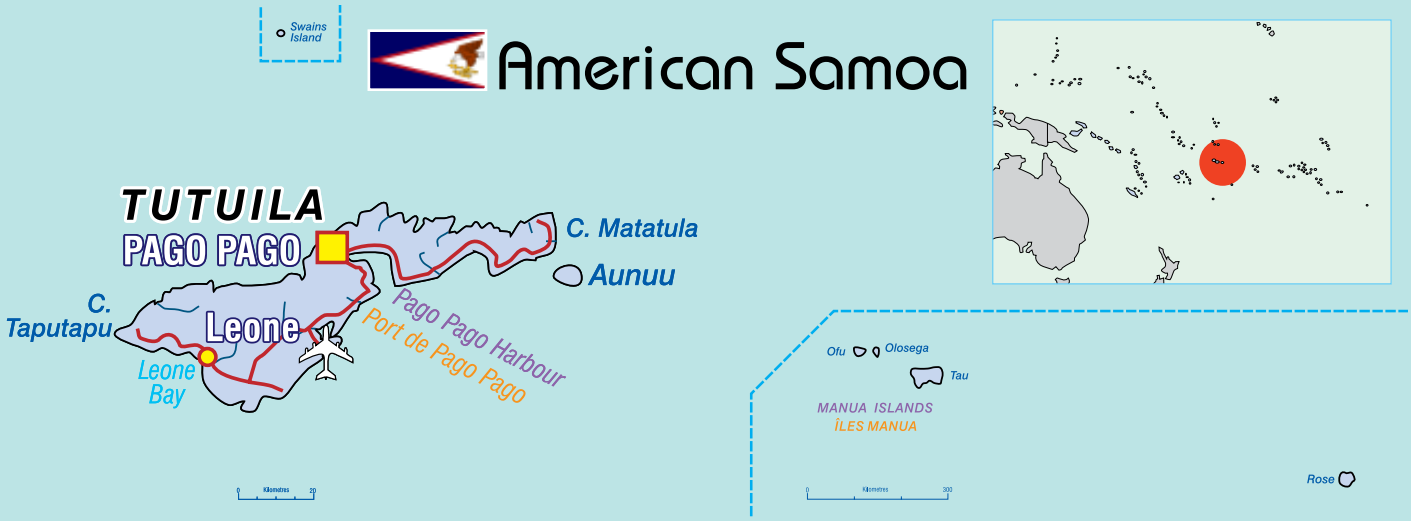
Secretariat of the Pacific Community

AMERICAN SAMOA PROGRAMME

AMERICAN SAMOA

2014 REPORT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AMERICAN SAMOA PROGRAMME

2014 Report

Secretariat of the Pacific Community
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Contents

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Foreword

I am pleased to present SPC's annual report on its programme with American Samoa. The report provides a snapshot of the development results American Samoa is achieving with SPC's support. It includes two feature articles illustrating the effectiveness of our joint effort and how the collaboration between American Samoa and SPC works in practice. A more comprehensive list of SPC's work, including training, is provided at the end of the report.

As this is the first report I have presented as Director-General, I would like to acknowledge the people and Government of American Samoa as members of SPC and partners in development of the Pacific region. SPC is proud to work with American Samoa, and you have my commitment that SPC will strive for continuous improvement in the work we undertake with American Samoa to achieve your development objectives.

This year we have examined how SPC can further improve its role as a resource for its 22 island members. We believe SPC is uniquely positioned to support members such as American Samoa to address their critical development challenges, including issues we are all familiar with in the Pacific, such as reducing non-communicable diseases (NCDs); building resilience to climate and disaster risks; accelerating economic opportunities; or enabling young Pacific people to realise their full potential. None of these issues can be adequately tackled through single-sector approaches. They can only be addressed through long-term, multi-sector approaches that use the best expertise and knowledge available.

As such, in 2015 we plan to hold discussions with members to explore how SPC can better formulate and integrate its work and expertise to focus on members' development priorities. We expect this will include a range of different ways of working with American Samoa to shape future national programmes.

I encourage you to look at the SPC Programme Results Report 2013–2014 to see the full range of work SPC is pursuing in the region on behalf of all members. I thank American Samoa for its contribution to this work. I also take this opportunity to thank our development partners, who have invested financially and intellectually in this most important work.

Dr Colin Tukuitonga
Director-General, SPC

SPC cooperation with American Samoa

This report provides an overview of SPC's work with American Samoa in 2014. It is intended to show how SPC's national-level activities, initiated by American Samoa, complement our regional work to benefit the people of American Samoa and the region. The report provides an overview of how SPC aligns its work with American Samoa to achieve the development priorities detailed in American Samoa's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, 2012.

As a development organisation, SPC provides knowledge, scientific and technical cooperation to support members to achieve three key development goals:

- The Pacific region and its people benefit from inclusive and sustainable economic growth
- Pacific communities are empowered and resilient
- Pacific Island people reach their potential and lead long and healthy lives

This year, we have summarised activities and results achieved in American Samoa under these three development themes so it is easier to understand the effectiveness of SPC's work as a whole. The work SPC supports builds on the specialist sector expertise for which SPC is most recognised. These sector areas include transport and energy, statistics, fisheries and aquaculture, mineral resources and geoscience (including geographic mapping and modelling), agriculture, forestry and land, health, water and sanitation, education, gender, youth and human rights.

SPC supports the development efforts of Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) with scientific and technical knowledge and good practice that are context-appropriate. In recognition of the interrelated nature of development and our commitment to maximise the effectiveness of our contribution, SPC wants to enhance the current process of programme development at national level. Accordingly, country programming will be based on proactive, ongoing and broadly based consultation with each country or territory, with a view to delivering technical quality aligned with members' cross-cutting development priorities. The objective is to shape a technical cooperation programme that is as developmentally effective and sustainable as possible in meeting the needs of the countries and territories SPC serves.

Regionalism in practice

From SPC's beginning, there has been awareness of the value of a regional approach to meet common needs. Although PICTs are diverse in many respects, they share similar challenges in areas such as fisheries, transport, health, food security and emerging areas such as climate change. SPC recognises and draws on skills and capacities from around the region, including encouraging experts from one member to share experiences and skills with counterparts in other PICTs. SPC also facilitates regional public goods that benefit all PICTs, such as the CePaCT genebank (Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees), which assists countries to conserve staple crops and introduce new plant varieties to increase crop diversity.

Our regional work complements national-level initiatives in American Samoa. The tangible and practical benefits of regionalism are demonstrated by SPC's work on behalf of its members to facilitate cooperation and leverage value across a range of regional initiatives. These are outlined further in SPC's Programme Results Report 2013–2014

SPC's regional services to members include:

- Strengthening regional partnerships to facilitate information sharing among PICTs and to connect PICTs to regional and international policy development.
- Improving management of the region's oceanic fisheries through stock assessments, scientific analysis and supporting countries to define and protect their maritime boundaries.
- Supporting evidence-based decision making by governments through SPC's regional statistics database, sector-based information portals, GIS and mapping services, economic analysis, and other advisory services.
- Increasing access to safe and affordable shipping services though technical cooperation, regional shipping agreements, and training.
- Improving energy security and supply though petroleum advisory services.
- Enhancing food security through conservation and distribution of the region's crop diversity, improving the resilience of food crop varieties to climate conditions and researching more effective farming techniques.
- Tackling transboundary diseases threatening livestock and public health through improved animal health services.
- Detecting and controlling diseases of regional concern through the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network.
- Confronting domestic violence by supporting legislative change across the region.
- Promoting well-being through gender awareness and mainstreaming.
- Supporting science, policy and legislation to increase the potential for PICTs to benefit from environmentally and economically sustainable mining of deep sea minerals.
- Supporting PICT resilience to the impacts of natural disasters and climate change by facilitating the regional Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development and by providing training and strengthening regional partnerships.

Examples of SPC work in American Samoa

Increasing access to oceanic fish for food security and livelihoods

Right: Attaching aggregators to a subsurface FAD

FADs ease the pressure on vulnerable coral reefs, as fishers focus more on oceanic species and less on reef and lagoon species, thereby contributing to improving the health of reef ecosystems and making them more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

At first glance, fish aggregating devices (FADs) appear fairly simple in both concept and design; however, these simple tools have become vital in the Pacific region for providing alternative livelihoods for communities and helping them adapt to climate change. By attracting oceanic fish such as tuna, mahi-mahi and marlin closer to the coast, FADs provide a nearby source of food security and an opportunity to generate income. FADs also enhance sea safety by concentrating fishing activity within a specific area, so there is a greater chance of assistance if a vessel is in trouble. And FADs ease the pressure on vulnerable coral reefs, as fishers focus more on oceanic species and less on reef and lagoon species, thereby contributing to improving the health of reef ecosystems and making them more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

FADs have been in use in American Samoa since the 1970s, with varying levels of success due to difficulties such as funding constraints and vandalism. Local commercial, recreational and game fishers of American Samoa share a common interest in having FAD systems installed in their fishing grounds. They have constantly pressured the local government to deploy FADs around Tutuila and Manu'a islands to improve their catch. When American Samoa's Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) recognised the need to provide this service, it set up a dedicated section with a specific budget allocated annually towards a FAD programme to assist small-scale fishers with their fishing operations.

SPC began assisting DMWR in 2012 by providing training to a group of staff to help them understand what FADs are about and how to conduct FAD operations. Subsequently, DMWR management selected a team from this group to specialise in FAD work.

Over 2012 and 2013, SPC assisted DMWR in the deployment of four FADs, of which only one remains. SPC experts believe that inferior materials in the joining components resulted in weak links and using 18 mm rope in the mooring instead of the recommended 20 mm are likely reasons for the failure of the three FADs. Vandalism and accidental removal are also possible causes of FAD loss.

In 2014, at DMWR's request, SPC provided further assistance to train the FAD crew in rigging and deploying subsurface FADs and to strengthen their knowledge of echo sounders. Previous training was directed at constructing and deploying the spar buoy type surface FAD, while a subsurface FAD was included to test the design in American Samoa.

As a result of the regular vessel used for deployment needing some unexpected maintenance, SPC began the new training on deploying FADs from smaller vessels off Tutuila Island for eleven DMWR staff. The training can be reproduced by the DMWR staff for deployments off Manu'a.

The opportunity to train staff to use smaller vessels proved very successful. By using smaller vessels, DMWR was able to cut the cost of deployment by 90 per cent, to just under USD 1,000.00 a day. Thus far, SPC has assisted with deploying two catamaran design spar buoys and one subsurface FAD. SPC also provided recommendations to improve future deployments.

'The recreational anglers, the alia [a catamaran-style vessel] fishers doing bottom fishing, and the villagers have all benefited from deep-water and shallow-water FADs,' said TeeJay Letalie, DMWR FAD supervisor. 'The FADs have been important in the Steinlager I'a Lapo'a International Game Fishing Tournament and villagers have been catching fish at the nearshore FADs. SPC has provided technical assistance in terms of design, manufacture and assembly of FADs and identification of suitable sites. In addition, SPC has provided training for staff on FAD deployments.'

SPC's technical assistance with American Samoa's FAD programme is supported through SPC's general programme funding. It is part of SPC's larger work with American Samoa to improve food security and livelihoods through fisheries.

Assisting American Samoa with a national minimum development indicator database

Right: National minimum development indicator online database

The database assists Pacific Island countries with their monitoring and reporting requirements for regional and international treaties and conventions, and is increasingly being used for national planning, policy development and monitoring purposes. Internationally, it is an important data source for Pacific Island development indicators.

Access to timely and accurate demographic, social and economic indicators enables evidence-based policies and planning. Statistics are increasingly recognised as an essential tool for economic and social development. One of the six core strategic goals of the *Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy 2011–2020* is for all Pacific Island countries to have their own statistical capacity, or access to regional capacity, in order to perform core and specialist statistical functions. Logistics and lack of resources, however, often constrain Pacific Island countries' ability to compile basic social and economic statistics on a regular basis and to address growing demands for more specialist statistical information in areas such as climate change, environment, well-being and population health.

The National Minimum Development Indicator, developed by SPC, answers the call of Pacific Forum Leaders who, through the Pacific Plan, requested access to a core set of common development statistics and indicators across broad sectors, with a focus on common statistical methodologies, classifications and systems. The database assists Pacific Island countries with their monitoring and reporting requirements for regional and international treaties and conventions, and is increasingly being used for national planning, policy development and monitoring purposes. Internationally, it is an important data source for Pacific Island development indicators. All population-based Millennium Development Goals indicators have been included in it to facilitate country reporting.

In response to a request from French Polynesia at the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA) in 2012, SPC agreed to extend the National Minimum Development Indicators coverage to all the Pacific territories, to allow them to compare their achievements with neighbouring countries. In American Samoa, SPC is providing support for this initiative by assigning a technical expert to assist in populating the National Minimum Development Indicator database with indicators from the country. The expert worked closely with the Department of Commerce Statistics and Planning Division on data mining exercises, a process that turns raw data into useful information that can be used to populate the database. These exercises covered some 200 development indicators across various sectors, such as health, education, agriculture, fisheries, gender, youth, transport, energy, communications, as well as social and economic development. The expert provided further capacity building

support, explaining the way these indicators are derived, familiarising staff with relevant definitions and classifications, as well as demonstrating how to update the database. According to a statement issued by Fuiavailili Keniseli Lafaele, Director of Commerce for American Samoa, the National Minimum Development Indicator database is seen as a 'most useful planning and management resource, which enables participants to look at their own development initiatives and progress relative to neighbouring countries, and how they compare to each other in the region'. Technical assistance and training on how to interpret data and use the database for policy development and reporting is planned for the second phase of this initiative, as reflected in the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy 2011–2020 work plan.

This initiative is an important part of SPC and American Samoa's joint efforts to achieve a more coordinated approach to data collection and analysis, an approach that will enhance national planning processes within and across government departments. Funding support for this initiative is made possible with the assistance of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs' special fund (Fonds Pacifique) to promote social, economic, scientific and cultural development and integration in the Pacific.

Summary of SPC's development cooperation

The feature articles in the previous section provide examples of how SPC is working with the government and people of American Samoa to support achievement of their national development goals.

In addition to the work featured, SPC provided a wide range of support to American Samoa in 2014 aligned to American Samoa's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, 2012. Technical cooperation and support were provided by many divisions and programmes across SPC on both multi-sector issues such as disaster risk reduction and climate change, and specific-sector issues in agriculture, forestry, coastal and oceanic fisheries, public health, water and sanitation, energy, transport, human rights and development statistics. American Samoans took part in approximately 131 days of SPC training over the period July 2013 to June 2014 in these different areas. Details of the technical cooperation and training provided are listed in Annexes 1 and 2.

In general, members recognise SPC's value lies in the high quality of the technical support provided across national sector areas and in its portfolio of regional work, rather than in SPC's occasional role as a conduit of donor funds. SPC promotes sustainability through working with countries to develop national capacity to design results-focused programming and where possible to leverage additional funding. SPC's direct financial inputs are only a small part of the picture. However, SPC recognises individual members are interested in the financial value of SPC's work as it relates to them. For American Samoa, in 2014, this is estimated at USD 272,041 (244,837 CFP units). This amount includes both the direct costs of SPC's work with American Samoa (including technical staff time and travel) and an allocation of the costs of SPC's regional work and indirect costs of managing and operating SPC programmes.

As highlighted in the feature articles and in the following table of outputs, the collaboration between SPC and the Government of American Samoa has involved considerable activity. While significant progress has been made, SPC is committed to understanding better what has worked and what has not, in order to inform and improve the value of its work in American Samoa in 2015 and beyond. We want to understand whether measurable and sustainable development results are being generated by SPC's activities and, if not, try to work out why and adjust our approach accordingly.

Annex 1: SPC training provided in American Samoa: July 2013–June 2014

Capacity building is an important aspect of SPC's overall technical assistance. It includes formal training programmes, targeted classroom training in response to members' needs, attachments and on-the-job training. The following table gives a detailed breakdown of the type of training.

	F	M	Total trained	Total person days
Enhancing cultural life and making cultural policy count workshop		1	1	1
Regional training workshop on geological, technological, biological and environmental aspects of deep-sea minerals	1		1	5
Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) rigging/deployment workshop		11	11	110
Public health data for decision making course	1		1	5
Statistics: Vital data analysis and report writing		1	1	10
Total	2	13	15	131

Notes:

- The above table covers training workshops, attachments and on-the-job training. It does not include meetings, conferences, seminars and consultations.

Annex 2: Key outputs of SPC cooperation with American Samoa in 2014

The table below summarises the key outputs of SPC cooperation with American Samoa in 2014, along with the status of each output. It shows how SPC's work contributes to national development objectives and provides a basis for further development of SPC's results-driven focus.

determine **determine**

Long-term results → **medium-term results** → **specific outputs**

While SPC's performance in contributing to national development goals can be measured more realistically and appropriately only over the long term, SPC aims nevertheless to evaluate interim performance and test programme logic wherever possible. Gathering evidence from SPC programmes and international experience will be even more critical in coming years to enable SPC to evaluate whether its work has achieved the intended results and to improve its performance. SPC's key regional work is covered in its Annual Report.

SPC's expected contribution to national development goals			
Expected long-term result (impact)	Expected medium-term result (outcome)	Status	Outputs completed or expected to be completed in 2014
Pacific communities are empowered and resilient			
Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems			
Increased contribution of fisheries to food security and livelihoods	Increased skills and knowledge base to maximise the return on investments in aquaculture	On track	Site assessment conducted for mariculture hatchery facilities in American Samoa; feasibility assessment undertaken
		On track	Report produced for the European Union for development assistance identifying aquaculture priorities for the region over next five years
The Pacific region and its people benefit from inclusive and sustainable economic growth			
Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems			
Improved management of oceanic fisheries	National tuna oceanic fisheries policy and decision-making are informed by the best science-based stock assessments and advice	Completed	Updated country website for all PICTs with detailed characterisation of bycatch from tuna longline fisheries
Increased contribution of fisheries to food security and livelihoods	Improved capacity for subsistence, artisanal, sport and industrial fishing activities within the sustainable production level	Completed	Technical assistance provided to the fish aggregating device (FAD) programme in American Samoa

SPC's expected contribution to national development goals			
Expected long-term result (impact)	Expected medium-term result (outcome)	Status	Outputs completed or expected to be completed in 2014
Statistics for Development			
Pacific national and regional statistics are accessible and are being utilised	Pacific national and regional statistics are accessible and are being utilised	Completed	National, regional and international users have increased access to user-friendly statistical information systems and databases across key sectors - Joomla 3.2 training for the web master provided
	PICTs are producing the agreed core set of statistics across key sectors	On track	Technical assistance provided to improve statistical processes to ensure ready access to quality and timely statistics; regular production of balance of payment statistics, including trade statistics
		On track	National Minimum Development Indicators (NMDI) populated with figures from American Samoa
		Completed	Vital data entry and report writing workshop provided to facilitate increased access to statistics
Geoscience			
Sustainable management and development of ocean and island resources	Natural resources developed and managed and governance strengthened	Completed	4th Deep-sea Minerals (DSM) regional training workshop, 'The Environmental Perspectives of Deep-sea Minerals Activities' held in Nadi, Fiji Key outcomes of the meeting are the development of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) templates for the exploitation of manganese nodules, cobalt-rich crust, and seafloor-massive sulphides
Pacific Island people reach their potential and lead long and healthy lives			
Public Health			
Improved health and well-being of Pacific communities	PICTs have access to high-quality information and evidence to inform policy and the delivery of core public health functions	Completed	Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) Data for Decision making (module 2: basic epidemiology and data analysis) training held

SPC is a membership organisation that works in close partnership with its Members: American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Kiribati, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna. We thank them for their support.

We would also like to thank our principal donor partners for their generous support of Pacific development outcomes: Asian Development Bank, Australia, Commonwealth Secretariat, European Union, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, France, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Global Environment Facility, International Maritime Organization, Korea, New Zealand, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN WOMEN, United States of America, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), World Bank.

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