



# Code of Practice for the Sustainable Management of the Forests and Tree Resources of Tonga





Government of Tonga

Code of Practice for the Sustainable  
Management of the Forests and Tree  
Resources of Tonga



National Code



Government of Tonga

Code of Harvesting  
Practice for the 'Eua  
Forestry Plantations  
2009



Code for 'Eua  
plantations

# Why do we need a code of practice?

- Forests and trees make a significant contribution to the economic, environmental and social well-being of all Tongans.
- Forests and trees enhance the natural beauty of our islands and provide many benefits, including-
  - providing shade and shelter for our crops,
  - protecting our coastline and sensitive areas from erosion,
  - providing habitat for many species of plants and animals
  - supplying us with timber, food, medicines and other traditional products for economic, social and cultural use
- Forests and trees store carbon and have an important role to play in mitigating the effects of global climate change
- It is therefore important that they are managed in a sustainable manner for both current and future generations.

# Contents of the National Code

1. Clearing and harvesting trees
2. Planting and managing trees
3. Construction and maintenance of roads
4. Mining and the removal of sand and other materials
5. Rubbish
6. Fire protection
7. Safety

# 1. Clearing and harvesting trees





# Vegetation in Reserves and Mangrove Forests



- No trees or vegetation should be cut or removed in reserves and mangrove forests
- Trees or vegetation that are damaged by natural events such as hurricanes may be cut and removed only if authorised by a permit issued by the Forestry Division
- Any trees removed from reserves should be replaced by replanting or promoting the natural regeneration of local species.

# Secondary growth of native species in allotments



- Seek advice from the Forestry Division on the potential commercial or conservation value of the trees before clearing
- High value timber species should be utilised for timber production
- Where possible, retain individual trees to maximise their future commercial value
- Only low value species and residues should be used for firewood
- Replant high value species along boundary rows or under agroforestry systems.



# Coconut timber

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- A photograph of a coconut grove. In the foreground, a brown cow is grazing on green grass. Several tall coconut palm trees are scattered across the field, some with fallen trunks on the ground. The background shows a dense line of palm trees under a clear blue sky.
- Check with the Forestry Division on the marketing opportunities for your coconut wood
  - Consider replanting new coconut seedlings after any harvesting of old trees.



# Trees planted in allotments



- Landholders who wish to cut trees from allotments should first note the type and size of the species present and seek advice from the Forestry Division on the potential commercial or conservation value of the trees.
- After harvesting consider replanting to provide an ongoing source of trees for shelter, timber and firewood.



# Sandalwood

Sandalwood has been overcut and it has little future in Tonga without a process to regulate the cutting of sandalwood and promote new plantings.

The Code proposes a system of regulation to encourage the development of a sustainable valuable resource.





## 2. Planting and managing trees





- Seek advice from the Forestry Division on the selection of suitable species
- Obtain good quality nursery seedlings
- Seedlings should be well watered and planted as soon as possible after receipt from the nursery.





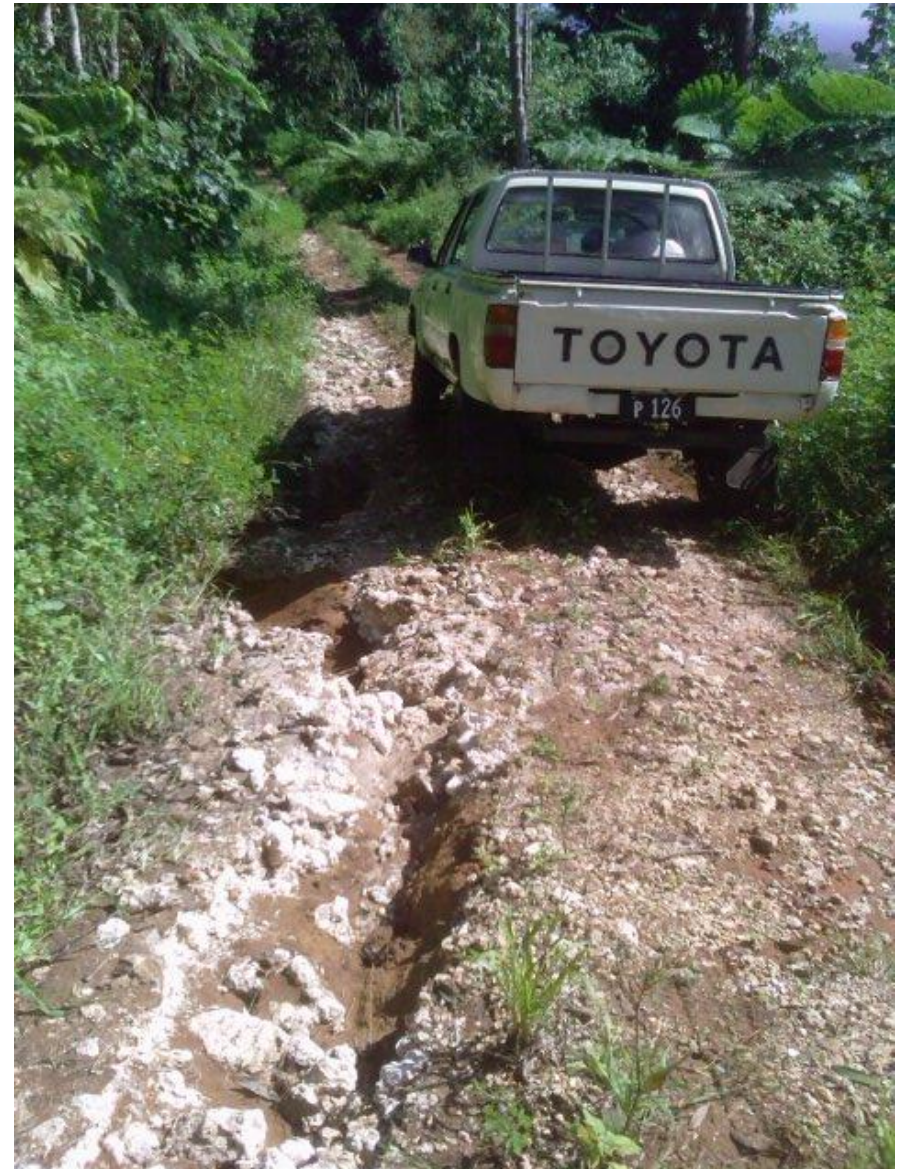
- Thin and prune to produce straight, clear logs
- Avoid damage to trees.



### 3. Construction and maintenance of roads



- Avoid roads in sensitive locations
- Maintain roads to prevent erosion.





## 4. Mining and the removal of sand



- Avoid mining in coastal dunes and mangrove swamps
- Rehabilitate all mined areas.

## 5. Rubbish



- Rubbish should not be dumped or burnt in the forest.
- Spillage during refuelling or machine maintenance must be avoided by locating maintenance areas on level ground well away from streams and drains.



## 6. Fire Protection



Avoid damage to trees and other assets



## **7. Safety**



# Tree felling has a very high injury and fatality rate

Victoria Australia, 16 years to 2007-

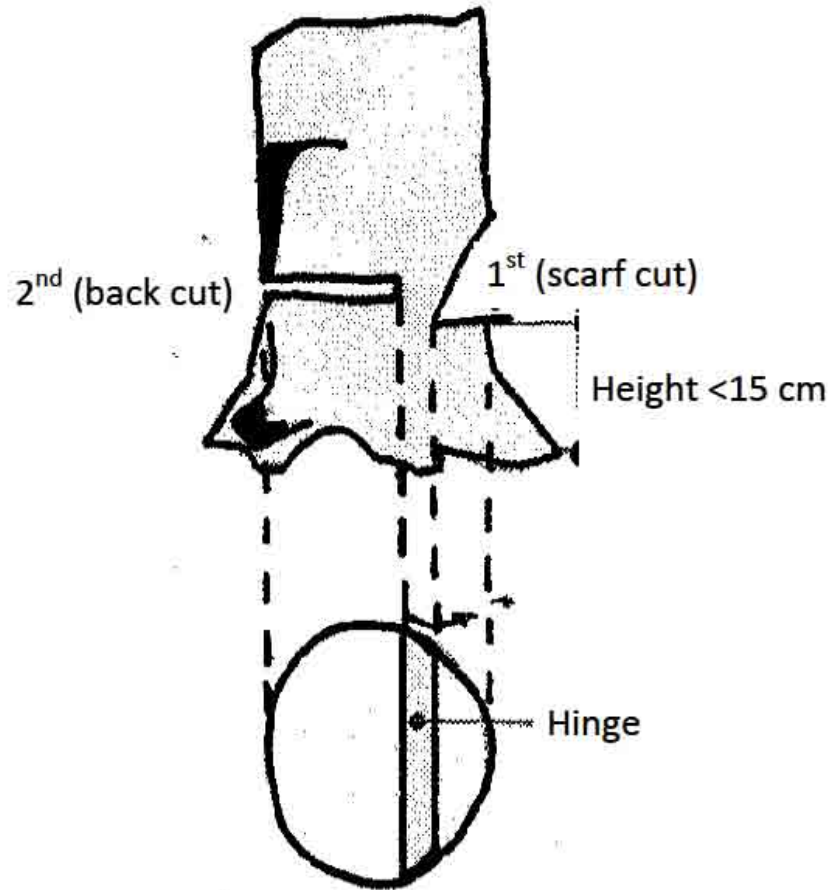
- 62 deaths from tree felling
- 70% were occasional chainsaw users
- 30% professional operators.











- Directional felling
- Personal protective equipment
- Machines well maintained.



# Principles of Code implementation

- 1. Focus on training and education**
- 2. Monitor and report on standards**
- 3. Introduce regulation as required.**

Thank you

