

American Samoa Community Resilience Planning Workshop

Development of Inter-agency Work-plan for Aunu'u

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Background

From May 13 – 21, 2013 an initial workshop was held in American Samoa to “provide the members from various sectors in American Samoa with the necessary skills to effectively communicate climate change concepts and foster adaptation/resiliency planning and implementation at the community level.” The workshop focused on the use of the *Adapting To A Changing Climate: Guide To Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) And Management Planning* to build skills in communicating climate change and developing actions to address vulnerability to climate and non-climate threats. Additionally, the workshop focused on how to integrate parts of this tool into existing community based planning processes. Approximately 27 participants representing various American Samoan agencies attended the workshop.

To conclude the workshop, participants were asked to develop a set of “next steps” to move climate change work forward to continue using the skills and tools learned at the workshop. The following are two of the actions the participants identified:

- 1. By the end of summer get strong commitment from agencies for and integrated community based process among all agencies.** There was strong consensus by all the participants on the last day that there should be an agreed upon community consultation process that all agencies use to work with communities to minimize duplication of activities and reduce confusion at the community level when different agencies carry out similar processes for management of different resources. An agreed upon integrated process would maintain agency authority over specific resource management (e.g. marine, wetland, watershed) but would also ensure that existing community contacts, protocol, and activities were utilized in any new processes rather than duplicated. The group felt strongly that this approach would be best for community members and leaders who are involved in different community-based programs as well as support stronger collaboration among agencies. The group agreed that as a start, commitment was needed from Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG) agency directors that lead community-based planning processes including Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR), Department of Commerce (DOC), American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and American Samoa Community College - Land Grant. However, after agreement from lead agencies they felt it was important to include other agencies in an agreement that could support these processes including; American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA), Department of Health (DOH), Soil and Water Conservation, and the Climate Change Local Action Strategy (LAS) group.
- 2. In 2014 begin working together as a multi-agency group in a new community using the integrated process.** This was aimed at starting efforts in a community as a multi-agency team focused on different resources. Agencies would maintain authority over the specific resources they are focused on but activities that could support multiple agency efforts would be carried out collectively.

In 2009, a socio-economic assessments was completed by Dr. Supin Wongbusarakum¹ of University of Hawaii about community perceptions of climate change in the village of Amouli and Ofu. Following up on those results a research team consisting of Dr. Arielle Levine² and Dr. Chip Fletcher³ completed a study and presented on sea level rise scenarios and associated potential impacts. Upon completion of the research presentation a Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) workshop was led by Fatima Sauafea-Le'au, (NOAA PIRO) in the village of Amouli to discuss and address concerns over climate change. Through this process, local actions to address vulnerabilities and improve resilience were identified and drafted into a Amouli Community Resilience Plan. A similar PLA process was later used in the community of Faga'alu to develop actions to address ridge to reef threats and improve natural resource management. Through these efforts, a general approach for collaboratively working with communities was developed by Fatima Sauafea-Le'au, (NOAA PIRO) and used as a foundation for further collaborative efforts such as those described further in this document.

Workshop Objectives and Approach

¹ University of Hawaii, East-West Center

² San Diego State University, IMSG contractor to NOAA

³ University of Hawaii Coastal Geology Group

To follow up on the outputs of the 2013 workshop, the American Samoa Climate Change Local Action Strategy (CC LAS) group requested the assistance from the Pacific Islands Managed and Protected Area Community (PIMPAC) to support a small follow up workshop to complete the following objectives:

1. Community facilitators from various American Samoan agencies are skilled to carry out resiliency planning with Aunu'u village.
2. Workplan developed to outline the process, facilitation approach, and responsibilities for completing a resiliency plan in Aunu'u.
3. Marine program staff trained on the use of the Designing an Effective LMA Guide to support American Samoa community fisheries initiatives. **

**training on the use of this tool was also offered as it is complementary to the LEAP tool and can be used in any community interested in further improving abundance and resilience of marine resources. This one-day interactive training was aimed at any staff carrying out outreach and planning in communities on marine resource management.

PIMPAC supported Meghan Gombos (PIMPAC regional advisor) to visit American Samoa from May 24-29 to facilitate this workshop. The approach of the workshop was aimed at working with a small group of CC LAS members to develop a work plan (including actions, dates, and roles) they could use to carry out inter-agency resiliency planning in the community of Aunu'u. Additionally, it was intended that the group would be refreshed on specific components deemed appropriate from the LEAP tool used in the 2013 training. Finally, the group would complete a brief facilitation refresher to ensure that community facilitation would be as effective as possible.

Unfortunately, participation in the workshop was too low from American Samoan agencies for various reasons and it was not possible to complete these objectives and intended approach. As such, this report will focus on some of the information that was collected and alternate approaches that were used to move the inter-agency resiliency planning work forward. For the purpose of this report, the inter-agency planning team that facilitates outreach and planning in the community is referred to as "the core planning team".

The report consists of a mixture of workshop outputs and **PIMPAC regional advisor advice/recommendations written in red.**

Workshop Outputs

Draft Aunu'u Community Resiliency Objectives and Inter-Agency Process

To begin the workshop, the small group reviewed the draft objectives for community resilience planning and draft community process (drafted by the Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG) Climate Change Coordinator, and NOAA Fisheries). These objectives are aimed at

accomplishing an inter-agency approach to awareness and planning in the community of Aunu'u. It is meant to build on existing efforts and initiatives in the community and utilize the expertise and authority from various agencies to support community resiliency efforts in the most effective way possible. In addition, a community resilience plan will be developed for Aunu'u. The group modified the objectives and process throughout the workshop.

Objectives

The objectives for developing the Aunu'u Village Climate Resilience Plan are as follows:

1. Use concerns and ideas identified in the Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) process completed in 2009 as a baseline for expanding and prioritizing resilience actions, achieving the clean, healthy environment and resource protection as envisioned by the community in 2009
2. Improve participation and planning on the community level, resulting in a climate resilience plan reflecting the needs of the community with regard to climate adaptation on the part of both terrestrial and marine resources
3. Use scientifically based information and projections, in addition to local knowledge, to assist the community of Aunu'u in advance planning for climate change
4. Prevent and mitigate the projected impacts of greatest concern to the community and develop appropriate responses to these impacts
5. Improve the present conditions and management of both the coastal and inland areas, helping to increase resilience to current and projected adverse climate impacts and natural disasters
6. Finalize a village climate change adaptation and resilience plan, using a participatory process, adaptation tools prioritizing responses and actions to improve resilience to locally relevant impacts and implications
7. Encourage collaboration from a number of different government agencies already involved in Aunu'u, using improved management capacity and abilities to achieve community goals and vision

***Recommendation:** the core planning team should review and agree upon this list. The group should consider modifying at least a couple of these to be SMART objectives. Consider how the group will measure its success. What results does the group want out of the inter-agency process? Numbers 5 & 6 likely reflect the results the group will want, however these should be made more measurable.*

Comment

Proposed Community Process

The group also reviewed the draft inter-agency process that is proposed to achieve the above stated objectives. It was proposed that this process be completed within 12 months time and include the following steps:

1. Contact Office of Samoan Affairs (OSA)
 - a letter from POC/Director DMWR has already been signed and sent OSA.

2. Contact with Village Mayor as village POC
 - to ensure support for the project. The village mayor will provide information on the best stakeholder groups to utilize for the process (e.g. church groups or whole community). The Mayor will also suggest date/times that will work best for the outreach session.

3. Community Outreach Session
 - Complete one day of outreach (2 hours at least) to two church groups(?) in Aunu'u on the following topics:
 - o Introductions of group and purpose of resiliency planning – ask each agency rep to provide brief intro on agency purpose and resources available
 - o Healthy/ Unhealthy Community Discussion/ Illustrations (LEAP toolkit)
 - o Basic Climate Change presentation
 - o Presentation from Amouli Mayor on resilience planning experience
 - o Historical Timeline activity (LEAP toolkit)

4. Community Planning Workshop
 - One **full day** (4 hr) community workshop on a weekend using adaptation and PLA tools –
 - o Community can be divided into small groups to effectively facilitate tools and obtain information. Possibly do:
 - Vision
 - Resource/Perception mapping
 - Seasonal calendar (LEAP toolkit)
 - Review climate change and impacts of concern (LEAP toolkit)
 - ID of targets/ key/prioritized problems/issues
 - At the end of the workshop five or six key village representative will be selected by the community to assist in development of village plan with the core planning team using the information collected from the community outreach and workshop.
 - Selection based on commitment and willingness to take responsibilities

5. Development of Village resilience plan
 - Drafted by core planning team and selected village reps
 - 2-3 small group meetings - could be smaller meetings between these meetings
 - o Analyze community outreach and workshop results
 - o Refine information from the outreaches and community workshop
 - Possibly complete vulnerability assessments and threat action models for priority targets to create actions (LEAP toolkit)

6. Plan Review (two week timeframe for review)
 - Internal (key agencies/managers) and External review (people outside the resource group) of village resiliency plan
7. Presentation of DRAFT final plan to village council of Aunu'u
 - Presented by village reps with support from core planning team
 - Village Council Endorse the plan
8. Distribution to partners and stakeholders

Note: *From steps 5 to 6, there will be 4-5 working group meetings to refine and clarify information, and develop the plan into a final draft.*

Recommendation: *the core planning team should review and agree upon this process to ensure everyone agrees with the approach. Specifically the group will need to discuss and decide on the exact content and activities that will be used in the community outreach, workshop, and development of the plan. Will the core planning team and village representatives complete vulnerability assessments and threat action models for key targets? Specific methods should be decided before any of the community process begins to ensure the group can describe the full process that will be used to the community and is adequately prepared.*

Description of Good Facilitation

The group also discussed the need for community process to be well facilitated to effectively share information with the community. The group did a brainstorming exercise to consider what “effective facilitation includes” as guidance that could be used by the core planning team to ensure that the process is carried out in the most efficient and appropriate manner to achieve results. The following is the list the group developed.

Good Facilitation Includes:

- Knowing your audience
- Good organization - planning ahead and knowing what your going to say and do before you get there
- Being assertive without being aggressive. Make sure people are comfortable speaking up and that there are no stupid questions/comments. But also sharing information / expertise when things are presented that may not be factual (but in a non-confrontational way)
- Making fun activities related to the lesson plan / be engaging
- Being concise and straight to the point – having good time management
- Knowing the topic well
- Being culturally oriented/ appropriate
- Taking good notes – capturing comments so they can be understood later and transcribing them shortly after they have been taken so they are fresh and reflect the conversation

- Being flexible – expect the unexpected!

Recommendation: *the core planning team should review and agree upon this list. The list should be used throughout the process to ensure community facilitation is planned and does reflect these qualities. Adjust facilitation where needed to ensure these qualities are met in each meeting.*

Getting Organized for Awareness and Planning

Next the group began reviewing components of the LEAP tool that would support an inter-agency community planning process. The first step of the tool is “Getting Organized for Awareness and Planning”. This is a set of questions that help a core planning team prepare for an outreach and planning process by ensuring that specific aspects that are critical for the process are considered and determined before the process begins. The draft answers provided by the small group are presented in the table below.

	Question	YES/ NO	Answer
1.	We have identified a core planning team who are capable of and committed to facilitating community awareness and the VA-LEAP process.		List all members of the team the their role: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whitney – Core Planning Team Coordinator • Trevor • Fatima • Tina • Marvis • NEED TO GET - Reps from, EPA Sanctuary and CFMP
2.	Leaders in our community understand the reasons for conducting awareness and developing a local early action plan and want to do so?		Please explain why they want to do a LEAP: Next step: DMWR (Whitney Peterson) follows up with OSA to ask about contacting mayor
3.	We have identified the geographic boundaries of the area that will be included in the awareness and planning process?		The area is: Aunu’u
4.	We have identified a strong team of local leaders and experts that have agreed to participate in the awareness and planning sessions? Consider experts in hazard management, food		List additional team members and their role in awareness and/or planning: Local experts: AS-EPA for water quality experts; ASCC Land Grant for re-planting of trees,

	security, resource management, water management, health, and communications.		aquaculture; SWCD for soil/agriculture; Homeland Security for support
5.	We have identified key stakeholder groups and how to engage them in the awareness and planning process?		3 church groups; womens group
6.	We have the authority or have support from the appropriate people/agencies to make management decisions for the area?		Please Explain? Need approval from OSA; follow up with Mayor
7.	We have a target date for finishing awareness and planning process?		Target Date for Awareness Completion: end of May Target Date for VA-LEAP Completion: Community workshop: end of Summer; Completion of plan: final draft: early December
8.	We know how the final plan will be approved and who has authority to approve it?		How? working group finalizes, agency review, village council approval
9.	We know how the plan will be integrated into existing community plans and projects?		The existing plan(s) are: First Aunu'u village-based plan; identify how plan would be integrated or complimentary to economic plan, or Sanctuary plans
10.	We have collected existing information about the area (e.g. management plans, maps, historical photos, social or biological studies, information on climate)?		This includes: Existing Material: PLA processes, Sanctuary maps of Aunu'u site, bio-geo assessment that included the Sanctuary site of Aunu'u
11.	Our team has sufficient time and financial resources to complete our awareness and local early action planning process?		List financial sources: Financial resources: Fatima may have funds down the road on the process

Recommendation: *the core planning team should review and revise this worksheet to better reflect the input from the whole group and ensure that all of the proper authorities are involved, and existing information and initiatives are sufficiently utilized.*

Completing Community Awareness

The group then discussed when and how they would carry out the Community Outreach Workshop. The following meetings were planned.

April 22nd – planning team will meet at 9am in conference room @ market to:

- Review outreach presentations
- Confirm discussions and support from the village mayor
- Recap the project objectives and progress with new members

May - Planning team will meet again one week before the community outreach meeting to do a final check in and review the “to do” list

The group discussed the approach and roles for the outreach day in the community. The following table was drafted to outline the agenda time, time, and roles/responsibilities in the session.

Agenda Item	Time	Responsibility
Introductions of group and purpose – ask each agency rep to provide brief intro on agency purpose and resources available	15 minutes	Tepora – Workshop MC – will introduce each session
Healthy/ Unhealthy Community Discussion/ Illustration	1 hr	Facilitator – Fatima Recorder - Soli
Basic CC presentation (Whitney and Trevor have this)	30 min	Facilitator – Fatima
Presentation from Amouli on resilience planning experience	10 minutes	
Historical Timeline	1hr	Lead Facilitator - Soli Small groups facilitators – Pora, Tina, Tima, Soli, Marvis
Resources Needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flipcharts • Markers • Tape • Food • Incentives/small gifts • Ppt projector • Camera • Extension cord • Recorder • Transportation \$ • Outreach packet – brochures on CC/fact-sheets on agency roles and resources/ posters 		

Recommendation: *the core planning team should review and revise this table to better reflect the input from the whole group and ensure everyone agrees upon the approach and roles for the community outreach session. All presentations should be reviewed and small group facilitators*

should refresh on activity process and how information will be captured and transcribed. Specific responsibilities should be determined for after the community outreach such as who will collect, store, and transcribe information collected.

Meeting with Agency Directors

During the visit, Meghan Gombos and Whitney Peterson met with the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) Director and CRAG Chair, Dr. Ruth Matagi Tofiga. She was very enthusiastic about the workshop objectives and proposed project in Aunu'u. As such she scheduled a meeting of all agency directors to invite them to commit some of their staff to participate in an inter-agency resiliency planning process. To do this an invitation letter (see Appendix A) was provided to agency leaders.

On Wednesday March 26th agency leaders attended a one-hour session to learn about:

- DMWR interest and leadership in coordinating an inter-agency community resiliency planning process - *Dr. Ruth Matagi Tofiga*
- The American Samoa Climate Change Adaptation Strategy written in 2012 – *Whitney Peterson*
- The Adapting to a Changing Climate/ Local Early Action Planning Toolkit and Objectives for Inter-agency Community Planning - *Meghan Gombos*

The following agency leaders were present:

1. Jim Bacon, Superintendent of National Parks Service
2. Vatinasa Dr. Salu Hunkin-Finau Director of Department of Education
3. Keniseli Lafaele, Director of Department of Commerce
4. Lealao Malila Purcell, Director of Department of Agriculture
5. Ameko Pato, Director of Environmental Protection Agency
6. Maeataanoa Pili Gaoteote, Director of Department of Parks and Recreation
7. Paramount Chief Satele Galu T. Satele, Director of Department of Samoan Affairs

Agency leaders expressed interest and commitment in supporting an inter-agency planning team to begin carrying out the process collaboratively. Director Tofiga followed up the meeting with a letter (see Appendix B) to all directors present to ask for a specific staff who would be committed to participating on the core planning team throughout the process.

Designing Effective Locally Marine Managed Areas Workshop

The week concluded with a half-day session on a new tool called “Designing Effective Locally Managed Areas (LMAs) in Tropical Marine Environments: A Facilitator’s Guide to Help Sustain Community Benefits Through Management for Fisheries, Ecosystems, and Climate Change”. This session consisted of a review of the tool including:

- How it can be used within local community management planning processes
- Outreach to understand key ecological and social factors that contribute to healthy and abundant resources, and the latest science-based recommendations for managing resources so they are healthy, abundant, and resilient; and

- Planning steps to develop zones and rules for LMAs that will help to build long-term healthy, abundant, and resilient coastal and marine resources

The group reviewed the material and practiced developing zones and rules to better understand various options for LMA design.

Inter-Agency Planning Group Meeting Agendas (Proposed)

This section, provides recommendations on agenda items for some of the initial core planning team meetings:

Core Planning Team Meeting One:

- Identify core group planning team members and time commitment
- Review background and intention for interagency planning
- Update group on Office of Samoan Affairs and Aunu'u engagement
- Review draft Aunu'u objectives and process – collect input and agree upon process (including specific activities that will be completed with larger community and smaller planning groups)
- Review draft Aunu'u work-plan and timeline - collect input and agree upon process
- Set date and objectives for:
 - Community Outreach Session
 - Next core planning team meeting based on work-plan

Core Planning Team Meeting Two:

- Review and revise Step One from LEAP tool – Getting Organized exercise
- Prepare for Outreach Day in Aunu'u including who will do the following:
 - Introductions and MC
 - Climate Change Outreach
 - Historical Timeline Exercise Lead
 - Small group facilitators/recorders
 - Time keepers
 - Follow up recording of workshop outputs

Core Planning Team Meeting Three (after Outreach Session):

- Briefly Review transcribed outputs from community outreach session
- Review date and objectives for Community Planning Workshop
- Prepare for Community Planning Workshop Day in Aunu'u including who will do the following:
 - Vision (facilitator and note taker)
 - Resource/Perception mapping (lead facilitator and small group facilitators)
 - Seasonal calendar (lead facilitator and small group facilitators)
 - Review climate change and impacts of concern (lead facilitator, small group facilitators, note takers)
 - ID of targets/ problems/issues (lead facilitator and small group facilitators, note takers)

Core Planning Team Meeting Four (after Planning Workshop):

- Briefly Review transcribed outputs from community planning workshop
- Develop local climate story for the Village (from LEAP tool)
- Determine small groups for developing actions for each priority target
- Set small group dates to complete activities that support planning development such as:
 - Field based threat and vulnerability assessment
 - Threat Action modeling
- Set roles for small groups such as:
 - Small group facilitator
 - Small group note taker
- Determine how the plan will be compiled from small groups including who will do the writing

Small Planning Team Meetings (2-3 per target):

- Review information collected from the community about the target
- Complete field based threat and vulnerability assessment (?)
- Complete threat action model and prioritize actions (?)

Core Planning Team Meeting Five:

- Share threat/action model results from small planning teams for each target
- Compile information from each small group
- Determine internal and external reviewers
- Determine who will draft information into a plan

Draft Inter-Agency Workplan for Aunu'u

INTER-AGENCY RESILIENCY PLANING WORKPLAN				
Pre-Process Preparation				
ACTIVITY (both community meetings and planning team follow up)	DATE TO BE COMPLETED	RESPONSIBILITY/ROLES	RESOURCES NEEDED	Output
Office of Samoan Affairs – letter from POC/Director DMWR	5-Mar-14	Whitney - Planning team Coordinator	Signature from DMWR Director	
Initial contact with village mayor about project				
Step One: Getting Organized for Awareness and Planning				
ACTIVITY (both community meetings and planning team follow up)	DATE TO BE COMPLETED	RESPONSIBILITY/ROLES	RESOURCES NEEDED	
1 st Core Planning Team Meeting – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ agenda items listed above 	22-Apr	Whitney - Planning team Coordinator & all planning team members	draft community process & draft work plan PPT projector, computer, extension cord	Core planning team members and commitment identified Work-plan and community process
2 nd Core Planning Team Meeting - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ agenda items listed above 	one week before outreach workshop	Whitney - Planning team Coordinator & all planning team members	LEAP Document – Getting Organized Checklist and Historical Timeline Outreach presentations that will be used	Final agenda and roles for Outreach Workshop Identification of tasks that need to be completed before awareness planning can

			PPT projector, computer, extension cord	begin
Step Two: Understanding Climate Change Concepts (COMMUNITY OUTREACH)	TO BE COMPLETE BY MAY 30, 2014			
ACTIVITY (both community meetings and planning team follow up)	DATE TO BE COMPLETED	RESPONSIBILITY/ROLES	RESOURCES NEEDED	
<p>One day outreach workshop in community including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introductions and Overview ○ Healthy vs Unhealthy Discussion ○ Basic Climate Change ○ Amouli Mayor presentation ○ Historical Timeline Activity 	Confirm date with Community point of contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MC – Tepora ○ Healthy vs Unhealthy - Fatima (Facilitator), Soli (Recorder) ○ Basic Climate Change – Fatima (Facilitator) ○ Amouli – Mayor ○ Historical Timeline – Lead Facilitator (Soli) , Small group Facilitators (Tepora, Tina, Marvis, Fatima) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Flipcharts ● Markers ● Tape ● Food ● Incentives/small gifts ● Ppt projector ● Camera ● Extension cord ● Recorder ● Transportation \$ ● Outreach packet – brochures on CC/fact-sheets on agency roles and resources/ posters 	Historical timeline- climate hazards and impacts of most concern based on past experience
Step Three: Threat and Vulnerability Assessment				

ACTIVITY (both community meetings and planning team follow up)	DATE TO BE COMPLETED	RESPONSIBILITY/ROLES	RESOURCES NEEDED	
3 rd Core Planning Team Meeting - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agenda items listed above 	At least two weeks before community planning workshop	Whitney - Planning team Coordinator & all planning team members	LEAP Document – Seasonal Calendar, mapping exercise PLA process worksheets PPT projector, computer, extension cord	Specific process agenda for community planning workshop
Full day Community Planning Workshop	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision (facilitator and note taker) • Resource/Perception mapping (lead facilitator and small group facilitators) • Seasonal calendar (lead facilitator and small group facilitators) • Review climate change and impacts of concern (lead facilitator, small group facilitators, note takers) • ID of targets/problems/issues (lead facilitator and small group facilitators, note takers) 		Identification of community members to participate in planning team meetings Seasonal Calendar – changes noticed to normal seasons Impacts of most concern for community based on climate projections Problems/issues of most concern Priority targets for community

4 th Core Planning Team Meeting - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> agenda items listed above 				
Small group meetings (made of Core Planning Team members and Community Representative) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> agenda items listed above 				Vulnerability Assessments and Threat Action models complete Actions developed
Step Four: Developing the Community Resilience Plan	TO BE COMPLETED BY DECEMBER 30, 2014			
ACTIVITY (both community meetings and planning team follow up)	DATE TO BE COMPLETED	RESPONSIBILITY/ROLES	RESOURCES NEEDED	
Development of village climate change adaptation and resilience plan by core planning team and community representatives				Draft Aunu'u resiliency plan
Internal and External review of village plan				Comments to plan
Incorporation of comments into draft plan				
Presentation of DRAFT final plan to village community by village reps in working group				Final Aunu'u resiliency plan
Distribution to partners and stakeholders				

Appendix A – Invitation Letter to Agency Director



Lolo M. Moliga
Governor

Lemanu Peleti Mauga
Lt. Governor

CORAL REEF ADVISORY GROUP

American Samoa Government
Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Tel: (684) 633-4456, FAX: (684) 633-5944



Dr. Ruth Matagi Tofiga
Chair

Kristine Bucchianeri
CRI Coordinator

March 25, 2014

From: Dr. Ruth Matagi Tofiga, Chair of Coral Reef Advisory Group

Subject: Climate Change Meeting: March 27, 2014 in Marketplace Conference Room

Dear Director,

On Thursday, March 27th at 10 am in the Marketplace Conference Room, the Pacific Islands Marine Protected Areas Communities (PIMPAC) along with the Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG) will be hosting a meeting for all local agency Directors. This meeting will serve to review the climate change efforts in American Samoa, review tools that have been developed for community outreach and planning, and discuss strategies for moving forward and implementing climate adaptation projects.

A workshop is being held this week to review the tools with members of local resource agencies, which will prepare the agency representatives to serve as facilitators in local villages. This workshop is expanding the work done last year during the Community Based Climate Change Adaptation training. At the end of April, the Community Based Climate Change Adaptation tool will be implemented in Aunu'u. This will provide a pilot program to test and utilize the tools from this workshop. The meeting for Directors on March 27th will provide an overview of this tool and request input and guidance from Directors on moving forward with climate change efforts.

We ask that you attend the meeting on March 27th with at least one staff member who will stay and learn more about climate change efforts and the community based tools

developed by PIMPAC. Please find attached the objectives and agenda for the meeting on March 27th.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ruth Matagi Tofiga
Chair, Coral Reef Advisory Group

Objective: *To share climate change adaptation tools and approaches with American Samoa agency leaders and policy makers to gain support and guidance for further territorial and community adaptation efforts.*

Agenda

Time	Topic
10:00 – 10:10	Opening and Introductions (<i>Dr. Ruth Tofiga – Director – Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources</i>)
10:10 – 10:20	Overview of American Samoa Climate Change Adaptation Plan Draft (<i>Whitney Peterson, Climate Change LAS Coordinator – Coral Reef Advisory Group</i>)
10:20 – 10:45	Overview Community Based Climate Change Adaptation Tools and Efforts (<i>Meghan Gombos – Pacific Islands Managed and Protected Area Community</i>)
10:45 – 11:00	Next Steps – Advice and Guidance from Agency Directors & Policy Makers
11:00	Session Ends for Directors and Policy Makers
11:10 – noon	Agency staff discussion on moving forward with climate change adaptation efforts in American Samoa

Appendix B – Letter to Gain Commitment to Inter-Agency Planning



CORAL REEF ADVISORY GROUP

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Lolo M. Moliga
Governor

Lemanu Peleti Mauga
Lt. Governor

Dr. Ruth Matagi Tofiga
Chair

Kristine Bucchianeri
CRI Coordinator

April 7, 2014

To: Jim Bacon, Superintendent of National Parks Service
Vatinasa Dr. Salu Hunkin-Finau Director of Department of Education
Keniseli Lafaele, Director of Department of Commerce
Lealao Malila Purcell, Director of Department of Agriculture
Ameko Pato, Director of Environmental Protection Agency
Maeataanoa Pili Gaoteote, Director of Department of Parks and Recreation
Paramount Chief Satele Galu T. Satele, Director of Department of Samoan Affairs

From: Dr. Ruth Matagi Tofiga, Chair of Coral Reef Advisory Group

Subject: Follow Up to Climate Change Resilience Meeting and Request for Commitment

Dear Director,

Thank you for participating in the meeting on March 27th to discuss opportunities for inter-agency collaboration to build resilience and climate change adaptation for American Samoan communities.

To follow up from that meeting, we are asking that you provide us with a name of a committed staff member to participate on a planning team for a Community Resilience Project.

Specifically we are requesting that staff be committed to participate on a core planning team (made up of all agencies) to carry out the following:

- ***Core planning group meetings*** - over the next 9 -12 month period. These will include brief meetings (approximately every 2-3 weeks) to prepare for, and implement community resiliency outreach and planning work. In addition to these meetings, it proposed that the core planning team will carry out the following in the Aunu'u Community:
 - ***A Community Outreach Workshop*** –to share information on climate change and other threats as well as agency purpose, project, and resources available to support community resilience.
 - ***A Community Planning Workshop*** – to carry out participatory planning activities with the community to collect local input on climate hazards and non-climate threats of most concern. Agencies will provide facilitation support, provide expertise on agency specific issues/topics, and assist in development of appropriate adaptation actions.

The output of this effort will be the development of an integrated Community Resilience Plan that can reduce the vulnerability of natural resources and social systems of a local community. We hope that this pilot effort will only be the beginning of our collaborative efforts to improve resilience of American Samoan communities in the face of climate change and other threats.

As the Climate Change Specialist, my staff Whitney Peterson will be in charge of coordinating the core planning team. Please contact her know ***by April 11, 2014*** with the name of your agency staff who will be part of this exciting initiative. Her contact information is as follows: 633-4456, whitney.r.peterson@gmail.com

Please also note that the first core planning team meeting will be held on April 22nd at 9am in the market conference room.

Thank you again for your time in attending our Directors meeting to begin discussions on this important issue. We look forward to continued collaboration and progress in this effort!

Sincerely,

Dr. Ruth Matagi Tofiga
Chair, Coral Reef Advisory Group