



AMERICAN SAMOA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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Information Release Authorization Form

Tuesday, September 27, 2011

- Newspaper**
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- Public Notice**

Attached is an Information Release issued by our office (AS-EPA). We would like to ask your assistance in making this information available to the public immediately, via your broadcasts or news publications. For additional information, kindly contact the AS-EPA Director, Fanuatele Dr. To'afa Vaiaga'e, or Tumau Lokeni Iese, Environmental Awareness & Education Division Manager at 633-2304 or 733-5940. Fa'afetai tele lava.

- Governor's Office, Tapuitea
- Director, Department of Public Information (KVZK-TV)
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Approved by: _____

Fanuatele Dr. To'afa Vaiaga'e
Director, AS-EPA

Date: _____

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Description:

Title/Heading:

Faga'alu Watershed Project Showcased at a Workshop in Guam



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PRESS RELEASE

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The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Micronesia Program hosted a Conservation Action Planning (CAP) Workshop for 3 project sites in Micronesia (Guam, CNMI, and Kosrae) and one in American Samoa from September 6-9, 2011 in Guam.



During the workshop, representatives from the American Samoa Government proudly showcased its Faga'alu watershed project that sparked a lot of interest from various jurisdictions within the Micronesian Islands. American Samoa's Bottom-Up Approach ignited a lot of interest as this approach empowers and allows the village to plan and implement its own CAP with guidance from CRAG agencies and its partners. Steven Victor, TNC Conservation Coordinator commented: "I was quite impressed with the participation from American Samoa at the CAP workshop. While very new to the CAP planning process and to the conservation approach in the north Pacific, the Am. Samoa participants were fully engaged in the discussion, sharing lessons learned doing conservation work, and more importantly, recognizing the challenges of doing conservation."

There were 5 participants from American Samoa which included the village Mayor of Faga'alu HTC. Uso Lago'o, AS-EPA Assistant Director for Technical Programs Faamao Asalele, Christianera Tuitele and Tumau Lokeni-Iese from AS-EPA, and Fatima Sauafea-Leau of NOAA-PIRO. According to The Nature Conservancy Director Trina Leberer, "The team contributed greatly to the success of the workshop, providing both a wonderful example of how to effectively engage communities in watershed management and conservation and very useful feedback to the other teams on their objectives and proposed activities".

While the workshop helped participants from American Samoa learn about other project sites and their community watershed plans, it also provided an opportunity for other Micronesian jurisdictions to learn more about the Faga'alu watershed project and allowed for sharing, networking and learning. It also helped motivate the Faga'alu village mayor to successfully finalize his village driven action plan.

Fanuatele Dr. Toafa Vaiaga'e, Director of the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency conveys his sincere Fa'afetai Tele to Director Trina Leberer for a successful workshop and looking forward to more future collaboration with Micronesia. In addition, the AS-EPA Director praised HTC. Uso Lago'o for his leadership within the village. The Director stated that, "HTC. Uso Lago'o's leadership and commitment to duty has propelled the village of Faga'alu abroad and overseas in the watershed management and conservation arena." Furthermore, the Director expresses his sincerest appreciation to Paramount Chief Tufele Li'amatua, Secretary – Office of Samoan Affairs, for his support on our ongoing programs in the village of Faga'alu and others.