

Empowering Rural Communities in Key Biodiversity Areas to Protect the Critically Endangered Manumea and Other Endemic Samoan Fauna While Improving Sustainable Livelihoods Impacted by COVID-19.

Type of priority area	Terrestrial Protected Area	Indigenous Community and Conserved Area (ICCA)	Key Biodiversity Area
Primary objective	Governance	Management Effectiveness	Livelihoods
Target groups	Local Communities	Youth	Women
Main activity focus	Threatened Species	Human-Wildlife Conflict	Ecosystem & Habitat Restoration

Duration
01.05.2021 – 30.04.2022

Type of grant & budget
Rapid Response Grant | 49,670\$

Location
Samoa, Pacific

Protected & Conserved Areas
Uafato Conservation Area (ICCA)
Falese'ela Rainforest (ICCA)

WDPA ID
Not Registered

BIOPAMA RRIIS Link
<http://rriis.biopama.org/ct/country/ws>

Key Conservation Landscape
Key Biodiversity Area, Indigenous
Community and Conserved Area (ICCA)

Project Lead

Samoa Conservation Society

Description of the project:

During this project, the Samoa Conservation Society (SCS) in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) and Samoa Tourism Authority (STA) will work closely with two villages on the island of Upolu to:

- Raise awareness of the detrimental effects of pigeon hunting.
- Implement local bylaws to ban the hunting of native birds and flying foxes.
- Train villagers to identify and monitor the Manumea and other endemic fauna.
- Provide alternative sources of income (ecotourism, bird monitoring and habitat restoration) to provide sustainable incomes for communities in rural villages who are suffering income loss due to COVID-19.





The BIOPAMA AC Objective(s) Addressed

Supporting local community initiatives aiming to enhance the livelihoods of local people whilst effectively contributing to Protected Area Management.



Priority Need Addressed

Through increased opportunities for income generation, the project aims to support two rural communities in Samoa to work towards improving the livelihoods of the local community and enhance the resilience of these local communities to major shocks caused by the COVID pandemic. Simultaneously, increased community involvement in Protected Areas management will strengthen resilience to pandemics and Global Climate Change. The project will promote the implementation of existing objectives in relevant management plans such as the Uafato Conservation Area Management Plan and the Faleaseela Watershed Management Plan. Such objectives include the management of threats to Samoa's National Bird, the Tooth-Billed Pigeon or Manumea, and other native fauna, such as from invasive species and hunting. The project will also focus on the restoration of degraded rainforests, including the planting of native trees and the raising of environmental awareness on the links between human health and the health of natural ecosystems and biodiversity.



The change the project implementation will bring for the protected areas

This Rapid Response Grant will be used to empower, up skill, equip, and train local people in two community conservation areas/key biodiversity areas where people are experiencing a loss of income due to COVID-19. In addition to COVID-19, the communities are also experiencing negative effects of climate change. The project will result in improved livelihoods and also address the need for well-informed and well-trained nature tour guides in community-based conservation areas where the Manumea is believed to exist. The project will also work to establish ecotourism, provide training in bird identification and monitoring in these Manumea friendly Villages (MFV), and will work to improve livelihoods and income for local families. It will empower the villagers who have been adversely affected by the downturn in the economy due to COVID-19 to become guardians of their natural resources (e.g., the Manumea and the rainforests).

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