



## CIVIL SOCIETY SUPPORT PROGRAMME (CSSP)

### PRESS RELEASE

#### Adaptation Fund Project – Community Small Grant Program Roll Out for Savaii Island



**Caption: Participants during the Awareness Workshop in Savaii.**

The Adaptation Fund Project through Civil Society Support Programme (CSSP) in partnership with Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment (MNRE) and Ministry of Women, Community & Social Development (MWCSO) were in Savaii on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017, at the Apita o Pisaga Hall at Salelologa to roll out an awareness workshop on the Community Small Grant Program. Its focus was to train the Communities on how to fill out the application form and develop a strong proposal to be submitted to CSSP for accessing the AF Samoa Small Grants. The competitive nature of the process for accessing the Fund places the importance on the type of proposals received from communities. For this reason, the workshop was designed to assist the communities by addressing their concerns and iron out any misunderstandings regarding the proposals. The CSSP thoroughly went over the application form with communities' representatives with MNRE providing the technical support and advice. A total of 163 participants attended the workshop, with representation from women, men and youth from 63 villages across the island. The workshop was divided into a morning session which covered the districts of Vaisigano 1 & 2, Alataua, Falealupo, Salega, Gaga'emauga 2& 3 and Gagaifomauga 1 & 2; and an afternoon session which covered Faasaleleaga 1, 2, 3 & 4, Satupaitea and Palauli le Falefa.

The call for proposal for communities provides the financial support for addressing communities' priorities

“This funding opportunity will enable you to implement small-scale programs, focusing on building your resilience to impacts of climate change and climate variability”, emphasized Limutau Kirisimasi Seumanutafa of MNRE-PUMA in the opening speech.

Participants expressed excitement about the timeliness of the Fund to support local programs addressing social, economic and environmental problems arising as from disasters and climate change.

According to CSSP Grant Project officer Cecilia Amosa “This event was a great opportunity for villages to be well-equipped with the necessary information to compile proposals for building their resilience to the impacts of climate change and disasters. The proposals from communities will now better highlight innovative adaptation measures that address areas of priority that are in line with the Government’s Community Integrated Management Plans review”.

A similar workshop is scheduled to take place in May 2017 for Upolu AF Samoa districts. A general application form and brochures will be available on the day as well as from the CSSP office in Apia (NPF Building) The call for proposals from communities on Savaii closes on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May.

For more information, please feel free to contact the Civil Society Support Programme office on telephone number 24617 or email [cecilia.amosa@cssp.gov.ws](mailto:cecilia.amosa@cssp.gov.ws)

### **Background on the project**

The Adaptation Fund project, ‘*Enhancing Resilience of Coastal Communities of Samoa to Climate Change*’, was approved in March 2012 by the Adaptation Fund Board. The objective of the project is to strengthen the ability of Samoan communities and public services to make informed decisions and manage climate change-driven pressures, in a pro-active, integrated and strategic way.

This will be the first time community-based organisations will be able to receive assistance through the project. The opportunity is of vital importance for Samoa to deliver and to produce great results.

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Photo: Limutau Kirisimasi Seumanutafa of the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment – PUMA division, during his presentation.