Welcome to the Workshop

Code of Practice for the Sustainable Management of the Forests and Tree Resources of Tonga
The Forests and Tree Resources of Tonga
Agroforestry
Carbon storage
Timber
Non-timber forest products
Aesthetics
Coastal protection
Biodiversity
Global threats to trees and forests
Current situation

High volume of coconut

Low processing capacity

Low volume of high value species

Low value- adding
Tonga’s forest and tree resources

1. Coconut woodland
2. Forestry plantation
3. Agroforestry plantings
4. Natural forests
5. Sandalwood
6. Firewood
1. Coconut

- Vast resource/ good quality timber
- The number of coconuts declined by 27% across Tonga from 1980 to 1996 (40% loss on Vava’u; 36% loss on Tongatapu; 10% loss on Ha’apai)
- Much is approaching senility
- Limited processing of timber
- Significant potential for sawmilling for domestic and export markets.
2. Forestry plantation

- 500 ha on ‘Eua
- Excellent quality forest
- Low level of utilisation and management.
3. Agroforestry plantings

- Trees provide benefits for crops
- Tree quality is high but the volume is low
- Not realising maximum potential economic value.
Healthy crops under partial forest cover (Tongatapu)
4. High value timbers

Mahogany
Red Cedar
• Red cedar rough sawn boards worth AUD 4,500/m³ in Australia but much of the resource is currently being used for firewood or low quality purposes.
Kauri Pine
Sandalwood

- Tonga has great potential to grow a high value resource
- More regulation is needed for sustainable harvesting.
Natural forests

- Inaccessible areas important for the conservation of biodiversity and soils

- Secondary growth on allotments potential value for biodiversity and sustainable production of wood and other products.
• Loss of natural vegetation can occur rapidly through hurricanes or gradually through the encroachment of allotments.
• Mangrove swamp forests are damaged by sand mining, roads and timber cutting.
Firewood

Firewood is plentiful in some areas but very scarce in others.
Forestry expertise

- Forest nurseries
- Tree planting
- Tree management
Options for the future

1. Increase the forest and timber resources of Tonga
2. Improve the value of the wood resource to the land owners
3. Protect reserves and sensitive areas.
4. Increase capacity to process timber for local use
5. Increase the options for producing higher value products from the timber resource.
Thank you