

## SAMOA PROJECT FACTSHEET

# Enhancing resilience of coastal communities of Samoa to Climate Change



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

### AT A GLANCE

**Project title:** Enhancing resilience of coastal communities to climate change in Samoa

**Project Timeframe:** 2012 – 2016

**Total Budget:** USD \$8.04 million

**Beneficiaries/villages:** Targeted villages on Upolu, Savaii, Manono and Apolima islands.

**Funding Source:** Adaptation Fund (AF)

**Executing Entity:**  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE)

**Implementing entity:** United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

## CONTEXT/BACKGROUND

Samoa is a small island country in the southwest Pacific, comprised of four inhabited and six smaller uninhabited islands of volcanic origin. The total land area is around 2900km<sup>2</sup>. The two main islands Upolu and Savai'i are characterised as rugged and mountainous in which 46% and 70% of their respective land areas are covered in forest. Approximately 80% of the 403km coastline is 'sensitive' or 'highly sensitive' to erosion, flooding or landslips.

The population of Samoa is around 190,000 and about 70-80% of the population live on or near the coast. Over 50% of Samoa's population live in the Apia Urban Area in an area of 311km<sup>2</sup> (11% of total land area). The economy of Samoa is dependent on development aid, family remittances from overseas, agriculture and fishing. Only around 12% of the population is engaged in formal paid employment. Two-thirds of Samoa's potential labour is absorbed by subsistence village agriculture, a dominant sector in the Samoan economy.

Samoa is characterised by high rainfall and humidity, near-uniform temperature throughout the year, the dominance of the south-easterly trade winds and the occurrence of tropical cyclones (commonly between December and February). Annual rainfall is about 3,000mm with 75% of precipitation occurring between November and February.

A review of historical climate trends for Apia suggests that the daily maximum temperature increased by about 0.7°C over the 20<sup>th</sup> century while the daily minimum temperature increased by 0.2°C. Average annual precipitation decreased by about 49mm over that century.

## PROJECT SUMMARY

This programme was designed to have a holistic and country-wide approach to climate change adaptation in the coastal zones in Samoa. It will provide the vehicle to revise and implement the approved Coastal Infrastructure Management (CIM) Plans on the ground as a practical community based response to adaptation. The program will result in a "whole of country" adaptation response for coastal management at the nationwide scale. The implementation of appropriate responses will be supported by the programme through site specific design of adaptation interventions and active community engagement in the process.

The programme will serve to implement the CIM Strategy, originally prepared in 2000, and revised in 2006 to include specific reference to CC related issues. In particular the predicted hazard zones were reviewed against the NAPA data (2005) and inter-alia the Climate Risk Profiles (2007) and impacts from more frequent and intense cyclone events. There is an opportunity under this programme to consider the more detailed and updated climate change projections now available for Samoa. The Strategy has a key theme of "resilience", directing coastal adaptation to focus upon activities which will have a positive effect upon community resilience. It sets out a range of adaptation actions with preference for "soft" actions such as managed retreat over "hard" engineered solutions such as seawalls. The CIM Strategy has been endorsed by Cabinet as official Government policy with respect to coastal management.

The project has a 3 pronged approach:

- A main focus upon on-the-ground implementation of coastal adaptation measures, addressing climate change impacts on key infrastructure elements and coastal ecosystems in an integrated way. Integration is achieved within the framework of comprehensive village land use plan – the CIM Plan
- Strengthened institutional policies and capacities to provide an enabling environment for climate resilient coastal development
- The systematic capture and dissemination of knowledge and lesson learnt to aid and further inform implementation and pursuit of climate resilient development

The expected project outcomes are;

1. Strengthened awareness and ownership of coastal adaptation and climate risk reduction processes at community and national level in 25 districts and 139 village (initial allocated amount USD835,640)
2. Increased adaptive capacity of coastal communities to hazards, to adapt to coastal hazards and risks induced by climate change in 25 district and 139 villages. (initial allocated amount USD6,024,360)
3. Strengthened institutional capacity of government sectors to integrate climate and disaster risk and resilience into coastal management-related policy (initial allocated amount USD500,000)
4. Project management (initial allocated amount USD698,250)

#### Linkages with Related Initiatives, Policies, and Frameworks

The programme will enable the necessary technical and financial resources for this to be used in a programmatic manner which when combined with parallel complementary works through CRIP/PPCR will result in a 'whole of country' adaptation response for coastal management at the nationwide level. This programme is implemented in alignment with the Worldbank funded CRIP/PPCR. This is achieved through high-level co-ordination between the 2 programmes through the sharing of steering committee and the pursuit of coordinated and complimentary actions across the districts (16 targeted districts under the PPCR and 25 under the AF) supported by each programme and common process.

The key initiatives that this project will coordinate activities with include a number of GEF and LDCF funded initiatives like the GEF-UNDP Small Grants projects building capacity of local communities in Samoa as well as the GEF-UNDP regional "Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change" (PACC) Project where Samoa is implementing coastal adaptation measures.

This programme is in support of and consistent with all current policy formulation and implementation work being undertaken in Samoa. The activities of this project are in line with the Strategy for the Development of Samoa (SDS), whereby the Government of Samoa is committed to ensuring environmental sustainability and is reflected in the inclusion of Priority Area 4 with Key Outcomes 13: Environment Sustainability and 14: Climate and Disaster Resilience in the SDS 2012-2016.

#### KEY PROJECT COMPONENTS and EXPECTED RESULTS

KEY PROJECT COMPONENTS	Community-engagement in coastal vulnerability assessment, adaptation planning and awareness	Integrated Community-based Coastal Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management measure	Institutional strengthening to support climate resilient coastal management policy framework
EXPECTED RESULTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CIM Plans reviewed in 25 districts and updated to integrate climate change-induced disaster risk management principles, adopting a Watershed and 'Ridge to Reef' management approach</li> <li>• Village hazard zone relocation plans taking climate risks into account formulated in at least 15 villages in selected districts</li> <li>• Training delivered to at least 300 village leaders and CSO representatives in 139 villages on review of CIM plans and relocation planning process integrating climate risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate proofing measures implemented on coastal road and related infrastructure in at least 10 districts and 40 villages</li> <li>• Shoreline protection measures implemented in at least 10 districts and 40 villages.</li> <li>• Water supply enhanced to withstand climate change risks in at least 5 districts and 15 villages.</li> <li>• Flood protection measures are implemented in at least 5 districts and 15 villages</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revised national organization and institutional structures for CIM Plans implementation</li> <li>• Village hazard zone relocation handbook prepared to guide further relocation planning activities.</li> <li>• Regulatory procedures for physical works implementation revised with climate change risks integrated</li> <li>• Policymakers and technical officers in relevant ministries and authorities are training on climate risk assessment and planning processes for coastal adaptation</li> <li>• Adaptation lessons learned and best practices generated through the adaptation implementation and related policy processes are captured and disseminated nationally and globally through appropriate mechanisms</li> </ul>