APRIL 2026
SCS LOCAL PROJECT

THE KIWA INITIATIVE IS FUNDED BY: European Union, France AFD, Canada, Australian Aid, New Zealand Foreign Affairs & Trade

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH: Pacific Community / Communauté du Pacifique, SPREP, IUCN

Improving the management and restoration of O Le Pupu-Pue National Park in Samoa

Samoa Conservation Society

Project coordinator : Samoa Conservation Society (SCS)

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

July 2022 – March 2027

AMOUNT OF FUNDING

€ 278,803

Theme

Terrestrial Ecosystem Management and Restoration

Main co-benefit, in addition to climate change adaptation

Biodiversity conservation

The O Le Pupu-Pue National Park (OLPP-NP) provides essential ecosystem services to nearby communities but faces severe challenges due to cyclone damage, climate change impacts, and invasive weeds. The government of Samoa lacks adequate resources to manage and restore the park, making external financial and labor support crucial.

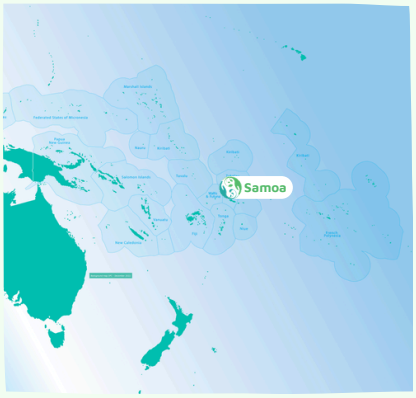
This project aims to enhance the **long-term management and restoration** of OLPP-NP through ecological restoration activities.

Specific Objectives:

- Restore rainforests and promote nature based solutions in Protected Areas and Community Conservation Areas (CCAs) across Samoa
- Build capacity for sustainable conservation by building a Community Conservation Support Network (CCSN).

IUCN Kiwa team visiting Samoa Conservation Society's project site in O le Pupu-Pue National Park © Kiwa Initiative - May 2024

Subregion: ☐ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ■ Polynesia



Samoa

The project is implemented in O Le Pupu-Pue National Park on Upolu, Samoa, which spans 50 km² and was the first national park established in the South Pacific (est. 1978). The park provides essential ecosystem services to surrounding communities and is home to several globally threatened species, including Samoa's national bird, the endemic Tooth-billed Pigeon or Manumea (Didunculus strigirostris), classified as Critically Endangered by the IUCN.

Beneficiaries:
The project will benefit approximately 4,800 people in eight project sites in Samoa. This includes around 1,000 households and around 1500 (31%) "youth" (15-35 years old).

Key results to date:

- **Restoration and conservation activities**
  - 4 photopoints (a method to monitor native tree growth and IAS spread) have been added to the 14 set up under various projects since 2016 with the first monitoring round completed in March 2023, and now regularly updated every 6 months.
  - The **Threatened Species and Forest Monitoring Protocol has been finalized** and will be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment to guide future research efforts within the National Park. The protocol is now used by all subsequent projects, in the OLPP to measure tree growth and guide reforestation actions.
  - **Till date, SCS has restored a total of 2.08ha of land with 5,200 Samoan native seedlings** planted by the village youths and students. Restoration trainings are expected to commence in March 2026.

- **Training and increased community participation in park management**
  - 30 community members from 3 nearby communities contributed to the project by leading site maintenance and supporting nursery activities. They were also equipped and received training in:
    - First Aid response from the Samoa Fire and Emergency Authority;
    - Identification of native and invasive species, nursery and project management, carbon offsets and reforestation.
  - 30 youths were recruited to manage the site: 5 from each village community totalling of 15 youths -2 females and 13 males- per week working 2 weeks every month. SCS aims to conduct rangers training accordingly.

- **Establishment of Community Conservation of Areas (CCAs)**
  - A total of **8 Community Conservation Areas (CCAs) are now part of the project. SCS has successfully recruited and signed contracts for six Community Rangers**. Consultations and meetings have recently been completed to confirm the participation of an additional community, Uafato.

- **Invasive species management**
  - SCS has successfully commenced invasive species (Merremia vine, African tulip, African rubber tree, Panama rubber and Silk tree) management conducted by rangers within Community Conservation of Areas (CCAs). At the Aopo CCA, the Aumaga rangers have removed the invasive weed Kosters curse from a 200m stretch of the walking trail. They also planted 500 native seedlings along the trail to restore the open areas from the weed removal operation.

DATA UNDER IUCN-ORO VALIDATION

"This opportunity truly is a blessing, and we thank for it. The project has also been instrumental in enhancing our knowledge including skills in restoration, identifying birds and seven Samoan native trees through specialized training sessions."

Mr. Tusiga TUPUOLA, Community member

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