

# SAMOA CITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

A City Development Strategy (CDS) helps a city allocate resources where they will make the most impact and attract capital for use in a disciplined way. Additionally, a CDS helps officials clarify their vision for the city through community participation, partnership development and strategic planning to anticipate potential shocks and future growth.

The Samoa Central Government through its Planning and Urban Management Agency (PUMA) is using the CDS to address current urban management concerns. With a focus on climate change risks, the CDS for the Greater Apia Area is defined by the Samoa National Strategy for Development (2012-16) in the four priority areas of their economic, social, infrastructure and environmental sectors. The project also includes a policy development and knowledge sharing component to disseminate the lessons learned to other countries in the region.

Drawing on the Apia Spatial Plan (2014), UN-Habitat's Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment of Apia and the Apia waterfront development report, the outputs of the Samoa CDS will include the Apia Urban Profiling Report, the Local Area Infrastructure Plan, and the Institutional Review of PUMA.

It is expected that by taking such action the outputs will collectively make a positive contribution to the social, economic and environmental quality of life of urban dwellers; and, at a broader level, contribute to Samoa's achievement of the MDGs.

## URBAN SAMOA

Samoa has a national population of 186,340 (2011), of which almost 70 per cent live in the Greater Apia Urban Area. Many settlements face problems with sanitation, drainage and flooding, which are likely to intensify as the impacts of climate change are increasingly felt.

Working alongside traditional village governance structures, PUMA has been proactive in managing the day to day demands of communities and in supporting legislative and institutional reforms.

In many of Apia's more densely populated villages, such as Vaitele to the North West of Apia, there is a need to manage urban growth to ensure basic serviced land and urban infrastructure is provided. Compliance with existing laws and building standards must also be improved to maintain housing standards.

Over eighty per cent of the country's economic activity is concentrated along coastal areas, adding to their extreme vulnerability to natural hazards and the adverse impacts of climate change.

## CITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The overall objective of the programme is to support preparation of an integrated sustainable management plan for the greater Apia area through a "climate proofed" CDS approach. The sustainable management plans outline future socio-economic and infrastructural development city-wide, including priority settlements for upgrading support. Concurrently, this process strengthens Samoa's urban management institutional framework so it can better create more inclusive, participative, productive, liveable and sustainable towns.

The scope of the Programme includes five components:

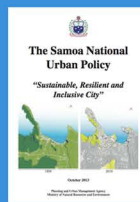
1. Assessment, Analysis and Strategy;
2. Supporting Infrastructure Investment for Priority Projects;
3. Institutional Strengthening;
4. Policy Learning and Knowledge Sharing;
5. Monitoring and Evaluation

## OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAMME

**The immediate outcome** of the CDS is targeted and prioritized investment for the identified urban centres from governments, the private sector, donor/aid agencies and financial institutions, helping to drive urban growth while also ensuring the needs of the most vulnerable are met.

**In the short term,** investments are addressing some of the most immediate environmental challenges arising from lack of adequate physical infrastructure in villages, and should result in improvements in water quality, community drainage and sanitation. The CDS builds the capacity of authorities to undertake improved strategic planning, support a higher flow of investment to targeted areas and better incorporate the socio-economic dimensions of the coastal infrastructure management plans.

**In the longer term,** implementation of the CDS is expected to result in more balanced economic activity to ensure that the benefits are not limited to the Apia central area but flow also into neighbouring districts. It will also help increase socio-economic growth while planning strategically for environmental impacts and solutions, and assist with the fuller application of the Planning and Urban Management Act.



### The Samoa National Urban Policy “Sustainable, Resilient and Inclusive City”

The National Urban Policy for Samoa sets the framework for a long term National City Strategic Framework to guide urban development, growth and change. The Policy encourages the effective and sustainable financing required to provide infrastructure and services as urban Apia grows. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) supports supported the formulation of the Policy.

[http://www.m.worldurbancampaign.org/system/files/documents/urbangateway/mmre\\_2013\\_national\\_urban\\_policy.pdf](http://www.m.worldurbancampaign.org/system/files/documents/urbangateway/mmre_2013_national_urban_policy.pdf)



### Strategy for the Development of Samoa (SDS) 2012-2016 "Boosting Productivity for Sustainable Development"

The document presents the key development strategies and priority sectors for the development of Samoa in the next four years. The Strategy will focus on strengthening economic resilience through increasing investment in the productive sectors of the economy.

<http://www.mof.gov.ws/Portals/195/Services/Economy/SDS%202012%20-%202016%20ENGLISH%20>



### UN-Habitat developed Apia, Samoa – Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment which contributed to the Samoa CDS.

<http://unhabitat.org/publications/apia-samoa-climate-change-vulnerability-assessment/>