

SAMOA

1.1 Introduction

Year of ratification 2001

Organisation submitting the report

- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.
- Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture.

1.2 Identification of cultural and natural heritage properties

The status of national inventories

- An inventory of all colonial and historical buildings was conducted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in 2000.
- A national inventory of fauna and flora for both marine and terrestrial species has been prepared, where 14 ecosystems are identified as being of highest priority for conservation.
- A series of sites (volume 1-5) where traditional folklore and cultural activities are important) have been documented. This work started in 1997 and is funded by UNESCO. 5 volumes have been produced.

The preparation of a Tentative List

- The Tentative List has not been prepared yet but is foreseen.

Nominations and the nomination process

- No nominations have yet been prepared.
- Pending the preparation of the Tentative List.

1.3 Protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage

Integration of heritage and planning

- A national policy on heritage conservation "Cultural and Natural Heritage Conservation Policy" was identified under the National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS) for Samoa in 1993. The Policy is awaiting approval from the Government.
- A National Landuse Policy and National Water Resource Conservation Policy have been approved by the government.
- National Biodiversity Policy and Forest Conservation Policy are awaiting cabinet approval.

- Several other legal instruments (eg National Parks and Reserves Act 1974, The Land Surveys and Environment Act 1989 etc) provide a framework for the protection and conservation of potential World Heritage sites.

Participation of local communities

- The Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment is involved in community capacity building trainings for the promotion of conservation.

Tourism Development

- A National Beautification Committee has been established to promote tourism.

Financial measures and budget allowance

- No information provided.

Professional

- No information provided.

New and improved services

- The establishment of the Division of Environment and Conservation in 1989 and the National Advisory Heritage Committee for Samoa.
- Management plans, strategies and action plans have been established (e. g. draft management plans for 9 reserves, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2001).

Issues to be addressed

- Need for assistance to identify training for the cultural and natural heritage conservation.
- Lack of regional centres for training and education for the conservation of natural and cultural heritage.

1.4 International co-operation and fund raising

National and International Fund Raising

- At the February 2003 Apia workshop, the need for national and international fund raising was identified.
- *International Assistance from WHF: none.

1.5 Education, information and awareness-building

Information and awareness measures

- Information on heritage is disseminated through a newsletter called "Samoa Heritage".
- Annual environmental events are conducted for public awareness.

1.6 Conclusions and recommended actions

Conclusions and proposed actions

- Preservation of traditional arts, culture and history together with the conservation of biodiversity have been identified in the 1993 National Environmental Management Strategy.
- There is need of UNESCO assistance in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of sites for World Heritage.
- A proposal will be submitted seeking UNESCO assistance for education, information and public awareness.
- Need for both financial and technical assistance for the preparation of a Tentative List and the planning of a nomination.
- Partnerships with other Pacific countries and donors will be developed to share expertise and seek financial support.