



Forestry Professionals in Samoa

*Exploring the Landscape, Challenges
and Opportunities for Growth*

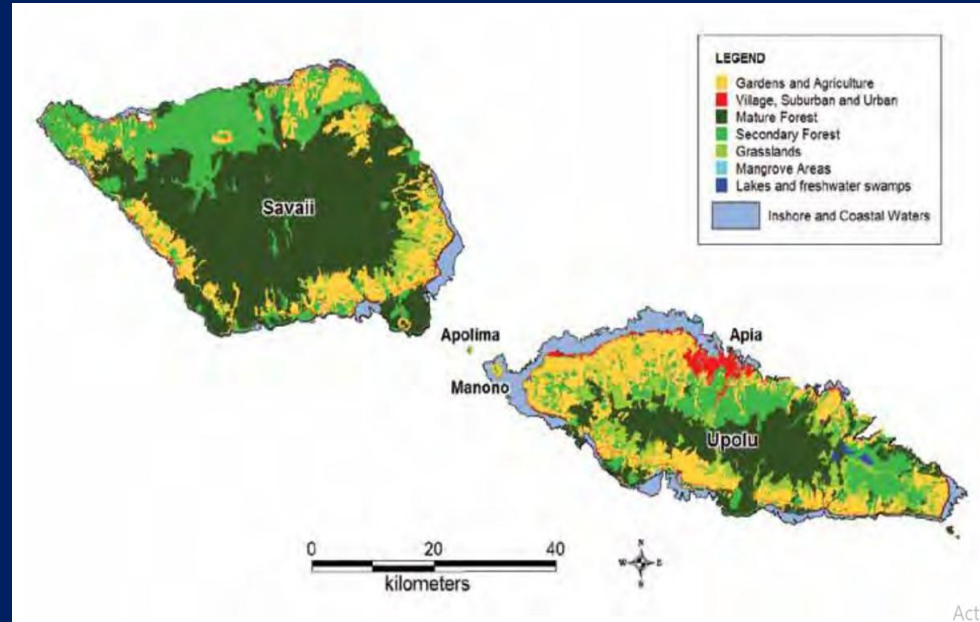
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Restoring forests and landscapes to secure Australia's future
Biennial conference of Forestry Australia
Adelaide 20-23 October 2025

Snapshot of Forestry and Forestry Professionals Samoa

Total Forest Area

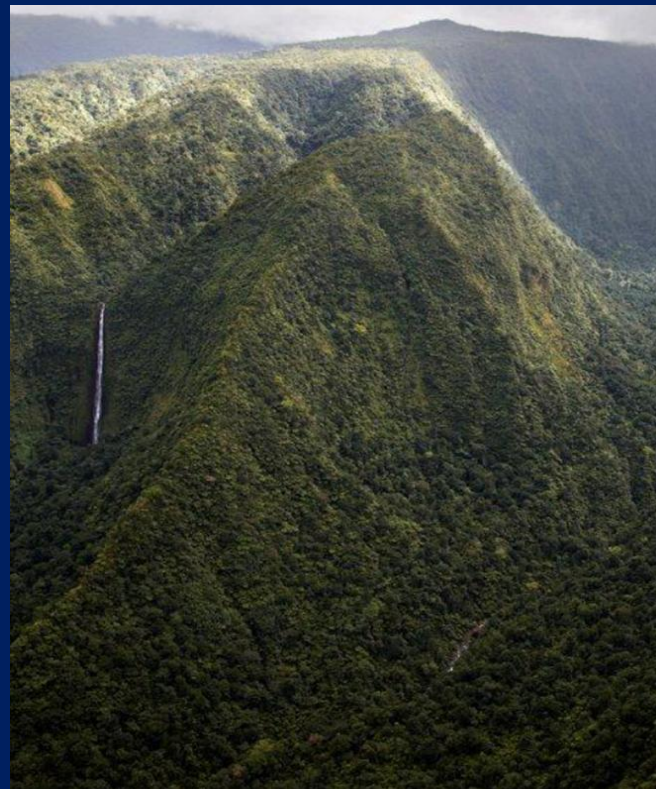
- *Samoa's forest area totals 199,661 hectares*
- *Forests cover close to 70% of Samoa's landscape*
- *Primary forests make up 75% of the total forest area*
- *About 30% of Samoa's forests are degraded*
- *4,086 hectares are forest plantations – 2%*



Snapshot of Forestry and Forestry Professionals Samoa

Value of Samoa forestry

- *Most forest areas are on customary land – profound social, cultural and economic significance.*
- *Traditional use for timber, fuelwood and medicinal applications.*
- *Merchantable logging and sawmills started in the late 1960's on Savai'i*
- *World Bank estimates that the forestry sector contributes less than 3% of Samoa's GDP*



Snapshot of Forestry and Forestry Professionals Samoa

Reforestation Efforts

- *Reforestation commenced in 1971 through NZ-funded bilateral Forestry Aid project.*
- *Goal to create a sustainable forest estate of 8,000 ha for production of exotic timber.*
- *Cyclones in the early 1990's had a destructive impact on the reforested areas*
- *Shift to protection forests, watersheds and community forestry*



Snapshot of Forestry and Forestry Professionals Samoa

Tree Planting Goals

- *Forestry Division planting target is 100 ha per year*
- *Community plantations through campaign to plant 3 million trees by 2028*

Carbon Stock potential

- *Total carbon stock estimated at 87 million tCO₂e.*
- *Forest reference level is set at - 76,900 tCO₂e per year*



Snapshot of Forestry and Forestry Professionals Samoa

Forestry Professionals

- *There is an estimated 28 forestry professionals across various sectors*
- *Government sector: employs 14 professionals but only 5 with formal forestry training.*
- *Private sector: estimated at 10 professionals, trained in forestry, mainly consultants.*
- *NGOs: employ 4 forestry professionals – FAO, Samoa Conservation Society, Live & Learn.*



Status of Samoa's Association for Forestry Professionals

Formation of the Association

- ▶ *Initiated with the support of SPC and Forestry Australia (FA) in February 2024.*

Draft constitution Under Review

- ▶ *Proposed charter built on the model on provided by SPC and FA; and charter of the Samoa Association of Agriculture Professionals set-up in 2024*

Foundational Meeting Planned

- ▶ *Foundational meeting, adoption of Charter, elections, registration with GoS in Nov 2025*



Status of Samoa's Association for Forestry Professionals

Key strategies to advance the Forestry profession in Samoa

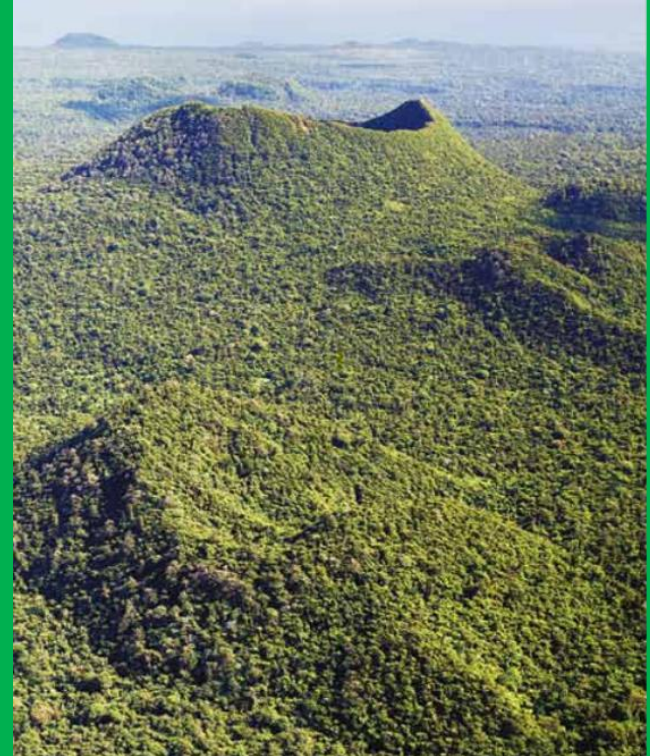
- ▶ *With Charter and membership, establish a solid foundation for Samoa's association.*
- ▶ *Initiate a membership growth campaign to expand the core group of professionals.*
- ▶ *Advocate for the advancement of the profession among schools and youth.*
- ▶ *Ensure on-going support from the Forestry Division*
- ▶ *Leverage opportunities through the Pacific Network for skill enhancement.*



Priorities for enhancing the development of forestry professionals

Urgent Action Needed for Sustainable Forestry in Samoa

- ▶ *Professional development of foresters is essential for climate resilience and achieving sustainable forest management and conservation in Samoa.*
- ▶ *Collaboration is needed to secure funding, develop targeted training programmes, and foster professional growth.*
- ▶ *By investing in education and workforce capacity, attract into the profession and empower forestry professionals.*



Priorities for enhancing the development of forestry professionals

Priorities identified are:

- ▶ *Rebuild and Modernize Education Pathways*
- ▶ *Upskill Existing Workforce*
- ▶ *Establish In-country Training and Mentorship*
- ▶ *Advocate for Forestry as a professional career among youth*
- ▶ *Align Training with National priorities*
- ▶ *Strengthen Institutional Capacity and Retention*
- ▶ *Develop a National Forestry Capacity Development Plan*



Opportunities for enhancing professional skills and capacities through the Pacific Network

Current Capacity Needs in Samoa Forestry Sector

- ▶ *Rebuild expertise in forest production, protection and restoration*
- ▶ *Integrate climate adaptation and nature-based solutions in the forestry sector*
- ▶ *Enhancing technical forestry and nursery skills*
- ▶ *Fostering professional networking and South-south cooperation*
- ▶ *Policy and planning support for managing Samoa's forestry resources*



Opportunities for enhancing professional skills and capacities through the Pacific Network

PNFP Opportunities for Skills Enhancement

- ▶ *Regional training, exchanges, and mentorship programmes*
- ▶ *Thematic webinars and technical support on climate resilience and nature-based solutions*
- ▶ *Practical short-courses and regional secondments for hands-on experience*
- ▶ *Participation in PNPF and SSC events and forum to connect, collaborate and exchange lessons.*
- ▶ *PNPF's advisory and peer review services for Policy and planning support.*



Next Steps for Samoa's Engagement with the Pacific Network

Immediate Action

- ▶ *Finalize registration and operation of the Samoa Association of Forestry Professionals (SAFP)*

Co-designing roadmap

- ▶ *Seek PNFP support to map priority needs and national forestry capacity roadmap*

Funding exploration

- ▶ *Engage with PNFP and regional bodies to explore funding for training and exchanges*



Acknowledgements

*The support of Forestry Australia and ACIAR is gratefully acknowledged.
We also acknowledge our national association and Forestry Division for the
nomination to participate in this conference.*



A photograph of a dense tropical forest. Several large, dark tree trunks are visible, surrounded by thick green foliage and vines. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting sunlight filtering through the canopy. The text "Fa'afetai tele lava!" is overlaid in white, bold font in the center of the image.

Fa'afetai tele lava!