



SUNGO NEWS

January - March 2021



EUROPEAN UNION



Universal Periodic Review



Government of Canada



Civil Society Support Programme SAMOA



Government of Samoa



IUCN

VISION:

Samoa has a competent and confident civil society sector that promotes sustainable development and quality of life for the people of Samoa

MISSION:

To deliver capacity building research, opportunities, information sharing, advocacy and support for civil society in Samoa.

SUNGO News! SUNGO Conducts its 22nd Annual General Meeting.



2019 - 2020 Annual General Meeting

Millenia Hotel, Sogi (5 February 2021) – The Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organizations and its Civil Society Members from around the country today conducted its 22nd Annual General Meeting 2020, at the Tiafau Fale Millenia Hotel at Sogi. Registrations opened at 8:30am.

The Opening Prayer was conducted by Reverend Misiperetiso Ivara, who is from one of SUNGOs Member Organization, Shrine of the three Hearts (Gaulofa Trust). He emphasized that we were created in God's Image.

The Agenda included the Adoption of the



Participants at the 22nd AGM.

AGM 2019-2020 Minutes, President's Report 2019 – 2020, Financial and Auditor's Report 2019 – 2020, Approval of Annual Work plan and Budget 2020 – 2021, Election of Office Bearers, (National President and Secretary), as well as the Election of Seven Council Members.

At the end of the Annual General Meeting 2020, the newly appointed National President 2020-2022 for the Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organizations Inc – SUNGO is Tauā Fa'amoemoe Tala, from the Lalomanu Farmers' Association. The newly appointed Secretary 2020-2022 is Leilua Faleafaga Toni Tipama'a from the Samoa Conservation Society.



SUNGO Member Organizations' Representatives at the AGM.

SUNGO Executive Members 2020-2021: Saena Penaia from the Samoa Federated Farmers Incorporated (SFFI), Tavu'i Anne Laumea from the Tofasinasina Samoa Association of Counsellors, Tofilau Raymond Voigt of the Beekeepers' Association of Samoa (BAS), Rev Esaroma Fatilua from the Atina'e mo le Lumana'i Manuia Matautu, Lefaga CBO, Le'aula Theresa Asiata from the Samoa Social Welfare Fesoasoani Trust (SSWEFT), Maria Caroline Kovati of the Alii ma Faipule – Foailalo CBO, and Iuni Lotu from the Papase'ea Sliding Rock Development.

The **Reserves** are Figota Manuele from the Vaa o Manu CBO, and Rev Misiperetiso from the Gaulofa Ministry – Shrine of the three Hearts.

SUNGO continues to work with the Civil Society, to ensure that its vision and mission can be accomplished by assuring that Samoa has a competent and confident Civil Society Sector, promoting sustainable Development and quality of life for the people of Samoa.

Inside this issue:

SUNGO 22nd AGM	1
Capacity Building	2 & 3
Policy & Advocacy	4
Newly Appointed AO	4
Samoa Voyaging Society	5
Third UPR Report Compilation	5
SUNGO EC, Management & Staff Retreat	5



Samoa Umbrella for Non Governmental Organisations - SUNGO

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Home

Posts

Videos

Photos

About

Community

Information and Communications

Another Edition to be released soon.

SUNGO Newsletter will be published on a monthly basis. Physical copies can be uplifted from our office at Vaitele

We will be publishing these items on our Facebook page as well more regularly. We encourage all members to please visit us on our Face book page for more information or updates on events and other related matters for your information's

We have hit 1,872 likes and 1,891 followers. We would like to thank you for your support.

ALI'I & FAIPULE PAIA, SAVAI'I visits SUNGO!

Members of the Community Based Organization Ali'i ma Faipule Paia in Savai'i visited SUNGO earlier this year, seeking assistance to complete their proposal for a new school building for Paia Primary School. These are negotiations between the Umbrella and the CBO, regarding a funding opportunity that was opened at the time, from the Government of Japan.



Members of the Ali'i & Faipule Paia



<https://www.facebook.com/SamoaUmbrella/>

If you would like to get in touch, you can now email us, telephone or message us on Facebook.

Capacity Building - 12 newly recruited trainers completed the Training of Trainers (TOT) organized by the Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organizations (SUNGO).

APIA, (25 - 29 January, 2021) - The Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organizations has finally completed its 5-day training of Trainers, for community trainers from Civil Societies;

hosted at SUNGOs headquarter at Vaitele. SUNGOs

Mission aims to deliver capacity building research, opportunities, information, sharing, advocacy, and support for Civil Society in Samoa. The training program consisted of 5 courses,

which includes the Facilitation skills for community trainers, Climate Change Adaptation, Planning a Climate Adaptation Project, Project Monitoring and Supervision and Enhancing engagement of Civil Societies in national laws and policy processes. The 12 trainers are members of communities, and the main objective behind the initiative by SUNGO, is to

strengthen their facilitation skills to conduct and deliver trainings within the communities.



The Training of Trainers was conducted by SUNGO's Training



programme Team Leader, Ms Faapito Opetaita, and Research Officer, Mr Masoe Iosefa Tautua, as well as the TNT Global Consultant. According to Ms Faapito, "the training aims at upgrading facilitation skills and knowledge of the participants, before rolling out the training programs within the communities." During the Training of Trainers, members of SUNGO's Executive Council were able to assess the newly recruited trainers to be competent in delivering training and build the capacity of Civil Societies. Most of the trainers have a background in teaching, and the training has helped them upgrade their teaching skills. The Training of Trainers kick-started on the 25th of January and was completed on the 29th of January 2021; with the hope to conduct more trainings for Community Trainers in the coming weeks. SUNGO is a Not-for-Profit Organization and Incorporated Society with a Constitution approved by its membership. It is a nationally registered NGO (Non-Government Organization). SUNGO has a direct community focus with a membership based on both urban and rural civil society organizations across Samoa. Membership includes community organizations, village-based organizations, sporting bodies, and church organizations.

Capacity Building - Continues

SUNGO aims at Building the Capacity and Understanding of Civil Society Organizations, to Engage with Democratic Processes and Institutions in Samoa, funded by the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI).

Vaitete, Apia (30 March, 2021) – There were 5 separate 2-Day Workshop Sessions, for Civil Society Organizations



NGO Representatives in Upolu.

Canada. The first 2-Day session was held on the 18th and 19th of March 2021, for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). There were 15 participants from 11 NGO members in Upolu. Six were females over nine males from the age range between 18 - 35 and over 60 years of age. The training workshop was also conducted for Savaii Community Based Organizations (CBOs). The training was attended by 18 representatives from twelve (12) various organizations including one NGO representative from Faiaai Youth group who represented the Samoa National Youth Council. Some of the inactive members of SUNGO were grateful for the opportunity they were given to attend the important training. Tevaga Ioane of Samalaeulu Tagiilima Farmers Association expressed his appreciation on behalf of all participants and highly recommended to conduct more training in Savaii to ensure more people to receive this training. The training programme concluded with three sets of 2 day training workshops for Upolu CBOs from 22nd to 30th March 2021 at SUNGO Training Room, Vaitete Tai. There were 37 various organizations attended, 36 were CBOs and Tofa Sinasina Incorporated (1NGO) who did not get the chance to attend on the NGO training week.



NGO Representatives at the Capacity Building Training.

The main objective behind these training activities, is to build the capacity and understanding of Civil Society Organizations to Engage with



Democratic Processes and Institutions in Samoa” According to one of the participants from the Women’s Committee of Falefa, Leitu Salanoa, who attended the last 2-Day workshop on the 29th and 30th of March, “We have learnt



a lot of new things from this training and most importantly, we now know that women play a vital role and provide

valid contributions to democratic processes. Therefore, we would like to express our sincere acknowledgements for the activity, which has echoed the message of hope to women committees around the country, despite being unemployed, our voices



need to be heard when it comes to democratic processes. These lessons learnt will be shared to our communities”. The Samoa Umbrella for



Non-Governmental Organizations hopes to continue these training activities in the years to come, for the benefit of the Civil Society Sector. These training workshops were dominated by females, which were 43 by 16 male participants.



SUNGO has officially appointed its new Administration Officer.



In early February this year, Mrs Agnes Aiono was appointed as SUNGO's new Administration Officer, after the former AO resigned, due to unforeseen circumstances.

Mrs Aiono is a mother of two, and has experience in Administrative Tasks, as she was an Administration Manager at the

Aumua Law Firm. Agnes wishes to use her knowledge, expertise and skills, to help with SUNGO's services.

Capacity Building - Community Trainers' Refresher Course!



10 - 12 February, 2021. - These are SUNGO Community Trainers, attending their Refresher Course, before rolling out the Training Activities into the Communities as scheduled. The Refresher course emphasized the using of SUNGO Training Materials. The Training was held for 3 days. The Refresher Course aims to further upgrade their teaching skills, before rolling out the scheduled Community Training Programs.



Community Trainers attending the Refresher Course

Policy & Advocacy - SUNGO at the Fore-front of the Universal Periodic Review Coalition Report.

19 March 2021 - The Office of the OMBUDSMAN / National Human Rights Institution in Samoa conducted its Follow Up Workshop (2nd Workshop) on the Civil Society Universal Periodic Review for Samoa.



Civil Society Organizations around the country gathered at the Sheraton Hotel's Conference Room in Apia, to discuss all the reports

that will be submitted for that cause. The Objectives of this workshop is to follow up on the status of report writing, Discuss process of Submitting Reports, Refine CSO Reports, Discuss opportunities for CSO following submissions, and Discuss next steps including a potential meeting with Government to share issues raised by CSOs in the reports.

SUNGO as the Umbrella for NGOs is coordinating a coalition report/Joint Submission to the UN Universal Periodic Review for O Le Siosiomaga Society Incorporated, Loto Taumafai Society, Pasefika Mana Samoa Social Services Trust, Young Women's Christian Association of Samoa and Women in Business Development Incorporated.



NGOs at the UPR 3 Discussion

SUNGO negotiates with IUCN, CI and MNRE before rolling out the Consultation on Environment, into the Communities.

SUNGO meets with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Coordinator, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Representatives, as well as the Conservation International. The International Union for Conservation of Nature is an international organization working in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. It is involved in data gathering and analysis, research, field projects, advocacy, and education.



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Samoa Voyaging Society conducts its follow-up Training on Good Governance. SUNGO Executive Council, Management and Staff 2021 RETREAT.

20 February, 2021 - The Samoa Voyaging Society or Aiga Folau o Samoa undergone its Follow Up Session on Good Governance, that was conducted in the end of last year, as organized and delivered by SUNGO Programme Team

Leader, Ms Faapito Opetai, as well as the Assistance of the Training Team. Topics covered included - "what is Good Governance", "Roles of Board & Management", as well as "Meeting and Deciding". The Training Programme was held at the Lava Hotel Conference Room at Sogi.



Leadership of the Training Team. Topics covered included - "what is Good Governance", "Roles of Board & Management", as well as "Meeting and Deciding".



Front Row: (L-R) Tavu'i Anne Laumea, Roina Vavatau, Taua Faamoemoe Tala, Rev Esaroma Fatilua, Peseta Malouamaua Afoa Arasi Tiotio
Back Row: (L-R) Masoe Iosefa Tautua, Temukisa Sione - Leatuao, Sio Leafa, Faapito Opetai, Le'aula Theresa Asiata, Tofilau Raymond Voigt, Faleafaga Toni Tipamaa, Fuimaono Vaitolo Ofoia.

5 - 6 March, 2021 : It has been a Fruitful Get-Together for members of SUNGOs Executive Council, Management and Staff during its Retreat Activity. Discussions were mainly on ways to improve the Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organizations Services. Such include Strategic Plans, Amendments to the Policies and Constitutions of SUNGO, to name a few.

SUNGO during the process of finalizing the Third UPR Report.

23 March 2021 - SUNGO Team working in a collaborative effort with Susuga Maiava Visekota Peteru, who is one of SUNGOs Member Organization's Representative, coordinating the Final Coalition UPR Report (Joint Submission) for Samoa.



(Afioga Fuimaono Vaitolo Ofoia, Susuga Roina Faatauavaa Vavatau, & Susuga Maiava Visekota Peteru compiling the Coalition Report for the NGOs)

