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THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE PLUS INITIATIVE



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## SCALING UP PACIFIC ADAPTATION (SUPA)

### Tonga Climate Change Awareness Week 2020

### Report: Coastal clean-up and tree planting



Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique



**SPREP**  
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme



**USP**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE  
SOUTH PACIFIC

## Hihifo communities support coastal clean-up and tree planting



Approximately, 200 people joyfully participated in a half-day coastal clean-up campaign and tree planting activity in Hihifo (Western Tongatapu) on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 to commemorate the Department of Climate Change “National Climate Change Awareness Week” that ran from the 20<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

With the program commencing at 7am in the four coastal villages of Kolovai, ‘Ahau, Kanokupolu and Ha’atafu, the campaign was led by the Chair of the Tonga Parliament Climate Change Standing Committee, also Tongatapu No.5 People’s Representative to Parliament, Mrs. Losaline Ma’asi, Director Climate Change, Lu’isa Tui’afitu-Malolo and the Hihifo District Officer, Sione Manumanu.



**MP. Losaline Ma’asi and her tree planting team at ‘Ahau**

Also represented were staff from the Department of Climate Change, Department of Environment, Division of Natural Resources and Ridge to Reef Project, Tonga Development Bank, Tonga Development Community Trust (TDCT), Live and Learn Tonga, Tonga Youth Council, Fo'ituluta Women's Group, Tongatapu No.5 Youth Council members and residents of the four communities.

MP. Ma'asi commented "This is amazing to see that many people from different places in Tonga assemble here early in the morning to collect rubbish. Wow! Thank you for this great initiative and support."



The amount of trash collected from this 4km distance of coast was staggering. Trash included plastic bags, tyres, plastic bottles, beer bottles, aluminum cans, fishing nets, shoes, clothes, Styrofoam, plastic spoons, forks and knives, timber, fridge, washing machine, used nappies and so much more.

There were more than 80 coastal vegetation plants such as *fotulona*, *fao*, *touhuni*, *telie*, *feta'u* that had also been planted and distributed amongst the community members to plant in their home yards or along the coast.



The Director Climate Change, Lu'isa Tui'afitu Malolo expressed her heartfelt gratitude for the overwhelming support from the community, other government departments, NGO's, Women's groups, Youth groups and all those who participated.

"I was actually overwhelmed with the support that we witnessed today. I was even astonished with the amount of trash collected. Five fully loaded trucks of trash is a huge amount of rubbish collected within a short span of time", said Mrs. Malolo.

The GCCA+ SUPA Project Coordinator, Manu Manuofetoa commended the leadership showed by women in these events particularly the MP. Losaline Ma'asi and Director Climate Change, Lu'isa Malolo.

"I must commend the efforts of women in these events. About 70% of the participants are women and I salute MP. Ma'asi and the Director Climate Change, Mrs. Malolo for their leadership and being a good role model for these women."



**Director Climate Change, Lu'isa-Tui'afitu Malolo (No.5 standing to the right) who was in charge of the Kolovai cleanup team**

The events were supported by the European Union funded and the Pacific Community implemented Global Climate Change Alliance Plus – Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) project. The project provided hand gloves, rubbish bags, water, and lunch for participants and fuel for trucks that were used to transport rubbish to the Tapuhia Landfill.



