Marine Protected Area Faasao o le Gataifale



MANAGEMENT PLAN

2008 - 2012

Participants in the Management Plan

The Aleipata Marine Protected (MPA) Management Plan is a partnership between the Government of Samoa and all the villages of the District of Aleipata. Both partners have responsibility for the continuous implementation of this Plan which highlights a collaborative approach to the sustainable use and protection of the Marine resources and environment in the District.

The Plan incorporates the Aleipata District villages all of which are represented by a member in the MPA District Committee.

The villages of Aleipata confirm the participation of all their villages, at different levels in the implementation of this MPA Management Plan in partnership with the Government of Samaoa, through the financial assistance from the Coral Reef Initiative for the South Pacific (CRISP) as well as the implementation of its activities.

Aleipata MPA District Committee	Government Ministries and Corporations:			
1. Lalomanu: Seuala Patone	 Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment 			
1. Latornanu. Seudta Patone	 Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries 			
2. Vailoa: Amiatutolu Ionatana	 Ministry of Finance 			
	 Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade 			
3. Ulutogia: Nuu Peleseuma	Samoa Tourism Authority			
4.6.11	 Ministry of Women, Communities &Rural 			
4. Satitoa:Te'o U Penaia	Development Ministry of Education Sports & Culture			
5. Mutiatele/Malaela: Vaelupe Sepu	- Ministry of Education Sports a Cutture			
	The Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment,			
6. Lotopu'e: Tavaga lefata	as the lead Government Ministry on behalf of the			
7.11.6.1.1.6.7.6	participating Government Ministries and			
7. Utufaalalafa:Tafaoatua Pepa	Corporations, confirms the participation of the Government of Samoa in the preparation of the			
8. Saleaaumua Tiumalu Amakisi	Management Plan and its adoption and			
or sategaamaa mamata miinatasi	implementation of its activities.			
9. Amaile:Tuiluaa'I Ioakimo	·			
40.C	Signed:			
10 Samusu: Taua Vae Tago	Tu'u'u Dr. Ieti Taulealo			
11. Ti'avea: Tolu lakopo	Chief Executive Officer			
	Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment			
	Date:			
The Government of Samoa adopts the Management Plan for the Aleipata MPA.				
Signed:				
Hon: Faumuina Tiatia Liuga				
Minister of Natural Resources & Environment				
Date:				
				

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ALEIPATA MARINE PROTECTED AREA

1. VISION

Our marine environment is a gift from God to the people of Aleipata. We declare our commitment to working together to conserve our marine resources so that they may be used wisely and can provide new opportunities to sustain the way of life of Aleipata's people now and for future generations.

2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- We believe that Christianity and the faasamoa our way of life and culture underpin the success of our Aleipata MPA.
- We take responsibility for making all decisions for our Aleipata MPA.
- We commit to maintaining the life support systems of our marine environment and to conserve and wisely use the resources they contain.
- We will focus on raising awareness and the education of our people, particularly our children, to support our Aleipata MPA.
- We will find opportunities to develop businesses that are sustainable, compatible and profitable for our people and our Aleipata MPA.
- We commit to operating our Aleipata MPA in a transparent and accountable manner.
- We commit to operating our Aleipata MPA in a just manner, and to fair and equitable cost and benefit sharing.
- ❖ We will build partnerships within and outside Samoa to assist the implementation of our Aleipata's MPA Management Plan.
- We commit Aleipata's offshore islands (Nuulua, Nuutele) and their wealth of biodiversity as a critical part of our Aleipata MPA.
- We believe our Aleipata MPA Management Plan is a work in progress that like the MPA will never end. We will agree changes over time to best achieve our vision for Aleipata's MPA.
- We commit to sharing the experience of the Aleipata MPA for the betterment of Samoa and its people.

3. PRIORITY WORKING GOALS SUMMARY

We are establishing a foundation of the Aleipata MPA to last forever and to help our future generations. This first Management Plan is for 2008-2010. We commit to a regular review of the Plan to ensure that we continue to make the best decisions for our people and marine environment.

Our Priority Working Goals are:

- **3.1. Christianity, the** *Faasamoa***, our Culture and Cooperation:** By the end of 2010 we will have the faasamoa and Christianity as the foundation for the operation of our Aleipata MPA by its constant use within all MPA activities. This will effect local MPA operation and enforcement and will result in an increased awareness and respect for our heritage and culture.
- **3.2. Fisheries and Coastal Areas:** By the end of 2010 we will have significantly improved the management of our fisheries and coastal areas through measurable observance of our agreed rules together with support from our Government partners (MNRE-DEC and Fisheries Division).

3.3. Special Aleipata Biodiversity:

- **3.3.1. Offshore Islands:** by the end of 2010 our offshore islands (Nuutele and Nuulua) will have had implemented a restoration programme focusing on rat eradication, and endangered bird-life (land and sea bird) and other native wildlife conservation and overall security of these islands for heritage conservation (natural and cultural). We will have investigated and decided upon options for nature tourism development for these islands.
- **3.3.2. Turtles:** by the end of 2010 we will have designed and implemented a turtle conservation programme and investigated potential for tourism activities based on turtles.
- **3.4. Tourism:** By the end of 2010 at least 3 viable tourism activities will be established associated with our Aleipata MPA. We will have also leveraged support from tour operators using the MPA and developed mutually beneficial partnerships. No tour operator will be welcome in the MPA without such a partnership agreement. All people visiting our Aleipata MPA will know when they enter and leave it and know of its basis. Our heritage sites will be documented and together with their conservation be used to promote, in a culturally acceptable manner, the Aleipata tourism experience.
- **3.5.** Aquaculture and Reef restocking: By the end of 2010 we will undertake with our partners detailed feasibility assessments (social, economic, environmental) and trialed aquaculture/restocking initiatives for at least 3 of the species as per the recommendations of the AusAID Aquaculture Review.
- **3.6. Coastal Reclamation:** By the end of 2010 we will have improved/maintained the status of our coastlines by careful and more rigorous management of development and activities, such as reclamation, in partnership with the Government (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment).
- **3.7. Marine Education in our Schools:** By the end of 2010 every child who goes to school in the Aleipata District will know more about our Aleipata MPA and its work and will have had the opportunity to participate in at least 3 targeted education initiatives as part of their education programme. In partnership with our district schools we will have developed and implemented a MPA education programme that is relevant to the curriculum for primary and secondary school children.

- **3.8.** Awareness and Education: By the end of 2010 all people living in the Aleipata District will be aware of our MPA and its work. We will have developed and begun the implementation of a village-based MPA awareness and education programme. We will have developed targeted information and ways to reach key individuals and agencies within and outside Samoa. All people will know when they enter and leave our Aleipata MPA.
- **3.9. MPA Zonation:** By the end of 2010 we will have strengthened the protection of no take zones which have been demarcated in the villages. These no take zones would help optimise fisheries resources and tourism development and that further assist the conservation of our marine natural heritage.

4. BOUNDARIES

Our Aleipata MPA consists of all the following eleven participating villages of Tiavea, Amaile, Samusu, Utufalalafa, Saleaaumua, Mutiatele/Malaela, Lotopue, Satitoa, Ulutogia, Vailoa and Lalomanu.

The boundaries of the Aleipata Marine Protected Area begin from Utuele Headland at Tiavea in the north and ends at Nonoa at Lalomanu in the south. The boundary also includes the area from the high water mark to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile seaward from the reef drop-off and includes the offshore islands (Nuutele and Nuulua). The inshore islands of Namua and Fanuatapu are also included.

5. PRIORITY WORKING GOALS 2008-2010: ISSUES AND ACTIONS

5.1. CHRISTIANITY, THE FAASAMOA AND OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE

GOAL:

By the end of 2010 we will have our Christian values, our culture, customs and the faasamoa as the foundation for the operation of our Aleipata MPA by its constant use within all MPA activities. This will effect local MPA enforcement and will have increased awareness and respect for our heritage and culture.

ISSUE:

The Samoan way of life - the Christian way and the faasamoa - and the associated strength of our culture is the foundation on which the success of the Aleipata MPA rests. Like many cultures the pressures of modern life are impacting on the ways we do things and affecting values of our children. It is our responsibility to conserve and strengthen our Samoan culture as a key part of implementing our Aleipata MPA. Traditionally based management and clear responsibilities at family, village and district levels with complementary actions by Government are likely to be the best formula for success for Aleipata's MPA management.

There are many important heritage sites in our MPA and their conservation together with the stories that they are based on are a key priority and resource for the Aleipata MPA.

ACTIONS:

Our Aleipata MPA will:

- Respect Christian principles, cultural protocols and enhance the teaching and practice of the Samoan culture within all activities of the MPA,
- Carefully document and conserve cultural protocols, heritage sites and their traditional stories, and
- Develop traditional rules, fines and punishments consistent with the faasamoa to enforce our Management Plan rules.

5.2. FISHERIES AND COASTAL AREAS

GOAL:

By the end of 2010 we will have significantly improved the management of our fisheries and coastal areas through measurable observance of our agreed rules together with support from our Government partners (MNRE-DEC and Fisheries Division).

ISSUE:

Coastal fisheries have seriously declined in living memory of our people. Significant reductions in large breeding fish, small fish and shellfish have occurred. In addition the degradation of important marine habitats; often due to the use of destructive fishing methods, erosion and impacts of natural disasters e.g cyclones, have changed our marine environment and contributed to declines in the quality and quantity of marine resources. These changes have adversely impacted on our way of life.

We recognise that the fisheries problems are largely caused by destructive and/or unsustainable fishing practices; like dynamiting, coral pounding (faamoa or tuiga), poisonous chemicals (chlorox, gramoxine, barringtonia seeds, ava niukini), small mesh fishing nets, commercial SCUBA fishing and fish traps. Commercial sand mining has caused beach erosion.

Furthermore disasters such as flooding and cyclones, coral bleaching and disease, impacts of climate change and possibly the introduction of tilapia have also all impacted on our coastal marine environment.

We are now seeing cumulative effects of these human and natural impacts on our marine environment. Many of these may also contribute to outbreaks of crown-of-thorns starfish, coastal erosion, and high urchin populations, which are eroding vulnerable recovering reef areas.

We also know there is a growing list of increasingly rare species in Aleipata, largely caused by over harvest of certain species. These now warrant special measures to give them time to recover their populations so that decisions on future use can take place. To achieve this we will build on our fisheries reserves to develop no-take zones as part of our multi-use MPA.

We know our coastal marine environment is of limited area and as such will support limited marine resources. It is important that these marine resources support subsistence needs and allow for some commercial use by our people. It cannot support commercial or subsistence use for those who are not from our District. Use of Aleipata's marine resources by these outsiders is prohibited.

ACTIONS:

We believe that a strong traditional village and district laws combined with strengthened government recognised by-laws (village and potentially district level) are needed urgently to effectively end the use of all destructive and unsustainable fishing methods and to more wisely use our coastal resources.

Our Aleipata MPA:

- Bans the use for fishing of:
 - ava niuu kini
 - dynamite
 - chlorox
 - gramoxone (paraquat)
 - cyanide
 - coral pounding
 - barringtonia seeds
 - SCUBA spear and net fishing
 - fish traps
 - fish nets of any kind with mesh size smaller then 2.5 inches
 - and any other poison or noxous substances that affect the environment.
- ❖ Bans the catching of fish with sizes less than minimum size stipulated under fisheries Regulation 1996.
- Prohibits any further introduction of tilapia and the introduction of any further new species until full environmental and social impact assessments are carried out.
- Bans the harvest of turtles and their eggs.

❖ Bans:

- Harming, killing or any other activity that may affect whales and dolphins in the Safata MPA;
- Whale or dolphin watching operations without a written consent of the Safata District MPA Committee;
- The taking for use or disposal of the carcass of any dead whale or dolphin in Safata's marine environment without first informing the Committee and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.
- Prioritises no-take zones to help ensure recovery of important seafood species including helmit shells, trochus, turbo shells and clams as part of MPA zonation goals.

will actively:

- Control crown-of-thorn starfish to prevent outbreaks,
- Encourage harvest of sea urchins in critical areas,

- Instruct our people to turn back boulders after gleaning for seafood,
- Instruct our people to respect fisheries laws, and
- Other measures as needs and resources allow.
- Supports the wise use of its marine resources by its people. It prohibits the use of these resources by all others, unless through a written agreement with the village involved and endorsed by the Aleipata MPA District Committee.
- Bans commercial sand mining.
- ❖ Will continue to work with the MNRE Project Team, Attorney General Office, Fisheries Division and other relevant agencies to strengthen by-laws (village and potentially district level) to reflect the above decisions.
- Will continue to implement a local enforcement and surveillance programme to support the above activities.
- 5.3. SPECIAL ALEIPATA BIODIVERSITY OFFSHORE ISLANDS, TURTLES, LAND AND SEA BIRDS GOAL:
- 5.3.1. Offshore Islands: by the end of 2010 our offshore islands (Nuutele, Nualua, Fanuatapu and Namua) will have had a restoration programme designed and begun implementation focusing on rat eradication, endangered birdlife (land and sea bird) and other native wildlife conservation. The priority is overall security of these islands for heritage conservation (natural and cultural). We will have investigated and decided upon options for nature tourism development for these islands.
- 5.3.2. Turtles: by the end of 2010 we will have designed and implemented a turtle conservation programme and investigated associated potential for tourism activities based on turtles.

ISSUES:

Aleipata's offshore islands have been a critical part of our MPA since the project's design phase. These islands contain a special range of biodiversity, most significantly the offshore islands of Nuutele and Nuulua which have the most significant remaining turtle nesting area in Samoa, the last nesting sea bird colony in Samoa, and also provide a refuge for the rare ground dove, bats and other land birds. Its marine habitats provide a rich recruitment area for reef fish and shellfish and appear to support marine species, which are over harvested elsewhere. Such species include giant clams and the turbo shell.

Nuutele's turtle nesting beaches were completely covered with tons of rubble during the 1990/1 cyclones and sand replenishment has since helped them to partially recover. Decline in turtle nesting populations has been observed, most

likely due to over harvest together with impacts of cyclonic events. Harvesting of turtles and their eggs was a normal practice in the past and we have only recently banned this practice in our District The red footed and brown boobies, black and white terns, frigate bird, and other seabirds comprise the last significant nesting sea bird colonies in Samoa. Although at times fishermen have targeted their young it is now rats that appear to the most significant threat for these species. A SPREP supported feasibility study has assessed the potential for rat removal, costs and benefits, and we have agreed that eradication of rats from these islands is an important part of their restoration and also our Aleipata MPA.

Finally, the islands have been vulnerable to destructive and unsustainable fishing practices, partly due to their isolation from the main island.

In summary Aleipata's islands are vitally important refuges for Samoa's natural heritage and we will continue to support these islands as an integral part of our Aleipata MPA. These islands are also a vital part of our history and culture and we will also ensure conservation of the cultural heritage they contain.

ACTIONS:

- Our Aleipata MPA supports the management of our offshore islands as a fundamental part of Aleipata's MPA. We will support:
 - Turtle conservation by banning the harvesting of turtles and their eggs and supporting the development of monitoring and turtle watching tourism,
 - Bird and bat conservation by banning the harvesting of any of these species on the islands and supporting the development of monitoring and bird watching tourism,
 - The rat eradication programme and the prevention/eradication/control of any invasive species that will endanger the natural flora and fauna of our islands, and
 - Extend all rules, especially fisheries rules, to cover the coastal waters of the islands as part of the Aleipata MPA.

5.4. TOURISM

GOAL:

By the end of 2010 at least 3 viable tourism activities will be established associated with our MPA. We will have also leveraged support from tour operators using our MPA and developed mutually beneficial partnerships. No tour operators will be welcome in our MPA without such partnership agreement. All people visiting our Aleipata MPA will know when they enter and leave it and know of its basis. Our heritage sites will be documented and together with their conservation be used to promote, in a culturally acceptable manner, the Aleipata tourism experience.

ISSUES:

Tourism is seen both as an opportunity and a threat to our Aleipata MPA. We know that all existing and future tourism development depends heavily on the quality of our coastal marine environment and thus our role as caretakers of this environment is both critical and needs to be recognized. MPA-based tourism (e.g bird watching, turtle watching, kayaking, surfing, snorkelling, diving) and associated services such as accommodation, handicrafts, food transport etc could be an important way of providing employment and generating income in our District. In particular a niche market could be developed in the form of study tourism with overseas

students/universities and our MPA. Threats from tourism include undesirable impacts on our culture and way of life. It is important that tourism development benefit individuals, families, villages, and the District through supporting the MPA's operation.

We believe that successful tourism development will most likely rely on developing partnerships with tour operators and accommodation providers and this will be encouraged.

ACTIONS:

Our Aleipata MPA will:

- Promote the customs and culture of Samoa in all tourism activities, including information for tourism safety and conduct,
- Implement MPA signage, interpretation and associated information designed for tourism audiences,
- ❖ Document, conserve and maintain heritage sites and promote the culture through site visits under the supervision of the District Committee,
- Investigate and develop study tour ism associated with the MPA, and
- Develop mutually beneficial partnerships with tour operators to promote the Aleipata MPA and develop with them tourism activities that support local employment and generate income for the people of Aleipata and the MPA's operation,
- ❖ Agree a MPA District levy for all visitors to the MPA:
 - of \$5.00 per person per visit to the MPA,
 - of \$20.00 to launch any boat from the MPA District Centres,
 - of \$5.00 to use the MPA District Centre facilities per person per day and \$10 per person per overnight stay, and
 - other charges relevant to the activity being undertaken and negotiated on a case by case basis.

5.5. AQUACULTURE

GOAL:

By the end of 2010 we will have followed up on the recommendations of the AusAID Aquaculture review by undertaking with our partners detailed feasibility assessments (social, economic, environmental) and based on favourable review have trialled and evaluated aquaculture/restocking initiatives for at least 3 of the recommended species.

ISSUES:

We have had some experience with aquaculture in our District and are grateful for AusAID assistance to provide a recent review of aquaculture feasibility.

The AusAID report concluded:

- that previous attempts to develop community based aquaculture programmes within the Aleipata District in general have not been successful and required substantial and financial assistance to continue a basic initiative,
- o the prospect of large-scale commercial aquaculture development within Aleipata is not an economic or environmental prospect, and
- any future aquaculture development should have suitable management plans and regulation and that community endorsement and enforcement is critical to the long term success of any programme.

The AusAID report has usefully collated information on aquaculture and reef restocking species relevant to the marine environment in Aleipata. It recommended that there is the potential at the community level to cultivate marine organisms for restocking, subsistence and commercial activities. Species include the giant clams, hard coral, green snails, trochus, mullet and milkfish.

We are both optimistic and cautious about aquaculture development in our District, particularly of non-native species. Our caution lies in ensuring economic viability of any venture and we believe that the AusAID report is a necessary first step but further more detailed work needs to be urgently done to be confident in moving forward on any one initiative.

We are very positive about participation in reef stocking programmes for clams, trochus and possibly other species, and have learnt many lessons of the success and failures of similar projects.

Finally, we are conscious of the need of effective partnerships with Fisheries Division and with the private sector to ensure the success of any aquaculture and reef stocking initiatives.

ACTIONS:

Our Aleipata MPA will:

- Support the development of community-based aquaculture/reef re-stocking initiatives by ensuring that such initiatives will be based on a full feasibility assessment followed by a venture plan that takes into account economic viability and social and environmental impacts.
- ❖ We will seek professional technical assistance, marketing and managerial skills and be responsible for a community awareness programme for any initiatives. We know that support the DEC/MNRE, Fisheries Division and partnerships with the private sector will be the key to the success of any aquaculture/reef restocking initiative.

5.6. COASTAL RECLAMATION

GOAL:

Coastal Reclamation: By the end of 2010 we will have improved/maintained the status of our coastlines by careful and more rigorous management of development and activities, such as reclamation, in partnership with the Government (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment).

ISSUES:

We are conscious of the fact that unmanaged development in the coastal areas can create more problems than benefits. We are also aware of the fact that the absence or poor assessment and planning for reclamations can result in increased coastal erosion, smothering or burial of corals and important habitats for marine animals, direct ecosystem degradation and damages leading to loss and ecological environment changes that result in degraded or disappearance of marine life. We are also mindful of the fragile nature of the coastal environment and the constant pressures it always faces particularly during natural phenomenon such as cyclones.

We recognize that development in the coastal area can worsen the impacts of natural events and disasters and render the coastal ecosystem less effective to withstand their impacts and reduce the ability of the system to recover fast. While we are aware of the potential economic benefits of some developments requiring undertakings such as reclamations, it is our belief that these benefits are often limited in distribution, thus only a small percentage of the district population will profit. We strongly feel that the benefits of the conservation of the natural environment will always be more widespread and thus benefiting the majority, if not all, of the district by having a continuous and lasting source of food (protein) and income.

We know that the Constitution of Samoa stipulates that all lands lying below the line of high-water mark is State land and that under the Lands, Surveys and Environment Act 1989, MNRE is responsible for the protection of the foreshore and coastal waters including approvals for reclamation.

We believe that there is an immense opportunity to establish and foster a working collaboration between our MPA and the Government, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, to protect the foreshore.

ACTIONS:

Our Aleipata MPA will continue to:

- Develop and implement awareness program on foreshore and coastal protection and their value, targeting different sectors within the district.
- ❖ Develop and implement our surveillance and enforcement programme that is consistent with the cultural protocols in the district villages.
- Discourage further reclamation on the foreshore and coastal areas of the district.
- Develop closer working relation, including consultations, with the Government of Samoa (relevant Divisions within MNRE such as Land Management, PUMA and DEC) concerning reclamations in the district.
- ❖ Develop closer working relation with the Government of Samoa to make enforcement and surveillance programme effective by ensuring that no further reclamation in the MPA coastal areas will be carried out unless full Environmental and Social Impact Assessment are conducted first and results

considered favourable by the village and the Aleipata MPA through the District Committee.

5.7. MARINE EDUCATION IN OUR SCHOOLS

GOAL:

By the end of 2010 every child who goes to school in the Aleipata District will know more about our Aleipata MPA and its work and will have had the opportunity to participate in at least 3 targeted education initiatives as part of their education programme. In partnership with our district schools we will have developed and implemented a MPA education programme that is relevant to the curriculum for primary and secondary school children.

ISSUES:

We know that education is a key to the success not only of our MPA but also for our children's future. Unfortunately an appreciation for, and understanding of, the importance of the marine environment to our way of life and the biological life cycles which keep the marine environment functioning are commonly not taught in schools due to the lack of resources and specialised personnel.

We believe that there is a tremendous opportunity to make working links between our MPA and District Schools. By reaching our children we also hope to reach other youth and adults in the District to better understanding of our MPA and to create opportunities for active involvement.

ACTIONS:

Our Aleipata MPA will:

- Develop, trial, evaluate and fully implement a curriculum-based marine education programme for our primary schools, linked to the work of our MPA.
- Develop, trial, evaluate and fully implement a curriculum-based marine education programme for our secondary school, linked to the work of our MPA.
- Develop partnerships, including with the Peace Corps volunteer programme, to assist implementation of marine education in our District and MPA.

5.8. AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

GOAL:

By the end of 2010 all people living in the Aleipata District will be aware of our MPA and its work. We will have developed and begun the implementation of a village-based MPA awareness and education programme. We will have developed targeted information and ways to reach key individuals and agencies within and outside Samoa. All people will know when they enter and leave our Aleipata MPA.

ISSUES:

Our people need to have every opportunity to participate fully in the development of our Aleipata MPA. Despite current efforts it is a fair assumption that not all the people in Aleipata are fully aware of our MPA and its work. We need to focus on building awareness, understanding and support for our Aleipata MPA.

We also know that activities by people from outside Aleipata e.g non-Aleipata fishermen are adding to the pressures on our marine environment. Equally others from outside the District could be potential partners for our work e.g tourism operators. We need to ensure that all of Samoa is aware of our Aleipata MPA and its work.

We believe there is a need to build partnerships outside of Samoa for support of our MPA which means that we also need to build awareness, understanding and support with key individuals and agencies within and outside Samoa.

We understand that education and awareness is a two-way process and we stand to learn from these activities as we teach.

ACTIONS:

Our Aleipata MPA will:

- Initiate an awareness programme targeting the following:
 - Building awareness of our MPA in all 11 villages which includes all our people; chiefs and orators, able body men, (aumaga) women, youth and children,
 - Taking advantage of every new opportunity in the MPA to use media coverage to inform Samoa's people about the MPA,
 - Developing an audience targeted designed material to reach these audiences,
 - Building awareness and support of the MPA at the national level with government departments and agencies, and NGOs, and
 - Promoting awareness with MPA partners, JICA, SPREP, CRISP, CI, IUCN, World Bank and others.

5.9. MPA ZONATION

GOAL:

By the end of 2010 we will have strengthened the protection of no take zones which have been demarcated in the villages. These no take zones would help optimise fisheries resources and tourism development and that further assist the conservation of our marine natural heritage.

ISSUES:

Zonation is not a new concept for most of our people; we have restricted land and sea areas of Aleipata to some of our people previously, sometimes it is associated with festive occasions or the death of a high chief and have had some more recent experience with fisheries reserves.

We understand that to achieve our goals for fisheries resources we need to carefully consider use of no take zones in addition to our fisheries rules. No take zones, if carefully managed in space and time, can significantly add to our resources by providing nursery and refuge areas for species on which we rely. We recognise that these no take zones could also benefit tourism development e.g snorkelling tours/diving and the conservation of special sites. We acknowledge that the baseline

marine biodiversity survey has provided much important information for making decisions on boundaries of no take zones.

However we know this is only half of the work needed, most importantly we need to build the awareness, understanding and support of our people for a fair and equitable distribution of no-take zones to assist achieving MPA goals. We believe that this will be a key process throughout the time of this first Management Plan and that we will need to carefully monitor the cost and benefits of such zones.

We know that the daily sustenance of our communities on marine resources is our way of life and our livelihood. Zoning is a big issue because it will mean there will be areas that we will not be able to access for fishing. The challenge to us is how to maintain a balanced view and fairly selection of a zoning system that will benefit the recovery processes of marine resources most affected and at the same time meet our continued needs for marine resources. We believe

that alternative options such as reef re stocking and aquaculture initiatives need to be implemented at the same time as our zonation to replace both subsistence and commercial use of these areas whilst they recover.

Finally, we know that boundaries of no take zones need to be simple and easily recognised as a key factor for their success.

ACTIONS:

Our Aleipata MPA will:

- Continue to follow the zonation process targeting the following:
 - Potential no take zones and their goals (fisheries, tourism, conservation, combination) based on results of our marine biodiversity survey, goals of our management plan and using a fair and equitable system of distribution, and
 - A consultative process within our villages as part of the awareness programme to build awareness, understanding and support for MPA zonation. Importantly we will listen to our people's views on proposed boundaries and review all input before zonation is implemented.

6. MPA OPERATION

6.1. INCOME GENERATION AND COST/BENEFIT SHARING

The Aleipata MPA will need to generate income both to support the ongoing operational costs of the MPA and also to achieve a key part of our vision for this MPA to bring new opportunities for our people and to sustain our way of life.

Our Aleipata MPA will:

- Continue to help individuals, families, villages and the district to develop strategies for businesses and income generation that are sustainable, compatible and profitable,
- ❖ Continue to develop and implement ways to sustain the ongoing costs of the MPA through profitable use of the Aleipata MPA including District Centre hire,

study exchanges, tour operator levies, penalty fines and other means to increase the financial foundation for the MPA,

- Continue to encourage partnerships within and outside Samoa to support the MPA and its work,
- Continue to implement a Trust Fund to ensure the long term viability of the Aleipata MPA, and
- Continue to ensure that costs and benefits from the MPA are fairly distributed amongst individuals, families, villages and the District.

6.2. SURVEILLANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

There are many aspects of our Aleipata MPA and associated Management Plan that will require enforcement and surveillance. In particular we need to ensure the fisheries and coastal rules articulated above are fully respected by people both within and outside of Aleipata District. We recognise that people can only respect the MPA if they are fully aware of its provisions and so the Awareness Programme is key to the success of MPA surveillance and enforcement.

We also know that through the *faasamoa* the most successful surveillance and enforcement programme needs to be led by the family, village and district traditional management systems. This needs to be complemented by government support and actions, particularly through the by-law system to ensure that all respect the rules of our Aleipata MPA.

Our Aleipata MPA will:

- Continue to develop our surveillance and enforcement programme that is consistent with our cultural protocols and is based on participation from all of our people,
- Continue to work with the Government of Samoa to add value to our local enforcement and surveillance programme by ensuring that outsiders know of and respect the rules for the MPA.

6.3. MPA DECISION MAKING ROLES

We endorse the following roles and responsibilities for the operation of our Aleipata MPA:

Aleipata MPA District Committee:

The District Committee (DC) is the executive decision making body of the MPA and is composed of nine highly respected chiefs one from each village of the district. They are:

Seuala Patone
 Te'o Uiva Penaia
 Tuiluaai Ioakimo
 Tiumalu Amakisi
 Taua Vae
 Lalomanu
 Amaile
 Saleaaumua
 Samusu

Tolú Iakopo Tiavea
 Amiaitutolu Ionatana Vailoa
 Nuualiaa Peleseuma Ulutogia
 Tavana Iefata Lotopue

Vaelupe Olosepu Mutiatele/Malaela

Tafaoatua Pepa Utufaalalafa

Aleipata District Officer:

The District Officer recruited under the recommendation of the District Committee is primarily the assistant to the District Committee and the person on site responsible for the smooth running of the District Centre and project equipment. He plays a key advisory role to the District Committee on MPA issues and also organize meetings, reports and other functions as decided by us.

We recognise that we may need to increase MPA staff to effectively implement our MPA

District Centre Caretaker:

The caretaker is to be responsible for the safety and maintenance of the MPA Centre and equipments under the care of the District Committee through the District Officer and the representative of Lotofaga village in the Committee (Faanana A Ama).

The Project Team:

The overall coordination of the Aleipata MPA Project is now with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. The Team includes the Principal Marine Conservation Officer and Project Manager (Malama Momoemausu), Senior Marine Conservation Officer (Juney Ward) and two Marine Conservation Officers (Isamaeli Asotasi and Lilian Penaia). These assist the District Officer in implementing the Aleipata MPA activities.

Village Working Committees:

Each village in the MPA has selected its Village Working Committee, These Committees each have five representatives from their villages who generally are the leaders of the different social sectors (able bodied men, women, village and the council of chiefs) in each village.

Volunteers from the village:

Volunteers are selected from the villages from time to time to assist with certain work activities e.g monitoring. Volunteers are trained to assist with the marine biodiversity assessment.

6.4. MPA PARTNERSHIPS

Government of Samoa:

The Aleipata MPA Project is now under the full coordination and operation of the Government of Samoa through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) however it still promotes partnership with the Fisheries Division and Samoa Tourism Authority. The Memorandum of Understanding prepared under the Samoa Marine Biodiversity Protection Management Project highlights the roles and responsibilities of the Samoa Government agencies involved.

- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment: The primary role of the MNRE is to be the government focal point and to provide the counter parting requirements, office accommodation and administrative assistance. We believe that they have a key ongoing role to provide technical advice, help secure additional resources and be a supporting agency for our MPA.
- Samoa Tourism Authority: STA is a critical link to assist us in developing
 profitable and sustainable tourism in the MPA. With STA supportive of the
 MPA it provides an important link to the tourism private sector and source
 of advice on tourism development.
- **Fisheries Division:** We believe that the Fisheries Division has a key role to play in assisting implementation of our fisheries and coastal rules especially through the by law programme which we hope will extend to function at not just village but District level and thus provide a unifying force for effective enforcement of our rules. Fisheries Division is also a key for the development of our aquaculture and restocking programme and like MNRE are important for technical backstopping and ongoing advice for the MPA.
- Others: We believe that the Attorney General's Office, Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, Police, infrastructure providers (Electricity Power Corporation, Samoa Communications) and other Government agencies have a key role to play in supporting our MPA. Furthermore we recognise that we do not separate land from the sea and land based activities e.g waste management are important to our MPA and we need to work with any and all agencies, including non-government agencies to effectively implement our Aleipata MPA.
- ❖ IUCN: The IUCN was the executing agency for the Samoa Marine Biodiversity Project. IUCN had been a key mover and shaker in helping us develop our MPA. We request that IUCN consider its ongoing role in our MPA even after the conclusion of the project.
- ❖ World Bank/GEF: The World Bank was the implementing agency with funding from the Global Environment Facility. We request that World Bank consider its ongoing role in the MPA even after the conclusion of the project
- ❖ Other Partners: CRISP/CI/SPREP/JICA etc: CRISP is currently funding our Project alongside assistance from CI. SPREP, Peace Corps and Japanese international Cooperation Agency have also assisted our MPA Project. Developing these and other partnerships for Aleipata MPA will be a high priority for us to invest in.

6.5. PENALTIES

People and agencies, from within and outside the District, that break the rules of the MPA as agreed by the District will be penalised. A penalty schedule for violation of

MPA rules is given in Annex VII to this Plan. The severity of the penalties reflects the customary fines that are currently practiced by villages councils in the district when village rules and laws are violated.

The Village Bylaws that have been approved by the government include these penalties that are implemented and enforced in the Aleipata MPA. The Bylaws also apply to those from outside of the Aleipata MPA who may violate these laws.

Customary fines are either by sows, box of tin fish and/or taro. The monetary value of a sow is ~\$100.00. The more severe the penalty the higher the number of sows or boxes of herring and so on. All villages in the Aleipata District have set of rules and penalties, which have been reviewed and reflect a degree of fairness to the violators. There is a set of penalties for outsiders that violate these village rules. Outsiders here are classified as people that are not serving their family chiefs in the District i.e "monotaga".

It is recognised that the assistance of the Police and the Attorney General's office will be required, especially for enforcement of rules by outsiders. Fines generated need to be invested back into the MPA to cover costs of operation.

6.6. MONITORING AND REVIEW

We consider our Aleipata MPA Management Plan 2008-2010 to be a work that is constantly in progress. We are creating an MPA that will outlive the current project or indeed any future project as an MPA that will stand forever in our District. We know that circumstances will change, new threats will arise and some current issues will be resolved successfully.

Our Safata MPA Management Plan will be used to develop annual work programmes by the District Committee. These will have measurable outputs for each activity. Progress on the Plan and work programmes will be reviewed at least annually and revised accordingly as part of this work programme.

We will commit with our partners to develop tools for assisting this review including, permanent transects, community-based biodiversity monitoring, socio-economic monitoring and at least yearly scientifically based assessments of the marine environment to assist us with our decision making.

7. ANNEXES

Annex I: Map of Aleipata MPA

Annex II: No-take zones of Aleipata MPA

Annex III: Penalty Schedule Annex IV: User Charges

Annex V: Surveillance and Enforcement Plan

ANNEX I: MAP OF ALEIPATA MPA



ANNEX II: NO-TAKE ZONES OF ALEIPATA MPA



ANNEX III: PENALTY SCHEDULE

Definitions:

- The Aleipata MPA begins from Utuele Headland at Tiavea in the north and ends at Nonoa at Lalomanu in the south. The boundary also includes the area from the high water mark to ½ mile seaward from the reef drop-off and includes the offshore islands (Nuutele and Nuulua). The inshore islands of Namua and Faanutapu are also included.
- The Aleipata MPA No-take zones are given in Annex 2. Removal of any plant, animal or other material, either living or dead, is banned from these no-take zones unless for Aleipata MPA approved research purposes.
- Fishing is defined as the take of any fish, invertebrate, plant or other living item from the sea.
- 'Insiders' are the people that live in Aleipata and include those from Aleipata who live outside Aleipata but have "monotaga" with the villages they come from
- 'Outsiders' are the people that live outside of the Aleipata District and have no "monotaga" with any village of the district

MPA District Rules	Penalties and fines for insiders breaking these rules (\$ST)	Penalties and fines for outsiders breaking these rules (\$ST)
FISHERIES RULES		
1. FISHING METHODS		
Our Aleipata MPA BANS the use for fishing of:		
 dynamite 	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
 ava new guinea and related fish poisons 	\$500.00	\$1000.00
chlorox or related bleaches	\$500.00	\$1000.00
cyanide	\$500.00	\$1000.00
gramoxone	\$500.00	\$1000.00
Barrintonia Seeds	\$500.00	\$1000.00
Coral Pounding	\$500.00	\$1000.00
Fish Traps	\$500.00	\$1000.00
Fishing Nets less then 2.5 mesh	\$500.00	\$1000.00
2. TURTLES	\$500.00	\$1000.00
of turtles and their eggs .		
 BIRDS, BATS, COCONUT CRABS Our Safata MPA BANS the harvesting of birds, bats, coconut crabs and young (including bird eggs) from the islands of Aleipata (Nuulua; Nuutele, Namua, Faanutapu) 	\$500.00	\$1000.00
4. FISHING		

A O 11 : 1 11D1 D1116 : 1		\$40,000,00
❖ OurAleipata MPA BANS commercial	N/A	\$10,000.00
fishing by outsiders in the MPA's waters.		
 Our Aleipata MPA BANS fishing by 	N/A	\$500.00
outsiders from subsistence purposes or	IN/A	\$300.00
personal use.		
personal use.		
 Our Aleipata MPA BANS fishing by 	N/A	\$500.00
tourists.	IN/A	\$300.00
5. NO-TAKE ZONES	\$500.00	\$1000.00
◆ Our Aleipata MPA BANS all fishing and	\$300.00	\$1000.00
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
take of any material living or dead from		
the No-Take Zones (see map). 6. SCUBA FISHING		
	¢10,000,00	¢10,000,00
❖ Our Aleipata MPA BANS the use of	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
SCUBA gear for fishing and		
Our Aleipata MPA prohibits SCUBA gear	\$10,000,00	¢10,000,00
and spear fishing gear to be carried in	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
the same boat.		
7. SAND MINING		
 Our Aleipata MPA BANS commercial sand 	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
mining.		
8. TOURISM		
 Our Aleipata MPA requires all tour 	N/A	\$10,000.00
operators coming into the MPA to have		
an agreement with the Safata MPA for		
their tour that shall include not less		
than ensuring that tourism charges are		
paid to the MPA.		
9. MANGROVES		
Our Aleipata MPA BANS the clearance of		
mangroves unless with prior written	\$500.00	\$10,000.00
approval from the village endorsed by		
the District Committee.		
10. INTRODUCTION OF NEW SPECIES		
 Our Aleipata MPA BANS any further 	\$500.00	\$10,000.00
introduction of tilapia and any other		
non-Samoan marine species unless full		
environmental and social assessments		
are carried out and the results		
considered favourable by the Aleipata		
MPA.		
11. DUMPING OF RUBISH		
❖ Our ALEIPATA MPA BANS the dumping of	\$500.00	\$10,000.00
rubbish and any other form of damage		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
to our MPA.		
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ANNEX IV: USER CHARGES

The Table details agreed charges for various uses of the Aleipata Marine Protected Area (MPA). Some of the charges are subject to negotiations and agreements of the MNRE and the Aleipata MPA District Committee.

USE TYPE	CHARGE	NOTE
MPA District Visitors Levy	\$5 per person per visit to the MPA.	This is a basic tourist and visitor levy.
Launch of Boats at MPA District Centre	\$20 per launch	
Use of MPA District Centre Facilities	\$5 per person per day \$10 per person for overnight stay	
 MPA District Centre Hire ½ day 1-4 days weekly hire (5 working days) 6 or more days MPA District Centre Hire by individuals or agencies from within the District ½ day 1-4 days weekly hire (5 working days) 6 or more days 	 \$150 \$275 per day \$1250 per working week) \$250 per day \$50 \$140 per day \$700 per working week) \$100 per day 	e.g Churches, community groups
MPA District Officer MPA District Vehicle	\$200 per day \$150 per day	Only included if
WI A DISCIPLE VEHICLE	7130 per day	District Officer is involved.
MPA District Boat	\$250 per day	Only included if District Officer is involved.

ANNEX V: SURVEILLANCE AND ENFORCEMENT PLAN

A. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- ❖ We the people of Aleipata MPA ALL have a role to play in surveillance and enforcement of our Aleipata MPA. Importantly, this is through use of our culture and the faasamoa. In essence all our people are 'policeman' for the MPA and responsible for reporting any rule breaking through normal village processes supplemented by working with the District Committee and District Officer.
- ❖ We believe that we are responsible for our own people and their interaction with the MPA, however, a real threat exists from people from outside of our District. To effect enforcement we need a partnership with the Government of Samoa especially MNRE, MAF, Attorney General and the Police for surveillance and enforcement of our MPA.
- ❖ We commit to the critical importance of education and awareness of the rules and penalties of our Aleipata MPA people need to have every chance to know these rules so that they can be respected.
- ❖ We commit to ensuring that the MPA cost of surveillance and enforcement will be at least partly met by using a portion of the fines for MPA operation.

B. ACTIONS

INSIDERS AND PEOPLE OF ALEIPATA

1. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS OF MPA RULES AND PENALTIES

Our aim is to ensure all people of the District of Aleipata are aware and know all the rules and district by-laws for the Aleipata Marine Protected Area, the following activities should be implemented.

- Special rules and penalties awareness meetings with each Village Council.
- Special rules and penalties awareness meetings with the Women.
- Special rules and penalties awareness meetings with the Aumaga.
- Special rules and penalties awareness meetings with the Youth.
- District Committee representative to consistently inform and update their respective Village Council during their village fono.
- Prepare a summary of the rules penalties and district by-laws and distribute them to every household, school, meeting houses, village signboards and any other public places in Aleipata.
- Public notices on TV, radio and news paper.
- Special awareness day for Aleipata District, dance, song and sports competition (provide prizes for these activities).

These meetings need at least annual follow up in order to maintain awareness and support generated, to update on any changes to agreed rules/penalties in out MPA, and to provide positive reinforcement of the role all our people need to play in surveillance and enforcement of our MPA.

2. PROCESS FOR WHEN A RULE IS BROKEN

In violation of the rules and District by-laws the process will be:

- Local village observer to inform the Pulenuu and the Village Council of that respective village where the offender comes from. If the local observer is not from the same village as the offender then this report could be done with help from the District Committee member of his/her village and District Officer.
- Proof and witness should be provided consistent with the normal Village Council protocols before any penalty or fine is served by any offender

- Pulenuu inform the MPA District Committee member of that particular village about the violation and
- District Committee member inform the MPA District Officer.
- The Village Council will penalise the offender consistent with the fine schedule approved by the District Committee.
- No warning will be given to any offender.
- The offender should serve his penalty immediately, as instructed by the Village Council.
- If the offender refuses, the Village Council will impose a second penalty consistent with the normal cultural practices.
- If the offender continues to object the Village Council will decide on other severe punishment like banishment from the village or other suitable measure.
- A \$50.00 portion of the offender's fine will be contributed to the MPA Trust Fund.

3. LOCAL VILLAGE AND DISTRICT SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

A Local Village and District Surveillance system will be in place in order to know when the Rules and District by-laws have been violated.

- The surveillance system should provide proof and evidence to ensure offenders are rightly penalised.
- The system will include all people of Aleipata as surveillance officers of the rules and the District by laws. It is noted that fishermen and fisher women are key people in the surveillance and enforcement program.
- All fishing boat owners in the District will be asked to assist whenever possible and upon request to assist with the surveillance program.
- All fishing boats from Aleipata should they observe illegal activities in the MPA should report immediately to the District Officer

PEOPLE FROM OUTSIDE ALEIPATA

1. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS OF MPA RULES AND PENALTIES

Our aim is to ensure all people coming to our Aleipata MPA are aware and know all the rules/penalties and district by-laws for the Aleipata Marine Protected Area, the following activities should be implemented (in conjunction with no. 1 activities above).

- Public Notices, TV, Radio, News Paper
- MPA Workshop with the Upolu Pulenuu,, tour operators and other relevant stakeholders.
- Workshop to Inform groups like Longline Fishermen Association and boat owners, about the MPA rules and by-laws.
- Workshop with all relevant government agencies e.g Police, Fisheries and DEC about the MPA rules and by-laws
- Workshop with neighbouring villages/ districts adjacent to the Aleipata MPA.
- Permanent MPA rule/penalty signage information posted at shops, schools buses, District Centre, boat launch sites, tourist fales etc throughout the District.

In all of these a permanent record of the rules and penalties and overall MPA rationale and function needs to be left with individuals and agencies.

There will need to be annual follow up and reinforcement of these activities as noted in point 1 above.

2. PROCESS FOR WHEN A RULE IS BROKEN

These measures need to be clarified with the Government of Samoa and this is a key top priority for implementation. We envisage that the steps that should be taken would involve:

- Agreement for Local Enforcement Officers in each village and supplemented by the District Officer who are trained and empowered legally to act on any infringement by outsiders (compare fisheries officers) and supported by local police.
- Powers should include the authority to, with the District Officer fully involved:
 - o confiscate boat/canoes, fishing equipment and catch
 - o collect all relevant evidence and information for prosecution
 - o inform relevant Government agencies Police, Fisheries, MNRE.
- The Government of Samoa is looked to for assistance to proceed with prosecutions.
- We, the District of Aleipata, retain the option to use appropriate customary procedures for violators, whereby within the agreed Rules and Penalties Framework the District Committee will decide action taken.
- If the violators cannot meet the fine and penalties then any boat and equipment confiscated could be sold to cover costs.
- The Government of Samoa (Treasury) is requested to ensure that the fines from any successful prosecution must go to the Aleipata MPA Trust Fund to assist in investment in effective MPA management.

3. SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

An effective surveillance system should be in place in order to know the Rules and District bylaws have been violated. This is combined in effort with the local surveillance system outlined above but needs to involve police, fisheries officers, MPA District Officer and locally empowered officers as described above. In addition:

- The District Officer will be responsible for collecting all information on outsiders violation.
- The Nafanua (Police Patrol Boat) is requested to conduct regular checks, during their normal operation, of the offshore areas of the MPA and to provide a report to the Aleipata MPA of these activities.
- The Police, Fisheries, MNRE are requested to participate with the District Officer and Committee to produce and to assist with information leading to a violation of district rules by outsiders.

C. SURVEILLANCE AND ENFORCEMENT MONITORING

Surveillance and enforcement monitoring requirements:

- All rules and district by-laws violation and follow up actions taken should be reported to the District Officer by the District Committee members.
- Fines will be properly recorded and accounted for by the District Officer. The District Officer will keep an up to date record of all incidences.
- The District Officer should report to the District Committee during their monthly meetings on all incidences related to surveillance and enforcement.
- The District Officer should also report to the Government on all fines and penalties updates.

The District Officer will prepare news releases for the media reporting on violations both by insiders and outsiders.

D. RESOURCES REQUIRED

The above programme will require additional resources for establishment and will involve some ongoing cost items.

Equipment

 MPA Boat - secured, but needs signage to more clearly show it is the MPA boat e.g on the hull

- Related boat equipment: binoculars, marine radios (some secured), flares, first aid kit,
- Land based phone at District Centre
- Signage e.g. no-take zone signage.
- Caps, t shirts to identify those involved for surveillance of outsiders.
- Laminated rules/penalties MPA fact sheets.

o Training and Capacity Building in the Surveillance and Enforcement Programme

- District Officer
- District Committee and Local Village Volunteers
- Police, Fisheries Officers, MNRE relevant staff

Education and Awareness

- Workshop costs (see above)
- MPA Rules and Penalties Fact Sheet
- Advertisements and public notices (see above).

Ongoing costs

- Boat operation and maintenance; oil, petrol, gear maintenance, replacement.
- Signage update/ MPA Rules/Penalties fact sheets.
- Meal allowance for local volunteers and others to provide their own food when working for the MPA.
- Follow up education and awareness activities.
- District Officer staff costs.
- District Vehicle operation (portion).