

Greening the Samoa 2019 Pacific Games BEATS

Short, quick pops of information to help enhance your speeches, policy development, media interviews and soundbites, presentations and general message sharing when it comes to greening Pacific island events.

We hope you find these helpful!

Why green the Samoa 2019 Pacific Games?

- The XVI Pacific Games held from 7–20 July 2019 in Samoa brought together close to 5,000 athletes and officials to compete and take part in 27 sports.
- As host, Samoa committed to a green XVI Pacific Games to support a sustainable Pacific environment, and proactively address the increase in waste that comes with a large number of visitors over a short period of time.
- The goal of this activity was to change behavior to address waste and pollution issues, in particular marine litter and plastic pollution by eliminating single-use plastics and polystyrene.
- Disposable plastic items represent 50% of marine litter with 80% of all marine litter coming from land based sources.



*Beautiful
SAMOA
Keep it Clean Free
and Plastic Free*



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SAMOA
Keep it Clean, Free
and Plastic Free*



clean
seas
turn the tide
on plastic

UN
environment



Australian
Aid



Key impacts made through greening the XVI Pacific Games

- Over one million 500ml single-use plastic bottles were NOT used or discarded as rubbish during the XVI Pacific Games.
- Over 3,200 native trees were planted in Samoa by visiting athletes and officials during the Samoa 2019 Pacific Games as part of efforts to offset carbon emissions.
- Over 8 tonnes of waste collected in Samoa as part of clean-up efforts before the XVI Pacific Games began.
- Close to 5,000 athletes and officials were given free reusable bags to ensure they did not use single-use plastic bags (which they may have brought with them) while in Samoa.
- 40 students from the National University of Samoa built their capacity on how to conduct waste audits – a professional skill they now have.
- 65 schools, 750 students and 100 teachers across Samoa planted over 8,000 trees to help offset carbon emissions and support Samoa's Two Million Tree Campaign 2015–2020.

Key ways we greened the XVI Pacific Games

- A Greening of the Games committee was established as a formal committee under the Samoa Pacific Games Office in line with the official structure of the organisation of the XVI Pacific Games.
- Partnerships were formed with donors, private sector, NGO's and government agencies to work together to support the actions under the Greening of the 2019 Games.
- The Beautiful Samoa, Keep it Clean and Plastic Free Campaign was formed, under which all actions were undertaken.
- A communications campaign was developed to raise awareness of the Greening of the XVI Pacific Games and the waste issues which led to a wide range of communications activities including establishment of billboards, television commercials and social media promotion.
- Distribution of free materials for all athletes and officials, promoting good environmental behaviour – reusable bags and 1 litre reusable water bottles.
- Samoa's Two Million Tree Campaign 2015–2020 was promoted amongst athletes and officials encouraging them to plant trees.
- A sample waste audit was held from 7–13 July to provide us with a snapshot of the waste trends from across Pacific Games venues and accommodation sites.
- 350 free, cold, filtered water stations were established across all Pacific Games venues and accommodation sites.
- Labelled waste receptacles were established across all Pacific Games venues encouraging people to put waste in either of the recyclable or non-recyclable bins.

Key lessons learnt from greening the XVI Pacific Games

- Commitments to green practices must be in place with contracted suppliers of the Pacific Games Office as part of their legal contractual agreements – these must be monitored and enforced.
- Sufficient time for extensive fundraising, preparation and implementation of a green games is needed.
- Chef de Missions must be included in the Greening of the Games in the lead up to the event. All information shared must reach the team managers, coaches and athletes themselves.
- Official inclusion of a Greening of the Games committee must be part of any Pacific Games Office or structure. This is strong indication of Government support for good environmental practices.
- Partnerships are vital to a successful Greening of the Games – amongst all sectors such as, but not limited to, private sector, NGO's, government agencies and departments.
- Monitoring of the adherence to the Greening of the Games principals must be undertaken to ensure compliance.
- Widen the focus of the target audience of the messaging to include everyone that will play a part at the Pacific Games such as volunteers, media, drivers, liaisons, security and spectators.
- Consider working with the National Focal Points of SPREP Members to undertake green events on home grounds before competing teams depart for the Pacific Games.

Legacy of Greening the XVI Pacific Games

- Increased awareness of the Greening of the Games.
- Strong interest from across the Pacific region to greening Pacific regional, and national events.
- Close to 8,000 Pacific people (athletes, officials and volunteers), equipped with reusable water bottles to use in their home countries, contributing to the overall reduction of single-use plastic bottles across the Pacific.
- Close to 5,000 Pacific athletes and officials equipped with one or two reusable bags to use in their home countries, contributing to the overall reduction of single-use plastic bags across the Pacific.
- 150 free water stations donated to schools across Samoa for use.
- Over 10,000 native trees planted in Samoa contributing to growth of the national carbon sink
- Development of an adaptable and usable step-by-step guide highlighting good practices and options to undertake, to empower Pacific islands to organise and implement their own Green events.
- Commitment by Government of Solomon Islands, as host of the next Pacific Games, to Green Games.

Messages from Greening the XVI Pacific Games

- We live in the world's largest ocean, the Pacific ocean. We must work together to care for our biggest resource through different ways, one being having green events in our region.
- When we work together, one in spirit, we can collectively see positive impacts to reduce waste and marine debris.
- We made a difference by uniting as one through the XVI Pacific Games collectively reducing our single-use plastic use.
- We are capable, as Pacific island communities, of greening our own events, be they national or regional meetings or workshops from planning and fundraising to implementation.
- 80% of the marine debris in our ocean comes from land based sources, when we make a difference on land – we are making a difference in our ocean.

Acknowledgments

Fa'afetai tele lava to all who played a role in helping to achieve positive impacts for our Pacific environment during the Greening of the XVI Pacific Games.

For further information on the Greening of the XVI Pacific Games please contact SPREP at sprep@sprep.org or Mr Anthony Talouli at AnthonyT@sprep.org.



SPREP

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Environment Programme

A resilient Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

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