



INTEGRATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE, RISKS & RESILIENCE INTO THE FORESTRY MANAGEMENT OF SAMOA

VANUMA project constructs community nurseries to promote climate-resilient agroforestry techniques

Climate change poses a set of climate induced risks to forests in Samoa. These Climate induced risks exacerbate current pressure due to the unsustainable forestry and land use practices. The combined effects of these reduce the resilience of forest ecosystems, which in turn affect the resilience of the livelihood of communities dependent on forestry goods and services. The adaptation option is to introduce a set of alternative agro-forestry and forestry practices adjusted to changing climate regimes supported by an enabling environment through policy changes, institutional strengthening, capacity building and knowledge management actions. An example of an alternative practice is the construction of community nurseries for lowland agro-forestry plots and upland rehabilitation of conservational areas. This adaptation option has become a reality through the integration of climate change, risks and resilience into forestry management in Samoa (ICCRIFS) project or translated in the Samoan language as Vaomatua Anagata o se Nuu Malosi I Suiga o le Tau (VANUMA).

The VANUMA project under the Forestry Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) works closely with its main stakeholders; the Ministry of Women and Community Development (MWCD), the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) as well as Non Government Organizations (NGO's); Samoa Farmers Association (SFA), Matuaileoo Environment Trust Inc (METI) and Women in Business Development Inc (WIBDI). The VANUMA project benefits 24 villages from Lake Lanotoo including 4 villages with a total population of 2280 persons, Mauga o Salafai including 8 villages with a population of 4025 persons and Laulii – Falevao Community including 14 villages and a total population of 10,440 persons.

The VANUMA Project has just recently completed the construction of 7 nurseries for its project site villages from Laulii to Falevao for the following villages of Luatuanu'u, Fusi, Manunu, Lufilufi, Faleapuna, Lalomauga and Falevao. The project has also previously successfully completed the construction of five nurseries for Laulii, Leusoalii, Solosolo, Eva, and Saoluafata with an overall total of 12 nurseries completed for Upolu Island. Plans are in place for 5 more nurseries in Upolu and 8 nurseries for project sites in the big island of Savaii.

The purpose for these community Nurseries as well as distribution of the nursery tools and equipment is to enable the villagers to raise and nurture their own seedlings (climate resilient) and to be equipped with the nursery tools to implement climate resilient agro-forestry and forestry techniques in low land and upland areas. The communities will have access to vegetable, fruits, crops and native tree seedlings which they will plant in their agro-forestry plots to be used for daily consumption for food security or as a means of providing income for their families and communities for improving livelihoods as well as planting of trees for their upland conservation areas.

Prior to the completion of nurseries, trainings have also been completed for the VANUMA project committees from the project site of Laulii - Falevao whom will be responsible for the daily operations and maintenance of the nurseries. Mr. Tuautu Saumalu, the village mayor for Laulii village thanked MNRE and UNDP for the project in which they are now benefiting through Forestry climate change workshops and trainings as well as the construction of the community nursery and distribution of tools and equipment which will enable them to nurture seedlings for agro-forestry plots as well as native tree species for rehabilitating upland forest to increase the community resilience and adaptation to climate change. This is one of the first community nurseries to be built in his village. The community nurseries are also made available to relevant stakeholders of the ICCRIFS project for future programs relating to increase the



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resilience and adaptive capacity of Samoa's forest areas and communities dependent on them for livelihoods through targeted interventions in lowland Agroforestry and upland native forestry areas.

Photo 1 & 2 – VANUMA Community Nursery located at Luatuanu'u Village



Photo 3) VANUMA Nursery Training for communities



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Photo 4) VANUMA Community Nursery equipment and tools distribution with Village Mayor (Pulenuu) from the village of Laulii Mr. Tuautu Saumalu).



PHOTO 5: VANUMA Community Nursery Training and Nursery Tools and Equipment distribution



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Photo 6) Lailii Community Nursery Sign