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### **American Samoa Government (ASG) Connects with Pacific Community (SPC)**



*[Left to Right: DMWR Director Taotasi Archie Soliai, National Parks Ranger Pua Tuaua, DYWA Director Salote Fanene-Aoelua, ASEPA Director Lefega Faamao Asalele, Chief of Staff Loa Tuimavave T. Laupola, SPC Polynesia Regional Director Elsie Fukofuka, SPC Programmes Officer Lupe Moala Tupou, ASCC Community and Natural Resources Director Aufa'i Apulu Ropeti Areta, Governor's Biodiversity Office Director Tavita Togia]*

[PICTORIAL] On Monday, October 7, 2024, American Samoa Government (ASG) representatives led by Chief of Staff Loa Tuimavave T. Laupola met with Pacific Community (SPC) Polynesia Regional Director Elsie Fukofuka and Programmes Officer Lupe Moala Tupou.

Director Fukofuka discussed the mission of the SPC Polynesia Regional Office in serving the community, sharing insights from her conversations with local leaders. She promoted the office's initiatives and stressed the importance of collaboration, saying, “We are eager to work with local stakeholders to enhance our support for the communities we serve.” She also highlighted potential opportunities for strong partnerships between the SPC and American Samoa, explaining how the SPC can support efforts to address economic and social challenges as a consultative and advisory body.

The meeting encouraged open communication, enabling ASG officials to share their insights and priorities. This ensured that the efforts of the Regional Office aligned with the local community's mission. Ms. Fukofuka's visit was a crucial step in strengthening the relationship between the SPC Polynesia Regional Office and American Samoa, highlighting the importance of collaboration in achieving shared goals.

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