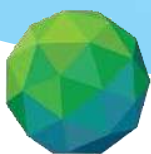




Day 2 of the GCF Mission - Site Visit group photo

PROJECT UPDATE

Vaisigano Catchment Project



GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

“Strengthened adaptive capacity and reduced exposure to climate risk of vulnerable livelihoods and infrastructure in the Vaisigano Catchment”



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A Word from the Green Climate Fund - Vaisigano Catchment Project (GCF-VCP) Management Unit (GCF-PMU)

Talofa Lava! We welcome you to read the GCF-VCP Bi-monthly Newsletter providing updates for the months of July - August 2023. This 34th edition highlights updates and progress of various activities under the GCF-VCP three key Outputs in the 2023 Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB), implemented by leading Implementing Agencies (IAs) namely: the Ministry of Works Transport and Infrastructure (MWTI), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), Ministry of Health (MoH), and the Land Transport Authority (LTA) supported by the Collaborating partners with overall strategic management and oversight by the Ministry of Finance (MoF), the Executing Agency (EA) for the Government of Samoa (GoS) in collaboration with the UNDP as the GCF Accredited Entity (AE).

Malo lava le galulue ma le fa'amalolosi GCF-VCP Partners and Stakeholders.

SUMMARY / What's in this Edition

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Updates

Output 1, Activity 1.2.1

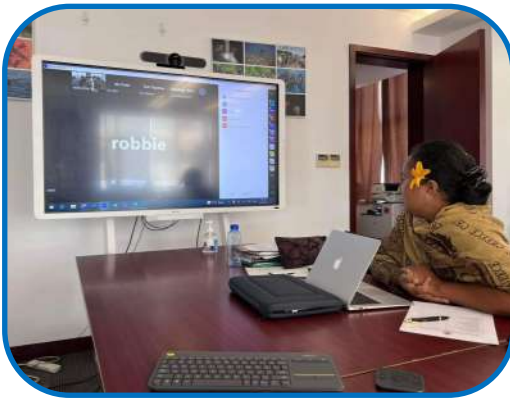
INCLUSION OF FLOOD RELATED INFORMATION IN CLEWS MESSAGING SYSTEM

The MoH as the lead IA of the activity through the engagement of the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Limited (NIWA) as the Technical Advisor (TA) have started since 29th August 2023 the execution of the 'Design and Build of the Health Climate Early Warning System (H-CLEWS)'. The implementation of this activity involves three phases: 1) Design Phase 2) Implementation Phase and the 3) Commissioning Phase. The H-CLEWS is being designed and developed to inform preventative and responsive public health interventions, and as part of the Design Phase, the Inception Workshop was well attended by relevant Health Sector stakeholders held from 17th to 21st July 2023. As a result of this activity, NIWA will submit the deliverables: an Inception Workshop Report and a Situational Analysis Report which will lay the groundwork for the subsequent phases for the development of the H-CLEWS.



Output 2, Activity 2.2.4

DEVELOP A COMMUNITY-BASED ADAPTATION STRATEGY FOR ECOSYSTEM BASED ALTERNATIVE INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES



The MNRE received official approval through a letter from the Catholic Church Finance Council (CCFC) on 5th July 2023, to proceed with using the Catholic Church lands at Malololelei as one of the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) pilot sites for two years. The PES Programme (PESP) is the first of its kind in Samoa aiming at supporting communities in disaster resilience and to ensure conservation and protection of the upper watershed landscape, including water intakes, and to operate a 'carbon project' as an alternative income generating activity. On 23rd August 2023, MNRE and its partners; the Live & Learn Environmental Education International (LLEEI) and Samoa Conservation Society Incorporated (SCSI) held a virtual meeting to discuss the PESP revised implementation plans and way forward, including preparation of the household baseline survey to better understand how the community uses the forest and be able to measure any positive or negative impacts of the PESP on the targeted communities.



Output 2, Activity 2.2.5

TRAIN MEMBERS OF LOCAL POPULATION ON THESE ALTERNATIVE INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES, AS WELL AS BUSINESS INCUBATION FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL AGRIBUSINESS AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOOD-RELATED OPTIONS

MNRE collaborating partners; the Civil Society Support Program (CSSP) and Samoa Business Hub (SBH) reported that the GCF-VCP Ecosystem based Adaptation Enterprise Development Programme (GCF-VCP/EbAEDP) is progressing well despite the implementation delays and challenges faced. From the total of 514 originally approved projects under the EbAEDP, the revised number of EbAEDP projects is 454 projects with 117 projects at 100% completion as of July 2023, the progress of implementation remains at 337 ongoing projects. For the month of July, four (4) projects have reached 100% disbursement, reaching a total of 106 projects with pending completion of final reports. CSSP continues to conduct site visits for follow up and monitoring, verification of labour work and supplied materials.

SBH continues to conduct training programmes to support project implementation and capacity building for GCF-VCP/EbAEDP grantees. On 27th July 2023, a technical training on Waste Management for Recycling Sewing was attended by 4 grantees. A number of eight (8) Household grantees of the EbAEDP Round 2, registered to join the 6 months finance course.

Output 3, Activity 3.2

UPGRADE DRAINAGE SYSTEMS AND OUTFALLS IN HAZARD AREAS TO ACCOMMODATE FLOODING EVENTS

LTA and Bluebird Construction Limited signed the contract for construction of Site 5a on 13th July 2023 with the start date of construction expected on 18th September 2023, depending on the shipment of materials from overseas. LTA held a virtual meeting on 24th July with Stantec NZ the supervising consultant of the activity, to discuss contract administration issues prior to the kick-off meeting between relevant parties that was held on 1st August 2023, to formally introduce the supervising consultant and clarify contract management logistics as well as any design queries from the contractor. LTA together with contractor, conducted a walk through the project site with the utility providers on 23rd August to confirm existing services.



Output 4

GCF-VCP CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO) FORUM

The sixteenth (16th) meeting of the GCF-CEO Forum was held on 13th July 2023 prior to the arrival of the GCF - Mission, attended by relevant parties and members to discuss updates and detailed programme and plans for the GCF Mission that took place from 17th to 20th July 2023.



Output 4

GCF - MISSION

The in-country GCF-Mission was fielded from 17th to 20th July, 2023, where discussions of the implementation status and challenges faced by the GCF-VCP occurred between the GCF delegation, UNDP and GCF-VCP partners. Day 1 of the mission was dedicated to meetings with the GCF-VCP partners - MoF, IAs, UNDP/AE and collaborating partners to better understand GCF-VCP outputs and activities schedules, implementation achievements and progress, issues and changes to date, safeguards implementation status and key challenges, as well as financial report and audit status. Day two of the mission was spent on visiting project sites of infrastructure works, where the GCF delegation were taken for a walk through the Vaisigano River Segments within the river channel, including the bridges at Lelata, Loto Samasoni, Leonē and Vaisigano within the integrated flood mitigating project area. Day three allowed the GCF delegation to visit and witness the accomplishments of soft solutions activities - EbAEDP, PESP, Cash for Work Programme (CfWP) and Early Warning System (EWS) together with installed Sirens funded under the GCF-VCP under oversight and implementation by MNRE. The Mission was completed with the wrap up session with all GCF-VCP partners and stakeholders on day four which focused on discussions of key findings and conclusions based on consultations and project site visit results that were presented, together with a way forward on next steps for the GCF-VCP in an Aide Mem-



Output 4

TRIBUTE TO FORMER UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE



Jorn Sorensen

Former UNDP Resident Representative

GCF-VCP Team are grateful and appreciative of your guidance and contribution since you took over UNDP (Multi-Country Office for Samoa, Cook Islands, Tokelau and Niue) helm in 2019. May you and your family enjoy your retirement and Lord blesses you all in your future endeavours. Fa'afetai tele!!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONTRIBUTION TO GCF-VCP DELIVERY AND PROGRESS



The GCF-PMU expresses gratitude and appreciation to its former team member who has left the team for greener pastures during this reporting period, for all the efforts, contributions and commitments to the implementation of the GCF-VCP/infrastructure works activities under leadership of MWTI. Fa'afetai ma ia manuia galuega ma valaauina ua tofia iai.

Niureta Uili

Former GCF-VCP MWTI Project Officer



Upcoming Event:

MNRE - Alert Sirens post awareness for schools - 4th-8th, 11th-15th & 18th-19th September 2023

LTA - Start construction of Drainage Site 5a, Malaefatu, Mulinu'u

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 Green Climate Fund - Samoa Vaisigano Catchment Project