

**GEF-SGP Projects:
Community-Based Resource Management of Coastal Special Management Areas (SMAs)**

Two Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) projects are currently underway for the SMA communities of 'Atata and Ovaka. These projects were officially launched in 2011 by the Honorable Minister for MAFFF, Lord Vaea in 'Atata and the Honorable Acting Prime Minister, Samiu Vaipulu in Ovaka.



Hon. Samiu Vaipulu at Ovaka's launch



Lord Vaea (Minister MAFFF) and Dr. Matoto (Director MAFFF) at 'Atata launch

Both SMA communities, through their Coastal Community Management Committees, take the leading role in managing and implementing their respective projects, with the close assistance of the Fisheries Division. The projects aim to strengthen 'Atata and Ovaka's management capacity of their coastal SMAs and continue to enhance conservation and sustainable use of their coastal marine resources. Specific undertakings include training sessions on marine conservation and management, fisheries compliance and enforcement, good governance as well as technical assistance through the re-deployment of boundary markers and restocking activities in their Fish Habitat Reserves. Promoting alternative livelihoods is also a significant component of the projects.



Each project was granted a total funding assistance of USD\$48,000 to be implemented over the next two years. The projects were made possible through collaborative efforts between the SMA communities, the Fisheries Division and the Civil Society Forum of Tonga. It is anticipated that additional SMA communities, such as Felemea in Ha'apai, will take part in similar GEF-SGP projects in the very near future.