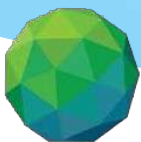


January - February 2023, Issue #31

Segment 3 with the Lelata Bridge in view

PROJECT UPDATE

Vaisigano Catchment Project



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“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 Management Unit (GCF-PMU)

Talofa Lava and Happy 2023! We welcome all Implementing Agencies (IAs) and Collaborating partners who are implementing the GCF-Vaisigano Catchment Project (GCF-VCP) activities, under the oversight and management of the Ministry of Finance (MoF), the Executing Agency (EA) for the Government of Samoa (GoS). This two (2) monthly Edition is the 31st GCF-VCP Newsletter and the first of the year 2023 that presents updates of January and February 2023, highlighting the progress of the various activities implemented under the GCF-VCP three key Outputs in the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) by the leading IAs namely; the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), Ministry of Health (MoH); Ministry of Works Transport and Infrastructure (MWTI) and the Land Transport Authority (LTA) with oversight by UNDP, the GCF Accredited Entity (AE).

If you have suggestions on how we can improve the next edition, connect with us! We look forward to your positive contributions and partnership in the remaining months of this year. Happy Reading!

SUMMARY / What's in this Edition

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Updates

Output 2, Activity 2.1.1

REVIEW PROPOSED DESIGNS FOR CHANNELIZATION OF SEGMENTS 2, 3 AND 4 OF THE VAISIGANO RIVER INCLUDING THE IMPACT ON CHANNEL CAPACITY OF THE NEW LELATA BRIDGE AND THE POTENTIAL FOR OPTIMIZING SCHEME DESIGN AND DURABILITY

The MWTI in collaboration with MNRE together with consultant Tinai Gordon and Associates (TGA) were out in the field on Friday 27th January 2023 assessing the locations for the three boreholes along Segment 2 and 3 for the Geotech Investigations drilling. The drilling rig was mobilized on Monday 30th January to its first borehole location in Segment 2 just upstream of the Leone Bridge. Drilling commenced on Tuesday 31st January and completed on 6th February 2023. The drilling rig was mobilized to borehole 2 just upstream of the Lelata Bridge in Segment 3 on 8th February 2023. Drilling in borehole 2 was completed on 10th February and the rig was mobilized to the final borehole further upstream on Monday 13th February. The final drilling was completed on 14th February 2023.

Soil samples collected on-site were analyzed with Permeability Tests and Standard Penetration Tests (STP). These samples will also be tested at the LTA Lab for various characteristics such as moist, plasticity and grading. The results from these investigations will inform the finalization of the designs for the river walls, and if needed, further refinement.



Output 2, Activity 2.1.1

REVIEW PROPOSED DESIGNS FOR CHANNELIZATION OF SEGMENTS 2, 3 AND 4 OF THE VAISIGANO RIVER INCLUDING THE IMPACT ON CHANNEL CAPACITY OF THE NEW LELATA BRIDGE AND THE POTENTIAL FOR OPTIMIZING SCHEME DESIGN AND DURABILITY

The MWTI, MNRE and MoF/GCF-PMU were in a meeting on 16th February 2023, to discuss way forward for pending public consultations with affected families for Segment 2 and Segment 3.



Output 4, Activity 4.2

GCF-VCP 2022 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT (APR) REVIEW

The GCF-PMU in a meeting on 30th January and 2nd February 2023 discussed several exchanges and inputs/clarifications and respond to UNDP review comments to improve the Draft 2022 APR outlining progress made towards achieving the GCF-VCP outcomes and objectives.

The PMU later met with the UNDP on 2nd February 2023 to review, discuss feedbacks, and finalize inputs to the Draft 2022 APR.



Meeting with UNDP on 2022 APR



GCF-PMU internal meeting on 2022 APR



Output 4, Activity 4.2

COORDINATION MEETINGS WITH IAs

To maintain the ‘one government approach’ movement, the first coordination meetings with IAs for this year were held on 31st January to 1st February 2023 respectively, to assess progress and discuss/resolve implementation issues mainly on procurement and contract management issues and any revisions to the proposed 2023 AWPB.



All IAs and collaborating partners worked on their 2023 AWPB/Implementation Work Plans (IWP) respectively in February 2023. The IWP defines tasks/actions required in accordance to their respective GCF-VCP activities.



Output 4, Activity 4.3

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE SECONDARY CHANNEL AT SEGMENT 3, LELATA

The GCF-VCP Safeguards Team conducted a joint site inspection with the Project Technical Staff of the MWTI on Wednesday 8th February 2023, along the Secondary Channel at Lelata. The site visit was to assess the array of natural resources, physical and biotic factors that are observable along and within the river channel. The inspection processes allowed the team to identify and map out mitigation actions, regulations, policies and authoritative referrals to be considered when possible adverse impacts arise pre and post construction.

The key findings and observations from the team's assessment will be evaluated and incorporated into the draft Preliminary Environmental Assessment Report (PEAR) and the Land Acquisition and Resettlement Action Plan (LARAP) for Segment 3. The safeguards instrument such as the PEAR and LARAP plays a pivotal role in pre and post construction of any development that may pose different scales of impacts to the environment and especially protecting community's assets and livelihoods are managed and sustained.





Upcoming Event:

- ◆ Coordination Meetings with IAs - 28th February–1st March, 2023

Tender:

- ◆ Drainage Site 5A - LTA
- ◆ Storage Workshop - MNRE

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 Green Climate Fund - Samoa Vaisigano Catchment Project