



2007 ANNUAL REPORT

- Completed Projects
- Achieved Performance Measures (POINTS data)
- Organizational Development
- Funds received/leveraged



Phase I, Nu'uuli Polytech High School Conservation Club (Completed)

The American Samoa RC&D Council administered an award from the U.S. EPA to develop this educational facility to generate plant materials for conservation uses in Tutuila. Phase I includes assembly of a state-of-the-art greenhouse to be used by the Agriculture Program at Polytech, and by Conservation Club members, in 2007-8. Club members will use propagated plants to demonstrate conservation practices in 2008. (POINTS report: 1 business expanded, 2 jobs)



Phase I, Conservation Corps (Completed)

The AS RC&D Council concluded the first year of this ongoing project in early October. Six Corps members completed 1700 hours of service to local natural resource agencies and to the Village of Pago Pago, where 109 acres of invasive Tamaligi trees (*Peraserianthes moluccana*) were eradicated. Members assigned to the Community College Forestry Department also installed native trees and shrubs on 24 acres of private lands.

Other members assigned to various agencies were responsible for educating thousands of American Samoan citizens on issues pertinent to Territorial natural resource management. The six Corps members are eligible to receive education awards of \$4725 each, which can be applied to student loans or used to pay for college. (POINTS report: 1 business expanded, 12 jobs, 109 acres of forest lands treated, over 2500 residents educated)

Phase I, Promoting Conservation Innovations in American Samoa (Completed)

AS RC&D Council partnered with the Community College Forestry Department to use NRCS funds (Conservation Innovation Grant) to develop a nursery to generate Vetiver (*Crysopogon zizanioides*) grass for use in EQIP contracts in American Samoa. The Forestry Department also helped NRCS Field Office staff conduct field testing of Vetiver rows in vegetative barriers, with ongoing assessment of the grass's ability to capture soil

and debris. (POINTS report: 2 acres treated (soil erosion control), 1 business expanded, 7 jobs).



Building Capacity for Swains Atoll Conservation and Development (Completed)

AS RC&D Council provided technical assistance to a develop a nonprofit corporation serving this remote atoll. The organization will utilize funding for conservation and sustainable development projects to protect and develop the atoll. The organization is currently pursuing USDA Rural Development funds (POINTS report: 1 business created)

Alega Preservation Institute Organizational Development (Completed)

AS RC&D Council supported longtime Council contributor, Tisa Fa'amuli, in her efforts to establish a nonprofit corporation serving the Village of Alega and the Territory of American Samoa. Council services included facilitation of by-laws, assistance with the IRS 1023 form to request 501(c)(3) status, and creation of board policies. (POINTS report: 1 business created)

Project Planning and Grant Writing Seminar for NGO's (Completed)

In conjunction with the 2007 Coral Reef Task Force meeting in American Samoa, an interagency group delivered a workshop on Federal grants available for coastal zone management and improvement. The American Samoa RC&D Council provided a 3-hour seminar on natural resource project planning, grant writing, and nonprofit development for participating leaders throughout the Territory.

Taputimu Forest Restoration Demonstration (Completed)

A subset of the Community College's CIG-funded Vetiver project, this initiative restored an acre of lowland rainforest using a variety of native and naturalized Samoan tree species. Dr. Eric Hanson, Research Forester at the College, took the lead in evaluating planting methods, species composition, and costs based on prior research in other areas. The restored acre was seriously degraded with a variety of invasive trees and shrubs, but Dr. Hanson and his crew of student interns very quickly established a canopy of native trees that will suppress future invasive plant growth. The site will continue to be monitored. (POINTS report: 2 jobs, 1 acre forest land enhanced)

Propagating Native Trees for Conservation (Completed)

Tutuila Conservation Corps members assigned to the Forestry Department at the Community College were tasked with collecting native tree seeds and propagating them in the Forestry Program's greenhouse. The Corps members propagated thousands of trees, while learning new skills in the process. The Corps members assigned to the Community then installed the native trees and shrubs on 24 acres of private lands. (POINTS report: 24 acres of forest land enhance (soil erosion)).



Fagatele Bay Recreational Trail (Completed)

Tutuila Conservation Corps members joined up with the National Park of American Samoa, NOAA, the American Samoa Department of Commerce, a private business, and Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary to establish the only public-access recreational trail in American Samoa outside of the National Park. The trail links the Turtle and Shark Lodge in Vaitogi with Larson Bay, the Sanctuary, and the popular Sliding Rock area of Taputimu, on the Island of Tutuila. (POINTS report: 1 business expanded)

The American Samoa RC&D Council moved ahead in 2007 with the completion of NINE projects, which is a dramatic increase over 2006 (one project) and previous years. During the fiscal year, the Council received and disbursed over \$150,000, another dramatic increase over 2006 (\$11,000 disbursed). In addition to cash awards, the Council leveraged over \$200,000 in local contributions from partners such as the Department of Commerce, the Department of Education, the Community College, and local volunteers.

The Council also received notification of awards from Western SARE (\$55,600) for an educational and business development program based on sustainable agriculture; renewal of the successful Conservation Corps Program from the Corporation for National and Community Service (\$125,000); and notification of funding (to be administered by the SWCD) of the joint “Pigs in Paradise” project to support piggy owners facing enforcement action from the American Samoa EPA (\$221,000 from Administration for Native Americans, DHHS). These three projects will continue to expand the Council’s capacity and impacts in the Territory in 2008.

The American Samoa Resource Conservation and Development Council thanks its many partners and contributors for a banner year in 2007!