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CULTURE: Conserving it Together
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CONFERENCE PAPER ABSTRACT

NAME OF PRESENTER:	**Dionne Fonoti**
TITLE OF PAPER:	**"It takes a village": Community outreach and sustainable tourism in Samoa**
THEME:	*Theme 2: Cultural Landscape Practice and Management*

PAPER ABSTRACT:

Since early 2017 the National University of Samoa's Centre for Samoan Studies (CSS) has worked in concert with a trio of villages in the Palauli East district on the south coast of Savai'i island to survey and record ancient settlements in the upland areas of Vailoa, Vaito'omuli and Fa'aala. Under the auspices of the United States' Department of State's Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP), a team of CSS staff and students, armed with Samsung S6 smartphones, recorded over 500 house platforms, star mounds, earthen ovens, walls and walkways while surveying for three weeks, confirming that these were formerly areas of ancient settlement. In September 2017, CSS was awarded a new grant from UNDP's Global Environment Facility (GEF) to expand on the project started with the AFCP funding, and will now be able to help these villages develop heritage tourism sites that highlight this unique part of Samoa's history. This presentation/paper will share the results of the archaeological survey as it bridges in to this new GEF-supported eco-tourism venture, focusing on the importance of community engagement, technological innovations in archaeological methods and the implications for heritage management in Samoa.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRESENTER:

Dionne Fonoti is a lecturer at the National University of Samoa's Centre for Samoan Studies and has just begun research for her PhD in Cultural Anthropology at Victoria University Wellington, looking at how cultural heritage management is being negotiated in contemporary Samoan society. Fonoti is also a filmmaker and is currently producing a series of public service announcements on heritage for local broadcast.