



STOCKHOLM+50 – SAMOA NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS CONCEPT NOTE

1. Background Information

The 1972 United Nations Conference on the Environment which was held in Stockholm, Sweden was the first world conference to make the environment a major issue. The participants adopted a series of principles for sound management of the environment including the Stockholm Declaration and Action Plan for the Human Environment and several resolutions.

The Stockholm Declaration, which contained 26 principles, placed environmental issues at the forefront of international concerns and marked the start of a dialogue between industrialized and developing countries on the link between economic growth, the pollution of the air, water, and oceans and the well-being of people around the world. One of the major results of the Stockholm conference was the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

On 2 and 3 June 2022, a crucial international environmental meeting will be held in Stockholm, Sweden. Anchored in the Decade of Action, under the theme “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity,” this high-level meeting will follow months of consultations and discussions with individuals, communities, organizations and governments around the world.

Stockholm+50 will commemorate the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Environment and celebrate 50 years of global environmental action. By recognizing the importance of multilateralism in tackling the Earth’s triple planetary crisis – climate, nature, and pollution – the event aims to act as a springboard to accelerate the implementation of the UN Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals, including the 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement on climate change, the post-2020 global Biodiversity Framework, and encourage the adoption of green post-COVID-19 recovery plans.

Stockholm+50 will also be an occasion to raise awareness about the importance of protecting our planet. It sets a path for us to overcome the triple planetary crisis of climate change, of nature and biodiversity loss, and of pollution and waste.

the global orientation meeting conducted virtually, data requested by the organizers is filled and sent. Orientation on the national consultation is also given for the national stakeholders selected from different institutions.

A series of virtual and in-person meetings has been conducted in due course of selecting the thematic areas and sub-topic by engaging relevant stakeholders from government, UN agencies and different development partners.

2. The Mandate

For the Stockholm+50 International Meeting, the United Nations General Assembly, through its resolution 75/2801 of 24 May 2021, decided to convene an international meeting in Stockholm on 2 and 3 June 2022, to commemorate 50 years since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. The United Nations General Assembly agreed on the theme of the international meeting “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity”, and decided to organize collaborative and multi-stakeholder discussions at global, regional and national levels, around the following leadership dialogues: • Leadership dialogue 1: Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity of all. • Leadership dialogue 2: Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). • Leadership dialogue 3: Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.

These dialogues are expected to contribute to the international meeting by yielding clear and concrete recommendations for action at all levels, including through strengthened cooperation. All relevant stakeholders – including organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, and other interested international bodies and nongovernmental organizations (i.e., organizations with “an interest in the field of the environment, civil society organizations, indigenous peoples’ organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the youth, the private sector and philanthropic organizations”) are invited to contribute to the discussions of the international meeting and their preparation.

As per the United Nations General Assembly resolution 75/326,2 UNDP has been mandated to coordinate the National Consultations in more than 50 countries around the globe including the Independent State of Samoa where the UNDP Samoa Multi-country offices is located, as part of the preparatory phase to the Global Conference to give a voice to stakeholders around the world. These preparatory phases preparatory phase is framed around three organizing principles of engagement: intergenerational responsibility, inclusive participation and interconnections, and implementation opportunities.

3. Objectives of the National Consultations

The Stockholm +50 national consultations will be conducted in 58 countries between February and May 2022 with the financial support from the Government of Sweden and with facilitation of UNDP & UNEP. Samoa is one of the 58 countries selected for the national consultation. These consultation outcomes including the national consultations to be organized in Samoa will inform the Stockholm +50 international meeting through national reports and a global synthesis report that captures key findings, recommendations, data, media coverage, and links to national policy frameworks such as NDCs, NAPs, NBSAPS, green recovery, and sector strategies.

The objectives of the global set of national consultations are to:

- Stimulate inclusive debates on Stockholm+50 Leadership Dialogue themes.
- Build a shared global vision on how to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity and accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and Multilateral Environment Agreements through an inclusive green recovery.
- Offer clear recommendations for governments, civil society and private sector that advance national and sectoral policies that integrate climate concerns and Nature-based solutions including through NDCs, NBSAPS, Green Economy/Green Recovery and SDG frameworks.
- Amplify the voices of the poor and other marginalized groups; and
- Influence local and global debates that consider the perspectives of all stakeholders.

With the national consultations in Samoa, Stockholm+50 will complement the important spaces that have been created for discussing and resolving climate, nature and pollution challenges. Its central value added goes beyond aggregating the insights and decisions from these political processes: it represents a chance to think and act beyond the silos of individual challenges towards a systemic approach, one that builds on existing initiatives and agreements and that takes them one step forward – marking a milestone on how we conceive and deliver on human well-being, capabilities and freedoms by focusing on the needs of the human environment in the 21st century.

To make progress, we need to break down the challenge of navigating towards the next 50 years into manageable sets of actions. The process around the leadership dialogues and stakeholder consultations will provide the focus and bring together the actors necessary to highlight the actions required for a healthy planet, connecting existing agreements and political commitments arising out the key global processes to address the triple planetary crisis.

4. Prioritized Thematic Areas and Sub-Topics for Stockholm + 50 National Consultation in Samoa

The following is a list of thematic areas and subtopics for Stockholm +50 of which of will be having speakers and sub dialogue conversations at various stakeholders' webinars and National Conference in Samoa during April and May 2022. Speakers and Panelists for each webinar and for the National Conference remain to be arranged and finalized.

Leadership Dialogue 1: Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity of all, where aspirations and rights can be fulfilled and which focus on the need to live in harmony with nature²⁶, ecosystems restoration, including how we measure and define wealth and prosperity, and integrate human development and planetary pressures with a focus on gender equality, social equity, ecological security, innovation, lifestyles and youth. In short, this leadership dialogue will focus on transformative actions, moving beyond incremental change to systemic change, where the ambition is to redefine our relationship with nature by taking further steps to achieve net-zero carbon, nature-positive, and zeropollution societies.

Key Focus areas of discussion will be:

- National overview of progress towards achieving environmental dimension of the SDGs
- Challenges and systematic barriers for implementation as well as inclusive participation
- Actions (best practices for replication and scaling up, solutions, pledges, initiatives).

Leadership dialogue 2: Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, with a focus on actions needed to recover and build forward from the pandemic and its adverse impacts on people, planet and prosperity; and to put the world back on track to deliver on the 2030 Agenda. This could be through a focus on sectors most affected by COVID-19, through rethinking financing, social protection schemes for the informal sector, policies for circularity and sustainable consumption and production, digitalization, where job creation, skills building, and capacity enhancement form a central part of the just transition for all countries and in particular for the poorest and most vulnerable. To summarize, this is where the short-term actions needed to recover and build forward from the pandemic are brought together to rebalance development to address inequity, wasteful consumption, unequal opportunity, and relations with nature, building on the various global ongoing global and regional processes of 2021/22.

Key Focus areas of discussion will be:

- Sustainable agriculture practices
- Food security
- Green jobs

Leadership dialogue 3: Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of Sustainable Development in the context, of the Decade of Action. This dialogue will focus on multi-level governance, institutions, multilateral frameworks, and commitments highlighting accountability, accessibility, and incentives necessary to go from commitment to action, focusing on showcasing concrete benefits at country level. It will focus on aligning private

and public agendas, including financial, economic, normative, and others; thinking around global public goods; and where innovative financing and capacity building opportunities can be explored to strengthen institutions, human capabilities and the infrastructural foundation for a more equitable, resilient and sustainable transition to a healthier planet leaving no one behind. In short, this leadership space is about focusing on the means to implement commitments and actions, ensuring delivery on the 2030 Agenda, the Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement and the national implementation plans of the emerging Global Biodiversity Framework through a renewed engagement with a multilateralism, that is inclusive and networked, and that works for all.

Key Focus areas of discussion will be:

- Best practices for zero plastic pollution
- Innovation and circularity in the plastic sector
- Positive Behavioral change to climate change

5. Conclusion

The overarching focus of the Leadership Dialogues will be on the implementation of tangible, value-added actions and deliverables toward a healthy planet, a sustainable and equitable recovery, and achieving the 2030 Agenda. Intended for governments and non-state actors, they will aim to reduce gender, income-based and other forms of inequalities and especially benefit poor and vulnerable groups.

The Dialogues are expected to establish the timeframe for ambition beyond the 2030 Agenda, and, through this lens, identify the most urgent actions to put the world on a pathway to realize longer-term ambitions. They will also aim to align Stockholm+50 and the Decade of Action with ongoing discussions to steward and address the health of the planet. Through its engagement, children and youth can provide a “contemporary” interpretation and commitment to these principles and, in turn, the outcomes of Stockholm+50 can be framed as a “promise” to future generations.

The Leadership Dialogues will also inform follow-up activities in the wake of the international meeting, including the possible launch of legacy initiatives designed to assist countries in accelerating progress on sustainable development priorities that contribute to a healthy planet for the prosperity for all. Summaries of the Leadership Dialogues will be included in the report of the international meeting.

With UNDP as focal point in implementing the program in Samoa, Sweden and Kenya as co-hosts, and partners across the globe, including UN agencies, local governments, cities, civil society, women, indigenous groups, faith-based groups, academia, children and youth, industry, finance, and philanthropic foundations, we seek an open architecture and an inclusive approach that reflects the richness and diversity of voices and perspectives to reimagine a common, prosperous future on a healthy planet.

Finally, these dialogues and consultations will also inform follow-up to the international meeting, including the launch of legacy initiatives designed to help countries accelerate progress on sustainable development priorities and move “from commitment to action”. Join us on this journey towards Stockholm+50 – and beyond.

6. Covid 19 – Level 2 – Impact on National consultations in Samoa

Due to the current State of Emergency caused by Covid-19 community infections in Samoa, as of 06/04/2022, the Government of Samoa has declared a State of Emergency to Level 2 in Samoa. As a result of the restrictions under Level 2, the national consultations will be conducted using online interactions through groups of stakeholders already identified to ensure inclusion and diversity of views across a whole-of-Samoa society approach. The coordinators are still planning for in-person final national consultation conference towards mid-May, and the number of invitees to this final event will be based on the level of restrictions under the Covid 19 SOE at that time. The following is the list of requirements on public gathering in Samoa during Level 2 - State of Emergency declaration:

Public gatherings in the context of Stockholm+50 consultations:

- (1) Public gatherings and events in most places accessible by the public are permitted on the following conditions:
 - (a) restricted to no more than 15 people.
 - (b) must be 12 years of age and above unless it is for the purpose of receiving the COVID-19 Vaccination.
 - (c) must show COVID-19 Vaccination card.
 - (d) observe social distancing.
 - (e) must wear face masks.
- (2) For the purposes of this Order, only authorized personnel and authorized vehicles are permitted on the road while this Order is in force after 2.00pm daily.

The feasibility of holding an in-person National Conference to conclude the consultations in mid-May will be re-assessed upon changes and amendments of the current State of Emergency notice from the Government of Samoa.

7. List of Samoa Stakeholder Groups

A tentative list of Samoa national stakeholders was drawn from information collected from various sources, including Ministries, UN agencies and partners. The list was used to complete a preliminary planning of targeted webinars to ensure inclusion and diversity and to give the opportunity for involvement and voices to as many people as possible in Samoa to contribute to the global consultations on Stockholm+50. The tentative list will be shared with partners to ensure as large number of stakeholders reached in each group.

The tentative stakeholder groups currently identified include the following:

- Development Partners (Donors/Diplomatic missions)
- Government ministries officials and staff in natural resources and environment,
- Government of Samoa SDG Task Force members
- UN organisations based in Samoa
- SPREP as inter-governmental organization
- Private sector and businesses members
- Non-governmental organizations (NGO) on environment and poverty alleviation
- Women organisations, associations and members
- Community-based Organisations including faith-based organisations with environment projects
- Youth Groups and University students

8. Tentative Timeline and Programme Schedule

Below is a tentative timeline and programme schedule for the list of events planned for the Stockholm +50 National Consultations. Details are as follows:

Date	Event	Details
29 th March to 11 th April 2022	Partnership engagement with Government of Samoa (MFAT/MNRE)	Discussions and meetings to set baseline for collaboration and partnership for implementation of Stockholm+50 consultations
13 th April 2022	Launching of Stockholm+50 National Consultations	Virtual launch of the Stockholm +50. <u>Tentative Key note speakers</u> MNRE Minister/CEO Sweden Embassy/Consulate UN Resident Coordinator UNDP RR
20 th April 2022	S+50 National consultations with Government officials, environment professionals, from MNRE core divisions and SDG Task Force	Virtual webinar to focus on environment and healthy planet stakeholders in close collaboration with MNRE Divisions and to involve the SDG Task Force. (Concept Note in preparation including keynote speakers on three Leadership Dialogues).
22 nd April 2022	S+50 National Consultation on with Samoa Development Partners, SPREP and UN agencies	Virtual webinar meeting coordinated in collaboration with SPREP and UNEP with development partners and UN agencies. (Concept Note in preparation including keynote speakers on three Leadership Dialogues).

25 th April 2022	S+50 National Consultation on S+50 with women groups	Virtual webinar meeting coordinated in collaboration with UN Women/MWCSD with members of various women associations and groups. (Concept Note in preparation including key note speakers on three Leadership Dialogues)
27 th April 2022	S+50 National Consultation with youth groups from University of the South Pacific (18-25) S+50 National Consultation with youth groups from National University of Samoa (18-25)	Virtual webinar meetings coordinated in collaboration with University of the South Pacific and National University of Samoa to focus on youth and students. (Concept Note in preparation including keynote speakers on three Leadership Dialogues)
29 th April 2022	S+50 National consultation on with Civil Society Organisations in Samoa, including both environment and poverty alleviation active NGOs	Virtual webinar meetings coordinated by UNDP Samoa with stakeholders from NGOs and Civil Society Organisations active in the environmental and SDGs implementation. (Concept Note in preparation including keynote speakers on three Leadership Dialogues)
3 rd May 2022	S+50 National consultation on with Community-based organisations (CBOs) involved in environment projects incl. faith-based organisations in Samoa	Virtual webinar meetings coordinated by UNDP Samoa – SGP-GEF Unit with stakeholders from Community-based organisations across villages of both Upolu, Manono and Savaii. (Concept Note in preparation including keynote speakers on three Leadership Dialogues)
6 th May 2022	S+50 National Consultation with stakeholders of the private sector and businesses in Samoa	Virtual webinar meetings coordinated by UNDP Samoa – in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce and other private sector organisations.

		(Concept Note in preparation including keynote speakers on three Leadership Dialogues)
13 th May 2022	National Consultation Final Conference (in-person event) (Final decision on virtual closing event pending change in Covid 19 - SOE levels)	In-person Conference event to conclude the National Consultations, including Samoa S+50 video presentation. (Concept Note in preparation including key note speakers, invitees and guests)
20 th May 2022	Submission of Samoa National Consultations Report on S+50 to Global Stockholm +50 team for forwarding to the Global Conference	Final Report submitted by Government and UNDP

For further information on the Stockholm+50 Samoa National Consultations please contact the UNDP National Coordinator at michael.noonan@undp.org and/or the Government of Samoa liaison officer (to be advised).