



MAURITIUS STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

SAMOA 2010

MAURITIUS STRATEGY NATIONAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

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List of acronyms used:

CBD:	Convention on Biological Diversity
CIMS:	Coastal Infrastructure Management Strategy
CMS:	Convention on Migratory species
COP:	Conference of the Parties
CRDAMPIC	Convention on the development of Adaptation Measures for Pacific Island countries
DEC :	Division of Environment and Conservation
EIA:	Environment Impact Assessment
EPC:	Electric Power Corporation
FAO:	Food & Agriculture Organisation
GEF:	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GOS:	Government of Samoa
IAMP:	Infrastructure Asset Management Project
IUCN:	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
LDC	Least Developed Country
MAF:	Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MNRE	Ministry Natural Resources & Environment
MSI	Mauritius Strategy Implementation
MWTI	Ministry Works Transport & Infrastructure
NBC:	National Beautification Committee
NBSAP:	National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan
NDEMP	National Disaster Environment Management Plan
NEMS:	National Environment Management and Development Strategies
NGO:	Non-Government Organizations
NLP:	National Landuse Policy
NOU	National Ozone Unit
NWMP:	National Waste Management Policy
NWRP:	National Water Resource Policy
ODS:	Ozone Depleting Substances
PACER	Pacific Agreement on Closer economic relations
PEAR:	Preliminary Environment Assessment Report
PICCAP:	Pacific Islands Climate Change Programme
PICTA	Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement
PIREP	Pacific Islands regional energy programme
POPs:	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PSC:	Public Service Commission
PUMA	Planning Urban Management Agency
RMP	Refrigerant Management Plan
SDS:	Strategy for the Development of Samoa
SARS	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
SIDS:	Small Island Developing States
SOE:	State of Environment Report
SPREP:	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
SPRIG:	South Pacific Regional Initiative on Forest Genetic Resources
SROS	Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa
STEC:	Samoa Trust Estates Corporation
SWA:	Samoa Water Authority
UNFCCC:	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNCED:	United Nation Convention for Environment Development

Foreword:

The UN General Assembly Resolution 63/213 (February 2009) Follow-up to and Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States reaffirmed the GA decision 62/191 to “review process made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI) at the sixty fifth session of the General Assembly”. Resolution 62/213 stressed that “the review should provide the international community with an opportunity to conduct an assessment of the progress made, lessons learned and constraints encountered in the implementation of the MSI and agree on what needs to be done to further address the vulnerabilities of SIDS”.

The Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action adopted in 2005 by 129 countries and territories is to be implemented over a decade. This is a significant undertaking for the small island developing states and marks a response of recognition by the international community.

The MSI acknowledges that sustainable development is primarily a national responsibility but for SIDS to succeed, given their acknowledged vulnerabilities, the Rio principles, including *inter alia*, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development is given specific expression for SIDS. As outlined in paragraph 6 of the MSI, SIDS are committed to promoting sustainable development, eradicating poverty and improving the livelihoods of peoples by the implementation of strategies that build resilience and capacity to address the unique and particular vulnerabilities.

In accordance with the GA resolutions above, the overall objective of the National Assessment Report (NAR) has been to gather national level information, as the basis for a review of progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of SIDS through the implementation of the MSI, at the five – year mark after its adoption in Mauritius in 2005.

This report highlights the concrete actions taken and specific progress made in implementation; lessons learned and good practices; effectiveness of implementation support and mechanisms, including monitoring systems; special constraints and challenges; and recent trends and emerging issues. The information focuses on actions undertaken to address vulnerabilities of SIDS particularly in relation to the means of implementation outlined in paragraph 85 of the MSI such as financing, trade, access to environmentally sound technologies, education, awareness – raising, capacity building and integration into national sustainable development strategies. The report also outlines the impacts of the multiple global crises (food, fuel and finance) on Samoa’s economy and the actions the country has undertaken in response, to adjust to and enhance resilience against exogenous shocks.

With all of this, we find ourselves in the midst of a bewildering array of negotiated trade agreements, international conventions and newly formulated market instruments. It is a struggle to determine the sets of actions, implementation strategies and reporting requirements needed to keep in step with the changing global environment. In the process of these challenges we also face increasing levels of international crime that have managed to reach our shores some of which have come with the snare of technological advancement. This is the context within which sustainable development is being pursued.

Executive Summary:

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 also have to deal with the changing global environment and the impacts of globalization which have made compliance and the determination of appropriate responsive strategies difficult.

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 is 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. 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.

It is within this socio-economic context that Samoa has been able to implement and achieve many of the goals and objectives of the Mauritius Strategy

In the sectoral Thematic areas, progress is noted as follows:

- ◆ Climate change – ratification by the government of key international instruments, data and information collation on climate variability resulting in the development of a Climate Risk Profile and 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 the nine profile National Adaptation Plan of Action has begun with significant development partner support focuses on the

most vulnerable sectors where interventions were urgently needed and implementation will be done through existing sectoral frameworks. There is commitment to climate proofing all major development projects as is evident in the Samoa Infrastructure Asset Management program.

- ◆ 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. The Disaster Management Act was passed in 2007. An integrated approach has been taken in the implementation of major projects to enhance resilience. The impacts 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 landuse 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. A Land Registration Act 2008 establishes and maintains a register of title to land, establishes ownership of

interests in land ownership, records and registers information in respect of transactions with land and ensures access to information recorded in register.

- ◆ 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 Organisation 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 landuse 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. Modernisation and liberalisation 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 privatisation 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.

- ◆ 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 are looking at the same for primary schools.

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.
- ◆ 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.

1.0 SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT

The Samoan economy has changed and developed significantly in recent years as economic and public sector reforms have been implemented. Following the external shocks of the early 90s, the government decided to put in place a program of reforms to restructure the economy to be able to respond to internal and external shocks. In that process the economy was transformed from an inward looking, top-down, protective environment into one which is now much more participatory, open, transparent and investment friendly.

1.1 Reform program

Prior to 2005 the Public Sector Reform Program of Government was initiated with the introduction of a broad based tax, the VAGST in 1994 of 10% ;with subsequent increases in 2005 and 2008. Output based/performance budgeting system was launched in 1996; and as of 2009 has had a medium term framework developed.

Comprehensive development planning was replaced by a strategic planning approach.. This was very important because it allowed the government to place all the development challenges in a transparent, strategic and prioritised order. Over the years with each subsequent review the timeframe of the strategies changed from yearly to two years and now the current Strategy is for four years to coincide with the budget multi-year framework. The national strategy is the basis of all development cooperation and all international instruments including the MSI are evaluated against the national M&E framework. Sector planning was encouraged as the means for implementing the national strategy and to date 9 of the 15 sector plans have been completed. Five sector programs have begun which involve multi donor engagement in a pooled resource framework over a period of 5-6 years.

Running parallel to this strategic focus was the reforming of the public sector which embraces the restructuring of the public service and the enhancement of the performance of government corporations to support the economic strategy for greater efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of services, towards a more market based competitive economy.

The reform of the public service and government corporations involved extensive corporate planning to create not only a corporate environment for the operation of government departments and enterprises that would promote greater transparency and accountability, but also to gain better understanding of core functions and responsibilities to enable departments and corporations alike to implement change management processes that will enhance or improve the delivery of services they are responsible for.

The introduction of best practices and sound principles of good governance has been the overarching objective of these reforms in the public sector towards improved and measurable performance of government services.

These reforms were seen to be necessary in support of the government's economic vision that would enable the private sector to be the engine for growth. These reforms also take into account the absorptive capacity of the government ministries as well as the capacity of the private sector as a partner wherever possible, in the government's privatization program. The government privatisation program is on target and an action plan awaits Cabinet approval, the

focus being on good governance and the removal of Cabinet ministers and ex officios from statutory boards.

In recognition of continuing reforms within the public sector the need to ensure that such are addressed using a whole of government approach, a Public Sector Improvement Facility was set up to address institutional shortcomings and to build on the positive developments as a result of many years of engaging in institutional building projects so that there is enhanced capacity in linking quality policy development to improved service delivery. Important financial reforms are being implemented under a Public Finance Management reform plan which came about as a response to the weaknesses identified under internationally adopted assessments such as the Public Expenditure Financial Assessment (PEFA) and the Debt Management Performance Assessment (DeMPA). The assessments and response plans are made known to the development partners and as a consequence there is an emerging trend of aid delivery through budget support and general acceptance of the use of government systems.

Samoa also became party to the Paris declaration in 2007 and is taking part in the DAC Evaluation of the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness which started in 2009, the OECD monitoring survey 2010 as well as the implementation of the Cairns Compact.

1.3 Political situation

Samoa's political history is characterized by stability and democratic practices since independence from New Zealand in 1962. Political stability and government commitment to reforms have contributed significantly to the country maintaining steady economic growth over the past seven years. Reforms are aimed at improving public sector efficiency and creating the enabling environment for the growth of the private sector. The Human Rights Protection Party has won general elections over the past two decades with a strong majority. Following the 2006 elections Samoa is without a recognised opposition party. In 2009 independent members of parliament identified themselves as part of the Tautua Samoa Party (TSP) to provide parliamentary opposition. Subsequently the seats of the TSP members have been declared vacant by ruling but were later reinstated following a Supreme Court decision. Legislative changes have been introduced to ensure that members of parliament remain with parties that they ran for during elections thus minimising defections. The next general elections will take place in early 2011.

1.4 Economic performance

Samoa's economy is relatively small with a GDP at current prices in 2008 of SAT1.4 billion. The economy is dominated by commerce 20%, transport and communications 14%, construction 13%, and tourism 20%. Growth in GDP has fluctuated over the last decade, although since 2002 has averaged around 4%, comparatively higher than other Pacific island economies. The global financial crisis has impacted the Samoan economy with real GDP reflecting a contraction for the first time in ten years. The economy is heavily dependent on remittances, averaging close to 25% of GDP. Inflation rose from 3% to 14% in the second half of 2008 due to increased fuel and food prices but has declined. Government has managed to contain the budget deficit over recent years at less than 3.5% of GDP. 2008/9, however, saw a widening of the budget deficit as revenue fell by 1%. Forward projections forecast a further widening of the deficit over the next few years normalising by 2011. The recent increase in development loans is estimated to have pushed up the debt burden to just under 60% of GDP. In part this reflects agreements to pre-empt the expected impact of the loss of LDC status in 2010. Development assistance averaged more than 10% of GDP each year over the past three decades. Foreign exchange reserves

currently cover 5 months of imports. The liquidity in the financial sector remains high during the financial crisis.

1.4 Socio-context

In the light of the many changes which have been, and are continuing to take place in the Samoan economy and society, the issues of inequality and hardship are emerging as important issues and can no longer be ignored. Hardship and poverty are multi-dimensional, they are not just concerned about income levels, although this is a key measure of poverty. For many people, particularly those unemployed living in both the urban and rural areas, hardship is about limited access to services and opportunities, or of being unable to realise their own potential and aspirations. Even the traditional Samoan social structure and associated safety nets are coming under strain as external influences affect attitudes and aspirations.

The results of the Household Income Surveys of 1997, participatory poverty assessment survey carried out in 2002 and the 2008 Household Income expenditure Survey, suggest that hardship is becoming an important daily issue at the household level. The percentage of people living below the Basic Needs Poverty Line rose from 15% (1997) to 20% in 2002 and again to 26% in 2008. However those living in serious poverty ie. below the food poverty line is 5% of the total population.

Experiencing basic needs poverty means that many households are struggling to meet basic living expenses on a daily and weekly basis particularly expenses that require cash payments; it does not reflect destitution or hunger.

The level of basic literacy is both high and equitably distributed both throughout the country and between genders. However there is some evidence that the quality of education and the consequent attainment level reached by many students has not shown uniform improvement in the recent years. There is also a need for more opportunities for technical and vocational training for those who are unable to follow an academic path. It is critical that priority be given to training of the informal sector. Thus a significant proportion of the student population might be failing to achieve their potential and are thus more likely to experience hardship as a result of the lack of appropriate skills and relevant education, if they are unable to share in the opportunities created by development.

Similarly in health, whilst many key health indicators have improved in recent years there is concern that the quality of services being delivered, especially in some rural areas, is insufficient. The morbidity profile of the population is tending towards non-communicable, lifestyle diseases where strong primary health care, health education and nutrition programmes have an important preventative role to play. Current community programs have not only ensured the integration of best practices in nutrition and physical exercise but have gathered a popular community following with enhanced awareness of achieving a state of health.

There is commitment to ascertain who the vulnerable are. The HIES 2008 reflects a worsening in the gap between the rich and the poor. The Government has initiated programs supported by development partners to support the implementation of the policy frameworks for women, youth and the disabled respectively. Conditions of financial hardship whilst not widespread do nevertheless; have the potential of leading to increased social and domestic tensions, rising crime and a deteriorating quality of life for those most affected.

Though the traditional extended family serves as a safety net, there has been a widening of income differentials, with the top 10% absorbing over 30% of income. Samoa has made

good progress in achieving its Millennium Development Goals. Samoa has risen in the human development index (HDI) from 0.705 (1985) to 0.77 (2008) placing it in the medium category at rank 77th among 177 countries. However, a significant number of households are living under difficult conditions and facing real hardship. Samoa has opportunities for growth but is constrained by smallness, remoteness, and limitations in institutional capacity, as well as vulnerability to natural disasters, particularly cyclones. Following the tsunami, a program supported by the Asian Development Bank is looking at ways to improve social protection measures. Other constraints come from weaknesses in the legal and regulatory environment, inefficiencies of state owned enterprise and shortcomings in physical infrastructure. These constraints are a focus for continuing improvement and reform efforts.

1.5 Environment conditions

Environmental sustainability is given high priority in Samoa's development agenda, however environmental issues are not always effectively mainstreamed in the national development planning processes. Among the issues of concern are unsustainable exploitation of living marine resources, escalating problems in energy supply and continued land and forest degradation. Climate change has affected Samoa through increasingly variable rainfall, impacting water quality and water resources.

2.0 FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The sound and stable political situation and government's commitment to economic and public sector reform and improving governance standards have been the principal factors supporting the satisfactory rates of growth in the economy. These policies need to be sustained but with added emphasis to addressing the needs of the community particularly the vulnerable groups. The Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2008 – 2012 (SDS) recognises this and has as its theme "Opportunities for All".

The key issues facing Samoa are therefore the need to:

- (i). sustain and build on the good progress of the last seven or so years in maintaining macroeconomic growth and stability;
- (ii). ensure continued fiscal discipline and improved standards of governance;
- (iii). continue to promote private sector investment and employment creation;
- (iv). strengthen the education system, particularly in technical and vocational skills; and to,
- (v). improve primary health care and health education.

There is therefore a need for continued clear vision, strong leadership and good governance. As the government has already recognised in the SDS, there is a need for a comprehensive set of national strategies to achieve equitable growth and to alleviate hardship in Samoa.

Alleviating hardship needs to address both macro and micro level issues. At the macro level, national policy must continue to focus on the broad issues of education and health service delivery and creating an environment conducive to encouraging private sector investment. At the micro level, it is necessary to address the specific needs of individual villages and communities which are articulated in village development plans as promoted by the Ministry of Community and Social Development in collaboration with development partners. This means promoting rural enterprise activities to create and diversify livelihood opportunities as well as meeting particular local priorities and ensuring access to resources to address such needs..

In the social area a Civil Society Support Fund has been set up to merge all small grants scheme that can be utilised by communities for projects for improving water supplies, health services, transport and similar community based activities. It also requires government to improve the quality of basic service delivery, through better training of teachers, staffing of schools and clinics, maintenance of health and education facilities and infrastructure and improving the availability of essential teaching materials and medical supplies.

The recent apparent slight weakening in the fiscal situation needs careful monitoring to ensure that fiscal discipline is maintained. Continued economic growth needs to be sustained through an appropriate investment enabling environment and improving governance standards. Growth oriented, employment-creating strategies, must be maintained to keep the macroeconomic side moving forward.

3. NATIONAL PROGRESS, PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MSI AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Introduction

Samoa's achievement and implementation of MSI objectives and activities has been measurably significant. These can be seen throughout national reports to Multilateral Environment Agreements that Samoa has become party to, as well as programme and project implementation terminals executed at the bilateral level with its development partners. While the development, implementation and monitoring of this myriad of national and regional programmes, actions and projects had been incepted towards a diversity or spectrum of goals their integration reflects the achievement at the same time of MSI objectives and goals.

The path to these achievements did not escape the obstacles and difficulties prevalent in efforts by LDCs in their development. Samoa also faced difficulties in institutional, financial and mechanistic resources. The magnitude and seriousness of these difficulties in each thematic area also affects the extent of their achievement.

This section will provide an outline of the path towards achieving goals and objectives of MSI within its 14 main thematic areas since Mauritius and also reflects on the challenges and needs for future sustainable development.

3.2 National Progress:

3.2.1 Sectoral areas

3.2.1.1. Climate Change and Sea Level Rise

A Climate Change Risk Profile was developed in 2007. The data and information collated were then used as baselines for development of Climate Change Adaptation Strategies and Measures. The strategy and action plan development process contributed to a better understanding of the range of issues associated with the development of methodologies, approaches and specific action oriented facilities that enabled adequate adaptation to climate change and its impacts. To date a Second National Communications was submitted in 2008. A Climate Change Policy was adopted in 2007. The NAPA program was adopted in 2005 and a nine profile program reflecting the priority accorded to the most vulnerable sectors where interventions were urgently needed such as for Water, Forestry, Health, the Agriculture, Climate services, Land use planning, coastal area management, Biodiversity and tourism. NAPA is being implemented through existing sectoral frameworks thus ensuring that adaptive objectives are integrated into sector strategies and plans; there is also strengthening of sector programs through synergies, harmonization and co-financing opportunities.

In view of the Niue Declaration to commit to a Pacific tailored response to address climate change risks, the government with the assistance of its partners has set up a climate change fund for its action plan. As well, all planning of major development activities are done with the intention of climate proofing such.

A number of key institutional mechanisms were set up to facilitate adaptation and mitigation responses including the establishment of a permanent National Disaster Council to coordinate programmes and strategic response actions to extreme events and a cross sectoral climate change Projects Steering committee that oversees and provides technical advice for all climate related programmes and projects. The National Disaster Management Act to formalise the institutions for disaster management was passed in 2007, a National Disaster Management plan developed and this was put to the test during the September 2009 tsunami.

All initiatives and actions taken by the government in partnership with the private sector and communities had an associated public awareness component. This was to ensure common understanding by all stakeholders of the issues and potential impacts of climate change initiatives, objectives, goals and expected involvement of all players in the implementation of assessment and adaptation actions. Specific actions to improve public and political understanding include;

- National Climate Change Awareness Day July every year since 2001
- Media publicity / awareness programs on TV and radio
- Continuous School programs in local newspapers and through the school curriculum development work
- Community programs with pilot testing of adaptation projects in selected villages
- Environment Forum since 2000 during the environment week that is held on the first week of November every year.

Samoa's participation in the bilateral, regional and global research, assessment, monitoring and mapping of climate impacts, including the adoption of oceanographic and atmospheric measures and policies and the development of response measures, resulted in its selection as a case study in each of the following regional and international programmes: the Pacific Island Climate Change Adaptation Project (PICCAP) the Capacity Building for Development of Adaptation Measures for Pacific Island Countries (CBDAMPIC) by CIDA and SPREP, the Promotion of Renewable Energy and Greenhouse Gas Abatement Project (PREGA) project funded by ADB, and the Pacific Island Renewable Energy Project (PIREP) project funded by UNDP and Pacific Island Global Climate Observation Project (PIGCOS) executed by SPREP. At the international level there is the National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) GEF/ UNDP project where urgent and immediate adaptation needs of Samoa are being identified.

While a number of assessment reports, Action Plans and National Communications exist, there still remains the challenge of filling information and data gaps in the area of Greenhouse gas inventory and qualifying certainty of adaptation measures' impacts on the social and economic livelihoods of the local population.

3.2.1.2 Natural and Environmental Disasters

Samoa has strived to strengthen its disaster preparedness and management institutions. Disaster management and awareness policies and plans including building codes, regulatory and enforcement systems have been prepared and codified. These instruments have been framed as responses to the need for strengthened preparedness, response and mitigation that improves the resilience of the country's people, infrastructure and economy to the increasing range and frequency of natural and environmental disasters.

The promotion of early warning systems and facilities for the rapid dissemination of information and warnings has equipped the national Meteorological office with modern computerised disaster early warning systems. The National Disaster Management Act 2007 saw a restructuring of the institutions involved in disaster management.

A National Disaster and Emergency Management Plan (NDEMP) endorsed in 1991 has had subsequent reviews up to 2006. The plan spells out the goals and objectives for disaster management at the national level, the institutional requirements, and council membership (or stakeholder) roles in response to all kinds of disasters likely to threaten Samoa. For instance a specific Cyclone Response Plan has been established by the National Meteorology Office

which is the first line of information and defence for cyclones, tidal waves, and flooding, while the Fire Department are first in line for execution of the Fire Response Plan that are part and parcel of the NDEMP. Cyclones are the most common natural disasters in Samoa and expected to be an annual phenomenon during the wet season, although there has only been record of three extreme events of such magnitude between 1990 and 2003. Tsunami warning systems were trialled consistently over a period of 6 months before the 2009 tsunami – the drills helped considerably in keeping the number of lives lost minimal.

A National Disaster Management Office was set up within the Meteorological Services Division of MNRE in 2006.. The tsunami provided the opportunity to consider capacity constraints within the NDMO which has since then received significant resources to address the gaps.

The capacity of local broadcasting has been strengthened to assist remote rural and outer island communities and among neighbouring countries during disaster events. Three new radio outlets have been added to the six set up prior to NSI. The radio frequencies are also received in American Samoa, and Tokelau. Three privately owned television stations are currently operational. In 2003 the public Television and radio stations were merged into one broadcasting corporation to improve its operations and cost effectiveness but have since been privatised in 2008.

A national disaster emergency fund has been planned for natural disasters. This fund is kept at the Ministry of Finance with expected support and input from other ad hoc sources during and after a national disaster event. Discussions are still in progress with the multilateral financial institutions to consider the best modality for financial risk management.

Long term planning for disaster management is evidenced in the integration of natural and environmental disaster policies into national development planning processes. With the help of the international community, the government was able to assemble a costed recovery plan for the tsunami which was developed and premised on the findings of Damages and Losses Assessment as well as a rapid assessment conducted by a multi-donor team under the leadership of the UN.

In the preparatory stages for natural disaster and emergency management, a number of integrated actions have been developed. These have been promoted to improve resilience to risk of natural hazards. The Coastal Infrastructure Management Strategy established under the Infrastructure Asset Management Project Phase (2000) was expanded to cover all 47 electoral districts with completed Coastal Infrastructure Management Plans. Implementation of these CIM Plans has been designed as an integral part of the tsunami Recovery Plan. The public and communities are also made aware of the vulnerabilities of areas that they inhabit with the completion and dissemination of a national series of hazard maps estimating the extent of flooding, landslip and coastal erosion threats. A GIS database now contains a significant pool of information on a range of hazards. Early warning systems have been tested and reviewed. As a result development partners have been forthcoming with offers of assistance to improve such systems which have been proven to save lives if well executed.

While the scope of National Disaster and Emergency Management Plan covers all types of natural and environmental disasters, its implementation has concentrated mainly on extreme weather events such as cyclones and tidal waves, tsunamis as well as bush fires. Recently however, other types of disasters are also becoming more important hence the much wider expansion to health, pollution, agricultural, cultural and economic crises.

The Ministry of Health has also developed its own response strategies against any health epidemic of significance, while day-to-day programmes promote the preparedness and preventive measures against any outbreaks of diseases such as HIV/AIDS and those deemed contagious such as H1N1 and Rubella.

Continuing efforts are made in strengthening cultural and traditional systems that improve the resilience of local communities to disaster events.

3.2.1.3 Waste, Drainage and Sanitation

The Government has developed fiscal and policy incentives and other measures to encourage environmentally sustainable imports and local products with low waste or degradable waste content. There has been a ban on the importation of non-ozone friendly goods e.g refrigerators etc as well as importation of pre 2000 made vehicles. Given the road switch there is now a ban on the importation of left-hand driven vehicles by codification of its relevant 2009 legislation. A portion of import duties on all imported drinks in cans, plastic and glass containers is reimbursed if the importer re-exports the containers. The government through MNRE introduced a disposal fee at the Tafaigata Landfill site for commercial and industrial solid wastes as a means to recover operation and maintenance costs. A ban on the use of non biodegradable plastic bags was in place in 2006.

Data and information that reflect baselines for the waste situation and the management approaches in Samoa to control pollution, monitor waste generation, emissions etc for both sea and land based sources of pollution reached a number of milestones prior to 2005 for example: Waste Characterization Studies were conducted and documented between 1991, and 1999.

The development and implementation of appropriate regulatory measures, including emission discharge and pollution standards, for the reduction, prevention, control and monitoring of pollution from all sources; for the safe and efficient management of toxic, hazardous and solid wastes, including sewage, herbicides, pesticides and industrial and hospital effluent; and for the proper management of waste disposal sites are taken up with the relevant organ of government that is directly in charge.

A number of guidelines, draft standards, codes of environmental practise, and legislations have been developed some of which already have the force of law. The approved policies and guidelines are in their implementation phase post MSI. Also approved is the Healthcare Waste Management Strategy in 2006 which was immediately followed by its implementation plan.

The Planning and Urban Management Strategy (2002) and its Implementation Plan (2003) set the framework for better management of sewerage and drainage systems in Samoa. An Integrated Sanitation and Drainage project started implementation in 2005 with the first phase about to be completed. A national sanitation policy under the umbrella of PUMA was approved in March 2010.

Samoa does not have environmental standards for most of technology and pollution sources emitting contaminants into the environment. However, international standards of the World Health Organisation (WHO), relevant standards and procedures of New Zealand and Australia National Environment Agencies, and the USEPA have been selectively applied where appropriate. Codes developed and operationalised to address waste management needs

include the National Codes of Environmental Practices 2002, and the National Building Code 2002 both of which have been subsequently revised.

The National EIA Regulations were approved by Cabinet, and is a legal requirement for all development projects before a development consent is issued. A health care waste incinerator plant was constructed at the Tafaigata landfill which is designed to operate at the accepted international emission control standards. A second landfill was established on the island of Savaii.

Samoa has ratified and implemented relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) or conventions relating to waste and pollution control prior to and post MSI. They include the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary and their disposal signed in 2002, the convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution, the Rotterdam Convention on Chemicals, and the Stockholm convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). Samoa has also given due recognition to other international conferences such as the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the marine Environment from Land Based sources of Pollutants. Samoa is also a signatory to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone layer, its Montreal Protocol for the Control of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) and all of its Amendments.

Implementation of these conventions at the national level started immediately after the submission of Samoa's instruments of ratification for each convention. For some of these MEAs a national enabling legislative environment already exists, while others needed new initiatives. Enabling Activities under the Global Environment Facility were then approached and approved to assist with the development of plans and strategies to facilitate implementation.

Public awareness and education campaigns in waste management, sanitation and drainage have been designed to gain local recognition of the need to control wastes at the source, the value of reuse, recycling, renewal, and of the possibilities for converting wastes to resources in culturally appropriate ways particularly packaging

In addressing sewage and sanitation problems that are threatening the environment, clean technologies and treatment of waste at the source and appropriate technology for solid waste treatment have been introduced.. Samoa has almost completed a schools and health centres sanitation program promoting the proper construction of septic tanks. All the main hotels, government offices and businesses in the central business district have begun connection to the Apia sewerage treatment systems. There are ongoing consultations on the tariff rates for waste water which are critical to the sustainability and expansion of such schemes.

3.2.1.4 Coastal and Marine Resources

The coastal and marine resources are fundamentally important for the well-being of the Samoan people, as they provide food, shelter and protection as well as other basic needs for their socio-economic development. The protection, conservation and development of marine resources have been a high priority for the Samoan Government and remain a major focus of sustainable development efforts.

Since the successful implementation of pilot projects in 2 districts (Aleipata and Safata) to verify the concept of Community-Based Marine Protected Areas, these are now replicated in other parts of Samoa.

Since Samoa's EEZ is the smallest in the region and the resources therein are vulnerable to illegal fishing, it is vital that there is efficient management and control of these marine resources. Work is in progress in the delineation of Samoa's EEZ with the assistance of the Commonwealth Secretariat and the SOPAC.

The development and formulation of the Marine Resources Use Policy which has been progressively undertaken as part of the National Environment Management Strategy was approved in 2005.

Public awareness methodologies and techniques have been developed and tested for effectiveness. An all pervasive approach has been taken in public awareness campaigns to include all levels of stakeholders on the importance of nature and the environment and the limited natural resources that Samoa has, in order to instigate collective efforts in sustainable management and utilisation of these resources.

3.2.1.5 Freshwater Resources

In the past 5 years the people of Samoa have come to terms with the idea that water is no longer a free commodity and that it is a finite and vulnerable natural resource.

The Water sector Plan termed 'Water for Life' was approved in 2005 and was developed under a Water Sector Support program. Other key outputs of the same program include a Water Resources Use policy, a Water Services policy and a Sanitation Policy which were all developed between 2008 and 2010.. There has also been requisite capacity development for all sector stakeholders. The programme has been successful in contributing to an improved quality of service through improving infrastructure through its 12 million Euro work component, which started implementation in 2007 and nearing completion. The policies are important pillars of a well defined sector policy framework and crucial elements to ensure good governance in the water sector.

The *Water Service Policy*, defines the role of government, distinguishes regulatory functions from service delivery and promotes the complementary role of the private sector. It integrates village schemes and recognises the economic challenges faced by the Samoan Water Authority (SWA). It introduces a contractual relationship between SWA and a regulatory authority with the aim of improving efficiency and economic sustainability.

The *Sanitation Policy* summarizes existing responsibilities within government in relation to sanitation, identifies the limited capacity to enforce compliance as a key constraint and sets out strategies for Government action. The programme has further supported the establishment of a permanent institutional framework with adequate capacity to govern and manage the water sector. A medium-term sector investment plan for the period to 2013 completed in June 2009 provides an appropriate response to the key challenges in the sector. The performance measurement framework has been developed to an operational level for a selected set of indicators enabling a results orientated dialogue in the sector. Overall it can be stated that the programme is contributing substantially to developing a comprehensive and integrated sector-wide approach, focusing on institutional strengthening, policy development and sector management. As such the programme provided the basis for introducing sector budget support in 2010.

The introduction of water tariffs and a user pay system will go a long way to control excessive water utilisation and wastage. There are currently 15 bottled water ventures in the country, providing quality water as well as import sources.

3.2.1.6 Land resources

The development of land resources has principally been in the development and improvement of national databases and the dissemination of information to relevant groups, especially local communities, youth and women, for land-use planning and management. Information on estimates of the carrying capacity, economic and environmental value of land resources, along with appropriate decision-making tools, such as land valuation systems and geographic information systems have all been part of the assessment and dissemination process.

The government through MNRE has developed national land information databases and attempts have been made starting with internal networking that links various databases for easy access within the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment that is mandated with the generation and storage of land related information. A website including relevant publications for the purpose of national and international awareness on the progress of Samoa's implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the Ministry's core functions and services such as land management, technical land services (surveying, mapping, valuation and drafting), Planning and Urban Management, and Conservation has been established, is used widely and therefore needs to be regularly updated.

Work on the land capability/zoning systems for Samoa and the need to establish mechanisms for the sustainable allocation of land-based resources such as sand, aggregates, rocks etc have been completed. process of sustainable management and development of limited land resources. Samoa in tandem with its Land Use Policy has prepared and/or reviewed land-use plans in conjunction with agricultural, forestry, mining, tourism, traditional land-use practices and other land-use policies, with a view to formulating comprehensive land-use plans and zoning so as to protect land resources, ensure sustainable and productive land-use and guard against land degradation and pollution that exceed the island's carrying capacity. It is widely understood that the tenure system in Samoa, which gives more than 80% of land ownership to the Chiefs and Orators complicates any commitment from financial agencies to use these as collateral for lending.

A Land Task Force was set up in 2006 to consider land reforms and to ensure that there is accessibility to and for development on an equitable basis within a framework of customary ownership.

The past 5 years has seen the implementation of Coastal Infrastructure Management Plans which provide guidance on the responsibilities of all stakeholders including the government, in ensuring that the sand resources are not being extracted beyond the carrying capacity of the foreshore so that in the long run, natural replenishment becomes elongated or even impossible.

The Planning and Urban Management Act 2005 provides a legal framework for the management of and control of unsustainable types of landuse. Particular types of land utilisation forms will be closely scrutinised with the requirement for mandatory development consent. The PUMA Act has strengthened the operations and mandate of the agency. The increasing application of Environment Impact Assessment procedures to proposed sand extractions has meant that such could be carried out in a more sustainable manner.

3.2.1.7 Energy Resources

The Energy policy 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 Organisation of Samoa in 2007 is seen as a means of improving local expertise in renewable energy technologies that exist in Samoa.

More than 90% of Samoa is now covered by electricity. One of the main components of the Energy policy has been reserved for renewable energy. The development of this part of the policy involved the promotion of public awareness of renewable energy, collection of data on sustainable energy needs and potential, development of pilots on renewable energy, development of Type II projects on renewable energy, and development of Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM) projects

The main focus of the energy sector in Samoa is for the development of viable and cost effective renewable energy solutions commensurate with technical capacities and affordability of technologies to be used. To date, there is consolidation of the extent of the use of coconut oil for power generation which is a key focus of research given the escalating prices of fossil fuels; all attempts are made to ensure that the shift to consider biofuel is met with consideration of supply side issues to ensure there are adequate production volumes.

3.2.1.8 Tourism Resources

Tourism development and environmental management are mutually supportive. This is the principle that has been given greater recognition by the government of Samoa as well as its private sector and community tourism stakeholders in efforts to capitalize on this growing sector. The Tourism Development Plan 2002-2006 was completed to provide a framework for sustainable tourism development which focuses on conserving and enhancing the country's natural and built environment. The new tourism plan is in operation. Its goal is to provide a framework and a process that ensures a balanced, coordinated, practical and efficient approach to the sustainable development of tourism in Samoa.

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 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 the Unit Title legislation in 2009 is expected to facilitate the financing packaging of large tourist facilities.

3.2.1.9 Biodiversity Resources

Because of the potential danger of losing our heritage, there continues to be concentrated effort to ensure that Samoa sustains its wealth of biodiversity for socio-economic and ecological development. Policies and legislations have been developed and formulated such as the National Biodiversity Policy (NBP), National Deforestation Policy (NDP) and the National Heritage Policy (NHP) which were all approved in 2005

Samoa has placed great importance on the International Environmental Agreements (IEA), and through their ratification have been very useful for Samoa to access both financial and technical support for the implementation of various activities to achieve sustainable development and at the same time enhance the awareness of our people and the local communities of common concerns and issues and elicit appropriate responses.

Implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) the National Biosafety Framework, and National Invasive Species Strategy are work in progress since

approval in 2005. A Medium Sized Project (MSP) for the conservation and monitoring of the upland and lowland forests of Savai'i which is believed to be the last remaining native forest areas in Samoa was completed in 2007.

Throughout these programmes and projects, public awareness is an inbuilt part of these activities, and monitoring and evaluation exercises have also been undertaken to ensure sustainability and acceptance by the Samoan people.

3.2.1.10 Transport and Communications

Samoa has continued its efforts to strengthen transport services and facilities at both the national and local levels, paying particular attention to environmental protection, safety, and innovative energy-efficient and low-cost transport solutions. Improvements in transport and communications have been made with a view to improve connectivity for trade facilitation.

- The Land Transport Authority was officially set up in 2009 as a financially independent entity. There are continuing improvements to roading however close attention should be paid to access roads if the government is intending to reinvest in agriculture.
- There has also been an increase in seat capacity in terms of aviation with the introduction of new PolyBlue flights under the joint venture arrangements however this has not resulted in an increase in air cargo capacity.
- Affordable and safe transportation between the two islands received a further boost with the commissioning of a new interisland ferry provided under Japan's grant aid program.
- A new harbour development to facilitate transportation between Samoa and American Samoa started in 2009 but suffered a setback when damaged by the tsunami.

Modernisation and liberalisation 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 privatisation 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.

3.3 Cross cutting issues

3.3.1 Science and technology

There has been limited progress in integrating science and technology into sustainable development programmes. An extensive project in association with this development is ongoing in the upgrading of teaching skills in mathematics and science at both primary and secondary level.

The Government is promoting the strengthening of science and technology education, the effective use of instructional technology at all levels of the education system, and modernizing the health information system and to deliver public services electronically. Demand driven research in agro processing and the use of biofuels for power generation is behind the core work of the Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa since its set up in 2006.

3.3.2 Graduation from LDC status

Samoa is one of the five Pacific LDCs that is recommended for graduation out of its LDC status in 2010. A special case for deferral has been made to the UN given the impacts of the global recession as well as the tsunami with emphasis on high vulnerability to natural disasters.

National Institutions and Administrative capacity

- The national institutions and administrative capacities have gone through a major restructuring process.
- Government established transparent tendering procedures for contracting-out services. The last five years has seen an extensive review of Procurement systems with the resultant outcome that the development partners are gradually shifting to harmonised use of country systems. This is important in the transition to graduation out of LDC status.
- The Public Service Commission has instituted executive development and leadership courses for all levels of management since 2005 and these are run by the National University of Samoa

3.3.2 Regional Institutions and Technical Cooperation

Samoa continues to work with the regional institutions in its efforts to achieving sustainable development and continues to draw on their capacities for technical assistance in all relevant fields and particularly in association with the implementation of all the regional protocols Samoa is party to.

In some ways also, Samoa like other Pacific countries rely on the regional organisations to play a coordination role in relation to major partners engaged in the region so that they are not overwhelmed with the complex financing arrangements and technical requirements of regional programs and established facilities that are intended to operate as one stop service centres.

Pacific countries have not utilised to potential the availability of region wide institutions in Asia of which the Pacific is a part.

3.3.4 Human Resources Development

Institutional and process strengthening should go hand in hand with the enhancement of the available human resources capacity. The past five years has seen a surge in opportunities for human resources development within the Samoa public sector. The number of long term training awards on an annual basis has increased through the usual bilateral scholarship programs as well as through regional and national sector specific programs. This development has not been supported by recently adopted Public service commission policies such as tendering resignations when one has received an award for training for a period less than twelve months.

As part of the corporate planning process adopted across the whole of government, capability plans are developed and implemented. The sector planning process has enabled the allocation of financial resources to implement capacity development plans at sector level. Over the years the skills gaps in the technical fields are gradually being filled by returning graduates. The three year phased public service salary raise has added stability to recruitment in the service and salaries are slightly better than the private sector.

Public sector reform saw DEC split into two divisions in June 2003 giving birth to the new Planning and Urban Management Agency with consecutive staff numbering 21 each with the addition of Watershed Management from the Ministry of Agriculture to DEC in 2006,

the creation of a Marine Conservation Unit, and the transference of Disaster Management Division from the Prime Ministers department to Meteorological Services/Climate Change in 2007.

3.3.5 Implementation, Monitoring and Review.

National progress made and the problems encountered in the implementation of the MSI have been identified through established implementation, monitoring and Review processes. These have been developed by involving relevant stakeholders in designing best practice and approaches that are affordable and realistic.

Implementation, monitoring and review of all environmental component programmes and actions have been established through institutional strengthening and restructuring of the public sector that promotes partnerships with private sector and community stakeholders. Monitoring of the MSI is incorporated into the ME framework for the national development strategy using the mechanisms as in table below

Table.2 Implementation, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms

Development Component	Mechanism
Climate Change	National Country Team for Climate Change, Task Teams for Each project (Climate Change Section) involving other sectors
Marine Resources (Fisheries)	Monitoring of fish catches being enforced by the national surveillance team and Fisheries Officers.
Biodiversity	National Biodiversity Country team, DEC (MNRE). Terrestrial Water and Marine resources also have a specific team.
Waste Management, Sanitation and Drainage	All projects implemented and monitored in accordance with project TOR and funding requirements. Monitoring is done under the Joint Water Sector Steering Committee. The Urban Management Services Section of PUMA (MNRE) monitors daily rubbish collection and evaluates performance of contractors.
Transport and Communications	Land Transport Authority was set up in 2007 and includes the Land Transport Board. Tenders Board is responsible for all contracts awards and bidding processes. Office of the telecommunications regulator was set up in 2006. A new Electricity Act is under parliamentary consideration and includes setting up of power regulator.
Energy Resources	An Energy sector steering committee is being set up which is linked to the National Team for Climate Change to ensure coordination with other climate change related projects.
Science and Technology	PUMA
Land Use Development	PUMA processes for land use development consents and environmental impact assessments.
Tourism Development	STA has its own programme and project planning, implementation and review procedures.

The engagement and involvement of Communities is key to the successful implementation of the MSI hence the drive to set up financing facilities to assist them in the implementation of their sustainable village development plans. In this way also there is the potential to tap into traditional knowledge for possible solutions to the challenges faced today.

3.4 Problems encountered

Implementation of the MSI has been an integral part of the national development strategy which was supported by a much improved economic infrastructure, enhanced capacities and restructured organisations as well as increased financial support from the international community. It was important to ensure that environment concerns were highlighted and mainstreamed into the national development framework.

There is also wide recognition that the natural environment is key to socioeconomic development and as such every sector activity impacts on the environment and so the responsibility for conservation, appropriate management practices etc is everyone's.

Since MSI, the agency of the Government responsible for the environment has achieved a level of capacity that would confidently provide effective services. Its staff and budgetary allocations have increased, specialized skills and knowledge have improved and where there are still gaps, outsourcing is the option.

There is still much to be done to ensure that there is compliance with legislations and policies; however at the same time, these need to be carefully matched against people's needs in order to engender a better appreciation of the importance of conservation.

3.5 Future development

In order to ensure continued progress in the next ten years support is required for the following:

1. Consolidate funding for community projects to protect coastal and conserve marine resources and protect and improve watershed areas and water sources and all other related activities that are incorporated into their development plans.
2. Selected technical studies on coastal and marine resources particularly in the aftermath of the tsunami
3. Effective programs to protect watershed areas and public access to water resources; develop technical capacity to assess and monitor water resources and develop mechanisms for water allocation
4. Legislative review of all the environment-related laws and regulations in Samoa in collaboration with all legislation that require review following the restructure of government ministries.
5. Implementation of all policies approved in the past five years
6. Implement second phase of Land project providing technical support for our land resources: national policy on customary land uses, land use capability plans, national inventory of customary land, develop maps of land degradation and develop technical land databases.

4.0 TRADE AND INVESTMENT & STATE OF VULNERABILITY

4.1 Trade related needs and concerns:

The Samoan Government believes that sustained economic growth and reduction of unemployment requires growth in private sector investment.

1. On the import front the main concern often expressed by the business community relates to import tariffs on both finished goods and raw materials. It is sometimes experienced that some policies put in place by government to encourage growth and sustainability may work to the contrary in some sectors of the economy. One of the concerns raised by the manufacturing sector is that, on reflection, tariffs for some imported finished products from overseas are equal to the tariffs applied on imported raw materials to manufacture similar products locally.
2. The sourcing of raw materials and inputs from overseas has been very costly. This has affected the competitiveness of our local products in relation to final goods imported from abroad. Samoa's manufacturers and importers have to venture beyond our traditional trading partners in order to obtain good quality products at competitive prices.
3. It is often the experience that overseas market requirements may demand a minimum volume to be supplied by the exporters. However, these requirements on volume cannot be met due to supply side constraints such as the smallness in size, isolation from major markets and occurrence of natural disasters. This is often the case in agro-based products and calls for investment in the production of downstream processing of locally available resources.
4. Non-tariff barriers have been a major concern for Samoan exporters. These non-tariff barriers (NTBs) come in the form of quarantine, customs and standards & conformance. Samoa has experienced and is still facing difficulties in trying to comply with excessive measures accorded by the New Zealand authorities to some of Samoa's export products.
5. Samoa's inability to consistently supply good quality products on a timely basis at competitive prices. It is likely that our exporters probably are not fully aware of the requirements the markets of the importing countries.

4.2 National level or community based initiatives related to trade practices and services including those that aim at diversifying exports or improving national competitiveness

- Bring to a conclusion its request for accession to the World Trade organisation in 2010.
- A number of strategies to facilitate trade and trade development are in place. The National Investment Policy, Trade Policy and National Export Strategy were adopted in 2008.
- An improved business environment is indicated by increased availability of funding for investment, successful joint airline venture of Polynesian Blue through improved fares and services, telecommunication reforms leading towards increased competitiveness,

improved public private sector dialogue and improvements in the “Doing Business indicators”.

The Government has introduced various programmes and initiatives aimed at diversifying exports and /or improving national competitiveness such as:

- Government is encouraging through a policy on the diversification of agricultural exports from traditional crops to developing other products such as kava, nonu and other tree/ fruit crops. This is evident by having in place a High Temperature Forced Air (HTFA) Plant to ensure that overseas market quarantine requirements for agricultural produce are met by our exporters;
- Encouragement and promotion of value added products in the manufacturing and processing sector for agriculture produce and also encourage organic farming.
- Implementation of the Fruits and Vegetables sector strategy

4.3 Key investment related concerns and needs

The current land tenure system in Samoa continues to be a challenge in securing foreign investment in Samoa. A Land Task Force was established in 2007 to consider ways by which there is increased accessibility to land for development within a framework of customary ownership.

The market access advantages, such as those provided under South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Co-operation Agreement (SPARTECA) & the Generalised System of Preferences, have been a pull factor to some of the manufacturing ventures now in Samoa. The erosion of these trading preferences due to the multilateral trading arrangements in place is likely to result in decisions to relocate elsewhere by the foreign investors. This may impact negatively on employment both within the concerned companies and linkages to the supporting investments.

Investment in new technology would be beneficial to Samoa in terms of efficiency and faster production. However, there is a need to evaluate the environment and social impact of these investments. It is important to note that Samoa’s agricultural sector has largely been based on traditional methods and practices. Transfer of inappropriate and expensive technology is a concern to both manufacturers and business merchants alike.

Interest rates on borrowed funds are sometimes relatively high and this could retard growth in investment. In addition, the relatively high cost of electricity has discouraged investment in capital intensive industries. The shortage of skilled labour is one of the main concerns for labour intensive investment projects because it affects business performance.

4.4 Specific subregional cooperative mechanisms

Samoa is a member of the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (**PICTA**) which came into force in April 2003 and has started trading under the Agreement. The resulting increase in trade will reflect enhanced efficiency and improved consumer welfare in the FIC economies, leading hopefully to the overall creation of jobs.

Samoa is party to the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (**PACER**), which became effective in October 2002. It is a framework agreement setting out the basis for the future development of trade relations among all 16 Forum members. Free trade arrangements between the FICs and Australia and New Zealand are being negotiated under the PACER Plus agreement which is viewed as underpinning economic security in the region.

Samoa's trade with the EU is low due to a number of factors including supply capacity, meeting EU standards and transportation costs. These areas should be addressed in the EPA negotiations to ensure that an arrangement is beneficial for the development of Samoa's trade. Samoa wholly supports the EPA negotiations being conducted at the regional level and has endorsed the PACP EPA architecture of a Master Agreement with subsidiary agreements. Under the negotiation structure, Samoa is the alternate spokesperson for the Pacific ACP Regional Negotiating Team. Samoa is represented in 3 Technical Working Groups - Services, Investment and Legal. Samoa's concerns include the need for flexible Rules of Origin (ROO), in particular fisheries and garments, as well as other trade facilitation measures that would assist in the export of goods to the EU market. Samoa would also like flexibility of the ROO through extending the scope of diagonal cumulation to include supplying countries in the Pacific region who are not currently party to a trade agreement with the EU. Samoa also joins other PACP states' views on the need to have a provision for automatic derogation to facilitate the development of new manufactured products from Samoa as well as a provision for infant industry. Samoa is also mindful of the implications of EPA on triggering PACER Article 6. Work is currently underway to possibly extend PACER to include trade in services. This, together with investment, growth and governance follows on from the 4 pillars of the Cotonou Agreement which are similar to that of the Pacific Plan.

Samoa became a member of Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance specifically for LDCs in the area of trade development in 2006. A Trade Diagnostics study is being conducted and due for completion in 2010..

4.5 Sustainable capacity development

There has been significant progress in strengthening standards of qualifications evidenced in the establishment of the Samoa Qualifications Authority in 2005.

There has been an enhanced involvement of youth and participation in sport. The Government made substantial investments in sports facilities to promote youth involvement in the range of sports available in Samoa when it hosted the 2007 South Pacific Games.

The current national strategy also pays recognition to sport as a potential development and income earning activity for young people.

4.6 Education:

A sector plan for the education sector was developed in 2006 and its implementation is work in progress through the Education Sector program supported by a number of development partners.

The focus is on the quality development of teachers using the approved National Teacher development Framework, the production of quality learning materials for all schools, implementation of Schoolnet program, establishment of community learning centres with emphasis on providing training for informal sector, curriculum development and national assessment and infrastructural development.

4.7 Sustainable production and consumption

Since the adoption of the Green Growth strategy following the Mauritius meeting, there has not been any significant progress in implementation except that it now a mandatory requirement for all development projects to have EIAs done before a development consent is issued by PUMA.

4.8 Vulnerability

Like other small islands states, Samoa is highly vulnerable to fluctuations in commodity prices, it is ecologically fragile and vulnerable to natural disasters such as cyclones which have the capacity to wipe out the productive capacity of a country in a matter of hours. Re-building takes up enormous resources. The possible potential areas, which aggravate vulnerability to poverty in Samoa, are linked to the following economic, political, cultural and other factors.

- (i) A narrow economic base and geographic isolation from markets
- (ii) Customary land tenure system with no clear registration system in place hinder development of customary lands particularly in rural areas, however, it also ensures that there is access to land for every member of the extended family.
- (iii) Customary owned land cannot be used as collateral for financing.
- (iv) The onerous social and ceremonial obligations in the extended family, church and village context of the Faa-Samoa could aggravate poverty of income particularly in the rural areas,
- (v) Vulnerability of agricultural crops to pests and diseases as shown by the taro blight could aggravate poverty in the agro-based villages in the rural areas,
- (vi) Vulnerability to cyclones and other natural disasters like flooding is significant given the concentration of settlements and traditional villages are located in exposed coastal areas.
- (vii) Urban drift
- (viii) Lack of paid employment opportunities
- (ix) Lack of access to credit
- (x) Geographical isolation from the mainly centralised services

An Environment Vulnerability Index for Samoa was developed post Mauritius but was not given due consideration when its case was considered by the ECOSOC for recommendation to graduate out of LDC status.

5.0 MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

5.1 Poverty reduction

On a macro scale the per capita GDP, which has been traditionally used as the measure of the standard of living, has increased to around USD2,700 (2008) from USD760 in 1993. On a global scale the human development achievements based on the vulnerability index continues to place Samoa under the United Nations category of a Least Developed Country. The shortcomings of the GDP per capita has led to the increasing use of the Human Development Index which is constructed from a number of economic, health and education achievement indicators including life expectancy, real per capita GDP, adult literacy rate and combined enrolment ratio. In 2008 Samoa ranked 77 out of 177 countries in the Human Development Index. The strong social indicators such as life expectancy, literacy and access to water, health and education services have lifted the global ranking of Samoa in contrast to the GDP per capita measure

The main characteristics of poverty as they apply in Samoa using available statistics are discussed as follows:

5.1.1 Definitions of poverty

5.1.1.1 Basic needs poverty

Basic needs poverty defines the lack of sufficient income to meet minimum consumption needs. Relative poverty means living in a considerably worse way relative to other people in the same society. These poverty concepts are often analysed based on National household income surveys, which attempt to measure household or individual income or the extent of income inequality. The effectiveness of these income-based measures is limited on account of the special characteristics that are also important for livelihood. In the case of Samoa such characteristics include the role of subsistence production, remittances, operations in the cash and non-cash economy and an understanding of the Samoan traditions and culture.

The latest empirical study to measure poverty in Samoa, was conducted through the Samoa Statistics Bureau using the results of the 2008 Household Income Survey. The study reflects the fact that an increasing proportion of the population are living under the basic needs poverty line (15% in 1997, 26.7% in 2008)

5.1.1.2 Food Poverty Line (FPL)

The FPL identifies households, which cannot afford a basic minimum nutritionally adequate and palatable diet. Using the data from the 2008 Samoa Household Income and Expenditure Survey the Food Poverty Line was estimated at ST31.56 per capita per week. The results showed that around 5% percent of the population had income/expenditure less than the food poverty line

5.1.1.3 Poverty of Opportunities

Poverty of Opportunity is defined as the inability of people to lead the kinds of lives they aspire to and is based on an underlying idea that more people are denied basic human opportunities than are denied a minimum income. Poverty of Opportunity can be assessed in terms of education, health and employment, however, poverty of opportunity can also involve the denial of opportunities in material well-being, access to markets, job security, political and social freedoms and other dimensions that are not easy to quantify.

On account of the peculiarities of the Samoan culture and social practices, the broader concept of poverty of opportunity including the level of access to and standards of education and health services, lack of economic assets, social exclusion and political marginalisation, is considered a more appropriate description of poverty for Samoa.

5.1.1.4 National initiatives:

1. Improved access to and levels of credit through a number of micro-credit schemes by both the government and non government organizations. Partnerships with international NGOs have resulted in a scheme that provides low cost housing for low income families. As well, the Housing Corporation was established to provide assistance for those that may not have access to financing from the traditional financial institutions.
2. Increased funding for community development projects (Civil Society Support Fund) such as the building of school and health facilities, agricultural, livestock and fisheries

3. Establishment of a facility to support community projects on natural resource management under the Samoa GEF small grants scheme

5.2 Education and reduction of child mortality

Education at primary level is compulsory and as of January 2010, also free and the government is looking at ways by which it can enforce the associated legislation on compulsory education. The Government with the support of development partners recently introduced a School Fee Relief scheme which is not only a response mechanism to the global crises but also supports the achievement of the goal for universal primary education by 2015.

There is a 98% net enrolment ratio for primary education and there is not a marked difference by gender. More children are staying longer at school and the transition rate to secondary schooling is on the increase. The Government continues to maintain its strong commitment to education. The strategy being pursued attempts to resolve limited access to senior secondary education, inequitable access to quality education, improve the quality of teaching staff and provides adequate facilities for learning. Samoa is not endowed with many natural resources and therefore an educated and skilled labour force is considered the most valuable resource for its development. The availability of skilled human resource to meet the demands of the private sector is a desired long-term goal.

Support for teacher development in terms of appropriate salary scales and professional development is set out under the National Teacher development Framework, an outcome of the Education Sector program. In-service training and professional development programs continue and these are expected to elevate teacher status, qualification and professional skills leading to improved service delivery in education. Furthermore curriculum and teaching materials will continue to be reviewed and developed further in order that students have access to quality and relevant teaching resources. Improved education facilities are another key element of education development. ADB, Japan and the European Union are supporting the government's efforts to improve the access to and quality of primary and secondary education through rehabilitation, expansion and upgrading of schools. Upgrading will enable the Government to implement a school zoning arrangement that will contribute to equitable access to education. There is close cooperation with the private sector including the churches.

A healthy labour force is a pre-requisite for effective and efficient management of the economy. Government will maintain priority support to the health sector to ensure equal access to health services by all households. Currently Samoa has health indicators equivalent to those of some developed countries. The under 5 mortality rate (per 1000 live births) has declined from 42% in 1990 to 15% in 2008. Similarly, infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births) has gone from 33% in 1990 to 9% in 2008

Health promotion and health prevention remains a key strategic focus. The Government continues to develop and intensify health promotion and education policies and programs. Primary health care services will be improved through strengthening primary and secondary prevention and treatment programs for non-communicable diseases (NCD) and the implementation of the NCD policy.

Health services at the community level will be closely targeted. An integrated community health service has been established. The efficiency and effectiveness of primary, secondary and promotive service delivery at the community level will be improved through strengthening

planning, management and resource utilisation within the geographic areas of the service. Mobile health clinics are already in service to better serve the rural communities.

5.2.1 National initiatives

1. The 10 year Strategic Plan (2006-15) for Education is in place and has begun implementation
2. School fee relief scheme set up and operational
3. Government policies on the areas of early childhood education and inclusive education, areas usually under the jurisdiction of non government organisations are in place as well as associated development projects to strengthen these partnerships
4. Implementation of Child Protection program
5. Support for NGOs who work in the area of children's rights, in particular child protection
6. An Expanded Programme of Immunisation with a much improved coverage
7. Partnerships with bilateral and multilateral donors to address the issues of improved education facilities, updated curricula, improved teacher quality, and improved children's health and protection measures.

5.3 Gender equality and empowerment of women

In 1992, Samoa was the first country in the Pacific to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on the 25th September 1992 and continues to provide periodic reports to the CEDAW Committee.

The ratio of girls to boys in primary education is about the same at 95%. At secondary level, the ratio is higher at 105. It is not possible to determine any gender differences on the basis of literacy. The share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector is 38% and the proportion of seats held by women in parliament is only 8.5%. The percentage of females as cabinet ministers has doubled over the last 4 years.

5.3.1 National initiatives

Implementation of the National Policy for Women and review of National Youth Policy is ongoing.

5.4 HIV/AIDS and other vector borne diseases

While there may be few confirmed cases of HIV/AIDS, there is the concern that there may be under reporting. There has been a 25% increase in the number of cases as contracting HIV/AIDS in Samoa since 2004. Although data may be limited, health trends indicate that Pacific countries are extremely vulnerable to HIV/AIDS given the high incidences of STIs . Malaria is unknown in Samoa and the prevalence rate of Tuberculosis is 18 (per 100,000) people in 2008 and declining. The proportion of TB cases detected and cured under Direct Observation Treatment System (DOTS) was 53% and 92% respectively.

5.4.1 National initiatives

1. Peer education training involving NGOs, schools and youth
2. A multi-sectoral National AIDS Council was established to coordinate all activities to do with public education and awareness raising.
3. Community education advocacy using HIV infected persons and sports role models

4. Establishment of an NGO specifically for HIV/AIDS prevention advocacy activities

5.5 Environment sustainability

Despite this relatively strong policy framework developed under the NEMs and subsequent programs, a major challenge would be to reverse the loss of environmental resources. The proportion of land covered by forests has increased from 35% (2000) to 60% (2005) a reflection of an aggressive approach to promote reforestation. The share of the population with access to safe water continues to increase although 100% coverage has not yet been achieved.

5.5 Global partnerships for development

A core principle of the MDGs is that human development is a shared responsibility and that strong partnerships need to be developed to promote a more open and equitable system of international finance and trade, increase development assistance and enhance commitment to good governance and development. While the prime responsibility for human development rests with the individual countries, international partners can support and enhance that commitment but cannot substitute for it. Through partnerships, there will be added contribution to new knowledge and ideas along with new technologies and new resources.

As of 2009, government's official debt is 56% of GDP. ODA has increased significantly with new partnership arrangements in place such as that of the Samoa Australia partnership arrangement. There is a good balance of activities being funded between infrastructural projects and those in the social sectors.

5.6.1 National and regional initiatives

1. Since the early nineties, the government has been undertaking a reform programme starting with financial/economic reforms. Phase 2 of the Public Finance Management Reform Plan has just begun
2. Reforms to foreign direct investment regulations have been made with the intention of facilitating the arrival of new foreign capital and technologies for productive activities;
3. As part of the process towards economic integration, Samoa has entered into regional trade agreements through PICTA and PACER and PACER Plus. As part of the ACP group, negotiations are ongoing for new economic partnership arrangements under the Cotonou Agreement and is expected to reach conclusion soon
4. Samoa is still working towards accession to the WTO- possible conclusion in 2010.

6.0 EMERGING CONCERNS AND SPECIAL NEEDS

Samoa's has made progress over the last decade in laying the platform for necessary mechanisms to implement all its environmental obligations under international and regional environment conventions since MSI. These include; amendments of existing legislations strengthened policy framework, action strategies, regulations and management plans which have all contributed to Samoa's national efforts of sustainable development and natural resource management. Despite progress over the years, new concerns have emerged together with imperative issues of special needs that require immediate assistance from the international community on the sustainable management, protection and conservation of small island developing states' natural, ecological, cultural and human resources.

6.1 Emerging concerns under thematic areas:

6.1.1 Climate Change:

The necessary instruments to combat the impacts of climate change are in place, however there are emerging issues that need to be addressed, and for which financial assistance to start the implementation process for these plans is crucial in order to support community development efforts in sustainable management of their natural and cultural assets /resources.

- Limited capacity to plan for or design ways to mitigate or adapt to climate change.
- Unaffordable technologies required nor the huge financing requirements of climate change.
- Inability to handle complex financing arrangements of existing global climate change funds
- Establishment of local climate change fund

6.1.2 Natural and environmental disasters:

Natural and environmental disasters are becoming common phenomena in Samoa ranging from long periods of droughts to devastating tropical cyclones.

- National disaster plans need to be reviewed and more emphasis put on mitigation and readiness. This would ensure the minimisation of the aftermath damages caused by disaster events.
- There is a need to enhance public awareness of natural and environmental disaster issues. There is an imperative need to promote more national public awareness and educational campaigns using the media (television, radio and newspaper), community road-shows and educational programmes in schools on mitigation and preparedness

6.1.3 Management of waste:

Much progress has been achieved in waste management with the implementation of programmes such as the national waste management collection covering both the urban and rural areas, as well as the waste separation project within the main waste disposal area of Tafaigata Landfill.

- There is a need for capacity building within MNRE in the preparation and production of public awareness materials in order that there is continuity in making these available for educational purposes.
- The progress on waste management, to do with waste recycling, as there is a vast amount of waste that can be recycled.

6.1.4 Coastal and marine resources:

In Samoa, people are very much dependent on the coastal and marine resources for their livelihoods.

- Population pressures along coastal settlements has led to the increase in reliance on coastal and marine resources for sustenance and subsistence income and a subsequent decrease in marine resources and loss of coastal habitat areas for marine organisms to breed. Promote replication of model marine protected areas enabling the conservation of coastal and marine resources.
- More technical assistance for research or studies on coastal and marine resources is required which can assist communities in decision making on ways to better manage their activities planned under their coastal infrastructure management plans

6.1.5 Freshwater resources:

Samoa is endowed with freshwater resources, however the existing remaining freshwater resources of the country is at a critical level, and the issue should be a priority concern for the government, and all relevant stakeholders to address.

- Enforcement of legislation for the protection of watershed areas and public access to water resources needs to be carried out, with the MNRE being responsible for its enforcement and regulation of the utilization of existing freshwater resources.
- The community to be supported in the implementation of projects to protect and improve watershed areas and water resources projects such as the planting of trees along river banks and springs for forest rehabilitation and to stop soil erosion caused by flooding.
- Early implementation of the national water resource policy, water services and sanitation policies
- Development of the technical capacity to assess and monitor water resources is essential.
- There is an urgent need to develop maps of national watershed areas that will enable the identification of areas that are in a critical condition and requiring emergency rehabilitation programmes.
- There is a need to develop appropriate mechanisms to regulate the allocation of water resources.

6.1.6 Land resources:

The proper utilisation of land resources according to their appropriate capabilities and vulnerabilities holds the key to future land use management in Samoa.. Land assessment activities need to be undertaken:

- Develop and update existing land resource technical maps is for the updating of information about land resource utilization in Samoa.
- Identification of areas of land degradation in Samoa, through the development of maps of areas that are in deteriorating conditions, such as fallow and dry lands.
- Develop national land use capability plans to assess the mechanisms required for sustainable land use management in Samoa.
- Develop a national policy on customary lands to enhance the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment programmes on improving access to land use resources..

- Conduct an inventory assessment of customary land to find out the percentage of lands that are currently utilized and those left unused and determine the impact of customary ownership on such a distribution pattern.
- The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to develop technical databases on soil types and geology of the islands landscape, based on existing and updated information on land use maps of Samoa to better find means of addressing issues on land use in terms of fertile land, wet lands and swampy areas and land degradation.
- Reduce the exploitation of land-based resources such as sand, aggregate, gravels and rocks and ensure sustainable allocation of these land based resources.

6.1.7 Energy resources:

It is important that Samoa develops the means of better utilizing existing natural energy resources available in-country where feasible.

- The energy sector needs to be all inclusive of a division for sustainable energy, incorporating climate change programmes.
- Having established a division for sustainable energy and climate change can enable the collection of data on sustainable energy needs and potential use. The Power sector expansion program includes the establishment of the designated national authority for Clean development mechanisms and the Clean Energy Fund.
- There is also a need to promote public awareness programmes on renewable energy and cost-effective means of saving non-renewable energy use in the homes and work places.

6.1.8 Tourism resources:

The tourism industry in Samoa has experienced gradual growth over the years supporting other major sectors of the economy such as agriculture and remittances from Samoan families overseas.

- Although tourism contributes significantly to Samoa's economy the real cost of its development on the environment has not been fully established. There is a need to develop research and studies on the impact of tourism at its various levels on the cultural, social, and ecological implications on Samoa's environment.

6.1.9 Transport and communication

Transport and communication sectors have seen accelerated progress through the development of road and other economic infrastructure throughout Samoa. As well, the communication network has reached most villages in the rural areas through the work of the Samoa Tel Corporation and other private sector providers.

- An Infrastructure sector Plan needs to be developed and the Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility has been approached to assist. This would define the roles to be played by each government ministry in terms of regulatory and operational functions.
- The Land Transport Authority needs to develop instruments for the determination and appropriate allocation of transport costs.
- Information, communication and technology has become one of the priority areas for Samoa and the application of public awareness and educational programmes is very much needed to further enhance understanding on the importance of ICT.

6.1.10 Biodiversity resources:

Similar to progress in waste management in Samoa, the biodiversity area has received much attention over the past decade with the development of relevant instruments to implement the protection and conservation of biodiversity programmes.. Outstanding issues are as follows:

- Continued support for community conservation project initiatives, which are important indicators of grass root level support for conservation efforts to sustainably use and manage biodiversity resources.
- Consolidation of pilot activities on other aspects of the NBSAP programme.
- Financial support be given to implement pilot projects identified under the Invasive species Strategy.

6.1.11 National institutional capacity:

Samoa has taken an exceptional step through its government reforms to address institutional capacity assessment and needs for all its line ministries, by amalgamating sections from other government departments into relevant ministries and merging of government departments into one line ministry that can best utilize existing resources and provide effective services.

- Achieve a true partnership arrangement for engagement of NGOs and private sector in sustainable development programmes at the national and community level and be supported through capacity building.
- There should be consolidation of the integration of environmental issues into economic planning. Direction of progress to be determined at the mid term review of the national development strategy at the end of 2010.

6.1.12 Science and technology:

Samoa has achieved progress in this area compared to pre MSI period.

- A national policy on science, technology and sustainable development that will provide the guidelines for the implementation of activities in scientific research development in-country, as well as technological initiatives for technology that are appropriate for Samoa's environmental context, and can be easily adopted must be developed..

6.1.13 Human resource development:

The government of Samoa with the assistance of its development partners has given priority consideration to the implementation of human resource development programs under each of the sector programs.

There is still a need to review the national policy on human resources and sustainable development to provide guidance in achieving Samoa's national goals of sustainable development through appropriate natural and human resource management.

- The Samoa Qualifications Authority has given recognition to the growing number of youth school drop-outs and is working with Post secondary education training providers to design options for upskilling, reskilling towards employment..

6.2 SPECIAL NEEDS

6.2.1. Information:

The lesson learnt from previous sustainable development programmes highlights the limited information available for decision making and programme planning and implementation.

Box: 1 Summary on Information Needs for implementation of Samoa's MSI + 5

Area	Actions
Climate Change:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Information from other sectors, such as health, agriculture, forestry, and water is essential in determining the implications that climate change and climate variability can have on these sectors. Achieved through sector coordination in adaptation activities. ■ Scientific research needs to be developed for Samoa, on areas of climate variability so that accurate or appropriate information are obtained to enable better planning and implementation of programmes for climate change. Achieved to a large extent with technical support by development partners ■ Development and application of information systems (data indicators etc) to support assessments (such as PEAR and EIAs) and decision-making on settlements and planning.
Natural and environmental disasters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Early warning systems have been developed and tested in real situations ■ Review of existing national disaster plans, requires the incorporation of more information about mitigation and readiness strategies for disaster management in Samoa. Ongoing ■ Disaster management legislation. Approved in 2007
Management of waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Review existing information on waste issues and associated health problems, to update data and fill in the gaps from previous programmes to further enhance on-going waste management programmes. Work in progress for MNRE ■ Inventory of waste management information pertaining to methodologies used in development of resources from waste materials - completed
Coastal and marine resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Strengthened scientific research in the areas of coastal and marine resources to improve productivity and biodiversity of coastal areas in Samoa - ongoing
Freshwater Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Development and application of appropriate legislative and institutional arrangements for the sustainable management of watershed areas and water resources – Completed in 2008/09 ■ Application of specific information technology for designing maps and databases of watershed areas and water resource. – completed under Asset Management project
Land Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Development of information systems on technical databases, for soil types and geology of the Samoa landscape. ■ National inventory of customary land and ownerships – work in progress with passing of Land Registration Act 2009 ■ Gathering of existing information to develop land use capability plans. ■ Application of GIS to map out land use areas of Samoa including areas of land degradation - ongoing
Energy Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Promote scientific research studies on the use of renewable energy in Samoa – ongoing work of Samoa Research organisation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Collect data on sustainable energy needs and potential in Samoa, identifying different types of renewable energy found in-country - completed
Tourism Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Conduct a national cost-benefit analysis to assess the true cost or impact of tourism on the environment. – proposed in the new Tourism development Plan 2009-2012
Transport & Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Assess existing information on the country's accessibility to improved infrastructure – to be done with Development of sector plan
Biodiversity Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Develop an information database on traditional knowledge and the application of traditional conservation methodologies used by Samoan's to protect and conserve biological diversity resources - Completed
National institutional capacity:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ National assessment of existing institutional capacity needs to be strengthened for a more define and collaborated work between relevant stakeholders on environment programmes - Completed
Science & Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Established agencies to conduct scientific research and assessment needs, providing backstopping information to all relevant stakeholders on the application of appropriate technology for sustainable development. ■ Develop a national policy on science, technology and sustainable development – no progress
Human resource development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Gather information to develop strategies on sustainable employment creation – completed under the aegis of Samoa Qualifications Authority ■ Develop a national policy on human resources and sustainable development – completed and under review

6.2.2 Capacity Building:

Public awareness programmes including Workshops and training of stakeholders are crucial aspects of capacity building to empower people with skills and knowledge on improving ways for sustainable use and management of resources. A scientific research culture needs to be encouraged to support scientific understanding and assessments of environmental issues as well as encouraging appropriate technology transfer that suits Samoa.

Box: 2 Summary on Capacity Building Needs for implementation of Samoa's MSI + 5

Area	Actions
Climate Change:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Strengthened capacity building activities in public awareness, training and education - ongoing
Natural and environmental disasters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Promote national public awareness on early warning and Disasters preparedness to respond to and recover from disaster events - ongoing
Management of waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Enhance existing capacity in the preparation and production of public awareness materials, such as educational booklets, video documentaries, CDs, posters and publications etc. ■ Encourage Technology Transfer – ongoing and replicated
Coastal and marine resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Strengthened existing awareness, trainings and educational programmes on sustainable coastal and marine resource management. – ongoing and reflected in pilot activities
Freshwater Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Promote public awareness and educational programmes on conservation of watershed areas and the sustainable use of existing water resources o Ongoing
Land Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Build capacity of local communities on sustainable land use management. Develop public awareness focusing on win-win resolution to address customary land ownership conflicts to benefit all instead of a minority – an integral part of program activities
Energy Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Promote public awareness on renewable energy in Samoa ■ Support technology transfer and technical trainings - Ongoing
Tourism Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Strengthened community-based sustainable tourism through building capacity of stakeholders (trainings) - Ongoing ■ Promote public awareness of eco-and community-based tourism - ongoing

Transport & Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Application of ICT for public awareness and education. Promote technical assistance in trainings - ongoing
Biodiversity Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Promote public awareness on the value of traditional knowledge and skills in natural resource management. ■ Enhance awareness on access to genetic resources and its applications - ongoing
National institutional capacity:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Strengthened partnerships between government agencies and NGO's on environmental awareness and trainings – in place and partnerships developed
Science & Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Promote a scientific and technology research culture, to build specific capacity on advance technology - developing
Human resource development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Capacity building should be encouraged in all sectors for HRD

6.2.3 Adequate Funding:

The Implementation of MSI + 5 is governed under the principles of the Paris Declaration, Pacific and Government of Samoa aid effectiveness principles and the Cairns Compact.

6.2.4 Programme of Action and Implementation

There are other major projects implemented at a large scale, which government capacity can undertake, such as the upgrading of national infrastructure, and maintenance of government assets. The application of hard solutions can be the sole responsibility of the government to identify financial mechanisms to support such development.

6.2.5 Sustainable Outcomes:

- Development of indicators for improved programme implementation is highly recommended from the outset, to better assess Samoa's progress in the next 10 years.
- Inclusion of monitoring and evaluation programmes should be encouraged for each thematic area, action plans.
- Accessibility of stakeholders to information and knowledge network.
- Increase community capacity to sustainably manage natural resources.
- Funding mechanisms established for environmental programmes at local and national levels.
- Improved collaborated network on information sharing, capacity building and mobilising financial resources between each thematic areas.

National initiatives to address the Impacts of global crises:

Impacts of the crises include reduced remittances and tourism receipts, reduced demand for labour, reduced commodity consumption, lower incomes for households that may be reflected by the increasing levels of people under basic needs poverty line, and decreased access to basic services. Aid flows on the other continue to increase and the tsunami's aftermath has brought about renewed commitment through development assistance

Food Crisis – continued efforts to promote food security through the Talomua initiative with the communities. Promotion of nutrition programs and food safety through the Ministry of Health and Community and Social development. In this regard also there is a need for renewed commitment by the government to reinvest in agriculture as well as strengthen the application of traditional knowledge for good production practices

Fuel crisis: Continued efforts to consider viable renewable sources of energy

Financial crisis

It is important to Safeguard macroeconomic stability through the development of a sustainable fiscal policy which is already in place as well as a public sector debt position beginning with the implementation of the Debt management strategy as well as ensure a sustainable balance of payments position

It is important to strengthen budget management through reprioritised budgeted expenditure where necessary, protect core services delivery in key social sectors and assist the most vulnerable as well as make more effective use of existing resources.. The school fee relief scheme is one example of such measures. Budget management can also be strengthened through the increasing use of budget support. Development partners have been supportive in assisting with their emergency response initiatives delivered through budget support.

It is also important to strengthen financial management procedures as implemented under the ongoing Public Finance reform plan.

It is also important to improve competitiveness and broad based growth through continuing reforms for State owned enterprises, improving the regulatory environment and the environment for doing business in Samoa as well as strengthening private public partnerships particularly in service delivery

Further improvements in coordinating and ensuring aid effectiveness under the framework of the Paris declaration to ensure leadership and ownership of development cooperation programs should be considered.

