SPC
Secretariat
of the Pacific
Community

American Samoa

Country Profile

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Prepared by SPC Strategic Engagement, Policy and Planning Facility

American Samoa Country Facts[1]	
Country or territory official name	Territory of American Samoa
Capital city	Pago Pago
Government and legal status	Unincorporated territory of the United States of America administered by the Office of Insular Affairs, US Department of the Interior
	Constitution ratified 2 June 1966, effective 1 July 1967
Head of State	President Barack H. Obama
Head of Government	Governor Togiola Tulafono
Land area	199 square kilometres
Exclusive economic zone (EEZ)	390,000 square kilometres
Population (2007 estimate)	68,200
Population density (2007 estimate)	332 persons per square kilometre
Annual intercensal population growth rate	1.6 per cent
GDP (2003)	USD437 million
GDP per capita (2003)	USD6,995
Real GDP growth (2003)	3.0 per cent
CPI annual change (2006)	3.0 per cent
Exports (2006)	USD438 million
Imports (2006)	USD579 million
Trade balance (2006)	-USD141 million
Crude birth rate per 1,000	26.3
Crude death rate per 1,000	4.5
Total fertility rate	4.0 children per woman
Infant mortality rate per 1,000	11.9
Male life expectancy at birth	69.3 years
Female life expectancy at birth	75.9 years
Urban population	50 per cent
Dependency ratio (15-64)	76
Median age	21.4years
Youth (15-24)	19.5 per cent
Religions	Congregationalist, Roman Catholic, other Protestant
Languages	Samoan, English, other Pacific island languages
Official currency	United States dollar (USD)

[1] Principal source: SPC Statistics and Demography Programme (and its Pacific Regional Information System – PRISM http://www.spc.int/prism)

Introduction to the Country Profile

SPC country profiles document the nature and extent of the organisation's services to individual members.

This country profile presents basic country facts and a synopsis of American Samoa's development background and a narrative summary of the Secretariat's assistance during the period 2006–2008. Annexes include specific country activities and human resource development activities in 2008, and a financial summary of assistance during the period 2006 to 2008.

American Samoa Development Background

Polynesian settlers are believed to have arrived in Samoa as early as 1000 B.C. The first European contact with Samoans occurred in the eighteenth century. Rivalries in the area between competing powers were finally settled by the 1899 Treaty of Berlin, under which the United States and Germany divided the Samoan archipelago into two parts. The eastern islands were occupied by the US. The western islands are now the independent state of Samoa.

Although technically "unorganised" in terms of American law, in that the US Congress has not passed an organic act covering the territory, American Samoa is self-governing under a constitution that became effective on 1 July 1967. However, it remains on the United Nations list of non-self-governing territories. Persons born in American Samoa are American nationals but not US citizens. American Samoans are entitled to elect one non-voting delegate to the United States House of Representatives.

More than 90 per cent of the land in American Samoa is communally owned. Economic activity is strongly linked to the United States, with which American Samoa conducts most of its external commerce. Formal employment falls into three sectors employing approximately 5,000 persons each: the public sector; two tuna canneries; and the remaining private sector, which includes tuna fishing, a variety of services and tourism.

Canned tuna represents more than 90 percent of American Samoa's export trade, with hundreds of millions of dollars' worth sold to the US market each year. Imports mainly comprise materials for the canneries (more than 60 per cent), food, petroleum products, and machinery and parts. The territory's capital, Pago Pago, is generally regarded as having one of the best deep-water harbours in the Pacific.

Agricultural production includes bananas, coconuts, pineapples, papaya, breadfruit, vegetables, taro, yams, dairy products and livestock, most of which is consumed domestically. A major environmental issue is the territory's limited natural fresh water resources. Hence, the government has committed substantial funds in the past few years to improving both water catchments and water delivery systems.

US Government transfers make a significant contribution to the local economy. Attempts by the Government of American Samoa to develop a larger and more broadly based economy have met with limited success, owing to the territory's remote location, limited transportation and other infrastructure, and devastating typhoons. Tourism appears to be the most promising sector for further development.

Summary of SPC Assistance to American Samoa 2006 - 2008

This section provides highlights of SPC assistance to American Samoa by SPC division and programme for the period 2006-2008. A more detailed listing of activities can be found in Annex 1.

Land Resources

SPC's Land Resources Division supported American Samoa in the development of an Integrated Agriculture and Forestry Strategic Plan, 2009-2015, which was launched at the 3rd HOAFS. Additional substantial training and support has been provided in area of quarantine particularly in the preparations for the quarantine operations linked with the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts held in Pagopago.

Marine Resources

Over the last three years the Coastal Fisheries programme (CFP) has been providing technical assistance, training, fisheries information, and funding American Samoan participants to a range of conferences and workshops. Assistance has also been provided with the development of community-based fisheries legislation, and a joint community-based ecosystem approach to fisheries workshop was held for both Samoa and American Samoa.

The Oceanic Fisheries Programme (OFP) provided approximately USD 24,000 in assistance to American Samoa during 2006-2008. This assistance mainly comprised funding for entry of tuna longline size and logsheet data collected in American Samoa. Note that there is little demand in American Samoa for the tuna fisheries data management and fisheries monitoring services typically provided by OFP to SPC members, as these services are provided in American Samoa by the US National Marine Fisheries Service.

Social Resources

During the past years, American Samoa benefited from SPC's Public Health Programme (PHP) through a joint technical agency consultation on HIV testing for the Pacific and a minimum data set for STI surveillance, which resulted in a call for the up-scaling of HIV testing and minimum data set for STI surveillance in the Pacific. PHP provided financial and technical support in the development of BCC materials for the XVIII Pacific Games. To assist in public health surveillance and control of communicable diseases, SPC provide technical support for in country surveillance activities for influenza with immune-fluorescence testing. They further procured anti-viral supplies for rapid containment and conducted an orientation on planning processes and planned testing exercises.

In January 2006, the Cultural Affairs Programme (now part of the Human Development Programme) subsidised participation of one representative from American Samoa to attend the "Culture across the

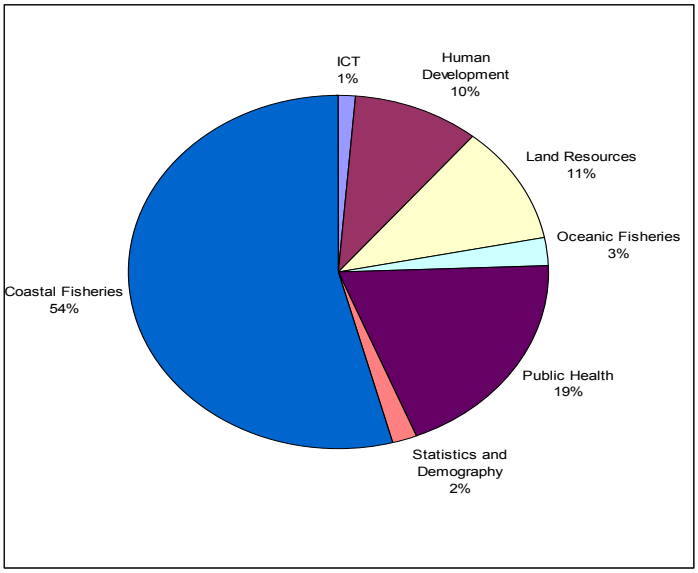
Pacific" sub- regional scriptwriting workshop in French Polynesia from 16-28 January 2006. The Human Development Programme also funded the participation of the American Samoa delegation to attend the 10th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and 3rd Ministerial, which brought together decision makers within Governments, development partners, academics and non-governmental organisations to ensure more rapid progress to advancing gender equality in our region. Significant technical assistance was also provided to American Samoa in preparation of the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts (Pago Pago, American Samoa, 20 July – 2 August 2008) and regular in-country visits by the Human Development Adviser for culture were organised between 2006 and 2008. The Human Development programme also covered expenses for the American Samoa delegation to attend the 5th Executive Board of the Council of Pacific Arts Meeting (Noumea, New Caledonia, 8-10 August 2007) which main purpose was also to review preparations for the 10th edition of the Festival. Technical assistance was also provided to American Samoa this year for the development of their National Youth Policy and youth strategic plan in 2008.

Other Assistance, human resources development and financial highlights

SPC supported American Samoa's ICT development through the facilitation of American Samoa's involvement in the discussion of the South Pacific Information Network (SPIN).

Seven persons from American Samoa participated in SPC training activities, organised by SPC's Land Resources, Marine Resources (Fisheries) and Social Resources (Statistics and Demography) Divisions. Annex 2 provides further details.

Annex 3 indicates the dollar value of assistance provided to American Samoa by SPC. The pie chart below depicts the assistance from 2006 to 2008 by programme area. A total of USD 911,673 was utilised to support technical assistance, training activities, workshop participation, direct grants and research activities. As depicted, SPC's Coastal Fisheries programme which constituted 54% of overall funds expended, provided the most support to American Samoa.



Coastal Fisheries	488,324
Human Development	88,215
Land Resources	106,291
Oceanic Fisheries	24,004
Public Health	175,017
ICT	13,000
Statistics and Demography	16,822
	911,673

ANNEX 1: 2008 Notable Activities in American Samoa by SPC Programmes

Land Resources
• The Integrated Agriculture and Forestry Strategic Plan, 2009-2015, developed with LRD assistance, finalised, printed and launched at the 3rd HOAFS. • Chief Quarantine Officer completed a 3 week training attachment with LRD as part of the preparations for the quarantine operations linked with the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts held in Pagopago. • LRD together with American Samoa Quarantine Service successfully completed a major quarantine operation in Pagopago linked with the Pacific Festival of Arts. • Refresher training on quarantine operations. • Fruit fly trapping and improved surveillance for fruit flies. • Continued assistance with the incursion response for glassy wing sharpshooter. • One officer participated in the Pacific Regional CDM Forestry Awareness Workshop.
Marine Resources
• Provided regular scientific advice to the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council which manages EEZ fisheries of American Samoa (travel costs paid by WPRFMC) • Attached American Samoa fisheries officer to the community-based ecosystem approach to fisheries management training in Pohnpei • Ran inter-Samoa refresher course for both staff of American Fisheries and Samoa Fisheries in Apia on community-based ecosystem approach to fisheries management • Through American Samoa, made presentations at the US Coral Reef Task Force in American Samoa and served as a panel member of two sessions (Sharing Traditional Knowledge Regionally and Exploring opportunities for future regional collaborations). • 1 participant in short course on fisheries statistics and stock assessment • 1 participant in high level fisheries Policy and Planning Workshop • 1 participant in special Heads of Fisheries Meeting to develop the Regional Coastal Fisheries Management Strategies • 1 participant in 2008 (Fisheries) Ecological Risk Assessment workshop
Social Resources
Public Health Programme
HIV/STI • Joint Technical Agency consultation on HIV Testing for the Pacific and Minimum-data set for STI surveillance hosted by American Samoa. This resulted consensus document on recommendation for up-scaling HIV testing and minimum data set STI surveillance • Technical support for BCC materials developed for XVIII Pacific Games Public Health Surveillance and Control of Communicable diseases (PHS & CDC) • Support for in country surveillance activities for influenza with immune – fluorescence testing, with sentinel surveillance activities • PRIPPP – Procurement of antiviral and supplies for Rapid Containment • Orientation to planning process and planned testing exercises processes
Statistics & Demography Programme
• Household Income and Expenditure Survey, HIES sample design
Human Development Programme
• technical and financial assistance to develop a national youth policy and strategic plan. • technical assistance for the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts preparations & duration.

ANNNEX 2: 2008 SPC Human Resource Development Activities for American Samoa

SPC Division Programme/ Section	**Training subject area** (or course title)	**Mth**	**Year**	**Duration**	**Type:** Workshop (course) Attachment at SPC or On-the-job (in-country)	**Location** (city/town, country)	**Number of American Samoa Participants**	**Male**	**Female**	**Number person days**
LRD - Forests and Trees	Regional Awareness Workshop on CDM Forestry	Jan	2008	4 days	Workshop	Nadi, Fiji	2	2	0	8
LRD-Animal Health & Production	Paravet Trainers Training	April	2008	2 days	Workshop course	Suva, Fiji	1	1	0	2
SRD – Regional Media Centre	Media and Communications	April	2008	1 day	Workshop	Suva, Fiji	1	1	0	1
SRD Human Development	10th Festival of Arts media coverage (Journalism)	July	2008	15 days	Internship	Pago Pago, American Samoa	1	1	0	15
Coastal Fisheries	Training for Heads of Fisheries on Fisheries Policy	plan ned	2008	tbd	Training	tbd	1	1	0	Tbd
Coastal Fisheries	Training on fisheries statistics and stock assessment – phase 2	Plan ned	2008	tbd	Training	tbd	1	1	0	tbd
						Total	7	7	0	26*

Notes: * person days: training delivered to date
LRD: Land Resources Division
MRD: Marine Resource Division
SRD: Social Resources Division

ANNEX 3: Summary of SPC Assistance to American Samoa for the Period 2006-2008

Sector/Type of Assistance	Cost by Year (USD) 2006	2007	2008*	Total Cost (USD)
Coastal Fisheries				
Technical assistance	3,000	8,500	0	**11,500**
Training activities (national, regional and attachments)	0	3,100	8,000	**11,100**
Research activities	0	0	0	**0**
Direct financial grants	0	0	0	**0**
Participation at meetings, workshops, etc.	165,070	293,654	7,000	**465,724**
Sector Total	**168,070**	**305,254**	**15,000**	**488,324**
Human Development				
Technical assistance	3,380	0	58,000	**61,380**
Training activities (national, regional and attachments)	6,320	0	0	**6,320**
Participation at meetings, workshops, etc.	0	20,515	0	**20,515**
Sector Total	**9,700**	**20,515**	**58,000**	**88,215**
Land Resources				
Technical assistance	2,000	4,000	49,643	**55,643**
Training activities (national, regional and attachments)	0	5,000	13,746	**18,746**
Research activities	0	0	0	**0**
Direct financial grants	0	0	0	**0**
Participation at meetings, workshops, etc.	6,036	17,047	8,819	**31,902**
Sector Total	**8,036**	**26,047**	**72,208**	**106,291**
Oceanic Fisheries				
Technical assistance	5,256	1,880	3,568	**10,704**
Training activities (national, regional and attachments)	0	0	3,300	**3,300**
Research activities	0	0	5,000	**5,000**
Direct financial grants	0	0	0	**0**
Participation at meetings, workshops, etc.	0	0	5,000	**5,000**
Sector Total	**5,256**	**1,880**	**16,868**	**24,004**
Public Health				
Technical assistance	0	8,500	23,000	**31,500**
Training activities (national, regional and attachments)	0	0	63,000	**63,000**
Research activities	50,000	0	0	**50,000**
Direct financial grants	0	0	22,500	**22,500**
Participation at meetings, workshops, etc.	8,017	0	0	**8,017**
Sector Total	**58,017**	**8,500**	**108,500**	**175,017**

Statistics and Demography				
Technical assistance	0	0	0	**0**
Training activities (national, regional and attachments)	8,511	0	0	**8,511**
Research activities	0	0	0	**0**
Participation at meetings, workshops, etc.	0	8,311	0	**8,311**
Sector Total	**8,511**	**8,311**	**0**	**16,822**
ICT				
Technical assistance	0	5,000	0	**5,000**
Training activities (national, regional and attachments)	0	0	0	**0**
Research activities	0	0	0	**0**
Participation at meetings, workshops, etc.	0	8,000	0	**8,000**
Sector Total	**0**	**13,000**	**0**	**13,000**
Grand Total	**257,590**	**383,507**	**270,576**	**911,673**

Note: * 2008 expenditure indicative

Please note that this table includes only the direct cost of SPC assistance. It does not include major expense items such as the cost of SPC personnel (e.g. salaries). The total financial value of SPC assistance is therefore significantly higher than shown in this table.