

Reforestation, Rehabilitation and Community Forestry Fire Prevention Project

Description

The impacts of **coastal erosion** from sea level rise and **climate change** and **climate** variability is causing the destruction of lowland coastal forest areas. The protection and sustainability of both coastal and inland forests' resources is of utmost importance to the livelihood of the communities especially when more than 70% of Samoa's population settles on coastal areas. The coastal and inland forests offers protection during extreme **climate** variations but more importantly prevents further **coastal erosion** and loss of land. The land and cultural value of many of the vulnerable communities will be maintained and will sustain the social welfare of many of the coastal communities over a longer period, and in turn contribute to normalizing the naturally and human affected **environment**. Forest fires associated with droughts induced by **climate change** and exacerbated by human activity are more common in Samoa in its dry season from May to October particularly the northwest part of Savaii. This hazard is identified as major barrier to forest growth (as it slows down rejuvenation and **reforestation** processes) and possibly extirpates vital indigenous plants (particularly the *Omalanthus nutans*) that are useful for medicinal purposes. The current **fire** fighting system has limited resources (e.g., number of **fire** trucks and stations, **water** supply, appropriate equipment, and manpower). One way of preventing the occurrence and mitigating the adverse impacts of forest fires is to develop a community-based forest **fire** plan and implement its deliverables. The plan must be developed by the identified vulnerable communities with the assistance and guidance of the **Fire** Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Samoa **Water** Authority and Ministry of **Natural Resources Environment & Meteorology**. The plan should provide for prevention, **mitigation**, **preparedness**, **response** and **recovery** including Standard Operational Procedures.

Project Status

Proposed

Start Date

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

End Date

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

Project Type

Capacity Building

Total Funding

417500

Project Scope

National

Project Objectives

1) Strengthen and increase resilience of forest **fire**-prone areas;

Project Actions

1) Develop a community-based forest fire plan;

Related Links

[Samoa: NAPA Project Profile](#)

Implementing Organisation(s)

[Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries](#)
[Fire Services](#)
[Samoa Water Authority \(SWA\)](#)

Development Partner Contacts

[Makelesi Gonelevu](#)

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