

Forestry Professionals in **TONGA**

Presented by
Mrs Susan Moala

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

FOREST CLASSIFICATION	AREA (Ha)
1. Native Forests	6,573
2. Forest Plantation	433
3. Agricultural Coconut Cropland	32,434
4. Coastal Forests	3,729



Source: ArcGIS, MLNR

MAIN USES OF FORESTS

I. Timber production

a. Pine (*Pinus caribaea* / *Pinus patula*)

- Used for sawn timber
- Poles (3,000 poles/year)
- Furniture
- Construction

b. Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*)

- valued for high-quality furniture
- Joinery
- Has export potential timber.

c. Red Cedar (*Toona ciliata*)

- Lightweight furniture and house construction

d. Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus spp.*)

- Fast-growing, used for posts
- Fuel wood and sawn timber

e. Teak (*Tectona grandis*)

- Planted in small areas, used for furniture



Source: ' Eua, Mr. Heimuli Likiafu (Timber products)

2. Non-timber Forest Products

- a. **Milo (Pacific rosewood, *Thespesia populnea*)** – coastal tree, valued for carving, canoe parts, tools, furniture.
- b. **Mo'ota (*Dysoxylum tongense*)** – one of Tonga's main native hardwoods, used for posts, beams, and construction timber.
- c. **Fau (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*)** – softwood used for rope, canoe outriggers, and crafts.
- d. **Ovava (banyan, *Ficus prolixa*)** – traditionally used for cultural items, though not much in modern timber trade.
- e. **Mulberry tree/Hiapo (*Broussonetia papyrifera*)** – Used for Cultural tapa cloth used in funerals, weddings, Birthdays
- f. **Fuel wood & charcoal** – still widely used in rural areas and outer islands.



Source: Mr. Heimuli Likiafu (Firewood sold along the roadsides of 'Eua Island



Source: MOT (Ladies handicraft ready for sale to Cruise ships)

Annual volumes harvested

Harvesting	Volumes/Year (m3/yr)
1. Timber	87 m3/year
2. Power poles	414 m3/year
3. Firewood	3,253 m3/year
TOTAL	3,754 m3/year



Source: Tonga Forest Products. Ltd



Source: Heimuli Likiafu (Tonga Forest Product off-cuts in 'Eua)

Annual areas reforested

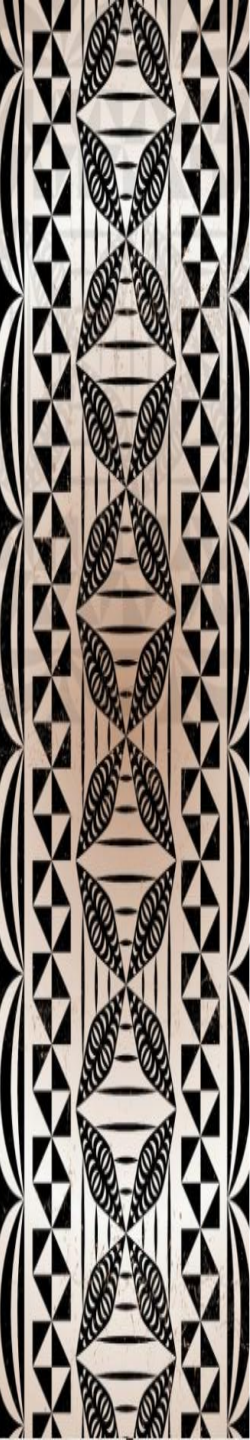
TREE PLANTING INITIATIVE

YEAR	No.TREES PLANTED BY MAFF (TONGATAPU)
2022	1,856
2023	6,385
2024	11,291
2025	7,762
Total so far...	27,294



Source: Ms. Susan Moala, GMS students planting Trees

- Aotearoa/Tonga Forest Product are responsible for any replanting activities within the state owned forest plantation
- MAFF also launched a 1-million tree planting programme for every 5-years
- Areas include communities, Churches, Schools, Forest reserve, Coastal Areas
- NGO's are also planting trees around Tonga and Outer Islands
- Partnering Gov. Ministries have also planted one-million mangroves within Tongatapu

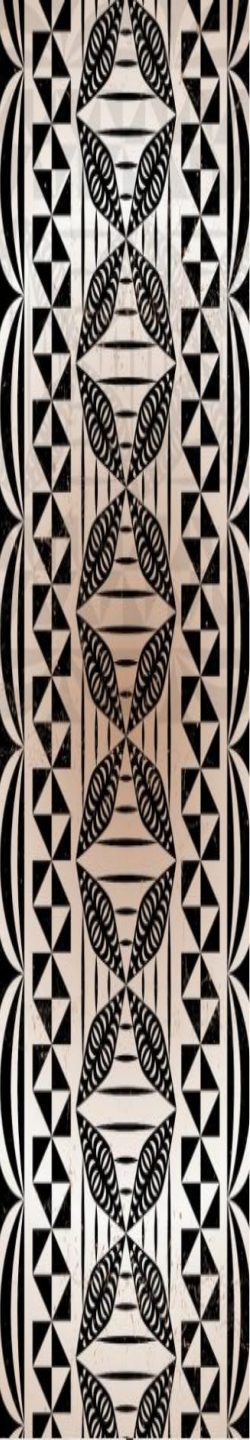


Status of national association for forestry professionals

Members of the association

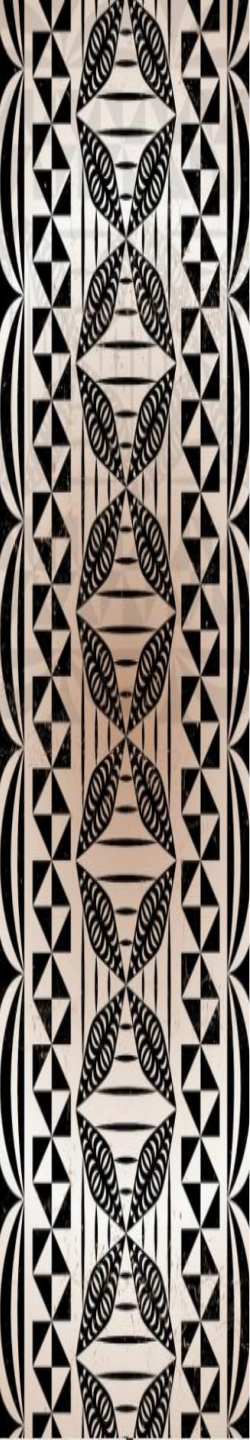
- 3 in Government
- 5 in Private
- 1 in NGO

Government	Private	NGO
1. Heimuli Likiafu	1. Maloni Havea	1. Taniela Hoponoa
2. Susan Moala	2. Viliami Kato	2. Graham Mala'efo'ou
3. Steven Hamani	3. Leody Vainikolo	
	4. Tevita Faka'osi	



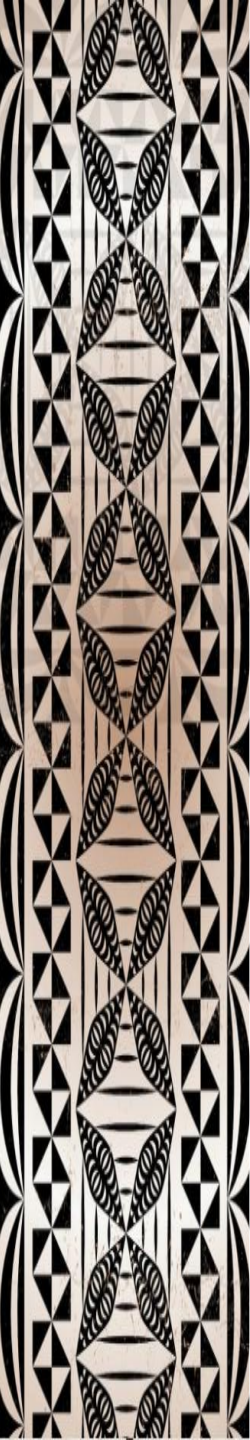
Brief Progress:

- Registration of Tonga Forest Professional Association is still in progress;
 - ❖ So far Account has been formed with all members
 - ❖ Registration is slow but moving and hopes to be done by next year
- Executive Administration body
- Social media page is formed for any interested parties



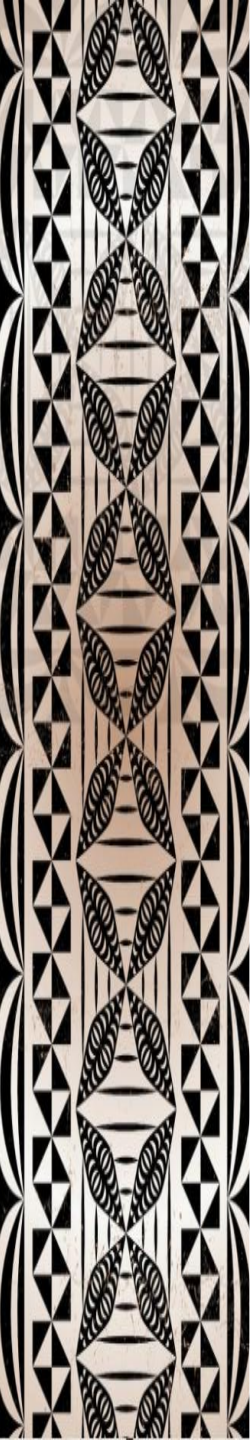
Priorities for enhancing the professional development of forestry professionals

- Used of forest resources for non-timber forest products (offcuts from logging, bamboo and coconut forest resources)
- Nursery propagation techniques (especially some rare species need to be tissue culture like Heilala, Manonu etc.)
- Forest pest and diseases control (identification and diagnosis especially fruit trees)
- Local collection of timber trees like pines, red cedar, kauri, mahogany etc.
- Forest invasive control
- Forest legislations and policy review
- Portable mill and chainsaw operators
- Forest remote sensing



Opportunities for enhancing professional skills and capacities through the Pacific Network of Forestry Professionals

- Sharing access to information and training resources, mentoring programs
- Support for local training activities and projects to promote sustainable forest management
- Educate people the roles of forests in climate change



Acknowledgements

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