**Integration of Climate Change Risks and Resilience Into Agriculture and Health Sectors in Samoa (ICCRAHS) project brief**

**CONTEXT/BACKGROUND**

Samoa is experiencing a variety of climate change-induced impacts. Many of them are increasing the burdens on an already strained public health system. One of the most significant is the increased prevalence of climate-related water-borne, vector-borne, and food-borne diseases. This is a result of rising air and water temperatures, increased frequency and duration and flood events, and other climate-related factors. Impacts involve both the amount of available food, and the quality of crops and fish stocks. According to the Climate Risk Profile for Samoa completed in 2007, the effects of climate change are already affecting human health and food production.

These effects are exacerbated by Samoa’s geographic setting. In fact, as a Small Island Developing State in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, Samoa is especially vulnerable to climate change effects.

NAPA implementation in Samoa started through this project, which has laid the foundation to address subsequent NAPA priorities. An integrated, cross-sectoral approach has been one of this project’s guiding principles. In fact, the project has been developed in coordination with several key stakeholders, including representatives from government ministries, planning and aid coordination officials, UN agencies, and partners such as the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, Ltd., academic institutions and bilateral donors.

**PROJECT SUMMARY**

The project is currently closing. It was developed in line with the Programming Paper for Funding the Implementation of NAPAs and it is also consistent with the GEF Sec multi-focal programme for Pacific island countries with its particular emphasis on promoting adaptation across focal areas, aiming at achieving the following goal and overall objective:

- **Goal:** To safeguard human development in Samoa from the risks associated with climate change.
- **Overall Objective:** Increase the resilience and adaptive capacity of Samoan coastal communities to climate change impacts on agricultural production and public health.

Originally, the ICCRAHS project has been structured around four major components:

1. **Enhancing Technical and Organizational Capabilities of the Samoa Meteorological Division** (Initial allocated budget USD 610,000): these capabilities will help Samoa monitor climate change risks, and provide early warning communications to the agricultural and health sectors.

2. **Improving Samoa’s Capacity to Perform Short-Term (Seasonal) and Long-Term (Decadal) Agricultural Planning, and Crop Management** (Initial allocated budget USD 560,000): a long-term strategy for agricultural diversification and integration of climate resilience will be incorporated into Samoa’s National Agricultural Sector Plan. There will also be targeted capacity building in agricultural planning.

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**AT A GLANCE**

- **Project Timeframe:** 2009-2013
- **Total Budget:** USD $2.1 million
- **Funding Source:** Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF)
- **Implementing Agencies:**
  - Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
  - Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
  - National Health Services
- **Collaborating Partners:**
  - Government of Samoa
  - Ministry of Finance
  - Ministry of Women, Community, and Social Development
  - SPREP
  - Local communities, particularly those in high risk coastal urban villages

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3. **Strengthening Samoa’s Capacity in Public Health** (Initial allocated budget USD 560,000): public health planner and worker capacities will be strengthened to reduce the impact of climate change on this sector.

4. **Enhancing Learning, Evaluation and Adaptive Management** (Initial allocated budget USD 70,000): project lessons will be added to the Adaptation Learning Mechanism on a continual basis. Information will also be shared with other climate-sensitive sectors in Samoa.

One of the main achievements of the project has been the upgrade of climate early warning systems and services (CLEWS). These improvements have already had an impact within the meteorology sector, e.g., information management system is more integrated and flow of information to end users is enhanced. Climate forecasting services to the agriculture sector have been greatly improved and further development is considered likely. The systems are now more flexible, enabling more cross-sectoral climate services, and collaboration has started with the tourism and forestry sectors.

In terms of impact at community level, the demand from agricultural end users for climate services has increased: many farmers are going to the Ministry of Agriculture requesting climate risk maps and other climate information products. The Meteorological Division has strengthened capacity to independently further develop climate services to the agricultural users, e.g., through dynamic map products.

The project also achieved great success in terms of training staff of government ministries and agencies. The multi-sectoral dialogue facilitated by the project has contributed to improved inter-ministerial collaboration and coordination. It has also supported some foundational policy and strategy guidance, including the adaptation strategy for the health sector, which has been endorsed by the National Health Services, and a draft adaptation strategy for the agricultural sector.

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