



Ramsar Sites Information Service

Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

Samoa

3 Ramsar Site(s) covering 5,767 ha

Lake Lanoto'o

Site number: 1,412 | Country: Samoa | Administrative region: Apia

Area: 470 ha | Coordinates: 13°54'18"S 171°50'02"W | Designation dates: 10-07-2004

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Lake Lanoto'o. 07/10/04; Tuamasaga; 470 ha; 13°54' 18" S, 171°50' 02" W. National Park. The Ramsar Site lies in the central highlands of the main island of Upolu and consists of three small crater lakes, Lake Lanoto'o, Lanoata'ata and Lanoanea. The Lakes are among the few remaining near-pristine crater lakes in the Samoas biogeographic region. The Site is part of the larger catchment above the capital city, Apia, and covers an area of 8,500 hectares which includes its two sub-catchments, Vaisigano and Fuluasou. Lake Lanoto'o feeds the headwaters of the Fuluasou river system which is a very important source of water for Apia. The Lake also supplies water for the south-west side of Upolu. The Site supports endemic bird species such as the endangered Tooth-billed Pigeon (*Didunculus strigirostris*), and the endangered Mao (*Gymnomyza samoensis*), as well as the Samoan Starling (*Aplonis atrifusca*), Samoan Whistler (*Pachycephala flavifrons*), Samoan Broadbill (*Myiagra Albiventris*) and Samoan Triller (*Lalage Sharpei*). The endangered Samoan Bush Palm (*Clinostigma samoense*) is also found at the Site. Land uses in the surrounding areas consist of cattle farms and small-scale plantations. Ramsar site no. 1412. Most recent RIS information: 2012.

O Le Pupū Puē National Park

Site number: 2,313 | Country: Samoa | Administrative region: Tuamasaga and Atua Districts on Upolu Island

Area: 5,019 ha | Coordinates: 13°59'S 171°43'53"W | Designation dates: 02-02-2016

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O Le Pupū Puē National Park was established in 1978 as the first National Park in the South Pacific region. It extends from the highest points of Upolu Island down to the rugged Le Pupū lava cliffs on the island's south coast. The Site is home to two montane herbaceous marshes as well as parts of Mataloa River and Vaalega River, all good representatives of such ecosystems in Samoa. The Park includes large tracts of forest dominated by native plants, and is considered as the island's best-preserved remaining tropical forest. It includes parts of the Togitogiga water catchment, the main water source for four villages, and also boasts waterfalls that are a prime tourist attraction. The Site is an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area as well as one of the eight terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas of Samoa. Its diverse habitats support four of the eight globally threatened bird species of Samoa including the critically endangered tooth-billed pigeon (*Didunculus strigirostris*) and the endangered mao (*Gymnomyza samoensis*), whose populations have severely declined in recent years. Very little is known about the freshwater biodiversity of Samoa; it is likely that the freshwater ecosystems in the Park support significant biodiversity. Several management actions are being undertaken to address the vigorous spread of invasive plants after the cyclones of 1990 and 1991 caused extensive damage to the lowland forests.

Vaipu Swamp Conservation Area

Site number: 2,530 | Country: Samoa | Administrative region: Vaa-o-Fonoti

Area: 278.3 ha | Coordinates: 13°57'39"S 171°34'27"W | Designation dates: 10-11-2023

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The Site lies in a secluded area within the Eastern Upolu Catchments Key Biodiversity Area. It features the largest remaining swamp forest in the country with a mixture of lowland rain forest areas, which are important carbon sinks. It hosts diverse native plants and animals, many of which are threatened or endemic to the region, including the critically endangered tooth-billed pigeon (*Didunculus strigirostris*) and the endemic snails *Eua expansa*, *Samoana conica* and *Succinea putamen*. Some of the dominant native tree species such as the Polynesian chestnut (*Inocarpus fagifer*) and fasa (*Pandanus turritus*) are specifically adapted to areas with standing water. The immediate surroundings of the Site have remnants of the ancient villages of Vaigafa and Mauga o Alii, which are important for local tourism. Resources provided by the Site include fisheries and non-timber forest products. Some major threats include invasive species, cattle grazing and hunting, while possible hydropower development could threaten the Site in the future. Collaborative management efforts with the local landowning communities are ongoing, which are essential to ensure its long-term conservation.