

**TA-8307 TON:
Strategic Program for
Climate Resilience for
the Kingdom of Tonga**

CONSULTATIONS ON SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS (SMA) IN VAVA'U ISLAND



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1. INTRODUCTION

The Social Development and Gender Specialist from TA-8307 TON SPCR travelled to Vava'u to conduct consultations with the different communities who applied for Special Management Area funding through Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Forestry and Fisheries. The communities include Hunga Is, Matamaka Is, Falevai Is, Lape Is, Taunga Is, 'Utungake, Tali hau and 'Utulei to be amongst those under Output 4: Eco-system Resilience and Climate Infrastructure Investments, of which will focus on the increased ability of coral reefs to recover after climate related events.

The project proposes to establish 6 Community Managed Special Marine Management Areas (SMA) to introduce sustainable fishing and management of coral reefs that will benefit approximately 1,000 persons in outer islands - in addition to the existing 8 areas - and thereby establish comprehensive baselines for biodiversity, ecological health, socio-economic status and governance arrangements in a national SMA network. Eco-system resilience to climate change will be strengthened in the 6 pilot sites and in the broader Marine Protected Areas (MPA) network, which will in turn support increased marine biomass, larger breeding fish populations, increased ability for the SMA to support local livelihoods and strengthened ability of the ecosystem to recover after climate related events, e.g. cyclone, coral bleaching. The project will support national workshops to share monitoring information, community approaches and methodologies and to identify and share lessons learned.

2. VAVA'U ISLAND GROUP

2.1. Hunga Island



Figure 1: Community Meeting

The meeting was held at Hunga Community Hall, chaired by the Town Officer, Mr Napa'a Halatanu. About 50 men and women attended, including the District Officer and church ministers.

Table 1: Figures from 2011 Census:

Results	2011 Census
Population	229
Number of Households	52
Number of Males	125
Number of Females	104
Population change in numbers	-13
Population change in %	-5.4
Annual growth rate	-1.1

The District Officer began the meeting with information on activities planned for 2014:

- Church ministers to educate people on good doctrines
- Encourage good education for all
- Improvement of economy of the island, both fishing and agriculture
- Inspection of crops twice a year – April and before Agricultural Show
- Keep the environment clean and healthy
- Vitaly important to keep the peace on the island
- Acknowledged all developments going on in the island such as the wharf
- King Tupou VI will celebrate his birthday in Vava'u



Figure 2: Wharf development under MORDI project

Churches:

There are 6 churches in the island namely Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga, Church of Tonga, Tonga Constitution, Free Church of Tonga, Mormon and Tokaikolo.

School:

GPS Hunga has 2 teachers and 45 children.

Priority Needs:

a) Water

Referring to the priority needs of the village, need for water was strongly expressed by the people of the community. There is no community water, however, most households have access to rain water

for drinking and household use. Out of the total households, 4 do not have water tanks. They get water from neighbours.

The school is in need of water for drinking and other uses. When there is no sufficient water, people use sea water and leave the remainder of rain water just for drinking.

b) Livelihood:

Men go fishing and farming for livelihood, while women weave for own obligations or exchange with money from relatives and friends from overseas. This money helps the children's education, improve housing and goes for other family, churches and community obligations.

c) Special Management Area (SMA):

The OIC Fisheries discussed the SMA activities for clarification. As a result, the community gave their full consent on participating in this activity, funded by SPCR project. There was no objection to their application received by Fisheries.

The Governor of Vava'u, Lord Fulivai was grateful for the inclusion of his estate in the SPCR Project. He gave his full support.

2.2. Matamaka Island

The meeting was held at Matamaka Community Hall with 16 people attending. There were 7 men and 9 women. The meeting was conducted by the Town Officer, Mr Latu Taufu in the presence of the District Officer.

Table 2: Figures from 2011 Census

Results	2011 Preliminary Count
Population	147
Number of Households	29
Number of Males	75
Number of Females	72
Population change in numbers	53
Population change in %	56.4
Annual growth rate	8.9

Churches:

There are 5 churches namely, Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga, Church of Tonga, Free Church of Tonga, Assemblies of God and Tokaikolo.

Schools:

GPS Matamaka has 2 teachers and 19 children.

Livelihood:

Men go fishing and farming, while the women weave.



Figure 3: Matamaka Island

Priority needs:

a) Water

Need for water was strongly expressed as a priority need of the community. There is no community water. Surveys were done in the past and results showed that underground water is not safe for use. Rainwater is the source used for drinking, bathing, cooking and other household activities. It was noticed that a well beside the community hall has been closed and cemented. The location is flooded and as a result stagnant water drains down into the well. Out of the 38 households, 4 do not have water tanks. When there is no sufficient water, people use sea water and leave the remainder of rain water just for drinking.

b) Wharf



Figure 4: Wharf on the island

It was raised that the wharf needs improvement. There was a design and estimate that the Town Officer submitted for funding. There was no further discussion on the topic.

c) Special Management Area (SMA)

After introducing the SMA activities with examples from Ovaka Is, the meeting participants did not respond. This implied that the community is not prepared to undertake such project activities at this time.

2.3. Falevai Island

The island of Kapa consists of 3 villages namely Falevai, Kapa and 'Olo'ua. The consultation was held with people of Falevai because they applied to Fisheries Division for funding. There were 13 people attending the meeting conducted by the Town Officer, Mr 'Ofa Blake in the presence of the District Officer. There were 3 women and 10 men.



Figure 5: Falevai community

Table 3: Figures from 2011 Census

Results	2011 Census
Population	113
Number of Households	23
Number of Males	55
Number of Females	58
Population change in numbers	47
Population change in %	71.2
Annual growth rate	10.8

Churches:

There are 4 churches in the island namely Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga, Church of Tonga, Free Church of Tonga and Mormon.

School:

There is also a school which needs to be climate proofed with water harvesting. It was clearly explained by the Town Officer, that the accommodation for the teacher is no longer in use. Therefore, she moved to occupy a classroom for living. She teaches class 1 to 6.

Livelihood:

For daily living, men go fishing and farming for livelihood, while women weave for own obligations or exchange with money from relatives and friends from overseas. It was mentioned that there are few men going for occasional fruit picking overseas.

Priority needs:

a) Water

Water is scarce in the community. There are households that have old water tanks with water mainly for drinking. Few households still maintain old square tanks with no lid, just collecting water for other household use.

There is no community water.

b) Special Managed Area (SMA)

The OIC Fisheries discussed their application for SMA. As a result, the community gave their full consent on the project. Furthermore, the Town Officer informed us that in the meeting with the neighbouring village of Kapa, Kapa gave their consent and the go ahead for this initiative.

c) Wharf

The wharf needs improvement.



Figure 6: Wharf

d) Road

There is a dirt road that goes uphill from where the wharf is, to the village. This is the only road used for transportation and evacuation. When it rains, it is difficult for the transport. Soil erosion is causing the road to be muddy during rainy season.

2.4. Lape Island

The consultation meeting was held at Lape at the FWC Hall. There were 7 people attending the 'fono' conducted by the Town Officer, Mr Kaveinga Tukuafu. Out of these 7, there were 4 women and 3 men. The District Officer was also present in the meeting.



Figure 7: Lape Island



Figure 8: Improved wharf

Table 4: Figures from 2011 Census

Results	2011 Census
Population	24
Number of Households	6
Number of Males	13
Number of Females	11
Population change in numbers	-3
Population change in %	-11.1
Annual growth rate	-2.4

According to the Town Officer, the household has increased to 8 with a total of 29 people.

Churches

There is Free Wesleyan Church in the island.

School

The GPS Lape consists of 14 children and 1 teacher.

Livelihood

The common livelihood in this small island is fishing, agriculture and handicrafts.

Priority Needs:

a) Water

The households are using tanks for water collection from rain. During drought periods, water can be scarce.

b) Special Management Area (SMA)

It was expressed that there is a need for SMA in the island for tourism and livelihood. An application was submitted to the Fisheries Division for funding. As a result of the consultation, the people gave their full consent to participate in the project's activities.

2.5. 'Utungake Village

A consultation meeting was held at the FWC hall. About 30 men attended including Town Officer, church ministers, teachers and youths.



Figure 9: Town Officer conducting the meeting

Table 5: Figures from 2011 Census

Results	2011 Preliminary Count
Population	311
Number of Households	57
Number of Males	151
Number of Females	160
Population change in numbers	-18
Population change in %	-5.5
Annual growth rate	-1.1

It was confirmed by the Town Officer that there is an increase from 57 households to 58.

Churches

There are four religions in the community, namely FWC, LDS, Church of Tonga and SDA.

School

There is a GPS 'Utungake, with 3 teachers and about 60 children.

Livelihood

Men go fishing and farming for livelihood, while women weave for own obligations or exchange with money from relatives and friends from overseas. This money helps with the children's education, improving housing and with other family, churches and community obligations.

Priority need:

a) Special Management Area (SMA)

The OIC Fisheries discussed the application letter for SMA in the community. There was a strong feeling from elderly men that there should be another meeting for all to hear and decide. However, those that attended basically agree pending the next meeting. The party from Fisheries agreed that they can conduct another meeting the next day and report back. The meeting was held the next evening and they agreed to participate in the SMA activity.

2.6. Talihau Village

A consultation meeting was held at the community hall. Fifteen people attended including the Magistrate Judge, Mr Paula Tatafu, Reverend, District Officer and Town Officer. Out of this fifteen, there were 14 men and 1 woman.

According to the Town Officer's recordings, Census of 2006 and 2011 Preliminary Count, the figures show an increase in numbers:

Results	2011 Preliminary Count
Population	218
Number of Households	34
Number of Males	109
Number of Females	109
Population change in numbers	2
Population change in %	0.9
Annual growth rate	0.2
Population	235
Number of Households	40
Number of Churches	3 Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga Mormon
Number of Schools	1 GPS Nga'unoho 3 teachers 50 children

Referring to the priority needs of the village, water harvesting was strongly expressed by the people of the community. There are 11 households with no water tanks. However, the community water is working fine.

Men go fishing and farming for livelihood, while women weave for own obligations or exchange with money from relatives and friends from overseas. This money helps the children's education, improve housing and other family, churches and community obligations,

The OIC Fisheries discussed the SMA activities for clarification. There were discussions on the establishment of SMA in the community. Discussions were on size of the area and potential creation of social problems of theft. As a result, the community decided to defer this activity until such a time people are ready to take it up.

2.7. Island of Taunga

A consultation meeting was held at the Taunga residence at Pangai. It was possible to conduct this meeting because most people from the island are in the town. There were 14 people attended including the Town Officer and the FWC Reverend (8 women and 6 men).

According to the Census of 2006 and 2011 Preliminary Count the figures show an increase in numbers:

Results	2011 Census
Population	39
Number of Households	9
Number of Males	20
Number of Females	19
Population change in numbers	-7
Population change in %	-15.2
Annual growth rate	-3.3

Referring to the priority needs of the village, water harvesting was strongly expressed by the people of the community. It was requested that corrugated iron roofing to the water tanks be included in the project under the Climate Change Trust Fund (CCTF).

From Mondays to Fridays parents go to Neiafu mainly for children's schooling, working and other duties to perform. Those that are staying behind go fishing and farming for livelihood, while women weave mats for income and other obligations.

The meeting agreed to move forward with the SMA activities after the OIC Fisheries discussed the activities involved. The argument between Taunga and Pangaimotu on the location was solved by Cabinet granting the license to the community. The community is prepared to begin the activities when ready.

2.8. 'Utulei Village

Town Officer of 'Utulei did not know about the application for the SMA. It was handled by the outgoing Town Officer. As a result, the Town Officer is not prepared to discuss the topic and therefore preferred to put it on hold.

Results	2011 Census
Population	132
Number of Households	26
Number of Males	71
Number of Females	61
Population change in numbers	24
Population change in %	22.2
Annual growth rate	4.0

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the following sites be approved for funding:
 - a) Hunga Is
 - b) Lape Is
 - c) Falevai Is
 - d) Taunga Is
 - e) 'Utungake community
2. That Talihau community be deferred.
3. That 'Utulei community be on hold.