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ASG Takes Steps to Protect Ecosystems with Executive Order to Amend Invasive Species Committee and Action Plan

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In a significant move to safeguard the territory’s unique marine and terrestrial resources, the Lemanu-Talauega Administration has issued Executive Order 010-2023, that amends the American Samoa Invasive Species Advisory Committee and the American Samoa Invasive Species Plan while repealing Executive Order 004 - 2016. This order underscores the territory's commitment to preserving its environment, culture, and economy.

Acting Governor Talauega E. V. Ale signed the executive order with the goal of countering the threats posed by invasive species to the territory. As the globalization of trade and travel accelerates, these non-native species pose a serious risk to native biodiversity, ecological cycles, and economic stability. Scientific research has shown that invasive species can have far-reaching impacts on forestry, agriculture, fisheries, public health, and food security, making the need for effective prevention, management, and monitoring strategies imperative.

“We need to take a proactive approach to managing invasive species to protect our territory’s rich biodiversity and support sustainable industries. Additionally, this order is not just about protecting our natural resources; it also helps preserve our way of life and our future,” stated Acting Governor Talauega.

The revised executive order establishes the American Samoa Invasive Species Advisory Committee, responsible for providing leadership, coordination, and direction in preventing, controlling, and eradicating invasive species within the territory. Comprising representatives from a variety of government agencies, institutions, and organizations, the committee will collaboratively address these challenges and develop strategies to mitigate their impact.

The Action Plan will include education and outreach initiatives to engage stakeholders and gather recommendations for funded projects. Compatibility with broader regional and international strategies will also be a key consideration, ensuring that American Samoa's efforts are aligned with global conservation goals. The committee will also seek funding through grants and encourage collaboration between government agencies, programs, and non-profit organizations to maximize resources and outcomes.

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