

# Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

## National Report SAMOA

### I. Background

One of the key outcomes of the 2012 Rio+ 20 summit apart from the sustainable development goals was the the adoption of modalities at the 67th General Assembly for the convening in 2014 of a third international conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States will be held from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa. It will focus the world's attention on a group of countries that remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities. The Conference will seek to achieve the following objectives:

- a. assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation;
- b. seek a renewed political commitment by focusing on practical and pragmatic actions for further implementation;
- c. identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of SIDS and means of addressing them; and
- d. identify priorities for the sustainable development of SIDS to be considered in the elaboration of the post-2015 UN development agenda.

The United Nations General Assembly resolution called for "a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented political document." The small island developing States have also expressed their desire to highlight successful partnerships and areas of innovation. The preparations for this important Conference are currently underway now, starting with a robust, SIDS-directed, multi-stakeholder national preparatory process which will feed into regional meetings in July of 2013, followed by an inter-regional preparatory meeting scheduled for late August.

### 2. Introduction:

The national process focuses on consultations for the purpose of stimulating discussions among all stakeholders to garner inputs and ideas for a shared vision to the 'future we want'.

The UN SG report on accelerating progress towards the MDGs and the issues for advancing the post 2015 development agenda state "that the post 2015 development framework is likely to have the best development impact if it emerges from an inclusive, open and transparent process with multiple stakeholder participation"

In 2010, when Samoa was advised of its pending graduation out of LDC status in 2014, it then began a process of consultations with development partners as well as national stakeholders as to its approach towards a smooth transition strategy. The consultations agreed that a smooth transition strategy for Samoa take the following lines of action so that graduation will not have that adverse an impact:

- Continue to maintain and sustain macroeconomic stability

- Ensure policy coherence in the new Strategy for the Development of Samoa (2012-2015)
- Address institutional capacity constraints
- Improve aid management within the Paris, Accra and Busan Partnerships for development Cooperation
- Create an enabling environment for foreign direct investment and private sector development
- Maintain credibility in seeking assistance through recognition of SIDS status
- Mainstream climate change into the national development process

In 2011, the national development strategy SDS (2008-2012) was reviewed, and findings made available to and contributed to the discussions in the development of the current SDS (2012-2016). The final product was a result of country wide consultations involving focus groups, faith based organisations, private sector, civil society, parliamentarians and general public.

Reports on the progress of the implementation of the MDGs was widely consulted on at country level and at regional level out of which a Pacific regional MDG report is published annually. The updated reviews and reports prepared and implemented at sector level resulted in an accelerated program for the achievement of the MDGs that is integrated into the current national development strategy. The implementation of the MDG 8 for a Global partnership is a process that Samoa actively participates in not just in terms of activities at country level but also at the regional level and connecting to the global processes through its representation of the Pacific on the Steering Committee of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

Consultations at country level as well as at regional level including that for an appropriate Regional Framework have reconfirmed our priorities with regards climate change/disaster risk reduction issues and others that are common to the Pacific countries and would be best addressed through regional integration and cooperation.

Samoa also held consultations on its position in relation to Rio plus 20 and reconfirmed the innovative approach reflected in the current national development strategy whereby the three pillars of sustainable development have been integrated.

Samoa continues to consolidate its sector planning/programming approach to address its development agenda – this process is predicated on regular stakeholder consultations across the 15 sectors of the economy. This process provides from time to time what the priority needs are in each sector, strategies to achieve objectives, financing modalities and key indicators of sector performance. Much less acceptable to Samoa are consultative processes that are initiated by development partners after decisions have been made about design and implementation modality of activities that they wish to fund.

In April 2013, five focus group consultations involving 300 invited participants representing civil society, private sector, youth, parliamentarians and government officials took place to confirm that the Government is fully encompassing the principles of inclusiveness and human rights particularly with regards people with disability, children and gender equality.

Overall, in the lead up to the 3rd SIDS Conference including the national/regional preparatory processes, the consultative processes long preceded the decision made at Rio for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference. The outcomes of these consultations converge on those priorities already identified and reflected in the Strategy for the Development of Samoa (2012-2016).

### **3. Where We Are:**

In order to move forward it is important to look back and assess the progress to date in the implementation of the National Development Plan/Strategy, Barbados Plan of Actions (BPOA) and Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI), Rio plus 20, and achievement of the MDGs.

The following summarises some of the key points identified in a review of recent progress reports produced by the Government (extracts from these reports are attached as Annex 1).

#### **3.1 Progress and Gaps limiting implementation of BPOA, MSI and MDG Achievement**

While significant progress is reported in the review processes that have taken place under the BPOA, MSI and MDGs, there were a number of issues restricting progress and these included:

- Impact of the global food, oil and financial crises and natural disasters (tsunami and cyclones) have resulted in a growing number of people living below the basic needs poverty line which suggests a need to adjust economic policies to be more pro-poor as well as consider appropriate social protection measures
- A detailed analysis of the 2008 HIES results points to increasing proportion of the population living below the basic needs poverty line
- While progress was achieved in health and education service delivery along with significant investments in infrastructure there remain concerns over the quality of such services

#### **Progress has been made in strengthening national institutional frameworks and coordination between/among sectors**

- Over the last couple of decades there have been a range of institutional strengthening programmes implemented across the public sector to improve efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery; as well, a realignment of ministry responsibilities was designed to strengthen sector coordination.
- A three year medium term fiscal framework has been developed under a Public Finance Management Reform Plan, with all aid funding now on budget
- Sector plans have been completed for all but 2 of the 14 sectors – and all sectors are implementing sector programs which are mainly donor funded initially but are designed for eventual government take over.
- The impact of the 2009 tsunami provided the opportunity for a review of not only the early warning systems (including public awareness) but also the response mechanisms and robustness of the institutional measures. The 2012 cyclone was the opportunity to gauge how well the institutions adapted the lessons learnt from the 2009 tsunami.
- To minimize the impact of climate change on vulnerable villages and coastal areas, as well as infrastructural assets of the government, MNREM, MWTI and Land Transport Authority collaborated in the implementation of integrated mechanisms such as coastal protection construction or riverside protection infrastructure that are complemented by replanting programs

- Unit title legislation in 2009 helped facilitate financing packages of some large tourist facilities now operational or in progress. A program on the use of customary owned lands for development purposes has set up its institutional framework and started operations

**1. Integration of sustainable development principles mainstreamed into national development planning**

- Increased emphasis of sector wide approaches seek to ensure the integration of sustainable development principles
- Marine and terrestrial reserves have been established and coastal management systems implemented with the full participation of the communities they serve
- There has been a gradual shift towards a green growth policy

**3.2 Challenges**

- The 2012-2016 SDS notes that raising the quality of life for all in all sectors of the economy remains the most significant challenge
- The agriculture sector as a whole and agricultural export earnings in particular, have generally been weak
- Increasing gender based violence and limited participation of women in parliament
- High levels of NCDs and related health issues – as well as cost issues
- Low student school retention rates particularly at secondary level
- A lack of competitiveness in export trade due to supply side constraints, non-tariff barriers in the form of quarantine and conformance and a lack of awareness of market requirements
- The land tenure system can be a challenge to investors
- Limited statistics analytical capacity to inform use of survey results, datasets and census results restricts effective measurement of MDG targets and indicators

**3.3 Role of Partnerships**

- Samoa has an effective aid management/development partner arrangements, which are considered by many to be the most developed in the Pacific.
- The Government has established consultative arrangements with the private sector, civil society and parliamentarians which help to ensure participation of the broader community in discussions on the national development strategy.
- The Government has established a multi-donor civil society facility to support community identified priorities as well as a private sector support facility
- UNDP support for parliamentary strengthening is expected to enhance government accountability
- The development and implementation of Samoa's Aid Policy in 2010 has gone a long way in meeting commitments for mutual as well as domestic accountability
- The participation of the Government in the Forum Compact process in particular the peer review process both as a peer reviewer and being peer reviewed is a classic example of south south cooperation in the Pacific region. Samoa has been able to host other Pacific nationals work attachments within its government institutions for knowledge and experience sharing

- Government continues to work with its development partners to bring about co-financing of major infrastructure – it is considering the possibility of moving towards public private partnerships.
- Government also continues to work with other governments of the region in regional partnerships such as those for fisheries/oceanic resources and disaster risk facilities; however this relationship can only be strengthened when the regional framework (Pacific Plan) is more clearly defined and the processes involved clearly articulated

### **3.4 Current Priorities of the Government**

- Strengthening institutional and regulatory standards for macroeconomic growth and stability;
- Ensuring continued fiscal discipline and sound financial management;
- Generating private sector led investment and employment opportunities;
- Increasing agriculture contribution to development, in particular opportunities in niche markets;
- Improving access to technical and vocational training opportunities;
- Improving quality of education, and strengthening health promotion and primordial prevention;
- Integrating environmental sustainability, climatic resilience and disaster risk reduction at all levels of development.

### **3.5 Potential measures to address the challenges highlighted**

A review of the report findings suggests the need to strengthen measures to promote sustainable development recognizing the importance of addressing the interrelated pillars of inclusive economic development; environmental sustainable development; and inclusive social development. These measures could include:

- An increased emphasis on pro-poor economic policies and programmes to address inequality and targeting the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in the community; including through implementation of social safety nets and specifically targeted social and economic programmes
- Because MDG monitoring at the aggregate level can disguise inequality at sub-national levels or for certain groups in the population there is a need for more comprehensive analysis and design of measures to address the root causes. This is also important to identify why there is a slowing in progress for some MDGs
- Targeted programmes to address NCDs, student school retention at certain levels and gender based violence as broad community and social development issues and not narrowly defined as health or education issues
- Working with the Chamber of Commerce and other stakeholders including in the informal sector to implement youth employment programmes that build skills and promote financial literacy to address growing unemployment or underemployment in the population

- Increase the focus on expanding agricultural and fisheries opportunities to increase export trade and food security
- Respond to climate change and increased natural disasters through a fully integrated sector wide approach which sees climate change as a development variable impacting on all segments of the community and across all dimensions of the economy.
- Taking a transformational approach to address the issues of gender equality through consideration of the structural factors at the roots of these inequalities and deriving actions and initiatives to bring about lasting improvements
- Ensuring that there is a well resourced implementation plan for the national development strategy given that this constitutes an elaboration of a smooth national transition strategy for Samoa as it graduates out of LDC status. Consultations with its key development partners have taken place on ways by which they would support the implementation of the national sustainable development strategy within established partnership arrangements and the creation of potentially new ones.

The above measures all constitute work in progress and drive programs that are being implemented by the government and its partners.

### 3.6 **Lessons Learned**

- The most important theme that emerges is the need for poverty reduction based on a sustainable and equitable development agenda. The urgency of an appropriate post 2015 agenda is emphasized in the Asia-Pacific region, which despite having experienced rapid economic growth, still accounts for two thirds of the poor. There is thus the need for integrating and balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development; maintaining inclusive development at the core of the framework as well as attention to gender and other equality issues
- The post 2015 agenda is to remain growth focussed but with targeted support for issues that warrant special attention as well as prioritising the right to development for developing countries
- Effective development cooperation must be reform driven, government led and owned and inclusive
- Monitoring and an accountability framework are essential however; we are more for an arrangement that involves a shared vision, embody a sharing of obligations and responsibilities and consider commitments attractive enough to all partners to want to be part of it. Overall it should encompass principles of sustainable development and effective development cooperation. Monitoring should focus on post 2015 development agenda as a whole, the renewed global partnership that underpins agenda, and all partnerships at regional and country level.
- The Global monitoring framework for a renewed partnership has developed a set of targets and indicators that are proposed for use by countries and institutions that wish to use them in order to monitor commitments made at Busan; they are voluntary and contextualised as well as place greater emphasis on ensuring cooperation efforts have a catalytic effect on development.

- A renewed partnership must also support accountability in terms of implementation of commitments made in international fora and thus emphasizes behavioural change in development cooperation efforts expected to achieve results as in defined in country development strategies.
- While considerable progress has been made in structural reforms more remains to be done in areas of macroeconomic importance if we are to improve competitiveness and growth performance. The government will continue to work with its development partners to implement and review a matrix of joint policy actions to guide these reform efforts.
- Government is to consider a firm pathway towards green growth. While economic growth is a key factor in poverty reduction, it is imperative that consumer expenditure preferences be encouraged towards goods and services that do not entail environmental destruction in their production.
- Every opportunity be explored to enhance resilience to our many vulnerabilities as a small island developing state
- To improve public service delivery there is a need for both –a *holistic, top-down approach to improving government performance* which addresses the underlying whole of government performance coordination and management framework, and a *bottom-up service diagnostic* which provides the evidence on which factors within the governance and performance management framework are contributing to service delivery failure and require improvement.
- Given that the Pacific region is one of intensified south south cooperation, and one where most of the SIDS rely on aid for the implementation of their development frameworks, it is important that a regional framework be defined and a revised process for prioritisation be in place and that countries are clear about what is best addressed at country level versus regional coverage
- Subsequently the emergence of sub groupings in the region is important because they can provide the requisite support for the regional framework. Sub groupings can also result in better targeting of assistance as the idea of ‘one size fits all’ for the Pacific will not work
- It to complement is important to build on existing strengths of the Samoan people and culture. Traditional knowledge accumulated over many years of adaptation to life on small islands continue to determine much of the economic activities in the region. There is a need to explore opportunities to complement traditional economies in order to improve cash economies and provide new livelihoods without supplanting them.

### **3.7 Remaining gaps**

- Samoa continues to face the challenges of rising inequality- how to better target vulnerable groups, ensuring socioeconomic policies are pro poor and making the development process more inclusive and sustainable
- Finding optimal resource package as well as least cost options to finance a prioritised program of infrastructural developments

- Meeting a low carbon target by 2020 – selecting and implementing appropriate, efficient renewable energy options in order to minimise the costs of fossil fuels
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- Improved environmental sustainability and disaster resilience through Green Growth
- Addressing MDG targets for which Samoa is off target through a continuing program for the accelerated achievement of the MDGs
- Sustainable youth employment promotion and enterprise creation
- Exploring opportunities for further labour mobility outside of trade arrangements
- Improved social protection schemes
- Building resilience to multiple shocks which are becoming a new normal for the Pacific and for Samoa and a process which requires systems thinking, applying new and sophisticated decision making tools and overcoming inherent limitations in addressing risks and uncertainties.
- Meeting the challenge of rapidly increasing levels of non communicable diseases which will have major impacts on the health system, community mortality and morbidity and the economy of Samoa.

### 3.8 Areas where collaboration has worked or not worked between:

#### **1. Pacific Small Island Development States (SIDS)**

The Global Partnership Effective Development Cooperation focuses on gathering evidence through an agreed monitoring framework which is considered an important way to support high level political accountability at global level as well as at regional level – this is important for Pacific countries as we continue to work on a regional framework which among other things serves to connect the regional to not only national but also global processes.

It has never been a difficult task to define a Pacific position on global issues and to rally support from among the member countries. It is also a normal that when countries participate at international meetings, they would not only speak for their countries but also for the region. Similarly they would look to their regional organisations to provide technical backstopping for them.

Successful collaboration among Pacific SIDs is reflected in their participation in the peer review process of country systems and institutional frameworks and related reforms under the Forum Compact through south south cooperation for knowledge and experience sharing. This is also a good example of capacity development where countries cooperate in partnerships that are not of a financial nature.

In the area of trade, most of the countries of the Pacific have signed free trade agreements among themselves though implementation is still some way to go. The small islands states (SIS) have been able to collaborate to implement a common framework for projects including pooled resources where there is obvious allocative efficiency in grouping countries of similar size. There is agreement to pool resources for a common project such as in



renewable energy. A good example of regional collaboration that has worked is reflected in the regional educational institution of the University of the South Pacific despite the fact that some member countries have opted to set up national universities

Regional collaboration has not always worked particularly in service areas of transportation where a regional shipping line had failed and sold to one member country. Attempts to consider a regional airline service has also failed to work.

*ii. Other SIDS*

Collaboration with other SIDS has been facilitated through the African Caribbean Pacific secretariat in cooperation with the European Union under the Cotonou agreement. This has resulted in capacity building, knowledge sharing and interaction through subregional groupings financed by intra ACP funds.

Collaboration between Caribbean and Pacific SIDS has been facilitated through women's sports connections

There is proposed collaboration with Caribbean SIDs in the roll out of the Pacific peer review process which is held out as a good practice for knowledge sharing and south south cooperation

*iii. The international community*

Small developing countries with limited budgets cannot absorb the financial impact of natural disasters and nor are they in a position to arrange contingency credit or insurance. In January 2013, the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative was launched. The program which involves five Pacific SIDS including Samoa is funded by the Government of Japan which has placed catastrophe risk with four international reinsurance companies.

Getting access to international climate change financial resources including leveraging of new and additional financial resources are developments that vary from SID to SID and in the case of Samoa, it has been quite successful in getting climate change financing through opting to adopt multilateral accreditation systems rather than choosing to do this through a bilateral arrangement. Where co-financing arrangements are a prerequisite, this has been facilitated through good partnership relations with development partners and having the capacity to expedite proposals on a timely basis.

Effective coordination of development partners is key to effective development and Samoa has over the years built a robust framework including an Aid Policy with agreed targets, joint interventions such as policy based operations around the government's policy matrix altogether enable a consistent and focused policy dialogue with development partners. Through collaboration with the Integrated Framework for Trade related technical assistance, a Diagnostic Study including an accompanying action matrix was developed; further support from the Extended Integrated Framework in Geneva has assisted Samoa to face the challenges of integration into the World Trade Organization.

Successful collaboration has also been reflected in Samoa's contribution to and participation in UN peace keeping forces around the globe

**4. Moving forward:**

There are new and emerging challenges as well as opportunities for sustainable development with respect to the four pillars of sustainable development: inclusive social development; environmental sustainability; inclusive economic development; and peace and security<sup>1</sup>.

## **Emerging Issues**

### **1. Building resilience**

Multiple shocks that affect countries of the region including Samoa are increasingly interconnected and converging bringing about complex linkages. A framework for building resilience must address the root causes rather than addressing recurring crises and seek to rebalance economic social and environment systems. The framework must also be inclusive and meets the needs of the poor. The recurrence of shocks is seen as an opportunity for the government to re-enter economic social and environmental resources to build resilience

#### ***Pillar 1. coordinated investment in inclusive development.***

Macroeconomic policy coordination contributes to sustaining growth, reducing volatility and strengthening financial stability and builds overall resilience. Under the national development strategy, Samoa has set an agenda that prioritizes public investment in infrastructure, disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation hence targeting fiscal resources towards development that is based on resilience building. Central Bank of Samoa coordinates monetary and exchange policies that helps to prevent issues such as competitive devaluations. There is also strengthening of financial monitoring and surveillance.

Samoa through regional cooperation has also joined 4 other countries that they share common hazards with in risk financing, thus pooling resources and spreading risks across the group; in this way will governments feel less pressure to build up external reserves.

#### ***Pillar 2: Coordinated economic management***

Moderate growth and economic recovery though transient has not translated this progress into increased job security and livelihoods. Development thus needs to be more inclusive and build more resilient livelihoods. This will involve greater investment in education and health services that will lead to resilient human development which in turn entails establishing social protection floors. The disincentive to introduce a comprehensive social protection system is the risk that multiple shocks will result in surges in public expenditures at the same time that revenues decline. This could point to a multi country cooperative approach and the possibility of a regional social protection fund. The option is worth exploring under the 'revised' Pacific regional framework' and would work if there is regional solidarity

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<sup>1</sup> It is important that your report focuses on a few priority issues facing your country in each of the pillars. For each issue please discuss: a) Explanation of emerging issues identified, including implications for ensuring human rights, equity and sustainability and the post-2015 development agenda; b) Practical actions to address the emerging issues in your national context; c) Potential partnerships with other SIDS and/or with the international community to support practical actions to implement the priorities. For more information on the four pillars please refer to the diagram annexed to this template.

### ***Pillar 3; Sustainable resource management***

Crucial to food security is the capacity to sustainably manage water energy and land resources. Modern ICT are providing opportunities for building resilience. The Government is supporting the development of technological innovations that have yet to reach their peaks such as its efforts to access a second submarine fibre optic cable to increase bandwidth and connectivity throughout the country and with the outside world. In this connection the government is looking at close collaboration with the private and public sectors as well as regional cooperation with other Pacific SIDS.

The government continues to rely on its Central Bank to strengthen monetary and financial monitoring and surveillance so that there is opportunity to make early corrective policy recommendations. Because Samoa is in a disaster prone region, it needs to support people centred risk knowledge, monitoring and warning services and that the option to work in this area through regional cooperation merits consideration.

To ensure disaster preparedness, the government needs to be able to share relevant data, and continue monitoring and surveillance. Samoa's recent experiences with natural disasters has fostered a commitment to undertake damage and loss assessments for resilient recovery and reconstruction planning across all sectors as well as institutional reforms

Through coordinated macroeconomic management, Samoa will be in a stronger position to enhance investments in inclusive development through social protection measures as well as ensure sustainable resource management. Technological investments, pooling resources for better preparedness and having in place monitoring and surveillance systems will reinforce the roles of the pillars of resilience and in that way will enable Samoa to reduce risks to disasters and economic crises and address climate change concerns.

## **2. Growing inequality**

While Samoa enjoyed positive annual growth in the five years preceding the 2009 tsunami, Household Expenditure Income Surveys have demonstrated increasing inequality over the same period. Inequality reduces the poverty reduction impact of economic growth. Many studies have highlighted the fact that reducing income and social inequalities is important to increasing equitable, inclusive and sustainable development. Inequality of opportunity is also common in terms of physical assets, human capital such as education and health, market access and other public services. Disparities in access to social services are stratified more by area of residence than by gender.

### **Pillar 1: Coordinated economic management**

Inequality is exacerbated by the failure of fiscal policy to make the tax structure more progressive and providing for increased public expenditure in the provisioning of public services including social protection. Progressive taxation and social protection measures not only reduce inequality but also lessen vulnerability as they can act as stabilizers. The government therefore is looking at reform of the tax structure including raising efficiency in tax administration to complement an already broadened tax base in order to find drivers of growth. Because infrastructural deficits can be impediments to growth, the government has accorded priority to meeting these deficits in a progressive way with the support of the international community.

The neglect of the agriculture sector has weakened the sector's capacity to reduce poverty and inequality. The number of people whose livelihood depend on agriculture has not declined as rapidly as the sector's contribution to GDP which means that less income in agriculture is being shared by many more people. This is the trigger to the government's program for the revitalisation of agriculture at all levels of the value chain through increased investment, in research and development, improved extension services and an increase in agricultural credit

### **Pillar 2: Coordinated investment in inclusive development**

The share of the private sector in agriculture is low. Lending for agriculture by commercial banks is also low in response to low returns and lack of availability of collateral. The government has therefore had to play a much larger role to lift agricultural productivity by investing in research and development, rural infrastructure and extension services as well as improving access to education and health for improving human capital. Improvement in agricultural productivity is critical for enhancing food security, insulating communities against market volatility but also reduce poverty and inequality. Given the reluctance of the private sector to invest in agriculture, the government is look at ways to induce private investments through public private partnerships. As well it has engaged in stimulatory policies to provide a floor to constrained growth prospects.

### **Pillar 3: Sustainable resource management**

The use of natural resources rely heavily on the production of commodities and energy. While biomass accounts for a diminishing proportion of resource use, total extraction will likely increase to meet increasing demand for renewable energy options. Any increasing demand will influence changes in land cover and increases risks related to landslides, biodiversity loss and flooding – this became more evident in during the 2012 cyclone and associated flash flooding. Because of the dependence of the economy on agriculture, there will also be pressures on water resources and declining capacities of water systems to meet service requirements for the provision of food to communities. Growing affluence as well as persistent inequality with regard lack of access to basic services are contributory factors to environmental pressures related to resource use. Extreme weather events which may be related to climate change have contributed to global economic losses due to natural disasters. Cyclone Evan in 2012 brought about losses equivalent to 30% of GDP.

While there is the need for an elevated standard of living, this must be achieved based on resource efficient rather than resource intensive growth strategies. After all a resource intensive growth pattern translates to an economy with higher exposure to risk especially for the most vulnerable.

## **3. Economic insecurity and heightened vulnerabilities**

In both natural disasters and economic crises, those who are most vulnerable are the 'poor' as they would have less capacity to cope with the shocks given that they are already disadvantaged by social and economic balances. A weak economic environment heightens labour market vulnerabilities; there is rising unemployment particularly among the youth as well as their engagement in work opportunities of low quality and with limited legal protection and access to basic rights at work. The most vulnerable are those who are outside

societal relationships of support. Groups that are prone to social exclusion include people with disabilities, older persons, children and women who are heads of households.

**Pillar 1: Coordinated economic management**

In addition to improving the quality of jobs or decent work, there is also recognition that fostering inclusive and balanced growth requires stronger labour market institutions. This includes wage systems that can help ensure that wages grow consistently with productivity increases. In recognition of the importance of job creation by investing in and developing sound effective and efficient economic and social infrastructure and productive capacities, the government has already embarked on the implementation of a prioritised infrastructure plan with the support of its development partners including the use of public private partnerships.

**Pillar 2: Coordinated investment in inclusive development**

There is a need to consider what the employment challenges are beyond open unemployment as well as assess the role of employment in development including through the improvements of living standards , poverty reduction, increase of productivity and benefits for social cohesion. Certain forms of employment can lead to higher social benefits which makes them more valuable for development. Global coordination on jobs can positively affect national policy making on employment as well as create company policies such as corporate social responsibility and provide cooperation on related global issues such as labour migration.

Government would be seen as providing an important safety net for vulnerable workers and workers in the informal sector by providing labour opportunities through public works programs or job guarantees. Job guarantees for educated unemployed youth would contribute to improving skills thereby improving employment prospects

**Pillar 3: Sustainable resource management**

Programs focused on infrastructure development, tackling soil erosion or irrigation could enhance productive capacities and if properly designed could contribute to the greening of the economy. Employment activities can be created that perform environment services, transform buildings and public infrastructure or geared towards more efficient energy can contribute to greater environmental sustainability. It is in this regard that Samoa will be considering a job scheme for youth that would be linked to green tourism promotion, venue maintenance and waste recycling in connection with the opportunities available when the SIDS Conference comes to Samoa

**4. Mainstreamed disaster risk reduction and climate change**

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and all countries particularly the developing countries are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change such as extreme weather events and persistent drought which threat food security and efforts to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development. Adaptation to climate change represents an immediate and urgent global priority.

Disaster risk reduction needs to be pursued with urgency in the same context of poverty reduction and sustainable development and must be integrated into policies and plans and future frameworks. Government must commit to adequate timely and predictable resources for disaster risk reduction in order to increase resilience of communities.

### **Pillar 1: coordinated economic management**

The importance of integrating climate change and disaster risk reduction into the planning processes at both national and sector levels ensures that the proper response mechanisms are part of the implementation framework. The appropriateness of the response is dependent on the results of climate change and hazards risk analyses and vulnerability assessments at sector level. The government delivers climate change financing through budget support, project support, multi country programs and is looking at the possibility of trust fund and special fund mechanisms. Capacities have had to be built to effect national accreditation status necessary for accessing global funds and analytical tools such as the Climate Public expenditure Institutional Review used to facilitate mainstreaming into the national planning and budget framework. Climate change is expected to increase the country's vulnerability to natural disasters and is a critical issue with the potential to derail development progress

### **Pillar 2: coordinated investment in inclusive development**

With the impacts of climate change and disasters already felt, it is crucial that every effort is made to strengthen awareness and consultations on climate change and disaster risk management at all levels so as to enhance community engagement in defining adaptation strategies and expanding outreach. Climate proofing of major infrastructural assets have been accompanied by community adaptation strategy implementation

### **Pillar 3: Sustainable resource management**

Almost all villages implement national and community based coastal resources and ecosystem based fisheries management plans for food security and build resilience from human induced threats and climate change impacts. The Pacific Catastrophe Risk assessment and Financing Initiative developed for some countries of the region, a historical hazard catalogue, historical loss database for major disasters and country specific hazard models. The information is the basis for the insurance scheme that Samoa is part of. Through partnerships there are also capacity building programs for both national and community institutions for sustainable coastal and marine resources management and enhancing the experiences of coastal communities in applying best practice in ecosystem based management and climate change adaptation.

### **5. Conclusion:**

National aspirations and vision for the future. The section should identify clearly what the country sees as their inputs into a) the final outcome of the SIDS conference in 2014; and b) the Sustainable Development Goals/post-2015 development agenda process.

Samoa has consistently strived to achieve its long term vision of : "An improved Quality of life for all". The achievement of the vision relies on the effective implementation of the identified development strategies under 14 key outcomes within the four broad sectors of Economic, Social, Infrastructure and Environment reflective of the pillars of sustainable development.

A possible cornerstone of the 2014 SIDS Conference would be strengthened partnerships between SIDS and the international community- this would also be one of the important ways to and means to address new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of SIDS. As well it is also the intention that new partnerships can

also be launched there as well as provide demonstrations of how partnerships could serve as a better implementation and engagement mechanism to support policies and programs. Such partnership should be broad-based and ensure the involvement and participation of relevant stakeholders.

While Samoa acknowledges that the implementation of any framework for SIDS is a country responsibility, the architecture of development cooperation and partnerships for the country has evolved away from a purely donor-recipient relationship to that of equal partners. This has come about with renewed commitment to mutual and domestic accountability, transparency and the shared willingness to work from a basis premised on the principles of effective development cooperation including a results focus delivery of support using country systems and the ability to be able to share risk.

The government has also taken a programmatic strategic approach across all of the 15 sectors and has shifted away from stand alone ad hoc projects. It has mobilized domestic resources, while also attracting international flows and continues to promote international trade as an engine for development, increased international financial and technical cooperation for development, and has taken huge strides to make debt financing sustainable and has attracted external debt relief. There is slow but steady progress in enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems.

Furthermore Samoa stands ready to demonstrate a proven role in the coordination of the development agenda and all of its partners involved including through joint interventions such as a policy based operations around a government policy matrix which reduces the administration burden development partners place on the government and enable a consistent and focused policy dialogue.

The Samoan government recognizes that “development of young people is a key factor in ensuring the sustainability of and maintenance of growth in Samoa. Its National Policy for Youth 2011-2015 is built on the vision that “all young people to positively connect with their key spiritual, social, cultural, physical and economic environments through having equal access to opportunities and realize their full potential to pro-actively participate and contribute fully into sustainable community development”.

Samoa intends to use the lead up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> SIDS Conference as the opportunity to provide immediate employment, income and skills development opportunities for youth. For example, the UN estimates that up to 300 young people will participate directly in the conference and many more opportunities will exist in, public infrastructure upgrading programmes, hotel and tourism operators, local transport and security companies, etc.

Private sector will also have business opportunities in the SIDS conference by supplying various services and procurement required in the conference, as well as exploring niche markets potentially be created by the participants outside the conference.

Samoa is also ready to demonstrate its smooth transition out of LDC status through a demonstration of a sector wide approach to the implementation of the key development strategies articulated in its Strategy for the development of Samoa as well as focusing on ‘pro poor’ strategies that are well supported by its development partners. The national development strategy is also underpinned by a policy to target the most vulnerable in order to curb increasing inequality inclusive of those around gender issues.

Samoa also offers good examples of inclusive development involving civil society, private sector and parliamentarians at all levels, in particular their roles as service providers including through public private partnerships.

As well, Samoa would be able to share knowledge on its experiences in the integration of climate change and disaster risk reduction into the planning and budgetary processes at sector and national levels as well as the models of climate change financing that are used as well as the commensurate capacity building initiatives needed to access some sources of climate finance. As well, there will be practical examples around the country to reflect the integration of environment considerations in the country's sustainable development strategy including the development of 'nexus' initiatives.



**BACKGROUND DOCUMENT – STOCKTAKE OF PREVIOUS NATIONAL REPORTS AND THE REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SAMOA, 2008-2012**

The guidance provided for the preparation of SIDS national reports ahead of the regional preparatory meeting (for the Pacific this will be held in Fiji on 10-12 July 2013) includes as a first step the development of a background document that serves as a stocktake of previous national reports and documents from the MSI-5 and Rio+20 preparatory process as well as an update on national policies, strategies and action plans. The background document provides a baseline and platform on which to build the national consultations and the development of a national synthesis report which can then be used the regional and global preparatory processes.

**A, Mauritius Strategy Implementation – 2009 National Assessment Report**

**Introduction**

The Mauritius Strategy provides a framework for specific actions and measures to be taken at the national, regional and international levels in support of the sustainable development of small island developing states. Many of the issues faced today are related to the surrounding oceans such as climate change and sea level rise, global warming and the preservation of biodiversity. In the process of meeting these challenges, small island countries are also dealing with the changing global environment and the impacts of globalization which have made compliance and the determination of appropriate responsive strategies difficult.

**Socio-economic context**

The Samoan economy continues to change and develop in a significant way with the implementation of economic and public sector reforms. Economic performance has improved consistently reaching robust growth rates in the past two years. These have been well supported by having a sound and stable political situation, government commitment to reforms and good governance standards. Despite steady economic growth, issues of inequality and hardship are emerging in Samoan society. This is evident among those unemployed in both the rural and urban areas not having access to basic services and opportunities or being unable to realize their potential and aspirations. Despite consistent growth over the past years before the global financial crisis, there are a growing number of people living below the basic needs poverty line which gives to suggest that economic policies may not always be pro-poor.

While much progress has been achieved in the delivery of services in the health and education sectors as well as extensive infrastructural development, the quality of such services remains questionable. Government continues to focus its attention over the medium term to addressing the improvement of the quality of service delivery particularly with the adoption of a sector wide approach in planning and programming for development. Significant resources have been earmarked for these important sectors in the medium term there is a need for more community engagement and involvement in these sectors through partnerships.

In the social area, communities need to be supported in small scale projects to improve access to basic services, transportation and the management of natural resources. Apart from the GEF Small Grants scheme introduced in 2004, the government has established a multi-donor Civil Society Support facility to support community identified priorities.

## Progress as at 2009

- **Climate change** – ratification by the government of key international instruments, data and information collation on climate variability resulting in the development of adaptation measures through established institutional mechanisms and intensive public awareness programmes. As a result of active participation in regional and international efforts to assess and monitor climatic impacts, Samoa is used as a case study in all of the 4 regional projects on climate change. The program on the implementation of its National Adaptation Plan of Action has begun with significant development partner support.
- **Natural and environmental disasters** – Samoa has managed to strengthen its disaster preparedness and management institutions, policy and planning framework and cultural and traditional systems that improve community resilience. An integrated approach has been taken in the implementation of major projects to enhance resilience. The impact of the 2009 tsunami provides the opportunity for a review of not only its early warning systems including public awareness but also the response mechanisms and the robustness of institutional measures.
- **Waste management** – Samoa with the help of the Government of Japan and SPREP have set up a model landfill project with the sorting of waste and appropriate disposal measures. A Health care waste management program covers both the public and private sector. A number of recycling initiatives have been set up and are linked to institutions such as schools in order to facilitate awareness of such good practices. The first sewerage and sanitation program with an initial coverage of the Apia urban area will be commissioned in the coming months. A national sanitation policy is awaiting approval by Cabinet and already there has been a successful first round of the schools and health facilities sanitation program.
- **Coastal and marine resources**- marine and terrestrial reserves have been established with the full participation of the communities that they serve, the policy framework is in place and Samoa has ratified a number of key international instruments such as the Convention of the Law of the Sea. As part of the recovery plan post tsunami, significant resources have been earmarked for coastal protection, the replenishment of coral reefs and a marine clean-up program. Communities who have established coastal management implementation plans are being supported in their implementation activities.
- **Freshwater resources** – All efforts have focused on the issues of limited natural water resources and ways to control wastage and unaccounted for water through a policy framework, redefining roles and restructuring of management agencies, as well as the development of projects to rehabilitate and protect degraded watershed areas. A Water sector support program has seen the generation of important Water Resources and Water Services policies, institutional improvements for sector coordination, much needed capacity development for all sector stakeholders as well as the establishment of an Independent Water Schemes Association which comprises a membership of village leaders that are prepared to manage and maintain their water resources including compliance with national water quality water standards.
- **Land resources** – progress has been mainly in the development and improvement of national databases and information dissemination to stakeholders for land use planning and management. A Land Task Force was set up to consider options that would bring about land reforms which would ensure land is accessible for development on an equitable basis within a framework of customary ownership

- **Energy resources**- an energy policy including renewable energy was adopted in 2008. An appropriate institutional arrangement is being looked at to address emerging priorities of the energy sector. The establishment of the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa in 2007 is seen as a means of improving local expertise in renewable energy technologies.
- **Tourism resources** – adoption of integrated planning and policies to ensure sustainable development with all land use and coastal zone management activities requiring environmental impact assessments. The tourism industry has grown in recent years to become an important driver of the economy. Visitor arrivals have increased 57% between 1998 and 2008 with record growth recorded in 2006. Tourism earnings have grown 106% between 2001 and 2008 representing 20% of GDP. There has been remarkable growth in room capacity of 206% since the early nineties albeit another setback is evident in the aftermath of the tsunami particularly with the destruction of a large number of community tourism facilities. Assistance through the development partners is targeting the speedy recovery of the sector affected by the tsunami. The introduction of Unit Title legislation in 2009 is expected to facilitate the financing packaging of large tourist facilities.
- **Biodiversity resources** – through partnerships, emphasis has been on the ratification of the necessary instruments which have provided opportunities for technical and financial assistance to implement projects for the conservation of biodiversity
- **Transport and communications** – major projects have been completed to improve transport and road networks and public access to communication including the use of the internet. Modernization and liberalization of communications sector has led to Samoa being one of the leading Pacific island economies with an estimated geographical coverage of 95% and a teledensity of 55% in 2009. Pending privatization of government service provider Samoatel and improved infrastructure will see increased competitiveness. In 2009 the American Samoa Hawaii cable was introduced to augment satellite operations. There has been strengthening of the policy and planning capacities of the Ministry of Communications as well as the regulatory functions of the Office of the regulator. Value added services to community have been provided to community rural based telecentres and school net centres at all secondary schools.
- **Health**- In early 2007 the Health sector Plan was adopted and a health sector program for US\$24 m over the next 6 years was approved with the support of a number of development partners. The sector program has built into it a comprehensive capacity development program for the sector. Reforms in the sector led to the separation of the regulatory/policy functions vested in the ministry of Health from service provision and delivery under the National Health Services. A Non Communicable Disease Policy was formulated and completed in 2009. The emphasis is placed on primary health care such that there has been a surge in consolidating partnerships between public and private stakeholders to ensure delivery of programs in support of primary health care activities such as village exercise and nutrition programs. A Demographic Health Survey was completed in 2009.

### **Implementation Issues**

- **National institutions and administrative capacity** – the 2003 realignment of ministries has seen the restructuring of the MNRE and assuming added responsibilities for disaster and watershed management, forestry and meteorological services.

- **Science and technology** – there has been limited progress in integrating science and technology into sustainable development. The establishment of the Scientific Research organization of Samoa (SROS) in 2007 is a step in the right direction to ensure that demand driven research aids development. Ministry of Education has completed a program for improving the teaching of science and mathematics in secondary schools and is looking at the same for primary schools.
- **Capacity Development** – The Samoa Qualifications Authority was set up in 2005 to consider a national qualifications framework. The potential for linking up with the Pacific Regional Qualifications Register will ensure the portability of qualifications and better facilitate labour mobility. Importance is attached to this development when viewed against regional trade initiatives such as PICTA. The Australian Pacific Technical College opened its doors in the Samoa campus in 2006 and provides world class vocational education and training. The NGOs with the support of the government are paying urgent attention to training of the informal sector such as those delivered through the Integrated Youth project TALAVOU. MNRE has been mandated with the protection of the environment and natural resources and has had additional staff commensurate with its restructuring.
- **Implementation and monitoring** – mechanisms have been established through institutional strengthening and restructuring within the public sector that promotes partnerships with the private sector and community stakeholders. The Monitoring and Evaluation framework of the Strategy for the Development of Samoa is used to monitor the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy.

### **Implementation challenges**

Some of the problems encountered in the implementation of the Barbados Program of Action but are viewed with marked improvement since the adoption of the MSI include: inadequate financial and lack of appropriately skilled human resources, lack of scientific support from the educational and research institutes, poor facilities, equipment and tools and rudimentary technology transfer.

Trade related concerns include lack of competitiveness of products due to supply side constraints common to all island states, non-tariff barriers in the form of quarantine and conformance, and lack of awareness of market requirements.

Investment concerns include the inflexible land tenure system which adds to the difficulty in accessing funds by local investors, erosion of trade preferences leading to possible relocation of some of the investments. Samoa is a member of PICTA aimed at creating a common market for 14 island countries and is party to PACER and the Cotonou Agreement, both instruments having the potential to provide opportunities for market access, technical assistance and capacity building. It is in the process of acceding to the WTO and has found the constraints to be limited financial technical and administrative resources.

The Millennium Development Goals represent a framework for achieving human development and broadening its benefits through the implementation of 8 goals, 15 targets and 45 indicators. Overall, Samoa is in a strong position to achieve most if not all of the goals by the year 2015. The main challenge faced is the limited ability to use surveys and datasets and census results to measure the indicators.

As a way forward, there is a need to address emerging concerns in all of the sectoral areas through a national plan of action. Overall, the implementation of the national plan of action

requires adequate and quality information, capacity building programmes and sufficient funding. Appropriate partnership arrangements are recommended to meet these special needs including those with the communities themselves.

To achieve sustainable outcomes, it is important to develop appropriate indicators to assess progress in the next decade, establish monitoring and evaluation programmes under each sectoral area, ensure stakeholder accessibility to information and knowledge networks, build community capacity to management resources and provide financial support as well as improve networks for mobilizing resources among the sectoral areas.

#### **B. Millennium Development Goals – Second Progress Report 2010**

Based on the second MDG progress report of 2010, Samoa had continued to make good overall progress towards the achievement of most of the MDG targets, particularly the Education, gender, Maternal Health and Environment targets. However since 2005 there is increasing evidence (through the results of the past three Household Income Expenditure surveys) of a pattern of emerging disparities and inequality of development outcomes across the population. There are also certain MDG areas/targets where there appears to have been a slowing down in progress with possible underachievement by 2015. There is an urgent need therefore for a deeper and more disaggregated and systematic analysis of the national aggregate results to determine where the gaps are and what needs to be done to address them.

A detailed analysis of the HIES 2008 results points to increasing proportion of the Samoan population living below the Basic Needs Poverty Line. Furthermore, in some MDG target areas where Samoa has shown early national achievement in the areas of health, education and gender, there are concerns of sustaining good progress due to key issues such as declines in immunization completion levels, high incidence of ill health and mortality from NCDs and low student school retention. Although there has been good progress of gender equality and empowerment of girls and women in Samoa evident in high women academic achievement rates, high number of women in senior levels of management in the public and private sectors, there still remain key challenges for the empowerment of women. The relatively high prevalence of violence against women<sup>1</sup> and the continuing low representation of women in parliament (4 out of 49 or 8%) can dis-empower women and hinder the fulfillment of their full development potential. The government and development partners including the UN system should strengthen efforts built on the good work done so far to address these critically important development and human rights issues.

Effective and sustainable poverty reduction measures must therefore include a strategic and inclusive focus on the issues of the vulnerable groups including the disabled populations as well as protecting and sustaining our environment/resources for future generations. Furthermore, in light of the above as well as to make use of the availability of updated national development planning information such as the HIES 2008, DHS 2009, Agriculture Census 2009, the Government and the UN system could also review and take forward the implementation of the Samoa National Population Policy in the context of MDGs achievement and addressing the needs of the most vulnerable in a sustainable manner.

The Government demonstrates a strong commitment to the achievement of the MDGs, evident in the significant reflection of the MDGs in its National Strategy for the Development of Samoa (SDS 2008- 2012), the Prime Minister's, Government's, private, NGO and public officials strong advocacy for the MDGs as well as its commitment to regular global reporting on progress.

Sustained growth and social progress are outcomes of Samoa's political stability, government's commitment to economic and public sector reform, remittances, and the

magnitude of public spending on health and education. In addition, the consultative approach to the development of its national strategic plans ensures that all stakeholders are partners in development. It is recognized that achieving the national vision of —Improved Quality of Life for All— will result in the accomplishment of Samoa’s millennium development goals (MDGs) and targets. As such, the MDGs are also used as indicators for measuring the achievement of national development goals and are also a measure of the degree of aid effectiveness achieved to date.

The Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2008-2012, as with previous national development plans sets the framework for Samoa’s development and aims at improved quality of life for all through ensuring sustainable economic and social progress. The seven goals are: i) Sustained macroeconomic stability; ii) Private sector led economic growth and employment creation, iii) Improved education outcomes, iv) Improved health outcomes, v) Community development (improved economic and social wellbeing and improved village governance, vi) Improved governance (public sector management, law and justice), and vii) Environmental sustainability and disaster risk reduction. Samoa persists in strengthening and building on existing policies, recognizing the need for targeted programs to reduce hardship at the community level. The key issues the country continues to address are:

- Strengthening institutional and regulatory standards for macroeconomic growth and stability;
- Ensuring continued fiscal discipline and sound financial management;
- Generating private sector led investment and employment opportunities;
- Increasing agriculture contribution to development, in particular opportunities in niche markets;
- Improving access to technical and vocational training opportunities;
- Improving quality of education, and strengthening health promotion and primordial prevention;
- Integrating environmental sustainability, climatic resilience and disaster risk reduction at all levels of development.

### **C. Rio+20 – National Assessment Report (2012)**

#### **Introduction**

Samoa is successfully aligned on the path of sustainable development in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, energy and water resources. The alignment is unambiguously seen in its revised national development framework and in sector legislation reforms, policies, strategies and plans. The transition has been incremental, over the last twenty years since the 1992 Earth Summit. It started with the 1993 National Environmental Management Strategy’s (NEMS) call for the mainstreaming of environmental concerns in national development plans and strategies, and had continued through with the elevation of environmental sustainability as a priority area in the SDS 2008-2012. Some sectors (e.g. agriculture and forestry) were more entrenched in conventional and unsustainable approaches but others, notably tourism, was always sustainably orientated in its expressed aversion to cultural dilution associated with mass-tourism. From different points of departures therefore, different sectors have progressed at different paces and to different stages along the continuum of sustainable development.

The most progress is observed in the changes made at the institutional level of legislation, policies, as well as national and sector level planning. Equally significant are inclusive multi-stakeholder sector-level mechanisms recently put in place to facilitate and support

integrated and multi-sector coordination. It's a clear indication of Samoa's acceptance of the inter-connected and inter-dependent nature in the way the three pillars of sustainable development – economy, social and environment – interact and operate.

Thus with a solid platform of sustainability driven goals, objectives and strategies, the challenge for Samoa now and in the foreseeable future is implementation. In this regard, it is transitioning as strategies are implemented and outcomes are pending.

## Progress

The following summarizes the status of each sector

- **Agriculture** formalized its shift to a sustainable pathway with the adoption of its 2011-2015 Sector Plan. Implementation is only in its early stages. Funding is a major constraint.
- **Forestry** went through years of unsustainable logging resulting in the depletion of the native merchantable forest resource and the collapse of the sawmilling industry. There is no replacement plantation resource in place, following the devastation of the plantation resource in the early 1990's as a result of Cyclones Ofa and Valerie, and no immediate plans to re-invest in developing one. Consequently Samoa will rely on imported general construction timber for the foreseeable future. The sector has since the mid 1990's focused on forest protection and is making steady progress in conserving the country's remaining terrestrial ecosystems and species, increasing the total area under protection from 2% to 5% of Samoa's total land area in the last 10 years. The future for forestry in terms of wood production is unclear, largely due to the perceived vulnerability of plantation forest investments to cyclones, but there is an emerging market for forest biomass for energy generation that may well redefine forestry's role in Samoa's economy in the near future.
- **Inshore fisheries** is by its communal nature an unmanaged 'commons' ruled by open-access regimes. The inevitable result is over-fishing and resource depletion. In the early 1990's, interventions by the Government successfully introduced a 'managed' approach to inshore fisheries based around collaborations with village authorities. This co-management approach is allowing depleted fish populations to replenish, and degraded lagoons and coral reefs to regrow in the coastal environments of many villages. But many more villages are not yet involved in the Community based Fisheries Management Programme and will need to be engaged if Samoa's inshore fisheries resource is to reach levels wherein sustainable use is feasible. Fisheries Division is keen to expand this programme but the lack of funding is the main impediment.
- **Offshore (tuna) resources** are well managed and sustainable exploitation is regulated by limiting the number of licensed fishing vessels. Differences in tuna stock assessments between SPC and FAO is an issue but MAF-Fisheries is confident that present fishing efforts based on SPC data is within sustainable levels. The approved number of fishing licenses is undersubscribed.
- **Tourism** has always shown a tendency towards the conservative, shunning mass tourism in favour of medium to small scale hotels and preferring low-impact infrastructure that is culturally and environmentally friendly. Recent reports show steady increases in the number of arrivals however, expert observers noted that overall implementation of the Tourism Sector Plan is limited. The lack of a clear framework for plan implementation is amongst several issues limiting progress in the sector. Notwithstanding, tourism is an important growth sector. There are also

adequate safeguards in the form of PUMA's EIA requirements and sustainable tourism standards of SPTO and STA to ensure sustainable tourism. But the lack of capital for local operators is limiting investments. A systematic and on-going sector-wide monitoring program is necessary for sustainable management.

Demand for and dependence on imported petroleum products is estimated to increase in the foreseeable future hence also the country's continued vulnerability to fluctuations in world market prices for petroleum products. But there is a purposeful redirection of efforts and resources towards reducing this vulnerability. The target of a net emission-free economy by 2020 with renewable and alternative energy sources to supply 30% of the nation's needs is backed up by initiatives to develop and expand on a range of RE and alternative energy options. This is complemented by the implementation of more efficient demand-side management strategies. The transport sector's target of 30% of vehicles running on bio-fuel by 2020 adds to efforts in this area. Several RE initiatives including three small hydropower schemes are now part of the Samoa Power Sector Expansion Program. Recent legislation reforms allowing private investments in power generation is paying dividends with the number of interests in RE investments recently reported in the local media.

Many constraints are hindering progress but the lack of funding and access to customary land are the main ones. Funding-wise, the allocation of budgetary and aid resources is, according to MoF, linked to priorities articulated in the SDS. There are sectors for which a serious injection of budgetary resources is most urgently needed. Amongst those assessed in this report, agriculture stands out to be among the most in need. Its recently approved sector plan (ASP 2011-2015) is charting a new sustainable course. It is vital that a solid commitment of funding support is allocated to effectively mobilize ASP implementation, and give it the needed momentum to pull itself out of the stagnation of the last three decades.

Overall, how far has Samoa progressed if at all? And by what criteria do we measure progress? The Millennium Development Goals have been adopted to measure Samoa's progress in the key areas of sustainable development. But in the immediate term, given the country's vulnerability to external economic forces and natural perturbations beyond its control, economic stability is an important and central aspect of Samoa's conception of sustainable development. It is also perhaps the most practical and meaningful criterion by which Samoa's sustainability may be measured. The emphasis on building economic and ecological resilience, adaptation to climate change and natural disasters, securing local food security and reducing dependence on imported petroleum – makes sense in this context of stability.

What is clear is that within the targeted sectors, realignment to a sustainable path has taken place. It is too early to draw conclusions on how effective implementation is, but Samoa is heading in the right direction in the use and management of its key natural resources.

#### **Implementation - opportunities**

There are opportunities for promoting green growth in all sectors assessed in this report, particularly in agriculture, tourism, water resources and energy. The main ones are described below.

##### **Agriculture**

- Support the implementation of the Agriculture Sector Plan (2011-2015) with a significant commitment of funding to stimulate development in the sector. Use financial incentives and facilitate farmer access to capital particularly for the production of key crops for which export markets are secured. Incentives for promoting organic farming are also recommended.



### **Forestry**

- Conduct a nation-wide aerial photography exercise to update existing 1999 photos and to provide information for forest cover assessment, as well as land use and biodiversity conservation planning.
- Encourage trees replanting activities for protection purposes including catchment rehabilitation, soil stabilization and energy production.
- Strengthen the Forestry Division's capacity to provide technical support to energy related forestry activities such as energy crops plantation development for biomass gasification.

### **Water**

- Consider the purchase from private landowners the entire catchment area supporting the Alaoa and Fale-ole-Fee hydropower schemes and the main water intake supplying the Apia urban area.
- Conduct a national assessment of the stresses placed on the rivers and aquifers, including the Vaisigano and Fuluasou rivers to determine the sustainability of current water abstraction activities.
- Expand the water metering program to all remaining Samoa Water Authority customers.
- Review and adjust the existing water consumption charge to maximize its effectiveness.

### **Energy**

- Renew efforts for the development of the Vaitai hydropower scheme in Sili, Savaii.
- Encourage and support private investment in renewable and or alternative energy generation with appropriate incentives.
- Reduce if not remove existing import tariffs on renewable energy and or energy efficient technologies and products such as PV cells and solar panels for household and commercial uses, biogas converters, energy efficient light bulbs etc. to support Government policy of achieving 20% renewable energy by the year 2020.
- Encourage the switch to biogas as a source of energy (electricity and cooking gas) for Government institutions such as prisons, Government school hostels and others of similar nature.
- Maintain differentiated import tariffs for vehicles based on engine sizes.
- Encourage local demand for vehicles that run on bio-fuel with appropriate incentives including reduced import tariffs, to support Government policy of 30% of vehicles running on bio-fuel by 2020.
- Explore the feasibility of the payment-for-environmental services (PES) approach as a strategy for engaging village councils in the protection of catchment areas supporting existing hydropower schemes at Lalomauga and Taelefaga.
- Implement the EPC business model approach in all new small hydropower schemes involving village lands.

### **Tourism**

- Continue support for low-cost beach fale accommodation as a pro-poor, pro-growth and pro-environment, and pro-rural policy and a climate change adaptation/resilience building strategy.
- Initiate and maintain a systematic and on-going sector wide monitoring program using sustainable tourism indicators previously approved.
- Link eligibility and access to aid funding of small –scale tourist accommodation providers to compliance with approved environmental guidelines including PUMA's EIA requirements, and sustainable tourism standards already existing.

### **Fisheries**

- Speed up the expansion of the Community-based Fisheries Management Program to all remaining villages in Samoa with additional funding support for the Fisheries Division.

#### **D. Strategy for the Development of Samoa, 2008-2012 – Review of Implementation**

The Strategy was structured around three priority areas: (i) economic policies with **two goals** of sustained macroeconomic stability and private sector led economic growth and employment creation; (ii) social policies with **three goals** of improved education outcomes, improved health outcomes; community development: improved economic and social wellbeing and improved village governance; and (iii) public sector management and environmental sustainability with **two goals** of improved governance and environmental sustainability and disaster risk reduction.

##### **Progress made**

Progress in achieving the seven goals was assessed according to a number of targets/indicators and focused on how far implementation had gone across a wide range of policies, strategies, programs and projects during the SDS period.

**Goal 1: Sustained Macroeconomic Stability:** Maintaining sustainable macroeconomic stability involves achieving the following macroeconomic policy targets:

- Budget deficit to be no more than 3.5% of GDP
- Underlying inflation at 3.0% – 4.0% per annum
- Import cover at 4.0 – 6.0 months
- Competitive real effective exchange rate

The overall budget deficits for 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11 exceeded 3.5% of GDP to stand at 6.0%, 11.0% and 9.3% respectively. The deficits were due to frontloading investment in capital projects that helped stimulate growth, providing a buffer to the impacts of the food fuel and global economic crises as well as implementing tsunami reconstruction works which were funded through a mix of concessional loans and grants. For 2011/12, the overall budget deficit had contracted to 6.5% in view of the planned fiscal consolidation for the medium term. A public sector Medium Term Debt Management policy was developed and institutional issues addressed with the setting up of the Debt Management Unit. Private sector external debt continued to be managed by the Central Bank as part of its Foreign Exchange Control Regulations. A Development Cooperation Policy (Partners in Development:

Promoting Aid Effectiveness) was approved in 2010 and its implementation process begun. A three year medium term fiscal framework had been developed and implemented under the Public Finance Management Reform Plan as of 2011/12 all aid was now on budget.

On the monetary policy side, maintaining price stability, international reserves viability and a sound financial system were the key factors in promoting sustainable economic growth. However, the beginning of the global recession in 2008 required monetary and exchange rate policies to focus specifically on reviving the ailing economy rather than keeping inflation within the benchmark rate of 3.0%. Thus, the Central Bank endeavored to reduce interest rates and encouraged commercial banks to expand lending to the private sector. The Bank pursued this policy stance by making substantial liquidity available to the financial system.

The high inflation rate of 13.9% in 2008/09 compared to the inflation rate of 6.2% in 2007/08 was driven largely by food and fuel prices. The upward trend in imported food prices, notably rice, flour and sugar caused local food prices to increase over this period. In 2009/10, annual average inflation rate stood at -0.2%, dropping by 14.1 percentage points from 2008/09. This overall result demonstrated that food prices had largely contributed to the decline throughout this period. In 2010/11, inflation rate amounted to 2.1% and recorded a surge of 3.1 percentage points over 2009/10. This outcome was a reflection of the increase in household consumption, which filtered through high electricity and water rates. At end March 2011/12, annual average inflation rate stood at 5.6%, increased of 3.7 percentage points from end March 2010/11. This result was caused mainly by the increase of 16.1 percentage points in local food prices largely due to the reduction of agricultural produce available at the Fugalei market.

On the external balance of payments, international reserves had been maintained within the target range of 4.0 to 6.0 months of import cover at end June 2008/09. Import cover for this period stood at 5.1 months. At end June 2009/10 and 2010/11, import cover exceeded the range of 4.0 to 6.0 months to stand at 7.6 months and 6.4 months. The high level of reserves was largely driven by an increasing amount of grants and concessional loans available for a response to the global economic crisis and tsunami rehabilitation.

**Goal 2: Private Sector Led Economic Growth and Employment Creation:** Achievement of this goal was measured using the following target indicators:

- Real GDP growth averages 3.0–4.0% per annum
- Private sector employment growth averages 2.5% per annum.
- Scores on World Bank Doing Business Indicators and Regulatory Quality component of World Bank governance indicators improve from their 2006 levels
- Growth in total visitor numbers of 10% per annum.

Samoa's economy had recently shown reasonable growth, underpinned by a stable macro-economic environment and a business friendly investment climate. It had however contracted by over 5% in 2009 as a result of the cumulative effects of the 2008 food and fuel price spikes, the global slowdown, and a devastating tsunami in September 2009. The government responded to the global recession and tsunami with expansionary monetary policy and a significant fiscal stimulus (equivalent to \$100 million or about 15% of GDP over 4 years). Spending had been effectively allocated to address the immediate needs of resettlement and infrastructure rehabilitation as well improving safety nets, and was designed to boost

economic activity and generate employment opportunities, while laying a foundation for expanding the productive capacity of the economy in the medium term. The economy responded to these measures, and growth of just below 3% was estimated in FY11. These policies had, however, resulted in Samoa's previously modest fiscal deficit widening to 10% of GDP in FY10, although it was now narrowing, and external public debt climbing back to almost 60% of GDP.

Samoa's rank of 60th in the World Bank's Doing Business survey 2012 placed it among the highest among Pacific countries. Samoa had been among the forefront of Pacific island countries in introducing reforms to the telecoms and airlines sectors in the mid-2000s. Still, after the transformation of the Samoan economy in the 1990s and early 2000s, the Doing Business ratings of several other island countries had over the past decade climbed relative to Samoa. If Samoa was to maintain its competitive advantage in terms of the quality of its regulatory and business environment compared to competitors, there is scope to further accelerate momentum on the remaining structural agenda and encourage greater economic efficiency. This would be particularly important given broader risks to global growth, which could impact remittances and tourism, on which Samoa relied heavily. Private sector employment declined by 1.3% and 10.8% in 2007/08 and 2008/09 respectively then recorded increases of 2.0% and 1.2% at end of 2009/10 and 2010/11.

The drop of 10.8% in 2008/09 was largely driven by the downward trend of 1,234 (33.6%) in the secondary sector caused mainly by the redundancy of Yazaki employees. There had been a rebound with the rehiring of Yazaki workers resulting in an overall growth of 2.0% in formal employment in 2009/10. Total visitor numbers increased by 1,042 (0.8%) in 2008/09, then recorded downward trends in 2009/10 and 2010/11. Similarly tourism receipts increased by \$44.73 million (16.1%) in 2008/09, then recorded declines of \$19.75 million (6.1%) and \$15.11 million (5.0%) in 2009/10 and 2010/11 respectively. The declines in 2009/10 and 2010/11 reflected the impact of the tsunami on the tourism industry.

The government continued to support the development of the private sector as the engine to growth through improvements and enhancement in the following areas.

**Economic Infrastructure** in terms of water, energy, transport, and telecommunications continued to be supported to provide the enabling environment for businesses and improved services to the public. Given Samoa's comparative advantages in tourism, investment in tourism infrastructure continued to be scaled up to promote Samoa as an attractive tourist destination that was always supported by good infrastructure and service delivery.

Energy: A National Energy Coordinating Committee (NECC) was officially set up in August 2011 for efficient and effective coordination of the energy sector as well as for developing an implementation plan for the Energy Policy. The Ministry of Finance (MOF) which hosted the Energy Division worked collaboratively with the key sector stakeholders to appraise and approve as well as decided on appropriate renewable energy options for Samoa that would constitute an investment program for the sector. Some of these options included those that had built on research outcomes by SROS. The development partners had assisted through the provision of technical assistance to test the market for a number of these options using a non-committal expression of interest process. Health, Safety, Security and Environmental Standards were launched in June 2010 for all service stations to comply with, as a prerequisite for license renewal to ensure that everyone had access to reliable, affordable and safe petroleum products.

Water and Sanitation Services: Achievements in strengthening sector governance were made in the SDS review period. The Joint Water Sector Steering Committee was approved by Cabinet in 2009 and the Water sector coordination unit relocated from the Ministry of Finance where it was initially set up to its permanent base at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. The Independent Water Schemes Association (IWSA) was established and hosted within the Ministry of Women Community and Social development to coordinate water systems that were owned managed and operated by village communities.

The Water for Life: Sector Plan (2008 – 2012) and Framework for Action was reviewed in early 2012. The Water sector continued to receive 85% of European Union (EU) assistance annually complemented by assistance from the ADB for the sanitation and drainage subsectors. The conclusion of the Water sector Support program in 2009 and a successful annual outcome review resulted in the sector receiving European Union (EU) assistance through sector budget support with these arrangements becoming effective in FY2010/11.

The Water Resource Management Act was approved in 2008 and became effective in 2009. The Water Abstraction Licensing Scheme was developed in 2009 and became effective in November 2010 to control and regulate surface and groundwater use. The review of the National Water Resources Policy 2001 was approved by cabinet in March 2010. The Water Services and Sanitation Policies were developed and approved in 2011.

Key achievements with regards to investments in the sector include: the rehabilitation of the Apia catchment area and the setup of a Water resources Information and Management system with Global Environment Facility (GEF), the establishment of 5 new treatment plants, pumping stations and reservoirs by Samoa Water Authority (SWA), the drilling of two boreholes in Auala and Falealupo which are some of the driest areas in the country, the designs of new systems and rehabilitation of existing systems of village schemes under the Independent Water Scheme Association (IWSA) with additional assistance from the European Investment Bank (EIB), the rehabilitation and development of transitional systems for all tsunami affected areas, the building of the Wastewater Treatment Plant at Sogi funded through an Asian Development Bank (ADB) loan and which was commissioned in June 2010, the construction of sludge disposal facilities at Tafaigata and Vaiaata (Savai'i), the development and adoption of national water quality standards against which sector performance continued to be assessed, drainage improvements, approval of new water and waste water tariffs and the implementation of a comprehensive capacity building program across the sector funded through the Technical Cooperation facility.

Telecommunications: The strengthening of the regulatory framework had reaped benefits for the telecommunication sector. The privatization of SamoaTel was successfully completed in March 2011. The separation of Samoa Post Limited from SamoaTel as an independent Public Body was completed in 2008 as part of the restructuring program for the privatization of SamoaTel. The Office of the Regulator (OOTR) dealt with the issuing of licenses for businesses in the sector. The Computer Services Limited (CSL), Digicel and SamoaTel were granted international gateway licences with access to the submarine cable since 2010. Improving domestic connectivity infrastructure through internet usage remained an ongoing focal area for the sector. The submarine cable has supported the satellite connectivity as an alternative to improve internet connectivity.

A submarine fibre optic cable was commissioned in May 2009 and this had resulted in higher internet access speeds for Samoa as well as increased subscriber connections. This fibre optic cable network is between American Samoa and Samoa and provided a good alternative to the

more costly satellite services. Nevertheless, the lifespan of the current cable ASH is limited, and regulatory reform would be required to reduce high retail costs. Samoa with the assistance of the World Bank would need to identify least cost options for a new broadband cable, although final decisions on routing options would depend on whether a proposed new cable between NZ and the US goes ahead.

Transport: The Law Reform Commission (LRC) had completed the review of the Civil Aviation Act 1998, Ministry of Works Act 2002, Marine Pollution Prevention Act 2008, Ministry of Transport Act 1978 and the Shipping Act 1998 all of which are administered by the Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure (MWTI). The National Infrastructure Strategic Plan (NISP) was launched in October 2011. Works were yet to begin on the formulation of a specific Transport Sector Plan.

The Land Transport Authority (LTA) was set up in July 2009 to ensure coordinated planning and regulation of land transport. Works that had been completed under the Samoa Infrastructure Asset Management Project Phase 2 include: road widening between Malifa and Lepea including bridges footpaths and bus stops construction and the feasibility study for the construction of the shorter inland road between Apia and Faleolo Remaining works included the continuation of road widening to Vaitele and upgrading of Togafua bridge.

The Air Services Agreements which Samoa entered into with other States had progressed from Standard Bilateral to Open Skies Bilateral Air Services Agreements with the advent of global deregulation and liberalization with the exception of the air services agreement with Fiji. An airport office of the meteorological Services was established in 2011. Baggage and ground handling services were contracted out to Oceania Aviation Company in partnership with the Samoa Airport Authority in 2011.

Works on upgrading ports had been ongoing. The Aleipata wharf construction was completed in August 2009. However, the tsunami in September 2009 destroyed the wharf. The post tsunami reconstruction started in July 2010, and included a dry dock facility for Samoa Shipping Corporation's (SSC) vessels. The Aleipata wharf reopened in November 2010 for travel between American Samoa and Samoa. A new interisland ferry Lady Samoa III arrived in 2010 which was funded under Japan's Grant aid program. A sinking fund for vessel replacement was set up prior to the arrival of the new ferry.

A public awareness campaign for the promotion of energy efficiency, environmentally friendly renewable energy options for the transport sector was actively pursued. This included vehicle trials running on bio-fuel and biodiesel with the support of the Scientific and Research of Samoa (SROS) and private sector.

**Business Legal and Regulatory Environment.** There was ongoing support for creating an enabling environment for doing business through legal and regulatory reforms. Relevant legislation which were reviewed and passed in the reporting period included the: Foreign Investment Amendment Act 2011, ratification of International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions, Labour Employment Relations Act, Personal Properties Act 2012, Fair Trading Regulation 2010, Bankruptcy Amendment Act 2011, International dateline Act 2012, Intellectual properties Act and implementation of the new Companies Act and regulations.

The Cabinet approved the establishment of the Customary Land Lease Unit within the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment as well as the Customary Land Advisory Commission (CLAC) with the support of technical assistance provided by the Asian

Development Bank (ADB). The Land Titles Registration Act 2008 became effective in March 2009. This legislation would provide support for improvements in the management of land leases executed through Samoa Trust Estate Corporation (STEC), Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment (MNRE) and the Samoa Land Corporation (SLC). Subsequent reviews of land lease rates were approved by Cabinet.

The Measures Ordinance 1960 deemed outdated was reviewed in 2011 and so was the Competition Policy Framework.

The Government continued to provide support to the private sector through various schemes such as the Private Sector Support Facility (PSSF), Code 121 and the repealed Incentives Scheme. The new Companies Act brought improvements in processes relating to the registration of companies, issuance of foreign investment certificates and work permits.

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour (MCIL) in close collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat developed a Micro, Small and Medium, Enterprises (MSME) policy. The International Finance Corporation (IFC) also undertook analytical work in Samoa, to explore options for a holistic approach to assist micro-enterprises and SMEs overcome key constraints to growth. Micro and SMEs themselves identified access to finance and markets as key constraints, while financial institutions identified lack of collateral and information asymmetry as key limitations they faced in expanding lending to SMEs. One potential option could be for International Finance Corporation (IFC), and other development partners, to work together to replicate a risk share facility that could encourage commercial banks to increase lending for micro and SMEs, including but not only in tourism.

The Ministry for Revenue (MfR) began a program which focused on encouraging small businesses to adopt an income tax self-assessment process. This included providing guidelines. These services formed part of the work program of the Ministry under its institutional building program which started in 2010.

**Financial Sector Development** A 5.7% increase in commercial bank lending to the private sector was recorded as of January 2012. The Personal Property Securities Act was approved by Cabinet in March 2012 and would be processed through parliament at its next session. This would allow moveable assets to be used as credit security. The Unit Trust of Samoa was established in 2011 to create opportunities for ordinary Samoans to benefit from the privatization of public enterprises and other investment opportunities. The Private Sector Support Facility (PSSF), which was launched in June 2008 supported a total of just under 200 projects were approved under the scheme since 2008. The Tourism Tsunami Rebuilding Programme (TTRP) was added to PSSF and catered for the reconstruction of beach fale that were affected by the September 2009 tsunami.

One of the notable successes under the PSSF, was the establishment and commercialization of the Chili (bird eye species) farms to supply the Apia Bottling Company in the manufacture of Samoa's own chili sauce which is now exported to Fiji, Australia and New Zealand markets.

A growing number of small businesses had access to microfinance, technical assistance and training through the Small Business Enterprise Centre's (SBEC), Small Business Loan Guarantee scheme, Women in Business Development Incorporated's (WIBDI) Microcredit, the South Pacific Business Development Microcredit scheme (SPBD) and the Development Bank of Samoa (DBS). Through the NZ Aid program a business mentoring program began in

2011 and executed through the Chamber of Commerce. Sixty five businesses had since received support through the program.

**Trade Policy:** A Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS) was completed and validated in 2010 with the support of the Integrated Framework for Trade facility for Least Developed Countries (LDC). The accession to World Trade Organization (WTO) was formalized in 2011. The National Export Strategy (NES) was developed in 2008. One of the key activities identified for implementation was the establishment of a National Export Agency (NEA) but which had not yet materialized. A Trade Policy Statement was developed and finalized in 2009 but served only as a compilation of trade and trade related policies rather than as a trade strategy. As a party to Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA), Samoa continued to apply preferential duty rates based on a reduction schedule to products originating from six (6) Forum Island Countries. As a Least Developed Country (LDC), all tariffs for products would reach 0% by 2017, with the exception of those on the negative list and alcohol & tobacco products. However, the rules of origin conditions would apply.

The finalization of an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union (EU) constituted work in progress. Proposed meetings between the Pacific ACP countries and the EU still had not taken place as there were still a number of contentious issues that needed resolution.

**Development Potential:** Scientific Research of Samoa (SROS) had concluded a number of research proposals on agro processing and renewable energy and were at the stage where the products were opened for the private sector to express interest in investing in the production. Such products included flour from breadfruit and cassava, avocado cooking oil and renewable energy technologies. Under the CODEX program, the Food Labeling Standards and Food Safety and Hygiene Standards were developed. Sanitary and phytosanitary standards were uploaded on ministry websites alongside market information. New work approved by the Codex Committee includes the Standard on Bottled Water and a Standard on Fat and Fat Content in Meat.

The Fair Trading for Egg Standards Regulations 2010 was completed and approved. The Food Hygiene Standards was in its third draft since 2009 whilst awaiting the completion of the Food Bill. The Food Labeling Standards was in its second draft since May 2011. The Toy Standards had been with the Attorney General's Office for finalization since 2010. The national audits were carried out for pre-schools and school canteens.

The Ministry of Commerce Industry and Labor (MCIL) continued to update its website to provide timely market information, including quarantine requirements to exporting businesses and farmers and promote investment opportunities. Quarantine and bio-security requirements were made available on the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) website, with links to the MCIL's website. Increased labour market integration, including increasing short term employment opportunities, continued to offer potential benefits for both Samoa and receiving countries.

Moreover, Scientific Research of Samoa (SROS) recently attained international accreditation status of its chemistry and microbiology laboratories with International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ) as fully compliant under the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 17025 standards for specific scopes of tests/analysis. This achievement helped boost and stimulate Samoa's exports, including improving local food quality and safety standards



and potentially becoming Samoa's certified international accrediting authority that would testify the safety and conformance of local food products to international standards.

**Key Sectors:**

**Tourism:** Investment in tourism was promoted through the implementation of the Tourism and Hotel Development Incentive Act 2003 and Customs Amendment Act 2007. The guidelines were revised in accordance with the Customs (Tourism and Manufacturing Development) Regulations 2010. THE Ministry of Commerce Industry and Labour (MCIL), Ministry of Finance (MOF) and the Ministry for Revenue (MfR) worked collaboratively in administering the Duty Concession Scheme to promote the tourism industry. Tax holidays and duty concessions on imports continued to be offered under the appropriate legislations.

The Tourism Development Plan 2009-2013 was launched in July 2009. Despite the challenges posed by the September 2009 tsunami, activities proposed in the Tourism Development Plan (TDP) were reviewed and most implemented. As part of the Mid Term Review for the Tourism Development Plan (TDP) a climate change adaptation strategy for the sector was developed in 2011. The Samoa Tourism Authority (STA) continued to focus on marketing Samoa as a holiday destination in selected international markets. Key targeted outcomes included enhanced awareness of the destination, stimulated interest levels and converting such interest into demand. Ongoing pursuits included the development of attractions and activities as well as monitoring and upgrading of accommodation through regular product inspections. The physical improvements to the sites, activities and accommodation had been left to the businesses and communities whilst Samoa Tourism Authority (STA) provided advisory support in accordance with the Samoa Accommodation Standards. The Samoa Tourism Authority (STA) established its electronic Tourism Circular in 2009 to ensure all stakeholders were kept informed of tourism developments and services available in the sector.

A Workforce Plan for the tourism sector was developed in 2010 and implementation had begun with the support of the In Country Training Program delivered by the Oloamanu Centre of the National University of Samoa (NUS) in collaboration with the Australia and Pacific Technical College (APTC). The International Finance Corporation (IFC) in collaboration with New Zealand, had worked with the sector to develop a Tourism Investment Strategy in order to significantly scale up efforts to encourage new investment in Samoa, with a focus on tourism.

**Agriculture:** Several strategies were put in place to assist with the revitalization of the agriculture sector. The tariffs on selected imported agricultural inputs were eliminated on the 1st July 2008 pursuant to the Customs Tariff Amendment Act 2008. The lack of countervailing measures however led to flooding of the domestic market with heavily subsidized agriculture substitutes.

The Agriculture Sector Plan (ASP) 2011-2015 was launched on the 15th July 2011. A Steering Committee for the Agriculture Sector Plan (ASP) was approved by Cabinet to coordinate and spearhead the implementation of the plan at the national level.

Reinvestment in the sector was evident in the lengthy preparations for the US\$13 million Samoa Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement project recently approved by the World Bank for financing. The project would provide for, amongst other things, the establishment of an abattoir and mobile slaughter houses. The stimulus package for replanting cocoa, coconuts

and coffee was endorsed by cabinet in May 2010 and the implementation process commenced in the first half of 2010/11 with the registration of farmers, land and farm inspections and the distribution of planting materials. The provision of public service support to agricultural development (research, extension, quarantine, regulation, marketing information and physical infrastructure) continued to be facilitated through sector coordination. The Samoa Sino horticulture project provided demonstration farms for vegetables and fruit tree production which attracted huge interest from the farming communities. The Farmers society continued to draw on the expertise and good practices promoted through the demonstration farms to address their supply constraints in meeting demand generated through their linkages with the tourism sector.

**Fisheries:** The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) continued to deliver public sector support services for fisheries development through research and extension, monitoring and regulation of vessels, monitoring of fish catches and sales, aquaculture hatcheries and surveillance of the EEZ to control illegal fishing. The implementation of the Vessel Monitoring System, the installation of ice making machines for the fishermen and the extension of the fisheries wharf contributed to the overall development of the industry. The extension of coverage of the Community-Based Fisheries Management Program (CBFMP) had strengthened the fisheries industry reflected in increased and renewed community participation. The Tuna Management and Development Plan 2005-2009 had been updated and implemented. The current Tuna Management and Development Plan 2011-2015 was launched in the beginning of 2011.

The implementation of tariff reductions on business inputs to support fisheries development was effective on the 1st July 2008. The contribution of fisheries to GDP started on a downward trend with the closure of the cannery in American Samoa.

**Commerce and Manufacturing:** The development of the Salelologa Township and the Vaitele produce market had not attracted the anticipated level of commercial interests. Some of the facilities involved are underutilized. Similarly development of land at Falelauniu which were made available to the public on a concessional residential lease basis had been slow even with the readiness of the government to provide the infrastructure (sealed roads, electricity and water) to this area.

The Commerce sector continued to be dominated by retail outlets throughout the country while the manufacturing sector remained small and dominated by agro-processing and the Yazazki automotive wire harnessing plant for the export market.

Manufacturing in Samoa would always be constrained by the distance from main international markets and its small size (in terms of both land and population), which combined led to a small local market and lack of economies of scale. However, and though small, the commerce sector would always play an important role in promoting inclusive growth, poverty reduction and direct and indirect employment creation through the expansion of domestic market.

**Sports Development:** The National Sports Policy was launched in July 2010 and its implementation soon followed with financial support from the Australian Sports Commission. The Samoa Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee had secured the hosting of international sporting events in the past with the support of the Sports Facility Authority providing and maintaining compliance with international standards of existing sports facilities. The Oceania National Olympic Committee conducted an administration course for

sports administrators whilst the National University of Samoa (NUS) offered for the first time a Diploma in Sports Management and Certificate in Sports and Fitness. The Samoa Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee (SASNOC) members continued to promote elite performance programs to upgrade skills of athletes. A number of sports codes had received allocations under the Government budget.

### **Goal 3: Improved Education Outcomes**

The Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (MESC) in collaboration with the other key agencies of the sector conducted a mid-term review of the “Strategic Policies and Plan 2006-2015 in 2011 led by the Policy, Planning and Research Division out of which a reprioritization of focal areas to address in the medium term was made. Support for early childhood education included the training of teachers funded under the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (MESC) and Faculty of Education (FOE) sponsorship program. The Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (MESC) in collaboration with the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) also developed a handbook for parents to support the physical and mental development of their children. In primary education the new curricula and teachers’ manuals were completed under the multi-donor funded Education sector program and would be trialed in schools for full implementation in 2012. The Minimum Service Standards for schools were approved and rolled out in 2010 with the start of the Samoa School Fee Grants Scheme jointly funded by the Governments of New Zealand and Australia. The Scheme provided access to free education at primary level for all except private schools with the dual aim of achieving universal primary education by 2015 as well as improved learning outcomes.

Under the Education Sector program, 11 secondary schools were refurbished and/or reconstructed to fit the changes in the secondary curricula with regards to the teaching of applied and vocational subjects as well as the roll out of the introduction of Year 13 at all secondary schools. The fast track program to increase teachers’ numbers was introduced under the National Teacher Development Framework and involved close cooperation between the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (MESC) and the National University of Samoa (NUS), Faculty of Education.

For the improvement of Post-Secondary Education and Training (PSET), the Samoa Qualification Authority (SQA) continued to foster strong partnership with PSET providers and its stakeholders to gain feedback towards a more forward looking approach to PSET development. The Strategic Plan for PSET 2008-2016 was launched in June 2008 and a Rolling Corporate Plan mechanism developed to deliver on the implementation. Other achievements under the Strategic Plan included the development of a communications strategy and the SQA newsletter to inform the PSET providers and stakeholders on the progress of activities, development of quality assurance policies, processes, standards and the Samoa Qualification Framework (SQF) as well as the Guidelines for Recognition of Non Formal Learning. NUS established a strategic approach for PSET through normal appraisal of academic staff in collaboration with SQA and semester appraisal of courses and staff by students.

For the improvement and alignment of qualifications to national needs, SQA completed the standards for national qualifications in the agriculture, and tourism and hospitality sectors. The development of national qualification standards for traditional knowledge and skills, employability skills and the trade sector were yet to be completed. The development of national qualifications standards would help to focus Post Secondary Education and Training (PSET) on the skills and knowledge required for work in each sector thus ensuring relevance

of qualifications to national needs. The Australia Pacific Technical College (APTC) provided courses in pursuit of up-skilled and refocused industry needs and community and health services.

Significant support for Inclusive Education was made available under the Samoa Australia partnership. The Samoa Inclusive Education Development Program (SIEDP) demonstrated 3 strategic outcomes in the review period. There had been improved access, retention and progression for boys and girls with disability throughout the country. Through SIEDP support 331 children with disabilities had access to schools in Samoa a 54% increase since 2009 and 129 children received early intervention support. Families and communities were increasingly advocating and supporting the right to inclusion of all children with disability in all aspects of Samoan society as a result of extensive education and community awareness campaign evident in the increase in number of referrals of children with disability. Establishing a policy and practice environment committed to continuous improvement in inclusive education had 54

not yet taken roots. An inclusive education adviser had been appointed in MESC however an inclusive education policy had not been completed and the mainstreaming of inclusive education into MESC operations and the expected research based on program experience had not yet begun. A small grants scheme for inclusive education was initiated in 2009 and provided support for over 24 schools and institutions.

MESC developed a Sports Policy in 2010 which included a focus on the promotion of sports development in schools and communities and implemented through programs such as Fiafia Sports and Community Outreach funded by AusAID. The new health and Physical Education (PE) curriculum for primary schools was completed in January 2011 and was being trialed in schools. The health and Physical Education (PE) subject was in its second year as an examinable subject in the Pacific Senior School Certificate (PSSC) exam. The Faculty of Business and Entrepreneurship offered a Diploma in Sports Management and Certificate in Sports however continuation of the course could not be confirmed. MESC continued to work with Special Needs schools in developing and promoting sports for people with special needs through an annual Special Needs games.

A Culture Policy was developed with the support of United Nation Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) but was yet to be approved by cabinet. The National University of Samoa (NUS) implemented a language policy, which made Samoan a compulsory subject for all Foundation Year students and ensured inclusion in the communication courses delivered at the Institute of Technology. The Centre for Samoan Studies (CSS) had developed and restructured its programme to allow the offering of a Bachelor of Samoan Studies (BSS) degree. The bilingual policy of MESC was implemented through the new primary school curriculum and facilitated through the use of a bilingual language handbook developed for this purpose. School librarian appointments were made to schools as a means to improve library services with complementary support provided under the school fees grants scheme to purchase reading and learning materials.

The Curriculum Development component of the Education Sector program also provided for the development of quality multimedia teaching and learning materials including school readers which were distributed to all schools. Strategic activities on reviewing and improving assessment and school qualifications policies and systems had been strengthened. The new National Assessment Policy Framework was launched in July 2010 and implementation started in 2010/11. The strategic plan for the localization of the Pacific Senior School Certificate (PSSC) was completed in December 2010 and trialed in 2011.

Improving learning through the use of new communication technologies in education remained the focus of the School-net and Community Access program funded by ADB as well as the pilot One Laptop per Child program. In this connection also a Mobile Computer Laboratory was launched in September 2009 with the assistance of United Nation Development Programme (UNDP). Through the School-net Program, school based training for 37 secondary schools started in 2010 while completion of infrastructural development and the procurement of new learning materials would be expected by the end of 2012. Emphasis was also placed on strengthening of asset management and maintenance. The School facilities handbook was amended in alignment with the Minimum Service Standards and would assist schools with the maintenance of school buildings. Strengthening the management of education services was supported through the development of an Education Management Information system. The education sector was organizing itself to transition to a program of sector budget support.

#### **Goal 4: Improved Health Outcomes**

In view of achieving its goal of Improving Health Outcomes, the Ministry of Health (MOH) with all the sector stakeholders continued to focus on addressing the implementation of strategies as detailed in the Health Sector Plan 2008-2018 principally through the multi donor funded sector program that centered on Health promotion and primordial prevention, quality health care service delivery and strengthening the policy and regulatory oversight of the health system. Activities completed included village health fairs which represented a new approach to providing primary health care at village level and achieved unprecedented coverage and were in effect a trial for utilizing public private partnerships. Work towards the establishment of the Health Promotion Foundation was progressing well. Community participation in health promotion was supported through village exercise and nutritional improvement programs carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Women Community and Social Development (MWCSO). Health promotion and prevention programs for Non Communicable Diseases (NCD) were successfully rolled out in the communities utilizing sports (rugby) role models.

The Tupua Tamasese Meaole (TTM) Hospital Master Plan was finalized as so was the Clinical Services Plan and both were crucial to inform the infrastructural developments such as the completed Ministry of Health headquarters and new hospital as well as other planned health services delivery facilities including those in the rural areas.

The independent review of the health reforms resulting in a separation of regulatory functions from service delivery was completed in early 2011 and reinforced the justification of the decision for the reforms. The demographic Health survey was carried out in 2009 which provided important baseline data for forward planning and programming. The medium Term expenditure framework for the sector plan was twice reviewed and the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework was completed and officially launched in early 2011. Annual sector reviews were done through the national health forums and sector consultations were carried out on a monthly basis. Through a technical cooperation arm of the health sector program, technical assistance was made available to provide the analysis towards viable health financing options.

#### **Goal 5: Community Development: Improved Economic and Social Wellbeing and Improved Village Governance**

The Samoan culture is fundamental to community development. The Ministry of Women Community and Social Development (MWCSO) had prepared a Village Governance Strategy which focused on strengthening village structures and application of the principles of good governance within village systems. The ministry continued to provide support to nongovernmental organizations that provided frontline services to victims of violence and abuse.

A youth development program TALAVOU was brought to a close in early 2011 after the development of a revised Youth Policy and a database management system on youth issues.

The Ministry of Police and Prisons (MPP), community representatives and MWCSO worked closely to promote awareness raising of crime prevention strategies and a proactive approach towards maintaining community safety and security involving community participation. The Neighbourhood Watch Programme (NWP) was developed and started with Vaitele. A mobile police station was deployed and new outposts were set up at Afega, Lalomanu and Vaitoomuli. The National Crime Prevention Policy was developed and endorsed in 2010. The Law and Justice Sector Plan focused on ensuring a safe and secure Samoa. A sub-committee of the governing arm of the Law and Justice sector, (Fautasi Committee) was set up to consider ways by which there could be harmonization of the traditional justice system and that of modern day law.

Ongoing commitments for the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development (MWCSO) included implementation of the national action plans for Women and Children in connection with the respective policy frameworks and in alignment with outstanding commitments under the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC). The Child Protection baseline research undertaken with the support of United Nation International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was completed in 2011 and served to provide the foundation against which progress would be measured of child protection services and programs already underway.

The Disability Taskforce was approved by cabinet in October 2008. The National Policy for Persons With Disabilities 2009-2012 was approved by cabinet in April 2009. The Ministry continued to facilitate resource mobilization and established a focal point officer position for the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the national policy as well as ongoing initiatives for persons with disabilities.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) continued to support improvements in land and marine based food security through the provision of planting materials, crop-focused extension services and extension of the village fisheries management plans.

The establishment of the Civil Society Support Program in 2010 provided the opportunity for community groups to obtain financial support for their development projects including capacity building for registered Non Government Organizations (NGO). Civil Society Support Program (CSSP) co-funded by the European Union (EU) and AusAID was envisaged as a good basis to reflect on the meaningful engagement of civil society in the national development framework. Civil Society Support Program (CSSP) also provided the opportunity for established Non Government Organizations (NGO) to play key roles in program delivery.

## **Goal 6: Improved Governance**

The three key indicators for improved governance included:

- improved score for Government Effectiveness in World Bank Governance Indicators
- the PASP Secretariat evaluation report (indicators to be determined)
- improved score for Rule of Law in World Bank Governance Indicators.

Public Administration: The institutional strengthening program for the Audit Office was completed in 2010. Ongoing programs included those of the Statistics Bureau, Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (MPMC) and the Ministry for Revenue (MfR). The evaluation of the Public Service realignment started at the end of 2010. With the findings yet to be made public, it was noted that the number of new authorities now set up and operational had superseded the number of ministries that were realigned in 2003.

The interface between the government and communities continued to be provided by the Ministry of Women Community and Social Development (MWCSD) through regular meetings with Sui o le Nuu, Sui Tamaitai o le Nuu, church ministers and youth leaders. The improvement of policy development and coordination reform program started in 2008 with an institutional strengthening program for the policy coordination unit of the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (MPMC). Some initial outputs included the Cabinet handbook and a draft Policy Manual both of which were being reviewed and consulted on.

The strengthening of good governance and accountability reform programme has been an ongoing strategic area. The Cabinet played a key role in enforcing and ensuring that good governance and accountability was maintained. The investigation for the possibility of implementing a Leadership Code has been ongoing. The Audit Office's Institutional Strengthening Program (ISP) was started in September 2008 and completed in April 2011. The Audit Office's ISP is expected to improve the quality of the Audit Office's work and service delivery by strengthening of business management and financial audit, establishing information technology audit and performance audit. ISP is also expected to strengthen the legislative framework, human resource management as well as information technology infrastructure. The human resource management information system administered by the Public Service Commission (PSC) was piloted in selected line ministries.

Public Financial Management: Phase 1 of the Public Finance Management Reform program was completed in early 2011 which achievements included the development and passing of the Aid Policy and Debt Management Strategy, State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) reforms which had given way to the restructuring of the governing boards of all SOEs, a full review of all finance sector systems and procedures and the adoption of an outcomes based budget with forward estimates. All but three of the 15 sector plans were completed though most needed to complete the associated expenditure and monitoring and evaluation frameworks. The first phase of the Institutional Strengthening Program (ISP) for Inland Revenue started in November 2010.

State-Owned Enterprise Reform: The strengthening of entrepreneurial governance and development of reform program for SOEs had resulted in the removal of ministers and officials from SOE boards. Board membership was selected based on an expression of interest process and selection was carried out by a Cabinet appointed Selection Committee.

The privatization of the Samoa Broadcasting Corporation (SBC) and the SamoaTel were completed in 2008 and 2011 respectively whilst the Agriculture Store Corporation (ASC) was expected to proceed within the 2012/13 financial year. The Office of the Regulator for Telecommunication had been established in 2009. The establishment of the Regulator for the

Power Sector was in progress. The Unit Trust Office of Samoa (UTOS) was set up and launched in July 2010.

Statistical Development: Slow progress had been achieved in improving data collection systems. The Bureau of Statistics started its institutional strengthening program in 2011 and had since completed the National Strategy for Strategic Data Development for the next 10 years. The agriculture census was completed in 2009, the demographic survey in the same year and the Population and Housing census in 2011.

The management of the border control system continued to make good progress with increasing capability to capture people involved in international criminal activities. The Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS) and Samoa Tourism Authority (STA) were granted access to the Border Management System (BMS) to capture the movement of people in and out of the country. The Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) was set up within the Cabinet office as part of the institutional strengthening program.

The Ministry for Revenue (MfR) continued to play a key role in strengthening border security through improvements in organizational efficiency through on the job training of customs officers and the formation of the Joint K9 Unit which assisted greatly in combating illegal drugs at ports of entry. Operations had expanded to include the Post Office and the Marina Wharf at Matautu.

Law and Justice: As part of the legislative reform programme the Law Reform Act was passed in 2008 and the Law Reform Commission was set up in October 2008. The Law Reform Commission was now a stand alone government agency as of 1st July 2011 as it was no longer a division of the Attorney General's Office (AGO) and its focus was on updating all outstanding legislations. The Ministry of Justice, Courts and Administration (MJCA) completed a legislative review of the Divorce and Matrimony Act 2010, Maintenance and Affiliation Amendment Act 2010 and Film Control Act 2010. The strengthening of the Legislative Drafting Division of AGO had removed the need for repositioning the drafting division.

The Attorney General's Office had reviewed its internal systems that needed improvement and its communication systems with other government ministries identified in its Corporate Plan 2008-2011. The legal interface between Attorney General's Office (AGO) and ministries had greatly improved through the use of the Legislative Drafting Handbook and regular meetings of the management of the Attorney General's Office (AGO) and in-house counsels of all Ministries. The Rules for the Conduct of Government's Legal Business was being reviewed and updated.

The institutional strengthening for the Ministry of Police and Prisons (MPP) in its current phase was supported by the Australian Federal Police. Additional resources provided through the Law and Justice sector program had provided for the rehabilitation of the prison and youth correctional facility. The Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration ISP funded by New Zealand was completed in 2009 with resultant improvements in systems policies and staff capacity building. The Courts Complex and Ministry of Justice new offices were opened in 2010. The Institutional Strengthening Program (ISP) for the Ombudsman was near completion. Legislation that had been finalized for the sector in the reporting period included the Land and Titles Court Act and the Crimes Act. The review of the Evidence Ordinance and the Supreme Court Civil Procedure Rules was completed.



The improvement of information and human resource management in the law and justice sector was facilitated through the completion of the Information Communication and Technology (ICT) infrastructure capability of the sector which supported the digitization of Lands and Titles Court records and the implementation of the Human Resource Management Plan.

### **Goal 7: Environmental Sustainability and Disaster Risk Reduction**

To ensure sustainable development, there is a need to be updated on the state of the environment so that issues, challenges and risks could be assessed and addressed in a timely manner and appropriate interventions made. In this regard the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) is considered the appropriate agency of the government to provide the technical advice and scientific analysis to inform decisions on the best blend of social, economic and environmental considerations. Environmental impact assessments and development consents legally are considered an integral part of the planning and appraisal process of all development projects. Enforcing compliance with the Planning and Urban Management Act 2004 had been gradual but progressive due to aggressive awareness raising campaigns and regular follow up and monitoring visits to the approved development sites.

MNRE not only coordinated and developed the policy framework for the National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) but also implemented activities under the various sector adaptation plans. In many ways, this detracted many sector stakeholders from assuming ownership of their work programs and considering the best ways to integrate adaptation and mitigation strategies into their respective sector plans.

The unsustainable exploitation of marine resources for so long led to the development of 5 marine protected areas (MPAs), Safata, Aleipata, Poutasi, Matareva and Palolo Deep. Around 20 „no take zones“ were developed within the Safata and Aleipata marine protected areas (MPAs). The latter sustained extensive damage during the tsunami. Recovery work carried out in the Aleipata marine protected areas (MPAs) included the remarking of „no take zones“ and replanting of immediate coastal areas and mangroves. Through the coastal Fisheries Community based program, a considerable number of marine reserves were set up in collaboration with the villages involved.

Despite the high levels of solid waste generation, adequate waste management practices had been instituted. Landfills at Tafaigata and Vaiaata were set up using the Fukuoka method. Sludge facilities were also constructed at the landfill sites to cater for solid waste disposal from the Apia Sewerage Treatment Plant. Effluent water quality standards were set in collaboration with the Secretariat Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). A pilot scheme for the rehabilitation of septic tanks in the pockets of residential areas around the central business district was implemented.

Efforts to improve land conservation and management focused on managing forest areas including the continuing assessment of forest protected areas, conservation of forest resources on Savai'i and enhancing management capacity for National Parks and National Reserves of Samoa through a technical cooperation program with the Government of Japan in 2009. Forestry rehabilitation programs involving re-vegetating of coastal areas were implemented for all tsunami affected areas in early 2010. Where seawall construction was required, tree planting followed once a seawall was completed otherwise tree planting was encouraged for all low lying coastal areas.

MNRE continued to encourage agro-forestry through engaging village leaders and communities in the formulation and implementation of conservation and regeneration activities within traditional farming systems in a program funded by AusAID in 2011. Water Abstraction Licensing Scheme was introduced to control and regulate surface and groundwater use.

Several donor funded projects have been implemented within the framework of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and the National Invasive Species Strategy (NISS) with the support of the community for the conservation of biodiversity. Eradication of invasive species of rats first began on Nuulua and Nuutele islands, off shore of Aleipata. Other programs included the removal of five main invasive tree species on Mount Vaea at the Vailima Reserve and the Myna Control Programme.

With the emphasis on reducing greenhouse gas emissions exploration of viable renewable energy options had begun, as well as consideration of activities that promoted energy efficiency complemented by public education and awareness programs. The National Energy Coordination Committee was set up to appraise all energy related proposals before submission with a recommendation to Cabinet. Other sources of renewable energy explored to date were solar power, wind power, coconut oil, jatropha oil and biomass gasification technology.

To minimize adverse impacts of climate change on vulnerable villages and coastal areas, MNREM and MWTI collaborated in the implementation of integrated mechanisms such as the coastal protection construction or riverside protection infrastructure that are complemented by replanting programs. These approaches aimed at enhancing the resilience of coastal, riverside residential properties and communities' assets that are highly vulnerable to flooding and coastal erosion impacts.

A first step towards strengthening disaster risk management through the Disaster Management Office (DMO) involved the review of the National Disaster Management Plan in February 2011 to identify gaps and weaknesses that emerged during the tsunami. Furthermore the Government endorsed the concept of integrating disaster risk reduction with climate change in the national planning framework.

Tsunami evacuation mapping and signage informed by science based hazards assessment was a post tsunami activity supported by the Government of New Zealand. The tsunami hazard assessment and inundation modeling for the whole of Samoa was completed in 2011. New premises for the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) were constructed at Faleata. Disaster management plans for all tsunami affected villages were completed as well as the construction of escape routes for selected villages. The United States government contributed to the funding and installation of the earthquake and tsunami monitoring system in the Meteorology Office with a backup system at the office of the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC). The Samoa Fire and Emergency Service Agency (SFESA) established a mobile Emergency Communication Unit (ECU) which needed to be improved upon in order to extend coverage throughout the country. SFESA was involved in the development of a national emergency telecommunication plan for emergencies as well as the setting up of Volunteers for Emergency program. A National Fire Plan was formulated and approved in early 2009.

SFESA continued with the implementation and management of training in pre hospital medical treatment and trauma treatment that started in July 2009. The construction of a

Regional Training Facility in Samoa for the specific purpose of response preparedness and capability in times of emergencies and natural disaster was in progress.