

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TAFITOALA VILLAGE BY-LAW

COMPILED BY THE:
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Phase 1: Initial Planning Workshop
Date: 14th December 2010
Venue: 5th Floor Conference Rm
Development Bank Building
Time: 9.00am- 01.30pm

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Context

Water is life; it is a resource, a need that is vital for everyone. Samoa's water resources is at its crucial state. Its management has always been fragmented amongst the key stakeholders including local communities over the past years, however, recently the government through the Water Resources Division has tried to bring together the key players to identify ways for the sustainable management of water resources in Samoa. The increasing social and economic developments have led to the detrimental threat towards this valuable and limited resource.

The Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project (PACC) in partnership with the WRD funded the first initial workshop as an initiative in the formulation of village by laws for the village of Tafitoala. This collaboration aims to raise the awareness of the community in village by-law, its implications towards water resources management and also its essential significance as part of measures towards climate change. It also strengthens the importance of community involvement in watershed management which provides environmental services not only for their livelihoods but also increasing climate change resilience.

1.2 Purpose of the Planning Workshop

The initial workshop was intended at providing background information and raise understanding of community on the concepts of village by-laws, watershed and water resources management, and the significance of these approaches towards climate change resilience.

2. WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

2.1 Methodology/Planning

Planning

A workplan was put forward by WRD, in negotiation with the PACC Project, with regards to the provision of finance assistance. One of the main starting points in the process of village by-laws is to host a planning consultation workshop between village decision makers and the division. Also included in the plan were financial details of by-law formulation and a template for the implementation of the rest of the project.

Workshop details and Targeted Audience

The workshop was held on the 14th Dec 2010 at the Level 5 Conference Room of the Development Bank Building. The targeted audience for the initial workshop was the decision makers of the village, specifically the village mayor and members of the council of chiefs as well as the women and main untitled men's representatives. As listed below more than 30 members of the community attended the workshop.

Workshop Venue and Structure

The workshop was conducted in a semi-formal setting with participants being able to intervene during presentations where possible. The workshop was strategically divided into two sessions, the morning session concentrating mainly on water resources management in Samoa focusing on the importance of watershed areas, and the afternoon session looking into the introduction of village by-law the implementation of a workplan and deciding on future actions on the formulation of the by-laws.

2.2 Workshop Proceedings

ATTENDANTS:

<u>Names</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Fotuitaua Y. Kerslake	MNRE-WRD	Motu Eli	Tafitoala	Mauga Eneleo	Tafitoala
Fata Eti Malolo	MNRE-WRD (CP)	Patea L	Tafitoala	Pepe Viiga	Tafitoala
Malaki Iakopo	MNRE-WRD	Puleaga Vise	Tafitoala	Nuufealoai Sagato	Tafitoala
Masina Ngau Chun	MNRE-WRD	Alofimua Ulualo	Tafitoala	Onoea Malaki	Tafitoala
Fanueli Tulafale	MNRE-WRD	Fagaisau Luma	Tafitoala	Taula Leka	Tafitoala
Suifua Suifua	MNRE-WRD	Vaomalua	Tafitoala	Sulamanaia Esera	Tafitoala
Simalila Sua	MNRE-WRD	Alofi Tanoa	Tafitoala	Afoa Alima	Tafitoala
Sam Semisi	MNRE-WRD	Faavela Saili	Tafitoala	Faatasi Agaimalo	Tafitoala
Moira Faletutulu	MNRE-PACC	Fuauli Vaaloto	Tafitoala	Faapili Aile	Tafitoala
Katrina Mariner	MNRE-WRD	Ronald Sagato	Tafitoala	Mau Laufau	Tafitoala
Fuaselela Fuga	Tafitoala	Sua Solomai	Tafitoala	Sua Makerita	Tafitoala
Vaeluaga T	Tafitoala	Fitu Mika	Tafitoala	Manu Asafo	Tafitoala
Faamativa Eli	Tafitoala	Tarolina S	Tafitoala	Iokapeta V	Tafitoala
Mulipola Iulio	Tafitoala	Solosolalii S	Tafitoala	Fetu Saofai	Tafitoala
Taase Nauer	Tafitoala	Epenesa K	Tafitoala	Akenese Pauli	Tafitoala

1. WELCOME

Susuga Fata Eti Malolo opened the workshop with a short prayer followed by his welcoming speech highlighting the goal of the meeting and the importance of the close relationship between the government and villages through the ministry's services.

2. 1st PRESENTATION

Mr Eti Malolo presented the first paper, briefly highlighting the roles of the Water Resources Division and the importance of water resources towards the environment and daily livelihoods of the community. An electronic copy of this presentation can be obtained from the WRD.

Discussion on the presentation followed, with the following issues raised:

1. Cattle farms at Mt Fiamoe which might cause some threat in the water sources
2. Tafitoala community is interested in tree planting considered having their community plots
3. The community raised the issue of invasive species it is critical and the villages support the need to plant native trees in such case that WRD will provide the seedlings.
4. The community questioned the issue of water industries taking/removing water from their sources. Is there a punishment for these people within the law?
5. Tafitoala supports the water resources management activities and willingly to assist with the government projects and also acknowledge the work of the PACC Project.

3. MORNING TEA AND VIEWING OF DOCUMENTARY

4. 2nd PRESENTATION

The second presentation was by Malaki Iakopo introducing the concept of village by-laws and its importance for the sustainable management of water resources.

Issues raised from the presentation:

1. Seawall- sand erosion, loss of tourist and removal of river rocks
2. Inland Spring identified and needs assistance/site visit
3. Water Committee
4. Questioned on why the Attorney General has to sign the by-laws

5. VILLAGE BY-LAW WORKPLAN/ WAY FORWARD

The workplan was presented and endorsed, with the consensus that the Tafitoala Village will await further actions from the MNRE (WRD).

6. LUNCH

7. FINAL REMARKS

The chairman Mr Fata Eti Malolo delivered the closing remarks and word of thanks for the community with regard to their effort and support as shown and Susuga Pepe Manupo responded in similar way on behalf of the participants.

8. TRANSPORT ALLOWANCES & CLOSURE

As for the effort and attendance of the community members of Tafitoala transport allowance of \$20 per partaker was distributed.

Meeting adjourned at 1.05pm

3. DISCUSSIONS

Discussion on Issues raised:

1. Tafitoala community raised the issue of cattle farms at Mt Fiamoe which might cause some threat in the water sources in the future and request the assistant of the Ministry through formalizing a letter of removal for these cattle farms.
2. The community is interested in tree planting considered having their community plots, also supports planting calliandra species along the new seawall and the river banks as measures towards coastal and river erosion.
3. The community raised the issue of invasive species it is critical and the villages support the need to plant native trees in such case that WRD will provide the seedlings when the project starts.
4. The community questioned the issue of water industries taking/removing water from their sources. Is there a punishment for these people within the law? As discussed and explained by Malaki Iakopo there are provisions under the WRM Act 2008 regarding this activity as most industries are aware of it.
6. Seawall- As funded by the PACC Project and is currently on hold and enquired about the status of the work.
7. An inland spring was discovered by the community and a request was put forward for WRD to visit the area for an additional or possible source of water supply for the village.
8. Another issue brought up, was the Water Committee, if any allowances if provided when they carried out their duties.
9. Questioned on why the lawyer has to sign the by-laws and government interest in the resources- As explained by Malaki Iakopo all by-laws and policies that needs enforcement will have to be endorse by the legal entity in the Ministry and the government as well this will allow village by-laws to have a more practical force when it is implemented. Additionally, there is no government interest in taking control over the resources, basically the aim is to assist the community in stressing the importance of water resources for the future.
10. Tafitoala supports the water resources management activities and willingly to assist with the government projects and also acknowledge the work of the PACC Project for the community.

4. WAY FORWARD

1. Upon agreement and confirmation from the village matai's MNRE (WRD) to liaise with the village mayor with regards to the next part of the by-law formulation
2. MNRE (PACC Project) to liaise with seawall contractors with regards to the current situation of the seawall as this will be negotiations between the contractor and the village.
3. In the next propose workshop the WRD will focus on baseline info collection and the village input on villages by-laws.

5. APPENDICES

(i) Community Notes

(ii) Presentations/ Workplan

(iii) Financial Docs