

Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme

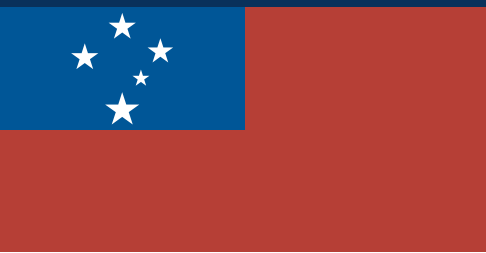


Funded by
UK Government

Enabling safe and sustainable marine economies
across Commonwealth Small Island Developing States

Samoa

Country review



Centre for Environment
Fisheries & Aquaculture
Science



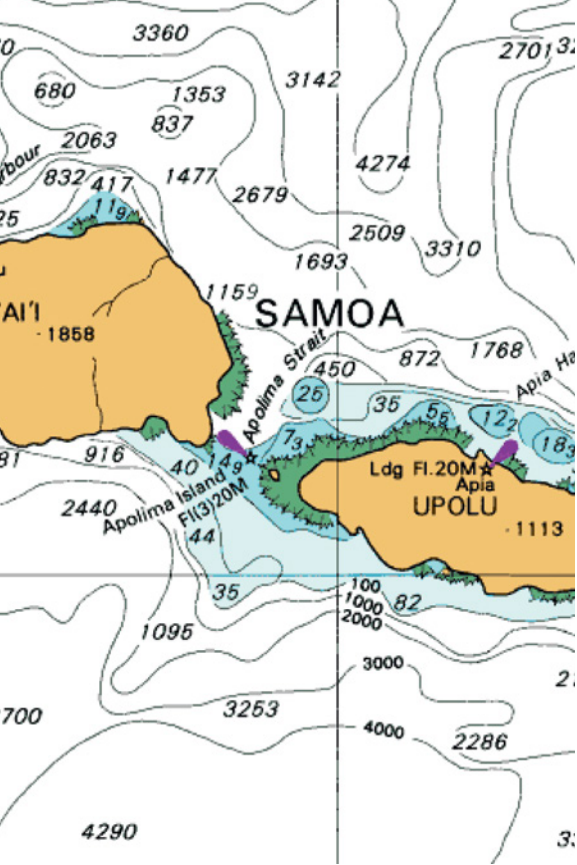
UK Hydrographic
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The CME Programme is designed to support sustainable, growing marine economies that create jobs, drive national economic growth, reduce poverty, ensure food security and build resilience against forces of nature. Funded by the UK Government and delivered by a partnership of world-leading marine organisations from the UK, the programme aims to ensure marine resources in Commonwealth SIDS are better understood and managed.

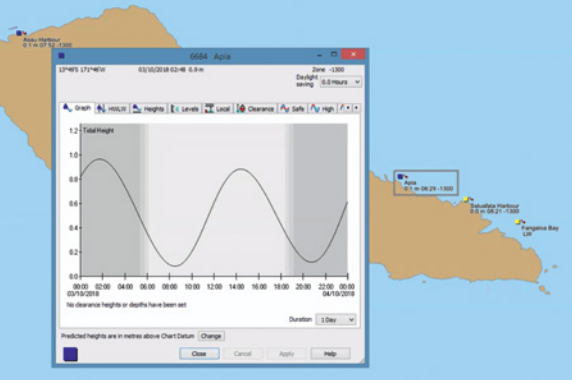
This review highlights opportunities where the UK can apply and leverage its world-leading expertise to make significant, cost-effective and lasting positive impacts on each country.

Relevant strategic plans

International – Samoa is subject to international requirements and obligations as listed under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea; Safety of Life at Sea; Conservation of Biological Diversity (Aichi Targets); the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway; and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (including Sustainable Development Goals; 2 – Zero hunger; 9 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure; 13 – Climate action; 14 – Life below water).

Regional – The two main regional organisations delivering geospatial outputs that operate in the Pacific are the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), both of which are active in Samoa. The regional objectives of both organisations are outlined in their 2016-2020 and 2017-2026 Strategic Plans respectively, with relevant goals including: sustainable economic development; strengthened resilience to climate change; healthy and resilient island and ocean ecosystems; improved waste management and pollution control; and the commitment to, and best practice of, environmental governance. Land Information NZ (LINZ) and NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) are providing regional assistance through a range of initiatives including the Pacific Regional Navigational Initiative (PRNI) and the South-West Pacific Regional Hydrography Programme, both of which have safety of navigation improvement outcomes.

National – National strategies for enabling the safe and sustainable development of Samoa’s marine environments include; the Strategy for the Development of Samoa (2012-2016); Samoa’s National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015–2020); and the National Adaptation Programme of Action (2005).



Challenges faced

Management of coastal and marine environments –

In fisheries management there is a paucity of information on catches and numbers of ships, and the need for advice on biosecurity in aquaculture.

Climate change impact assessment – Samoa's marine environments are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change through factors such as ocean acidification, sea-level rise and invasive species. Understanding, quantifying and monitoring those factors and their effects on local marine ecosystems is essential for developing appropriate risk mitigation and coastal planning strategies.

Protection and preservation of the marine environment – Maintaining the health and biodiversity of marine ecosystems within Samoa is key for environmentally sustainable development. In particular, the protection and preservation of seagrass ecosystems and coral reefs is of critical importance from both an environmental perspective and for their role in the tourism sector, and there is a need for more habitat/species data to facilitate development of new and manage existing protected areas, and a refinement of this information to support sensitivity mapping of features. Characterisation of the impacts of marine pollution on the health of the marine ecosystems and water quality is needed to help improve wastewater management practices, and to identify regions most at risk. Plastic pollution has been identified as a particularly important issue but little detailed information exists to enable management (including distribution).

Natural and environmental disasters – Samoa is at risk from tropical cyclones, with Cyclone Evan causing over USD \$203 million worth of damage and losses in 2012 (equivalent to 28% of GDP). Marine infrastructure and environments need to be better protected from the impact of storms and other natural hazards, and resilience built into coastal systems as a mechanism for mitigating these risks.

Training and capacity building – Improved awareness, skills and knowledge are required across marine sectors to enable Samoa to implement integrated ocean governance. There is also a need to increase both national and regional cooperation through the sharing of assets and knowledge in order to help reduce costs and improve decision makers' understanding.

Samoa – Activities and benefits

By providing data, training, advice and support, the CME Programme is designed to help address economic and environmental needs, leaving a lasting legacy of self-sufficiency in marine management.

Programme activities are split across six core themes, though potential action is not identified in every category in all Small Island Developing States.

Priority projects identified for Samoa include:

Marine data collection for environmental resilience, and safe and efficient trade (core output 1)

Activity – Mapping of key ecosystems (e.g. seagrass) areas for small and large-scale habitat maps.

Benefits – To enable decision makers to determine sustainable development priorities. Understand the importance of the ecosystems as storage for blue carbon.

Activity – Regional Climate Change Report Card.

Benefits – To provide climate change information to support effective climate change adaptation.

Decreasing pollution and improving human health (core output 3)

Activity – Determine the distribution, concentration and impacts of pollutants (including plastics) on key coastal ecosystems.

Benefits – To advise on priority actions to remove or reduce pollution.

Sustainable fisheries development (core output 4)

Activity – Support relevant regional agencies in the assessment of stocks.

Benefits – To enable sustainable exploitation of capture fisheries.

Activity – Provide assessment of the biosecurity (risk) to the aquaculture sector.

Benefits – To increase the resilience of aquaculture products to key risks (e.g. disease).

Science infrastructure development, training and knowledge exchange (core output 6)

Activity – Collaborations with regional universities to support studentships and training.

Benefits – Legacy of further education and training around ecosystem management.

Programme outputs

If all of the potential activities were to be delivered, the CME Programme, working with key departments in Samoa, would result in the following development of marine capacity by the end of the scheduled Programme.

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5
Limited, or no, characterisation of physical parameters in marine and maritime sectors.	The physical parameters of the key marine and maritime environments and sectors are mapped and quantified.	The physical parameters are analysed in terms of the biological, sociological and economic context, resulting in a more in depth appreciation of their vulnerabilities and opportunities/limitations for sustainable use.	Defensible policy is produced for the marine and maritime sectors that details consideration for the sustainable development of the ocean economy.	Full competency in undertaking the previous phases is developed and sustained across multiple sectors, leading to the safe and sustainable development of marine and maritime economies.

Output 1 – Marine data collection for environmental resilience and safe and efficient trade.

Output 2 – Monitoring and risk assessment to increase climate change resilience.

Output 3 – Decreasing pollution and improving human health.

Output 4 – Sustainable fisheries development.

Output 5 – Natural capital assessment.

Output 6 – Infrastructure development, training and knowledge exchange.

Expected impact

Through delivering these activities, outputs and benefits the CME Programme would help to facilitate:

Output 1 – Adherence to the UN convention on the Law of the Sea and Safety of Life at Sea; Reduction in the cost of imports and increase in the profitability of exports; Reduction in the risk of maritime accidents and damage to the environment.

Output 2 – Identification of communities and environments vulnerable to the impacts of climate change; Integration with regional and global hazard monitoring networks; Informed coastal management and planning decisions through delivery of a Pacific Climate Change Report Card.

Output 3 – Characterisation of the dispersion of sewage and industrial outfalls and their effects on water quality; Identification and prioritisation of pollution control mechanisms; Improved health of humans and marine ecosystems.

Output 4 – Reduced pressure on existing fish stocks and marine environments through collaborations with Pacific partners.

Output 5 – Enhanced awareness of the social and economic value of marine ecosystems; Quantification of the cost/benefit ratio of existing policy options, supporting decision making.

Output 6 – Confidence and ability to make sound independent decisions regarding the development of marine environments; Access to state-of-the-art marine equipment, models and techniques; Development of national and international networks.

Strategic outcomes

By better understanding and managing the marine resource potential within Samoa the CME Programme will help create jobs, drive national economic growth and reduce poverty through:

Prosperity – Diversifying revenue potential by opening up new economic opportunities.

Sustainability – Ensuring all marine and maritime activities are environmentally safe and sustainable.

Security – Making infrastructure and human capital resilient to natural disasters and climate change.

Legacy – Building the capacity of national authorities to plan and optimise their marine spaces.

Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme

The CME Programme is being delivered on behalf of the UK Government by a partnership of world-leading marine expertise.



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