

## SAMOA PROJECT FACTSHEET

# Economy-wide integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk management to reduce climate vulnerability of communities in Samoa (EWACC)



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

### AT A GLANCE

**Project title:** Economy-wide integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk management to reduce climate vulnerability of communities in Samoa (EWACC)

**Project Timeframe:** 2014-2020

**Total Budget:** USD \$12,322,936

**Funding Source:** Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF)

**Implementing Agency:**  
Government of Samoa: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE)

**Parallel Co-financing:**  
Cyclone Evan National Recovery Plan, Performance linked Budget Support from NZ, Australia, EU, MDB and Trade Sector support program. Total: US\$ 90 million

### CONTEXT/BACKGROUND

The Independent State of Samoa is a small island developing state (SIDS) located in the Polynesian region of the South Pacific. In 2012, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was estimated to be US\$683.7 million with a growth rate of 1.2%. The economy of Samoa relies strongly on agriculture, fisheries, development aid and remittances. The service sector – notably tourism – contributes 25% of the GDP. While agriculture only contributes ~10% of the GDP, the agricultural sector employs ~68% of the labour force – mostly in subsistence agriculture.

Samoa has a tropical climate with a rainy season from November to April, and a dry season from May to October. Average temperatures vary little with a typical daily range of 24–32°C. Severe tropical cyclones tend to occur in the period from December to February. The islands are also affected by dry spells that coincide with the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO).

Climate change in Samoa is expected to lead to: i) more frequent and extreme rainfall events; ii) more frequent and longer drought events; iii) increased air and water temperatures; iv) sea level rise; and v) more frequent extreme wind events. An extreme daily rainfall of 400 mm (currently a 60-year event) which will likely become a 40-year event by 2050. Similarly, an extreme six-hourly rainfall of 200 mm that is currently a 30-year event, will likely become a 20-year event by 2050. Furthermore, the CSIRO model projected an 8% increase in the wind speed for a 50-year storm by 2059.

Climate change is expected to affect all development sectors in Samoa. Some of the expected effects of climate change include: i) damage to infrastructure; ii) reduction of water quality and availability; iii) reduced productivity of agriculture and fisheries; iv) greater food and health insecurity; and v) increased poverty. The losses caused by climate-induced natural disasters illustrate the need for a coordinated response that protects the lives and livelihoods of affected communities.

The socio-economic development of Samoa is at risk from climate-induced natural disasters such as cyclones. This situation is exacerbated by inherent vulnerabilities related to *inter alia* the country's geographical position, small population and limited technical and institutional capacity. Without an economy-wide strategy to integrate climate change adaptation into development planning, Samoa will remain vulnerable to the expected effects of climate change. This will undermine GoS' capacity to deliver social and economic benefits to vulnerable communities. For this reason, a multi-sectoral and proactive approach is needed to reduce the risks posed by climate-induced natural disasters to Samoan communities. Following a programmatic approach to climate change is in line with the sector-wide approach adopted by the GoS in 2008 to promote sectoral planning and programming.

### PROJECT SUMMARY

This project aims to enhance a more efficient integration and management of adaptation and DRR/DRM into national development planning and programming and the resilience of communities' physical assets and livelihoods across Samoa to climate change and natural disasters.

This will be accomplished through three major components:

1. **Strategic integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk management in national policy frameworks and development planning through an economy-wide approach** (estimated budget: 825,000 USD): this component will result in CC adaptation, DRR and DRM mainstreaming in relevant policies, sectoral strategies, sub-national strategies and budgeting processes through enhanced coordination of government institutions and in increased public finance management at the national and village level, with stronger capacity to access, manage, implement and monitor use of climate change funds at the national and village level.
2. **Enhanced resilience of communities as first responders of climate change-induced hazards** (estimated budget: 10,560,000USD) this component will result in increased resilience, and decreased exposure and susceptibility of communities to climate change and natural disasters by protection of household and community assets and promoting resilient livelihoods and in CCA/DRR plans development and implementation
3. **Knowledge about CCA and DRR is captured and shared at the regional and global level** (estimated budget: 350,000 USD): this component will develop a knowledge management strategy, including national awareness campaigns and information sharing through existing international platforms and new multimedia platforms and a M&E system to strengthen institutional coordination and enhance the effectiveness of the interventions on adaptation with an economy wide approach.

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

This project closely aligns with efforts being undertaken for climate change adaptation and disaster risk management by the Government of Samoa, UNDP, NGOs, and other organizations. It will also bolster gender-sensitive national policies on sustainability by providing needed resources and livelihoods interventions to increase technical understanding and raise public awareness.



Impact of flooding in the Vaisigano catchment  
Credit: UNDP MCO

#### Internal and External Collaboration

This project will be implemented through the active engagement of the communities involved and various line ministries in the Government of Samoa as well as other development partners including JICA, AusAID, Secretariat of the Pacific Community and Conservation International. This will ensure cross-sector coordination for policymaking, capacity building, and implementation activities. Project-level activities will rely upon technical expertise at the regional and local levels. Descriptions and lessons learned from demonstration projects will be widely disseminated to local communities, national and regional stakeholders. Academia will also be informed about projects so knowledge is incorporated into relevant curricula.

KEY PROJECT COMPONENTS and EXPECTED RESULTS			
KEY PROJECT COMPONENTS	Strategic integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk management in national policy frameworks and development planning through an economy-wide approach	Enhance resilience of communities as first responders of climate change-induced hazards	Monitoring and evaluation and knowledge management
EXPECTED RESULTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate change adaptation mainstreamed into development and sectoral plans</li> <li>Institutional and operational frameworks for coordination of climate changes adaptation strengthened</li> <li>MoF and MNRE climate change units – as well as NGOs and village governance structures – have enhanced capacity to manage climate finance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrated watershed Management Plan for Greater Apia following “Ridge-to-Reef” approach</li> <li>Hard and soft measures for protection of community assets</li> <li>Sustainable micro-enterprises for youth and women on agro-businesses with a sustainable and resilient value chain approach to promote diversified livelihoods</li> <li>Building on the work of DMO, village plans designed and implemented to develop the capacities of 100 communities to prepare, respond, recover and manage CC risks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowledge about CCA and DRM is captured and shared at the regional and global level.</li> <li>Knowledge management strategy developed, including national awareness campaigns and information sharing through existing international platforms and new multimedia platforms</li> <li>M&amp;E system established to strengthen institutional coordination and enhance the effectiveness of the interventions on adaptation with an economy wide approach.</li> </ul>