

SECOND REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TAFITOALA VILLAGE BY-LAW (COMMUNITY CONSULTATION)

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

Phase 2: Community Consultation (Baseline information gathering)
Date: 23rd February 2011
Venue: Tafitoala, Safata
Time: 9.30am-1.30pm

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1. INTRODUCTION

As of the initial workshop on the 14th Dec 2010, the village community expressed their support and agreed that village by-laws are necessary for Tafitoala. As expressed this will assist the village council of chiefs in managing resources and set up formal penalties for those who may/will breach the village laws.

Following the initial planning workshop the MNRE (WRD) prepared a community consultation with the entire community, to undertake a situational analysis as well as gauge views of the village on what rules were necessary for the continuing sustainability of the resource. It was expected that the community consultation will provide all the baseline information of what problems were and how the village groups foresee by-laws as a means of protecting the resource from these problems.

2. WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

2.1 Methodology/Planning

Workshop details and Targeted Audience

The workshop was held on the 23rd Feb 2011 in the village of Tafitoala (Safata) The targeted audience included the different community groups and decision makers, specifically the village mayor, members of the council of chiefs, the women committee and untitled men representatives.

Workshop Venue and Structure

The workshop was conducted at the village mayor's Samoan fale, more than 50 people attended. The participants engaged freely during the discussions and provided constructive feedbacks upon the presentations. The first presentation was on watershed areas and its protection highlighting roles of water resources division, followed by village by laws concentrating on the providing background info on villages and group work activities presented by the participants.

2.2 Workshop Proceedings

Attendants:

<u>Names</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Suluimalo A. Penaia	MNRE-WRD	Saololoalii	Tafitoala	Malaga I	Tafitoala
Shirley Malielegaoi	MNRE-Legal Division	Pepe L	Tafitoala	Pauli Patolo	Tafitoala
Moira Faletutulu	MNRE-PACC Project	Kilisi F	Tafitoala	Sua M	Tafitoala
Malaki Iakopo	MNRE-WRD	Malaga N	Tafitoala	Saili Esekia	Tafitoala
Masina Ngau Chun	MNRE-WRD	Vaomalua M	Tafitoala	Tuioti	Tafitoala
Fanueli Tuafale	MNRE-WRD	Nuufealoai	Tafitoala	Alavaa V	Tafitoala
Ao. Malaki	MNRE-WRD	Alavaa L	Tafitoala	Mataesili	Tafitoala
Katrina Mariner	MNRE-WRD	Eli Sua	Tafitoala	Fagasau Luma	Tafitoala
Fiasoso Siaosi	MNRE-WRD	Solosoloalii Sio	Tafitoala	Taula Leka	Tafitoala
Toiata Apelu	MNRE-WRD	Onegoa	Tafitoala	Fuga Ale	Tafitoala
Yvette Kerslake	MNRE-WRD	Tugaga M	Tafitoala	Anamalo T	Tafitoala
Suifua Faamatuainu	MNRE-WRD	Manusina	Tafitoala	Tuavaifale	Tafitoala
Sam Semisi	MNRE-WRD	Mulipola	Tafitoala	Junior	Tafitoala
Katrina Mariner	MNRE-WRD	Tupulata	Tafitoala	Vaeluaga	Tafitoala
Fati	Tafitoala	Fetu L	Tafitoala	Fitu Pala	Tafitoala
Lisa K	Tafitoala	Fualuga M	Tafitoala	Vaaiga P	Tafitoala
Alovale S	Tafitoala	Iokapeta	Tafitoala	Eata	Tafitoala
Lina Saili	Tafitoala	Susana Niko	Tafitoala	Amelia N	Tafitoala
Malina N	Tafitoala	Sulesa S	Tafitoala	Epenesa K	Tafitoala
Lili	Tafitoala	Nifo	Tafitoala	Tile	Tafitoala
Litia N	Tafitoala	Limalau	Tafitoala	Pati	Tafitoala
Maria	Tafitoala	Vini	Tafitoala	Faavevela	Tafitoala
Siloma	Tafitoala	Taase N	Tafitoala	Pitolua	Tafitoala
Iakopo Hunt	Tafitoala	Siaosi A	Tafitoala	Siaki	Tafitoala
Farani	Tafitoala	Fatu	Tafitoala	Tasesa	Tafitoala
Nopele	Tafitoala	Siliilo	Tafitoala	Malo	Tafitoala
Tuvale	Tafitoala	Taiti	Tafitoala	Aniaku	Tafitoala
Fotu	Tafitoala	Iatua	Tafitoala	Tomanasi	Tafitoala
Fuliese	Tafitoala	Tua T	Tafitoala	Tavita Vaa	Tafitoala
Joe Frozer	Tafitoala	Sagalala	Tafitoala	Maaliona	Tafitoala
Anisetu	Tafitoala	Anitelea	Tafitoala	Vavega	Tafitoala

Atonio T	Tafitoala	Peni T	Tafitoala	Ekene	Tafitoala
Senio	Tafitoala	Amilagi	Tafitoala	Taua	Tafitoala
Avei Sione	Tafitoala	Akenese	Tafitoala	Selela	Tafitoala
Taulima	Tafitoala	Sialei	Tafitoala	Tala Ale	Tafitoala
Elisapeta	Tafitoala	Falelua	Tafitoala	Falelua	Tafitoala

1. Welcome

Susuga Pepe Lanz spoke on behalf of the village to welcome the MNRE (WRD/PACC). Following his welcoming remarks Suluimalo A Penaia thanked the villagers for allowing the MNRE to conduct the consultation also making their time available to participate in the programme.

The program sets off after the welcoming with the small introduction of staff and the roles of each that involve in the objective of the consultation.

2. Presentation 1

The first presentation was by Watershed Section (Yvette and Fiasoso) briefly highlighting Water Resources roles and the importance of protections and sustainable management of water resources in Tafitoala. Yvette also stresses out the importance of watershed areas, the problems that affected these areas and the resources, also the measures that are used to control these problems.

Discussion on the presentation raised the following issues

1. Location of the intake – As discussed in the first consultation the location of the intake is at high risk of vulnerability due to the cattle farm and plantation on top of the river.
2. Tsunami- The village chiefs raised the issue that their intake was affected by the tsunami and questioned the availability of funds to renovate the village intake.
3. Cattle Farms & plantation at Tiavi- The villagers believe that the main source of the river is starts from Tiavi and recently they have discovered that upstream community use land for plantation and cattle farms, this will have much impact on the resources.
4. Invasive Species- As discussed there are many new plants emerges from the area.
5. Nursery Setup- What type of trees? Who will provide and set it up?

3. Presentation 2

The second presentation was on the Village by laws; Suluimalo discussed the importance of implementing these bylaws in Tafitoala. Also discuss information on National Water Resources Management Act 2008 and its aim in protecting water resources provided the integration of these by-laws within the overall legal framework of the water resources management and for continuous availability of resource in the future.

Issues raised on the presentation:

1. When will the project begins and who will monitor?
2. Will the land issue affected in these by-laws?

Copies of these presentations are attached for further information.

4. Group Work & Presentations

The participants were divided into four groups Matai & Alii, Tamaitai, Tausi ma Falelua & Taulelea. The main aim was to collect relevant information from the community. The groups were encouraged to 1. List the current problems, 2. What are the appropriate rules to avoid these problems? Each group discuss their issues and presented during the session. The MNRE staffs were also engaged in facilitating the group discussions.



Figure 1: Suluimalo presenting on Village by-laws



Figure 2: Untitled men group during discussion

5. Issues Presented

Following are the presented group discussions:

Group 1: Alii ma Faipule (Chief Council)	
Current Situation/ Problems	Proposed Village By-laws
1. Deforestation have removed trees along water ways that are protecting against soil erosion etc.	Reduce deforestation of native forests along the water sources
2. Plantations near the river might affect the safety of water through clearing and chemicals	Remove plantations from near rivers encourage 5 meter buffer zone.
3. Cattle farms are threatening the safety of water resources through animal wastes	Reduce having cattle farms along the river sources.
4. Natural disasters and Climate Change eg. Cyclones, affects the water resource	Encourage conservation of water
5. Unauthorized Water Trucks extracting water and car wash at the upper stream	Give punishment or fine on these people if caught.

Group 2: Tina ma Tamaitai	
Current Situation/ Problems	Proposed Village By-laws
1. Poor quality of Water when heavy rain	Stop deforestation of native forests; and encourage replanting of more trees
2. Use of chemicals in plantations and livestock activities	Stop the use of chemicals in vulnerable areas or near water sources
3. Human wastes and community general sanitation especially the upstream farmers	Reduce cattle farm in the area and encourage farmers to use proper disposal
4. Increase in the number of households	Encourage family planning and do not waste water.
5. Natural disasters and Climate Change eg. Drought and cyclones	Plant more trees

Group 3. Faletua ma Tausi	
Current Situation/ Problems	Proposed Village By-laws
1. Poor quality of Water	Stop deforestation of native forests; and encourage replanting of more trees
2. Use of dangerous chemicals in plantations	Reduce the use of chemicals in vulnerable areas or near water sources
3. Rubbish disposal in rivers and water sources	Stop rubbish dumping in river and water sources.
4. Cattle farms in nearby areas close to river sources	Reduce or Re-locate cattle farms to other suitable areas.
5. Natural ecosystems affected due to human activities	Reduce the use of chemical and dynamite in river fishing e.g. prawns No one is allowed to fish within the area especially up stream of the intake.

Group 4: Taulelea (Untitled Men)	
Current Situation/ Problems	Proposed Village By-laws
1. Forest clear for Plantations and chemical use near the river affecting water safety	Agricultural chemicals should be used appropriately near water sources Reduce deforestation and encourage replanting native trees.
2. Livestock farms waste disposal	Livestock farms have to be relocated if relevant to appropriate areas
3. Invasive Species and animals e.g vao migi,lapiti, faapasi, puaa aivao	Encourage planting native species and reduce hunting in vulnerable areas.
4. People from other villages continue hunting and fishing in the (river& nearby water sources)	Access near water sources should be strictly prohibited to only the committee
5. Throwing rubbish directly in the resource (river/spring)	No one is allowed to throw rubbish into the rivers and springs

6. Final Remarks

Suluimalo expressed the word of thanks to the village community for making themselves available and for their support that allows the ministry to conduct the workshop also acknowledges the presence of the Legal division and the PACC Project. Village chief duly responded with gratitude towards the effort and

7. Closure

The meeting adjourned at 1:30pm

End of Consultation Proceedings

3. DISCUSSIONS

3.1 Summary of Issues:

The following is a summary of issues highlighted by the different groups. It is important to note that there were quite a number of similarities in the issues noted thus indicating that people in the community were equally aware of the different water issues.

1. Deforestation in nearby rivers and water sources was one main issue highlighted, by the groups as a major cause of soil erosion affecting the quality of water and the natural river ecosystems. As indicated by the women's committee, the water quality is very much affected during heavy rain.
2. As point out by the village chiefs and untitled men groups, most of them use chemicals to clear weeds and pests. The farmers declare that these chemicals make their work easy, it also provides less labour hours in working out the land. The community is aware of the consequence of these chemicals and its impact on the quality of water and the health of the Tafitoala community.
3. Concerns were also raised with regards to wastes from livestock farming activities contaminating water supply and increasing the risks of diseases amongst the population. It was acknowledged during the consultation that despite having village rules against cattle farming near rivers and water sources, people still established farms in these vulnerable areas because there was very minimal enforcement by the Council of Chiefs.
4. Contamination of water sources upstream by human wastes directly disposed into water sources or through seepages of wastes from badly constructed septic/sanitation facilities, was also discussed as a potential risk to the quality of water.
5. Direct disposal of rubbish into the rivers and water sources have been practiced by some of the individuals in the village affecting water quality and rivers natural ecosystems.
6. Future impacts of climate variability and climate change, as well as natural disasters such as cyclones. As indicated by council of chiefs the intake and river source was affected by the tsunamis in 2009. Additionally, water resources are particularly vulnerable to drought, foodling and cyclones e.g Ofa and Val.
7. As indicated by matais and untitled men's group native trees and land areas are pretentious by invasive species such as fue lautetele (merrinian paletata), faapa'si, vao migi and lapiti. This issue has raised concern with the community and are keenly to replant native trees and mixed agriculture as suggested for measures against invasive species.
8. There have been cases of unauthorized personnel and water trucks extracting the resources; the community has inconsequential awareness on this issue. Also stated by village chiefs people washed cars in the upstream areas which add on more harm to the resources.
9. Lastly, a long term issue of increase in the number of households within the village can also impact the volumetric supply of water resources to cater for the community in the future. As discussed groups indicated the importance of family planning.

3.2 Proposed Village by-laws and Rules:

1. Removal of vegetation and forests near rivers and water sources is strictly prohibited.
2. Encourage a buffer zone of 5 meters from the river for plantation in watershed areas.
3. Discontinue the use of dangerous chemicals in areas close to rivers or water resources
4. Livestock farming is prohibited near or in the vicinity of rivers and other water sources.
5. Current livestock farming to relocated to more appropriate vicinity
6. Disposing of any kind of rubbish, wastewater or other harmful substances into or around the vicinity of Tafitoala water resources is prohibited.
7. Water abstraction activities by individuals or organisations without permits/licenses issued by the MNRE, or approval by the Tafitoala Council of Chiefs are prohibited.
8. Access to near water sources or intakes should be strictly prohibited to only the authorised people such as water committee members.
9. Any other developments along the river side or near the vicinity of the spring which may pose a threat to the safety or sustainability of water resources can not be undertaken unless a Development Consent and approval by the Tafitoala Village is granted.

3.3 Other issues:

The village also brought forward other issues which were considered significant to the overall management of the village's water resources:

1. The village council questioned the nursery set up and the plants that will be allocated for the nursery and its monitoring plus maintenance.
2. The MNRE need to start implementing their activities such tree planting, drafting by-law and identifying buffer zones for Tafitoala watershed.
3. As enquired by the community their concern on the land and the need to treat these by-laws for water resources separately from land issues.
4. The MNRE and Council of Chiefs need to set and agree on penalties for the by-laws.

4. THE WAY FORWARD

1. MNRE to confirm the proposed by-laws with the Tafitoala Council of Chiefs.
2. MNRE to prepare a draft and submitted to the Attorney General Office before advertising.
3. MNRE will move forward with the nursery and rehabilitation work.

5. APPENDICES

(i) Program

(ii) Presentations

(iii) Group Activity Sheets