constitution of Samoa
- Lands, Survey and Environment Act 1989
- Environment Management and Conservation Bill 2015
- The Forest Management Act 2011
- The National Parks and Reserves Act 1974
- PUMA Act 2004 and PUMA (EIA) Regulation 2010
- Protection of Wildlife Regulation 2004
- The Marine Wildlife Protection Regulation 2009
- Quarantine Biosecurity Act 2005
- Fisheries Act 1998
- National Biodiversity and Action Plan 2015-2020
- National Environment Sector Plan 2013-2016
- State of Environment Report 2013
- Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2012-2016



Overview of Sector Activities

- 2 million tree campaign 2015-2020 Forestry, MAF, METI
- 70-80 fisheries reserves established at various communities Upolu/Savaii 50 with management plans
- 2 BIORAP surveys completed for the upland Savaii, 1 Starting next week
- Rare plant survey completed, On-going monitoring of the Tooth-billed pigeon
- Ecological restoration for Mt. Vaea reserve under GEF-PAS, currently SMSMCL projects
- Recognizing MNRE Senior Officers as “authorized officer” Forestry Regulation
- Climate Change Resilience Plans for 23 villages developed under PUMA Act
- 8 terrestrial, 7 marine and 6 IBA’s established as part of KBA’s network accounted for 33% of total land area under protections
- 3 CCA’s established with management plans under FPAM project
- Completed consultations for EMC Bill
- SISERP – Samoa Invasive Species Emergency Response Plan – MNRE/MAF

- 26 Sustainable Development Management Plans under MWCSD
- 6 sectors plans with disaster and climate resilience strategies (Health, Agriculture, Education, Tourism, Water & Sanitation, and Community)
- Development Consent (DC) through Samoa's National Building Code and PUMA's Code of Environmental Practice
- STA Development Plan 2009-2013 promotes sustainable tourism, through conserving and enhancing the country's natural and built environment
- O le Pupu Pu'e National Park designated as our 2nd Ramsar Site in 2015





Lessons Learnt:

- Improve collaboration between Sectors
- Improve knowledge and understanding on biodiversity conservation
- Empowerment of communities and government officials
- Expand network for protected areas
- Shared resources amongst Sectors
- CDC committee acts as driver for project implementations





Gaps:

- No system in place for assessing the effectiveness of the integrated approach among sectors
- Endorsement of the Environment Management Bill
- Lack of baseline data to effective management of some ecosystems and species
- Non-compliance and false practices

Recommendations:

- Develop a monitoring framework for assessing the effectiveness of the integrated approach
- Push endorsement of the EMC Bill at least before the end of 2016
- Information and data collected using the existing projects eg. SMSMCL

"Biodiversity loss and poverty in the Pacific will never be solved if you and I do not value our LIVES. Love your neighbour as you love your ownself" **(Foliga T. 2016)**

SOIFUA