

Country: Samoa

Date of submission: 30th September 2014

Voluntary National Report to the 11th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Background

The eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF11) will be held from 4 to 15 May 2015 in New York. In accordance with the Forum's Multi-Year Program of Work for 2007-2015, the overall theme of UNFF11 is *Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward on the international arrangement on forests (IAF)*. The UNFF11 will, *inter-alia*:

1. Review progress towards the achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs) and implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (hereinafter referred to as the "Forest Instrument"), and
2. Review the contribution of forests and the IAF, including the Forest Instrument, to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The submission of national reports by UNFF Member States on the above items will provide a crucial input to the Secretary-General's analytical, consolidated report to UNFF11 on the progress and trends in the above-mentioned areas, as well as to the Forum's deliberation on the future of the IAF.

Pursuant to Resolution 10/1 of the tenth session of the Forum¹, the UNFF Secretariat (UNFFS) in collaboration with the CPF member organizations and in close consultations with countries, revised and streamlined the reporting format. The attached revised format builds on and further simplifies the UNFF10 reporting format. Specifically, the number of questions has been reduced by consolidating previous areas of overlap, and Member States are asked to submit only information that is not currently provided to CPF member organizations, or that is unavailable in other international databases.

The UNFF11 reporting format is presented in two parts. Part I includes questions related to the progress on the implementation of the Forest Instrument, including achievement of the GOFs. Part II includes questions on the contribution of forests and SFM to the achievement of the MDGs.

To the extent possible, the information submitted by countries to the UNFFS will be supplemented with quantitative data, *inter alia*, from the following international data providers:

- FAO, Forest Resources Assessment (FRA)/Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CRFQ) - FAO, Forest Europe, UNECE, ITTO, Montreal Process and OFAC
- Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ) – FAO, ITTO, UNECE, EUROSTAT
- FAO, State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2014
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

¹ Resolution 10/1 of UNFF10 requested the UNFF secretariat (UNFFS) to further streamline the guidelines and format for voluntary national reporting to the eleventh session of the Forum including a technical discussion on reporting methodology with relevant experts of Collaborative Partnership on Forest member organizations, taking into account types of information provided to Collaborative Partnership on Forest member organizations and through criteria and indicators and other regional processes and balanced regional workshops depending on available resources. (United Nations Forum on Forests, Report on the Tenth Session -8 to 19 April 2013, E/2013/42 _E/CN.18/2013/18, Page 6)

Reporting Guidelines and Format

Member States are kindly requested to:

1. Submit their completed national report **electronically (in MS Word) in English, French or Spanish to unff@un.org, by 30 September 2014**, at the latest. Early submissions will greatly facilitate the Secretariat's preparation of the analytical, consolidated Secretary-General's report to UNFF11. Please note that the MS Word file of the reporting format can also be downloaded from the UNFF website at: http://www.un.org/esa/forests/unff11_reporting_template.doc
2. Submit, in a separate electronic file, a scanned version of the official, signed letter conveying their submission from their respective Ministry, or a note verbale from their Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York.
3. Submit any graphic elements included in their national report, as separate electronic files.
4. Check all boxes that apply to questions that have multiple-choice components. In addition to the "Yes" or "No" answers, countries are encouraged to provide brief descriptive narratives, as this provides context and background. Please also note that space provided for the descriptive information is limited to 250 words per question.

In view of the cross-cutting nature of issues related to forests and sustainable forest management (SFM), respondents are encouraged to consult with experts from relevant national ministries to complete the reporting format, including, for example, the ministries of environment, economic development, finance and agriculture. Respondents are also strongly encouraged to consult with the national focal points for the FAO Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), the Rio Conventions, other CPF member organizations and C&I processes, where applicable.

Please note that the Year 2007 – the year of the adoption of the Forest Instrument (2007), is used as a baseline throughout the document.

All terms used in this document are consistent with the FAO/FRA Working Paper 180 "Terms and Definitions FRA 2015": <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/ap862e/ap862e00.pdf>

Abbreviations

C&I	Criteria and Indicators processes
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FRA	FAO's global Forest Resources Assessment
GOF	Global Objectives on Forests
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NFP	National Forest Programme
ODA	Official Development Assistance
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SFM	Sustainable forest management
UN	United Nations
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests

General information

UNFF national focal point

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Person to contact concerning the national report, if other than the UNFF national focal point

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PART I:
Progress on the implementation of the Forest Instrument,
including achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

1. Since the adoption of the Forest Instrument in 2007, what actions has your government taken to strengthen forest-related policies, legislation, and law enforcement in support of sustainable forest management (SFM)? Please specify:

	New	Amendment of existing
Forest policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
National forest programme	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest land tenure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Please provide further information on these and/or other actions:

The Government of Samoa is committed to ensure the sustainable management of forest resources as reflected in the the Strategy for the Development of Samoa (SDS) 2012 – 2016 in which there is a clear endorsement of forest protection, forest restoration, forest resource development using woodlots and agroforestry under “Environment” priority area 4. It is also clearly stated in the State of Environment Report (SOE) 2013 the need to conserve and protect habitats including upland cloud forests, lowland and coastal forests. It is further prioritized under the National Environment and Development Sector Plan (NESP) 2013 – 2016 under the key environment sector objective (KESO) 4 to implement strategies for protecting key environment resources such as forests, land, water and fisheries. The National Policy on the Sustainable Development of Forests, 2007 provides the framework for the sustainable development of Samoa’s forests to conserve the remaining native forests and to promote community based plantation forests in partnership with all stakeholders (The policy is currently under review 2014). The policy has led to the development and approval of the Forestry Management Act 2011 which is an act to make provision for the effective and sustainable management of Samoa’s forest resources and for related purposes.

There are also other forestry related Acts, policies and strategies which are listed below;

- Water Resources Management Act 2008 – includes provisions for water catchments / watersheds areas.
- National Water Resources Management policy 2010 includes provisions for water catchments / watersheds areas.
- National Water Resources Management Regulations 2013 – includes land surveying and planning to incorporate buffer zones for forests and associated with riparian environments.
- Agriculture Sector Plan 2011 – 2015 – includes a sub sector for Forestry Management.
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) (draft review 2014).
- Environment Management & Conservation Bill (draft)

To what extent have these actions been effective in advancing implementation of the Forest Instrument?

	Effective	Partially effective	Not effective	Not in place
Forest policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NFP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest land tenures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide 2-3 examples of effective actions in support of the Forest Instrument and web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

- (1) A National Million Tree Campaign 2009 - 2012 was launched during Environment Week 2009 and implemented with a target of a million trees to be planted in support of initiatives for the sustainable management of forest resources. The campaign was successful in achieving the target of one million trees planted and increase of forest land cover, raising awareness and building capacity of the communities in sustainable forest resource management and protection.
- (2) National Forest Inventory (NFI) 2013 – was conducted to update the status of forests and national land cover mapping for Samoa and comprised of interview and forest survey. The interview survey was to obtain complementary information related to land owners, land users, and the production and usage of non-timber forest products. The forest survey focused on tree biomass and non-tree biomass surveys, field data entry and processing analysis and reporting.
- (3) As mandated under the Forestry Management Act 2011 a system has been put in place under the Forestry Division Policy and Planning Section for applications for Forest harvesting license and Permit consent. Also as mandated by the Forestry Management Act 2011 an order of fees was approved by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment 2013. The licenses and Permits are approved by the Forestry Board as mandated under the Forestry Management Act 2011. The forest harvesting license and permit consent ensures the sustainable use and management of forest resources for Samoa.

Web link : www.mnre.gov.ws

2. Since 2007, what steps has your government taken to prevent and reduce international trafficking in illegally-harvested forest products such as timber, wildlife and other biological resources?

- ☒ New legislation
- ☒ Improved enforcement of existing legislation
- ☒ Export controls
- ☒ Import controls
- ☐ Bilateral agreements between exporting/importing countries
- ☐ None
- ☒ Other, e.g. public procurement policies, public-private partnerships. Please list below:

- Forest Management Act 2011 clearly states provisions on the management of forest produce.
- Environment Management & Conservation Bill (draft) states a provision on Trade and endangered species which prohibits wild export of trees and plants as identified in the appendix lists of the draft bill.

- Quarantine Biosecurity Act prohibits the import and export of illegal products including forests products and biological resources.

Please provide 2-3 examples and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

- 1) Application Form Permit Specimens - The Division of Environment and Conservation (DEC) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment strictly require Consent application for collection of Samoa's biological & Non-biological resources as Samoa is a party to the convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and has a complete sovereign right over its biological resources.
- 2) Order by the Head of State 1990s prohibiting the export of logs – The Forestry Division still enforces the order by the Head of State to prohibit the export of logs especially logs endemic to Samoa. An order in the 1990s was signed and declared by the Head of State of Samoa, Malietoa Tanumafili II.
- 3) Forestry Management Act 2011 provide provisions on management of forest produce and to prohibit the export of illegal harvested forest products.

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3. Since 2007, what steps has your government taken to raise the importance of forests and SFM in national development plans, poverty reduction strategies or other equivalent plans?

- ☒ Forests/SFM are now included in national development plans/strategies
- ☒ Forests/SFM now have a higher priority in national development plans/strategies
- ☒ The contribution of forests/SFM to poverty eradication, food security, water security, employment is an ongoing subject of discussion
- ☒ Other, please list below:

The Government of Samoa is committed to ensure the sustainable management of forest resources as reflected in the the Strategy for the Development of Samoa (SDS) 2012 – 2016 in which there is a clear endorsement of forest protection, forest restoration, forest resource development using woodlots and agroforestry under "Environment" priority area 4. It is also clearly stated in the State of Environment Report (SOE) 2013 the need to conserve and protect habitats including upland cloud forests, lowland forests and coastal forests. It is further prioritized under the National Environment and Development Sector Plan (NESP) 2013 – 2016 under the key environment sector objective (KESO) 4 to implement strategies for the protecting key environment resources such as forests, land, water and fisheries. Forestry Management is also indicated in the Agriculture Sector Plan 2011-2015. The Water for Life Sector Plan 2012-2016 places forest management as a priority in securing sustainable water resources in the long term. It also looks at the roles of forests in flash flood management, soil protection as livelihoods for the communities.

Have these steps resulted in:

- ☒ More Official Development Assistance (ODA) being programmed to SFM-related activities
- ☒ More domestic public resources devoted to SFM-related activities
- ☒ Increased awareness of the importance of forests/SFM to sustainable development
- ☒ Increased awareness of the importance of forests/SFM to poverty eradication
- ☒ Other, please list below:

Resources have been mobilized in the form of projects to ensure the sustainable management of forest resources and demonstration of the steps above as per list below;

- 1) Integration of Climate Change Risks and resilience into Forestry management in Samoa (ICCRIFS) funded by GEF through UNDP 2011-2015.
- 2) Samoa Agroforestry and Tree Planting Programme (SATFP) funded by AusAID 2012-2014
- 3) Forest and Protected Area Management (FPAM) funded by GEF through UNDP 2012-2016
- 4) Forest Preservation Programme (FPP) through the Government of Japan (GOJ) 2012-2014
- 5) Intergrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) funded by GEF through SOPAC 2010-2014
- 6) National Adaptation Programme of Action 4 – Intergration of Climate Change Risks and Resilience into Meteorolgoy, Water Resources, Forest Fires and Tourism funded by AusAID. 2010-2015
- 7) Strenthening Multi-Sectoral Management of Critical Landscapes in Samoa (SMSMCL) project funded by GEF through UNDP. 2013-2016
- 8) GEF Pacific Alliance of Sustainability (PAS). 2012-2016.

Please describe these steps, and, if possible, provide 2-3 examples and web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

- 1) Integration of Climate Change Risks and Resilience into Forestry Management in Samoa (ICCRIFS) project have mobilised resources for integration of climate change into forestry policy and planning frameworks, climate resilient agro-forestry and forestry techniques developed in lowland and upland areas with climate resilient nurseries and agro-forestry demonstration plots implemented and project knowledge captured, abalyzed and disseminated through the development of a communication and outreach strategy.
- 2) There is a national priority to conserve upand forests which are vital watershed areas. Government is committed to working with landowners and in some instances have taken (i.e. bought) land as a means to sustainably manage water and forest resources. This initiative has been spear headed by the IWRM programme.
- 3) There is now an Environment Sector with Forest resources as one of the main key environment objectives under the National Environment and Development Sector Plan (NESP) 2013 – 2016 and key environment sector objective (KESO) 4 to implement strategies for the protecting key environment resources such as forests, land, water and fisheries

www.mnre.gov.ws or www.mof.gov.ws information on projects and products is available.

4. **Since 2007, has your government taken measures to strengthen coordination across ministries and departments whose policies have an impact on or may affect forests and SFM?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please specify which ministries and/or departments are involved and how effective these measures have been in implementing SFM:

- (1) Agriculture Sector - The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) has implemented numerous adaptation projects strategies and programmes. The Strategic Integrated Pest Management Systems (SIPMS) funded by FAO focus on applying fungicides and improving plantation sanitation to boost crop yields. The project lifted production slightly in 1995. The FAO trained farmers in improved farm management techniques and set up cost effective micro propagation schemes. The Agriculture Sector plan 2011-2015 emphasises the building of farmer resilient to climate change as essential to its food security goal and sustainable trade in agricultural products and produce. Matching science based climate change prediction information needs to farmer needs by taking into account traditional practices incorporating local knowledge and experience is considered crucial. Likewise, the strengthening the capacity of farmers and producers to manage their resources including forest resources is considered equally important.
- (2) Water Sector – Water for Life Sector Plan 2012 – 2016 places forest management as a priority in securing sustainable water resources in the long term. It also looks at roles of forest in flash flood management, soil protection and as improved livelihoods for communities.
- (3) Tourism Sector – The Samoa Tourism Authority (STA) has developed a programme at Integration of Climate Risks and Resilience into the Tourism Sector of Samoa. The project prioritizes environmental friendly technology and infrastructure as well as promotes eco-tourism including national parks and protected area management.
- (4) Community Sector – The Ministry of Women Community and Social Development (MWCSD) community sector plans identifies the environment as an important component for the community for implementing environment projects and improving livelihoods as well as raising awareness and capacity building on protection and conservation of natural resources including forest resources.

	Effective	Partially effective	Not effective	Not in place
Agriculture/Rural Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate Change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide 2-3 examples of cross-sectoral cooperation and, if possible, web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

- 1) The Water Sector has a Water Resources Sub Sector and one of the activities is the rehabilitation and protection of water catchment areas. The ICCRIFS project of the Forestry Division works closely with the Water Resources Division for the rehabilitation of water catchments and or watershed areas for project sites and relevant communities to ensure a safe quality and quantity supply of water but also a healthy and sustainable watershed including forests.

- 2) The Agriculture Sector implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has a Crops Division which works closely with the Forestry Division for implementation of Agro-forestry demonstration plots under the Intergration of Climate Change Risks and Resilience into the Agriculture and Health Sector (ICCRAH) as well as the Samoa Agroforestry and Tree Farming Programme (SATFP) and Integration of Climate Change Risks and Resilience into Forestry Management in Samoa (ICCRIFS). This ensures a multi-stakeholder approach to the development of the climate resilient agro-forestry demonstration plot and ensures benefits to farmer, Agriculture Sector and the projects under the Forestry Division.

Web link www.mnre.gov.ws

5. Does your government's national forest policy/strategy or national forest programme contain time-bound and quantified targets related to the forest area?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list the targets and dates by which they are to be achieved and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Samoa has national targets to achieve the MDG target 7 to integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources. The MDG indicator specific to Forestry Management is the proportion of land area covered by forest. Baseline was 46 % forest cover in Year 1991, Year 2000 is 60.4 % forest cover, Year 2005 is 60 forest cover and based on the recent National Forest Inventory 2013 the forest cover is 58.3 %. The decrease of 1.7% in forest cover given the following considered factors through increase in residential / industrial areas, increase in agricultural developments and impact of cyclone even in 2012. Note: Approximately 58.3% of Samoa's land area is covered by 'forest' but this does not include small woodlots, small reserves, small patches of mangrove forests, seawall planting and agroforestry and other young tree plantings which cover another 3.4% of Samoa's land area but are not currently considered forest because they don't yet have the tree density or size to be mapped as forest. In the future such areas may become forest if left alone for the trees to be mature.

6. Since 2007, what activities has your government undertaken to reverse the loss of forest cover and/or to enhance the area and quality of forests? Please specify:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Afforestation	ha
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reforestation	100 ha
<input type="checkbox"/>	Restoration	ha

Introduction or enforcement of:

- ☒ Existing legislation aimed at reduction of deforestation and/or support afforestation and or reforestation
- ☒ New legislation aimed at reduction of deforestation and/or support of afforestation and/or reforestation
- ☒ New legislation and actions aimed at conservation and protection of forests
- ☐ Subsidies for forest owners to prepare and implement management plans
- ☒ Subsidies for forest protection
- ☐ Reduced/deferred taxes for forest land
- ☐ Low-interest loans for forest activities/management
- ☒ Other, please list below:

The Forestry Division has a annual target of 100 hectares of reforestation a year for National Parks. The Water Resources Division also have annual targets for increase of rehabilitation of water catchment areas. There are also projects and initiatives for the increase of protected area network for mangrove forests under the MESCAL programme and also under the ICCRIFS, FPAM and FPP projects. The Forestry Division also has a community forestry programme for the increase of community owned woodlots as well as agro-forestry demonstration plots with communities.

Please describe, and, if possible, provide 2-3 examples and web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

- 1) The Forestry Division has an annual target for replanting with native species with 40 hectares for the Cornwall estate in Savaii 25 hectares for the Le Pupue National Park at Togitogiga, Upolu Island and 20 hectares for Lake Lanotoo National 10 hectares part in Upolu Island and 25 hectares for the Mt Salafai National Park in Savaii Island. Every year the Forestry division either achieves this target or exceeds the target.
- 2) Under the Integration of Climate Change Risks and Resilience project the Forestry Division has developed and established 2 hectares each of climate resilient agroforestry demonstration plots for the village of Nuusuatia and Lutuanuu in the island of Upolu.

Web link : www.mnre.gov.ws

7. What types of mechanisms are currently in place for involving stakeholders in forest/SFM policy formulation, planning and implementation?

- ☒ Roundtables/committees have been established which meet regularly
- ☒ Forest authorities meet with stakeholders on an *ad hoc* basis as issues affecting them arise
- ☐ Other, please list below:

- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Forestry Board which comprises of representatives of government ministries agencies and communities for the purpose of international conventions and relating to forestry resource management the committee may lawfully perform any function and exercise any power required to be performed or exercised in accordance with relevant convention and any law of Samoa in the interest of sustainably management forest resources in Samoa.
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Water Board
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Land Board
- Minister of Natural Environment and Resources Advisory Committee
- Environment Task Team for the National Environment Sector Plan
- Project Steering Committees as well as Technical and Advisory Committees for Forestry Projects including ICCRIFS, SATFP, FPP and FPAM.
- District Committees with Forestry Projects e.g. ICCRIFS Project and the Taiala Programme with Matuaileoo Environment Trust Incorporated (METI) which is a Non Governmental Organisation - NGO.

How effective are these mechanisms in promoting consensus approaches:

	Effective	Partially effective	Not effective	Not in place
Private sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Forest workers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indigenous communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NGOs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
General Public	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

- 1) The Forestry Board meets every month and provides policy and legislation advice as well as approves or declines the allocation of licenses and permits for forest harvesting based on the reports and recommendation presented to the board and any other issues and recommendations required regarding forestry management. This has enabled a systematic way of monitoring the forest resources in Samoa.
- 2) The ICCRIFS Project Board meets on a quarterly basis to present on the quarterly project reports and work plan for the next quarter for approval by the project board and any other matters crucial to the sustainability and successful management of the ICCRIFS project.
- 3) District Committee Meetings are conducted on an ad hoc basis to increase the awareness and build the capacity of communities in Samoa on sustainable forestry management through the various Forestry Division projects and priorities.

8. To what extent do local and indigenous communities have tenure or user rights over publicly-owned forests?

- ☐ Completely
☒ Partially
☐ None
☐ Not applicable

Please provide 2-3 examples how local and indigenous communities are benefiting from goods and services produced by forests and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

For Samoa, 80% of lands are owned by Samoan people / indigenous communities hence most forests land is owned by Samoan People. However the government has taken the initiative under the Taking of the Lands Act 1964 to purchase land for public interest in regards to water catchment areas to ensure a safe quality and quality supply of water and also to ensure the protection and conservaiton of ecological servies including forest resources.

9. Since 2007, has your government developed or updated financing strategies to achieve SFM and to implement the Forest Instrument?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, what is the timeframe of these strategies?

- ☐ 2-5 years
☐ 5-10 years
☐ 10-20 years
☐ Other, please specify:

These strategies take into account:

- ☒ Domestic public funding
- ☐ Domestic private funding
- ☒ Public international (including ODA and REDD+)
- ☐ External private funding

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

- 1) Domestic public funding through the National budget allocation for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment for the Forestry Division for the sustainable management of Forest resources of Samoa.
- 2) Public international through the global initiative to mitigate climate change the government of Japan (GOJ) has initiated a number of programmes with the Government of Samoa (GOS) which focus on building forest monitoring capacity as well as promoting technology transfer for reducing deforestation and forest degradation in development countries. The project outputs which include the National Forest Inventory 2013 will be useful for establishing a reliable baseline, which is critical for monitoring forest areas as well as preparing Samoa for REDD+ scheme.

Web link www.mnre.gov.ws or www.mof.gov.ws

10. Has your government established one or more systems/mechanisms for payment for ecosystem services (PES) provided by forests?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please specify, and, if possible, provide the estimated total value of these payments since 2007:

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watershed protection/water supply | USD 3,700,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon storage (including REDD+) | USD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature conservation | USD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please list below: | USD |

Please provide 2-3 examples of PES and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

- 1) Malololelei Catholic Church Land - Approximately 3.5 Million USD was compensated to the Catholic Church through the Taking of the Lands Act 1964 as payment for ecosystem services for public purposes for water catchment protection and conservation to ensure safe, quality and quantity supply of water as well as protection and conservation of forests and ecological services.
- 2) Tapatapao Community Land - approximately 200,000.00USD was compensated to the Tapatapao Community through the Taking of the Lands Act 1964 as payment for ecosystem services for public purposes for water catchment protection and conservation to ensure safe, quality and quantity supply of water as well as protection and conservation of forests and ecological services.

Web link – www.mnre.gov.ws

11. Since 2007, has your government been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources for the implementation of SFM? If yes, please specify sources:

	2007	2013
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Domestic public funding	USD	USD 900,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic private funding	USD	USD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public international funding (including ODA and REDD+)	USD	USD 8,600,000
<input type="checkbox"/> External private funding	USD	USD

If there has been no increase, please describe the main challenges in mobilizing funds:

12. Since 2007, what steps has your government taken to encourage private sector investment in SFM and forests?

- ☒ Policy and legal reforms that encourage greater private investment
- ☐ Financial incentives, such as credit guarantees, tax breaks, employment subsidies etc.
- ☐ Establishment of markets for ecosystem services provided by forests
- ☒ Outreach to the private sector (leaflets, conferences, fairs promoting investment in forests)
- ☒ Development and improvement of infrastructure and other public services related to SFM
- ☐ Other; please list below:

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

13. Is your government engaged in international cooperation to promote SFM?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please specify with whom:

- ☒ Government
- ☒ Intergovernmental Organization
- ☒ Private sector/philanthropy
- ☒ NGOs
- ☒ Others

Type of cooperation:

- ☒ North-South
- ☒ South-South
- ☒ Technical
- ☒ Financial
- ☒ Others

And specify the areas of cooperation:

- ☒ Forests and climate change
- ☒ Forest biodiversity
- ☒ Valuation of ecosystem services provided by forests
- ☒ Socio-economic issues, including livelihoods
- ☒ Forest degradation and rehabilitation
- ☒ Scientific cooperation
- ☒ Forest monitoring/data collection
- ☒ Technology transfer and capacity development
- ☐ Other, please list below:

Please provide 2-3 examples of international cooperation, and, if possible, web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

- 1) Through the global initiative to mitigate climate change the government of Japan (GOJ) has initiated a number of programmes with the Government of Samoa (GOS) which focus on building forest monitoring capacity as well as promoting technology transfer for reducing deforestation and forest degradation in development countries. The project outputs which include the National Forest Inventory 2013 will be useful for establishing a reliable baseline, which is critical for monitoring forest areas as well as preparing Samoa for REDD+ scheme.
- 2) Integration of Climate Change Risks and Resilience into Forestry Management in Samoa (ICCRIFS) project have mobilised resources for integration of climate change into forestry policy and planning frameworks, climate resilient agro-forestry and forestry techniques developed in lowland and upland areas with climate resilient nurseries and agro-forestry demonstration plots implemented and project knowledge captured, analyzed and disseminated through the development of a communication and outreach strategy.

Please list the key challenges faced by your government in implementing SFM:

- 1) Insufficient financial resources for implementing sustainable forestry management across the whole nation. National government budget is limited to human resource and operations. Acknowledgement of donor funds however they are time bound and there is a need to sustain financial resources after the project life time.
- 2) Land Ownership – 80% of lands in Samoa is customary i.e. owned by the people of Samoa hence the Forestry Division needs to work closely with communities through outreach programmes for community agroforestry demonstration plots as well as woodlots to increase the forest cover for Samoa. The successful implementation of Sustainable Forestry Management is dependent on the support and interest of the communities who own the land.
- 3) Competing land uses such as agriculture where large areas of forests are currently

being cleared for agricultural development this was evident during the national forest inventory (NFI) that was conducted in 2013.

- 4) There is a need for technical expertise and capacity building programmes in sustainable forestry management.

14. Does your country have one or more institutes or centers of excellence engaged in the development and application of scientific, technical and technological innovations for SFM?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, what areas do these technical/scientific activities focus on:

- ☒ Forest inventory systems
☒ Low-impact logging or other harvesting techniques
☐ Wood production for energy
☒ Wood processing technology
☒ Waste reduction and recycling
☒ Other, please list below:

The tertiary institutions in Samoa, The National University of Samoa, University of the South Pacific, Samoa Scientific and Research Organization (SROs) conduct laboratory water and soil testing as well as food processing tests which are important to ensure a safe and reliable water supply, types of soils for rehabilitation purposes and also the quality of forest and agriculture produce.

Are these programs directed at:

- ☒ Forest owners
☒ Timber companies/forest products industry
☒ State agencies
☒ Local communities
☒ Indigenous communities
☒ NGOs
☒ General public

Since 2007, has funding for forest-related science and research increased?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

ICCRIFS

15. What actions has your country undertaken to increase public awareness of the important benefits provided by forests?

- ☒ Published broadcasts on TV and/or Radio
☒ Published materials, e.g. brochures, pamphlets, leaflets, or/and posters, etc.
☒ Meetings with the general public
☒ Art events/Exhibitions
☒ Activities in support of the International Day of Forests
☒ Other

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

- 1) Samoa has formed a unique partnership with its communities aimed at promoting the adoption of innovative Information and Communication Technology tools and approaches to help address development challenges and increase resilience to climate change, through enhancing the integration of local knowledge in adaptation planning and implementation processes. The Participatory 3-Dimensional Modeling (P3DM) process can integrate participatory, resource mapping and spatial information to produce a stand-alone scaled relief model, which has proved to be a user-friendly and relatively accurate research, planning and management tool. For Samoa, P3DM has been identified as a tool to unlock the potential of all stakeholders to adequately plan for a sustainable future including forestry management. Samoa has successfully developed four P3DM models with communities and 2 P3DM models with primary schools. During the Small Island Development States (SIDS) conference a side event was conducted by the government of Samoa on P3DM and the mangrove charter as well as a site visit to communities to view agro-forestry demonstration plots, P3DM as well as coastal and u Sustainable Forestry Management is included in the celebration of the
- 2) National Environment Events for Wetlands Day 2013, Biodiversity Day 2013 the World Water and International Forests Day 2013 and the Environment Week. During these national events awareness activities for e.g. tree planting, poster competitions, traditional singing competitions, radio and television adds on the specific events are implemented.
- 3) Forestry Division has developed a Communication and Outreach strategy which outlines ways and means to better engage stakeholders for Sustainable Forestry Management. The Forestry Division was also involved in the National Science Fari 2014 with the theme " living with climate change" with emphasis of themes on Sustainable Forestry Management. The Forestry Division also have on going programmes for students research and projects on forestry management in Samoa.

16. What sets of criteria and indicators (C&I) for SFM are used in your country:

- ☒ National set of C&I
- ☐ Regional/international set of C&I (e.g. ITTO, Forest Europe, Montreal Process, Taraporto etc.)
- ☐ Other

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Samoa has national targets to achieve the MDG target 7 to integrate the principales of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources. The MDG indicator specific to Forestry Management is the propotion of land area covered by forest. Baseline was 46 % forest cover in Year 1991, Year 2000 is 60.4 % forest cover, Year 2005 is 60 forest cover and based on the recent National Forest Inventory 2013 the forest cover is 58.3 %. The decrease of 1.7% in forest cover given the following considered factors through increase in residential / industrial areas, increase in agricultural developments and impact of cyclone evan in 2012. Note: Approximately 58.3% of Samoa's land area is covered by 'forest' but this does not include small woodlots, small reserves, small patches of mangrove forests, seawall planting and agroforestry and other young tree plantings which cover another 3.4% of Samoa's land area but are not currently considered forest because they don't yet have the tree density or size to be mapped as forest. In the future such areas may become forest if left alone for the trees to be mature.

Are these C&I used to:

- ☒ Generate information to national reports on forest conditions and management
- ☒ Monitor and assess and monitor forest conditions and management
- ☒ Review and develop national forest policies and tools for SFM
- ☒ Communicate with society and carry out dialogue with stakeholders
- ☒ Report on forests to regional and international organizations If so, which ones:

Forest Resources Indicators - FAO

17. Has your country translated the Forest Instrument into another language (not including the official UN languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish)?

No

18. Please give examples of your country's success stories and lessons learned related to the implementation of the Forest Instrument, including contributions towards the four Global Objectives on Forests:

- 1) The Government of Samoa is committed to ensure the sustainable management of forest resources as reflected in the the Stategy for the Development of Samoa (SDS) 2012 – 2016 in which there is a clear endorsement of forest protection, forest restoration, forest resource development using woodlots and agroforestry under "Environment" priority area 4. It is also clearly stated in the State of Environment Report (SOE) 2013 the need to conserve and protect habitats including upland cloud forests, lowland and coastal forests. It is further prioritized under the National Environment and Development Sector Plan (NESP) 2013 – 2016 under the key environment sector objective (KESO) 4 to implement strategies for protecting key environment resources such as forests, land, water and fisheries. The National Policy on the Sustainable Development of Forests, 2007 provides the framework for the sustainable development of Samoa's forests to conserve the remaining native forests and to promote community based plantation forests in partnership with all stakeholders (The policy is currently under review 2014). The policy has led to the development and approval of the Forestry Management Act 2011 which is an act to make provision for the effective and sustainable management of Samoa's forest resources and for related purposes.
- 2) Samoa has national targets to achieve the MDG target 7 to integrate the principales of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources. The MDG indicator specific to Forestry Management is the propotion of land area covered by forest. Baseline was 46 % forest cover in Year 1991, Year 2000 is 60.4 % forest cover, Year 2005 is 60 forest cover and based on the recent National Forest Inventory 2013 the forest cover is 58.3 %. The decrease of 1.7% in forest cover given the following considered factors through increase in residential / industrial areas, increase in agricultural developments and impact of cyclone evan in 2012. Note: Approximately 58.3% of Samoa's land area is covered by 'forest' but this does not include small woodlots, small reserves, small patches of mangrove forests, seawall planting and agroforestry and other young tree plantings which cover another 3.4% of Samoa's land area but are not currently considered forest because they don't yet have the tree density or size to be mapped as forest. In the future such areas may become forest if left alone for the trees to be mature.

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PART II

Contribution of forests and SFM to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The aim of Part II of this reporting questionnaire is to learn how forests and SFM have contributed to achieving the MDGs in your country, particularly with respect to poverty and hunger eradication (MDG1), environmental sustainability (MDG7) and developing a global partnership for development (MDG8).

19. How have forests/SFM contributed to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (MDG1) in your country?

Please rate the scale of contribution on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

By:	1	2	3	4	5
Improving livelihoods	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting subsistence needs, including fuel wood, fodder and shelter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contributing to food security, including through agroforestry systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing employment, including employment in informal economy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

The use of forest resources for subsistence living including food, water, shelter, forest products such as firewood and medicinal plants and etc has improved the livelihood and standard of living of Samoas that depend on it for their survival.

Web link www.mnre.gov.ws

20. How have forests/SFM contributed to ensuring environmental sustainability (MDG7) in your country?

Please rate the scale of contribution on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

By:	1	2	3	4	5
Providing habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Supporting ecosystem, species and genetic diversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Stabilizing soils and slopes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Safeguarding water resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sequestering carbon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Providing timber, energy and other products	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Other ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Please describe, and, if possible, provide a web-link to relevant document(s):

Samoa has national targets to achieve the MDG target 7 to integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources. The MDG indicator specific to Forestry Management is the proportion of land area covered by forest. Baseline was 46 % in Year 1991 hectares, Year 2000 is 60.4 hectares, Year 2005 is 60 hectares and based on the recent National Forest Inventory 2013 for 2014 it is 58.3. The decrease of 1.7% in forest cover given the following considered factors through increase in residential / industrial areas, increase in agricultural developments and impact of cyclone Evan in 2012. Note: Approximately 58.3% of Samoa's land area is covered by 'forest' but this does not include small woodlots, small reserves, small patches of mangrove forests, seawall planting and agroforestry and other young tree plantings which cover another 3.4% of Samoa's land area but are not currently considered forest because they don't yet have the tree density or size to be mapped as forest. In the future such areas may become forest if left alone for the trees to be mature.

www.mnre.gov.ws

21. How have forests/SFM contributed to developing a global partnership for development (MDG8) in your country?

Please rate the scale of contribution on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

By:	1	2	3	4	5
Engaging in regional and international collaboration on issues related to improved governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Through trade agreements involving forest products (e.g. bilateral/sub-regional/regional/inter-regional free trade agreements, EU voluntary partnership agreements, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fostering partnerships with the private sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attracting foreign investment in the forest sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fostering bilateral and international financial cooperation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fostering north-south, and south-south technical, technological and scientific partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Samoa is experiencing increasing climate change-induced damage to human and economic development in key sectors, with adverse effects already experienced by its village communities. There is a high risk that further climate-change related damage will strongly impact on the country's economy, social infrastructure and natural environments, and significantly affect the livelihoods of rural communities. The combined effects of sea level rise, increased frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones, coastal erosion, disease impacts on crops, drought, spread of invasive species and reductions of fresh water supply seriously undermine Samoa's forestry and agro-forestry resource base and the related livelihood

opportunities of its communities. Climate change exacerbates current environmental pressures on forestry resources, due to clearing and encroachment in native upland forestry areas, unsustainable landuse practices in lowland agro-forestry areas, coupled with lack of understating and knowledge of government institutions and rural communities on current and potential impacts of climate change on forestry resources and effective adaptation options. Through this the integration of Climate Change Risks and Resilience into Forestry Management in Samoa (ICCRIFS), the Government of Samoa (GoS) is partnering with the global initiative on adaptation/mitigation of Climate change and will strengthen institutional capacities to systematically identify and address the climate change-driven risks for the management of native forests and agroforestry areas, in order to increase the resilience of rural communities and protect their livelihoods from dynamic climate-related damage, pursuant to the attainment of Samoa's Millennium Development Goals and relevant to Small Island Development States (SIDS) like Samoa.

22. Have forests/SFM contributed to making progress in achieving any of the remaining MDGs in your country?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Forests is also indirectly linked to the MDG for on access to basic water and sanitation needs for the protection and conservation of water catchment areas and sustainable management of forest resources.

MDG2: Achieving universal primary education

Forest Protection and Conservation is a main topic in the National Environment Kit included in the national curriculum for use by schools. Sustainable Forestry Management is one of the main topics that is included in the weekly environment page disseminated through the local newspapers. The Forestry Division also contributed technical and financially to the 2013 national science fair under the theme 'living with climate change' to build the awareness and capacity of school children on means in which sustainable forest management can assist in adapting to climate change and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The Forestry Division also conducts awareness programme with school children during national environment events and open days.

MDG3: Promoting gender equality and empowering women

The Forestry Division conducts gender or social assessments during consultations mainly on the participation of males, females and children to ensure women participation. There is a women representative (Sui Tamaitai) for each of the village that is invited for workshops and consultations for Sustainable Forestry Management. The Forestry Division also works closely with the Women In Business Incorporated (WIBDI) a NGO targeting to build capacity/empower women in small business enterprises and plans are in place for demonstration plots to be implemented at the village level involving women and girls. There has been a significant increase in the participation of women and girls in the Forestry Division meetings with the community, stakeholders and general public. There is also representation of women representatives also currently employed by in the Forestry Division.

MDG4: Reducing child mortality

Indirect through forest resources improving livelihoods.

MDG5: Improving maternal health

Indirect through forest resources improving livelihoods.

MDG6: Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

In-direct - as there have been research on the use of traditional herbal medicine the bark of the Mamala tree for cure of HIV/AIDS. Scientists believe a synthetic version of a traditional Pacific medicine could hold the key to finding a cure for HIV-AIDS. In Samoa, traditional healers have long used the bark of the mamala tree in tea to treat ailments such as hepatitis.