



Rehabilitation and Management of the Apia Catchment

Samoa

Progress Snapshot

Project Objective

Improve the quality and quantity of water resources for enhanced water supply, hydropower generation and socio-economic advancement whilst reducing adverse environmental impacts.



Project Contact

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Process

✓ **National Strategy in place**

The National Water Sector Strategy is being implemented under the Samoa Water Coordinating Unit, with an IWRM focus.

✓ **Apia Water Safety Plan**

At the start of the project there was a lot of uncertainty about water safety issues, especially associated with the overloaded Fuluasou Treatment Plant and no Water Safety Plan. The Water Safety Plan has been developed through IWRM, endorsed by cabinet, and actions for the intake and supply side have been identified, costed and prioritized.

✓ **Legislation for Water Resource Management**

The project target was to have legislation for water resource management enacted as part of Watershed Management Plans. In addition to endorsement of the Fuluasou Treatment Plant by Cabinet, legislative requirements for implementing three Apia Watershed Management Plans have been identified. The Watershed Conservation Policy has been developed to provide guidance to drafting of legislation.

✓ **Increased proportion of community engaged in water issues**

To increase community engagement on World Water Day 2011, a river clean up event on the Fuluasou River was organized and was a successful day with many community members attending. It also identified some areas being used for dumping rubbish into the Fuluasou River. The project has subsequently assisted the community by placing rubbish stands around the area for their rubbish.

✓ **Lessons learned incorporated into other projects**

In 2011 the Samoa IWRM team undertook a twinning exchange to the Cook Islands IWRM demonstration project. During that visit we observed the use of "No Car Washing Signage" on Rarotonga Island and have subsequently replicated these in the Apia catchment, displaying successful incorporation of other project lessons.



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Watershed model at Environment Week



World Water Day community consultation

Stress Reduction

✓ Increase in land protected over the catchment

Protection of land previously earmarked for the Catholic land subdivision is a key achievement of the project and is a priority stress reduction measure for the water sector and the Government of Samoa.

Of the 1200 acres proposed by IWRM in 2011 for inclusion in the reserve, 32 acres have been purchased and following survey 120 acres have been identified above the SWA treatment plant intake. More will be purchased as the process progresses in scale.

It is hoped through subsequent purchase of land from the Catholic Church, a reserve above the East Fuluasou River will be declared. This will reduce the stress of urbanization on upland catchment areas and improve the water quality of the tributaries that supply the Fuluasou Treatment Plant intake.

In addition to protection of the upland catchment, rehabilitation around the source and intake has been undertaken. An agreement on 20m buffer zones to reduce stresses on the water quality and quantity caused by unsustainable agriculture practices and human mismanagements of natural resources is no being enforced.

Effort has also been made to raise awareness of the impacts of car washing. "Stop Car Washing" signs near rivers have seen a dramatic reduction of people washing cars next to rivers and has led to reduced contamination of water resources.



No access sign to 70 hectares of protected land above Fuluasou intake



"STOP car washing and littering" sign at the river

Water Resource and Environmental Status

✓ Increase in land rehabilitated

Rehabilitation measures, such as tree planting around water sources and intakes have been undertaken to improve their quantity and quality. Community river clean ups have also been held to rehabilitate the area and increase community engagement.

Rubbish stands have been constructed and installed in vulnerable areas, reducing the dumping of rubbish into the river.

✓ Increase in population with access to improved sanitation

The Waste Water Treatment Plant in Sogi is operational and is currently upgrading its capacity to include other new buildings around the urban area. There is also Sludge Facility at Tafaigata for the remaining toilet waste disposal.

Waste Water Treatment for Fuluasou Treatment Plant was finalized in cabinet. The Water Abstraction & Licensing Scheme has been completed and implemented. This includes 3 x Watershed Management Plans (WMP) finalized for the Apia Catchment and the draft Water Conservation Policy.



Community river clean up



Survey for rehabilitation at Lake Lanoto