

1. Title of Policy

Planning for Climate Change Policy (PCCP)

2. Purpose of Policy

This policy is set to address national response to Climate Change as identified in the National Environment Management Strategy (NEMS) 1993. This is due mainly to limited local response to the issues of Climate Change and Greenhouse Effect. The local risks from greenhouse warming include; coastal inundation; shoreline retreat; more severe and frequent storms and wave condition; enhance coastal sedimentation and threat to infrastructure and services.

3. Previous references

The First National Communication to the United Nation Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Kyoto Protocol for Samoa provide mission statements and strategies that are clearly directed towards policy formulation pertaining to climate change. This policy is in line with the governments Statement of Economic Strategy (SES) and the Coastal Infrastructure Management Strategy (CIMS).

4. Requesting agency

Department of Lands Surveys Environment (DLSE)

5. Implementing agency

DLSE

6. Other stakeholders relevant to policy implementation

- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Meteorology
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Transport
- Treasury Department
- Samoa Water Authority Corporation
- Public Works Department
- Office of the Attorney General
- National University of Samoa
- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Department of Education
- Customs Department
- Department of Trade, Commerce and Industry
- Non-Government Organizations
- Health Department
- Electric Power Corporation

7. Background to the formulation of the policy proposal

Following cabinet decision PK (94) 99 in November of 1994, the Department of Lands, Surveys and Environment was identified and *approved* as the implementing agency for UNFCCC. The department is to provide national policies and guidelines regarding matters of climate change. The policy will ensure Samoa's commitment to fulfilling its national and international responsibilities, in particular the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol.

In addressing the Climate Change and the Sea level rise issue, Samoa's National Climate Change Country Team (NCCCT), coordinated by DEC together with the, private sector and the local communities, have completed the Green House Gases (GHG) Inventory and the Vulnerability and the Adaptation (V&A) Assessment. Projections and recommendation in the National Communication are all based on the outcomes of these two studies.

8. Detailed statement of the policy

Goal

To develop national plans of adaptation and mitigation in response to the impact of climate change.

Objective	Comments
1. To mainstream the importance of climate change issues in environmental planning and development assessment at the national level.	Mainstreaming climate change issues recognises the impact that natural hazards have on the environment, human beings and infrastructures. Environmental planning is necessary to identify ways of responding to climate change; such as development and implementation of action of policies and strategies. Develop plans to address the possibility of sea level rise and global warming. Provide guidelines for adaptation and mitigation to climate change. Conduct national assessment on infrastructures at risk when natural hazards strikes.
2. To strengthen the collection, analysis and use of data to monitor Climate Change patterns.	Reliable climate change information is vital for preparation of plans to address predicted natural hazards. Establishing a climate change database will assist in storing information to draw a pattern

	<p>or variation of climatic changes over periods of time. This will ensure up to date data that the Government requires in monitoring any adverse changes.</p>
<p>3. To promote understanding and awareness of the predicted impacts of climate change and greenhouse effect.</p>	<p>It is necessary that all stakeholders are educated on the causes and effects of climate change, and how it relates to our activities. Importantly for the public to know is the risks to life and property associated with sea-level rise, and tropical cyclones. Incorporating climate change issues across the school curriculum. Strengthen national efforts on capacity building in Samoa to understand and respond accordingly to Climate Change issues. Thus it is necessary to strengthen observational network for climate in the country.</p>
<p>4. To identify the most vulnerable areas and infrastructures at risk from impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>To conduct a national assessment of areas most likely to be affected by predicted natural hazards; such as flooding, coastal erosion, landslips and cyclones. Develop measures of responsiveness in, adaptation and preparation to mitigate adverse impacts of climate change. Implement appropriate methods to be applied to minimize risk on infrastructures. There is a need to consider the application of technology transfer methods to assist in the alleviation of risks on coastal or lowland areas of settlement.</p>
<p>5. To actively participate in international and regional forums negotiations on matters pertaining to climate change and other pressing environmental concerns.</p>	<p>To work closely with international and regional organizations in developing plans to address climate change issues. To seek technical and funding assistance in these forums to provide capacity building and resources for developing preparation measures in response to climate change.</p>

9. Strategies for achieving Policy objectives

The following strategies have been identified for achieving the policy objectives:

Strategy	Activities
<p><u>9.1 Short - term</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit Senior Technical personnel to facilitate the policy implementation and establish a database that will monitor the status of climate change in Samoa. • Strengthen the existing Climate Change Task Team to collect, collate and analyse data. • Develop information networking and sharing of resources with relevant institutions. • Promote awareness programmes on climate change within school curriculum and also national environment events. • Conduct internal trainings of DLSE staff to up-skill on technical areas relating to issues of natural hazards. • Facilitate the annual reviews of the policy and coordinate the work of the Implementation Task Team.
<p><u>9.2 Medium-to Long-Term:</u> Incorporate climate change considerations into national planning and assessment developments in Samoa.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The review of environment legislations, principal act, guidelines and standards to incorporate climate change aspects. • The existing climate change section should be expanded to take on technical expertise from the Meteorology Division of MAFFM, so that efficient monitoring, and receiving of up –to date information on weather patterns or addressing any natural hazard problems as predicted. • Provide external trainings to improve public understanding through workshops to promote community stakeholders participation. • Strengthen partnerships with other projects by complimenting each other’s activities, example: PICCAP

	<p>and AusAID Sea Level Rise Monitoring Project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct project proposal plans based on assessment of vulnerable areas and infrastructures highly affected by adverse impacts of climate change. • Implement appropriate technology transfer methods suitable to Samoa's situation.
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10. Expected benefits from the policy initiative

Overall the PCCP will contribute to the achievement of sustainable measures taken to address climate change issues and how it impact not only on the environment, but also human beings and infrastructural developments. Specifically PCCP is expected to provide the following benefits;

- It will provide consistent approach to issues concerning climate change
- It enables the identification of no regrets policies and sustainable measures
- It promotes the systematic gathering of information on climate change and its consolidation within a broader policy framework.
- Better understanding and awareness of climate change issues will increase the level of adaptation and mitigation measure taken by people.
- It provides opportunities to build consensus on national responses to climate change and the implementation of the Convention.
- Positive networking with all stakeholders will indicate collaborative efforts in responding to climate change issues.

11. Relationship to SES and sectoral objectives / strategies:

The SES 2000-2001 highlighted priority concern for environmental issues that poses threat to our natural resources and climate change is one of those issues being considered. The PCCP will ensure that climate change issues will be integrated into socio-economic development of the country because of strong implications that it will have adverse impact on the environment, infrastructures and the population.

12. Financial Implications

Initial capital funding is required to pay for the Senior Technical personnel and office materials; hence it can be covered under the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol financial assistance. However, ongoing expenses will eventually come under the DLSE annual budget and no extra cost will be expected in the long term if full responsibility for planning and implementation lies under DLSE.

13 Human Resources Implications

In the short term a Senior Technical personnel needs to be employed to facilitate policy implementation and set up a database for climate change to monitor the patterns of changes in the climate. However, ongoing operating expenses will eventually come under the DLSE annual budget and no extra cost will be expected in the long term if full responsibility for planning and implementation lies with DLSE.

14. Legislative Implications

With the provisions of this policy/any consequent set of regulations *conflict* with any provision of the *Lands, Survey and Environment Act 1989*, the provisions of the *Lands, Survey and Environment Act 1989* will prevail. A review of this Act is greatly needed in order to incorporate specific details directly related to Climate Change Policies. There is very little chance that the policy will conflict with the Act since there are no specifics (relating to climate change) being mentioned. The Act also needs to be reviewed in order to specifically reflect the broadening of DEC's functions and the conservation methods enforced.

15. Relations with other Agencies

DLSE will work closely with other relevant government departments, NGOs and Private sector companies. This will establish a forum for promulgating and enforcement of adequate policies regarding response to climate change throughout Samoa.

16. Proposed Implementation Schedule

The implementation of the PCCP is expected to take effect from the time it is endorsed by Cabinet. Activities that are considered as high priority will be implemented first and others to follow later. The PCCP will be oversee by the NEMS sub-committee from key departments and organizations such as; Internal Affairs, MAFFM, METI, Dept. Transport, PWD, PM Department and DLSE

The PCCP will be reviewed on an annual basis to verify progress of implementation and a full independent evaluation will be carried out after three years.

Recommendations

That the Cabinet approves this policy

Responsible Officer

Tu'u'u Dr. Ieti Taule'alo)
DIRECTOR)
Department of Lands,)
Surveys and Environment.)

18. Date of Submission)