

Integration of Climate Change Risks and Resilience Into Forestry Management in Samoa (ICCRIFS) project brief



CONTEXT/BACKGROUND

UNDP Multi Country Office in Samoa has an environment and climate change portfolio of approximately US\$75 million to be implemented by 2017. These projects focus on achieving impacts at two levels:

- At the community level the projects aim to increase resilience and adaptive capacities to the adverse effects of climate change, through for example livelihoods, disaster risk reduction and natural resource management.
- At the policy level, through implementation of key components in the National Adaptation Plan of Actions (NAPA), integrating climate risks into national and sectoral strategies, contributing towards the Millennium Development Goals especially Goal 7 – Environmental Sustainability, and to greener economy in various sectors.

NAPA implementation in Samoa started through the UNDP-GEF LDCF project *Integrating Climate Change Risks into Agriculture and Health Sectors in Samoa (ICCRAHS)*, has laid the foundation to address subsequent NAPA priorities (e.g. enhancing inter-ministerial coordination in climate change, and developing underlying capacity of the Meteorological Division for climate early warning system). The ICCRIFS project targeting the forestry sector also builds on the ongoing NAPA implementation process. Natural forests are highly vulnerable both to climate change and unsustainable land use practices. Natural forests are an important source of cultural and environmental resources, essential for the livelihoods of local communities.

Samoa's Second National Communication to UNFCCC (2007) recognizes the vulnerability of terrestrial ecosystems and highlights the need to make an effort to promote and build capacities in their sustainable management. In addition to the ongoing efforts, Samoa seeks to build the capacity and resources to systematically address climate-change risks. If these are not addressed, the result will be a decrease in wood supplies, impacts on water supply, hydropower generation, and increased flood impacts, reduced protection from wind, erosion, and landslides, and degradation of sites with cultural, religious, and scenic value. This will ultimately challenge the livelihoods of the local populations and Samoa's progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Integration of Climate Change Risks and Resilience into Forestry Management in Samoa (ICCRIFS) project aims to increase the resilience and adaptive capacity of Samoa's forest areas and dependent communities to the threat of climate change. It leverages resources and coordinates with a number of related initiatives supported by different donors and development partners, including the Australian Government, JICA, Adaptation Fund/WB-Pilot Programme on Climate Resilience, and works in partnership with experts of regional and international organizations in the field, such as the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Secretariat of the Pacific Environmental Programme (SPREP), or Conservation International (CI).

AT A GLANCE

Project Timeframe: 2011-2015

Total Budget: USD \$2.4 million

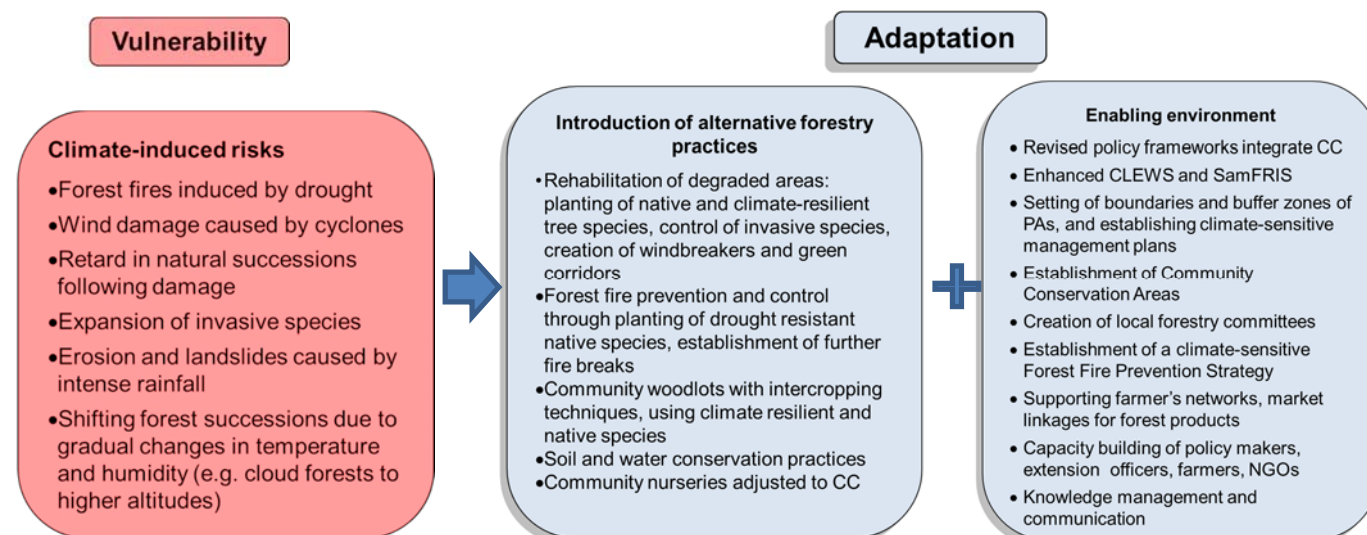
Beneficiaries/villages: 16,700 people (2,072 households) in 14 villages in Laulii – Falevao area, 4 villages around Lake Lanoto'o and 8 villages around Mauga o Salafai.

Funding Source: Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF)

Implementing Agency:
Government of Samoa: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

Parallel Co-financing:
JICA, AusAID, SPC, Conservation International

The project addresses a set of climate induced risks exacerbating unsustainable forestry and land use practices, by introducing on-the-ground adaptation measures in selected communities, combined with institutional strengthening:



KEY PROJECT COMPONENTS and EXPECTED RESULTS			
PROJECT COMPONENTS	Integrating Climate Risks and Resilience into Forestry Policies	Demonstrating Climate Resilient Agroforestry and Forestry Techniques in Lowland and Upland Areas	Capturing, Analyzing, and Disseminating Project Knowledge and Lessons Learned
Implementation progress and results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoping study completed and consultations being organized to revise the National Policy on Sustainable Forest Management and devise a new National Forest Sector Plan integrating climate change risks • Forestry-tailored climate early warning information system is being developed: automated weather stations are set up in forestry areas, a forest fire index, drought index and warning signage system established. • A climate-sensitive Forest Fire Prevention Strategy has been developed, improving forest management practices and community awareness. • The Samoa Forestry Resources Information System has been updated through JICA co-financing project, and now it integrates annual rainfall maps and data are now included in SamFRIS. Further climate information tools are being developed, such as GIS climate-forest data maps and layers analysis, climate change projection layers and a cyclone track atlas for extreme winds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 1,592 villagers and farmers have participated in climate-resilient land use and forestry planning processes. 2) 45 local farmers/workers have been participating in forest rehabilitation processes and practices. • Community nurseries have been introduced to all 26 participating villages with associated trainings, and agroforestry demonstration lots are being established established in the villages of Nu'usuatia and Luatuanu'u in partnership with Samoa Farmers Association. • Communities in all 3 project sites developed sites have been engaged in building 3D models of their terrain through participatory techniques. • 14 villages involved in the North-Upolu area agreed to establish a consecutive community-managed upland forest reserve, to protect the remaining native forest on ridge-top. • Upland forestry management is being supported through a comprehensive survey on flora and fauna analysing climate sensitivities, implemented by a team of national and international consultants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A project communication and awareness raising strategy has been developed and published. • A set of technical and field reports have been published on good practices and lessons learned. A section of the Conservation Measures Network Newsletter (global distribution) reported the ICCRIFS Open Standard training workshop on Conservation Area Planning. A success story prepared and published in the UNDP Adaptation Bulletin, distributed globally. • The ICCRIFS project team became a national knowledge hub for the application of the Participatory 3D Model technique and is providing tech. advisory to other government entities for its application. • The project communities and the P3D Model displays served on various occasions for site visits regional and international delegates (including the GEF Expanded Constituency meeting 2013, UNDP Executive Board 2014, and others). • Project website established: http://www.mnre.gov.ws/index.php/divisions/forestry-division/iccrifs