



ICRI General Meeting

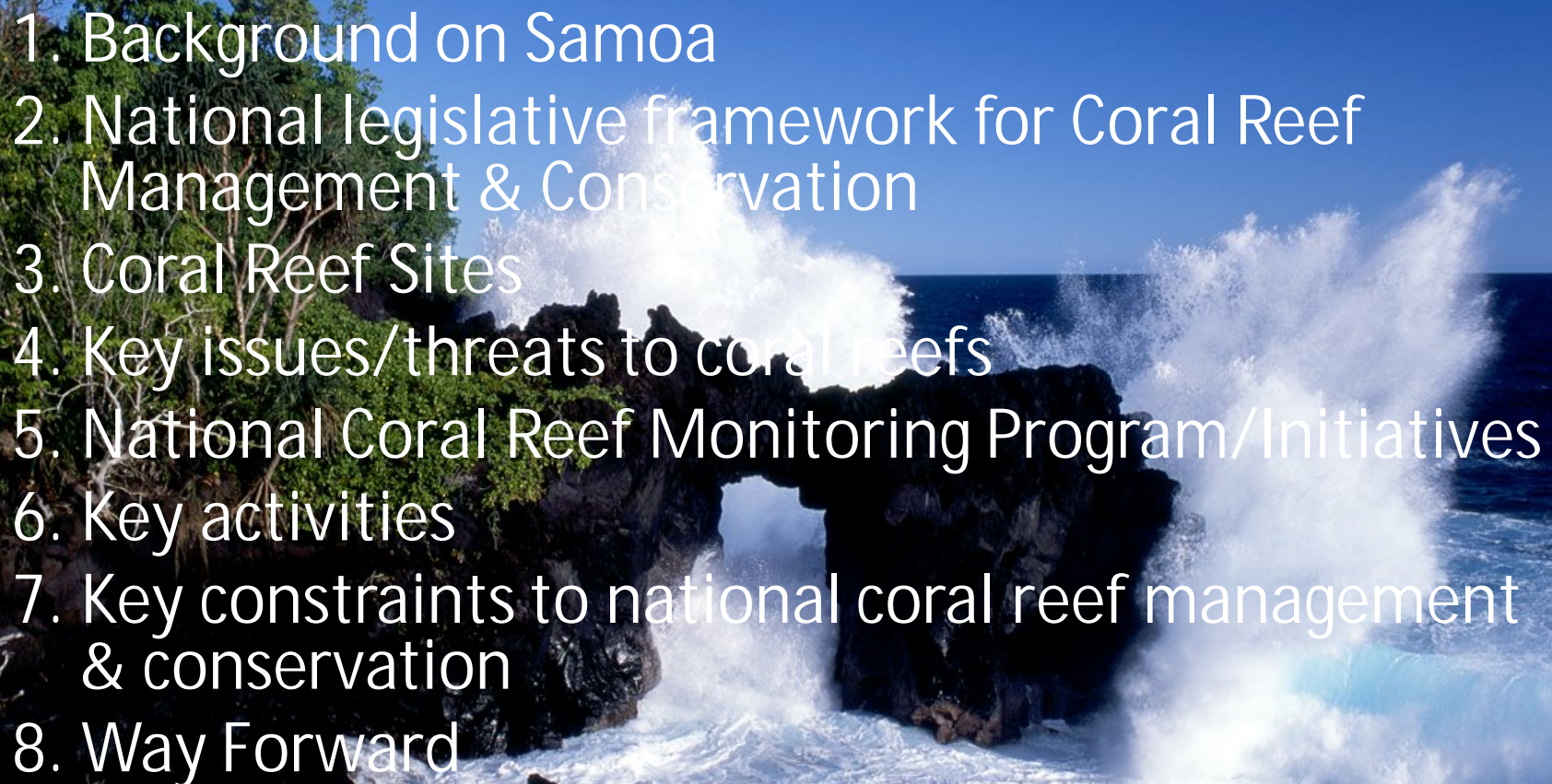
Polokalame Faavaomalo mo le faasaoina o Amu ma Aau

12 – 15 January 2010
Monaco



Status of Coral Reefs in Samoa



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1. Background on Samoa
 2. National legislative framework for Coral Reef Management & Conservation
 3. Coral Reef Sites
 4. Key issues/threats to coral reefs
 5. National Coral Reef Monitoring Program/Initiatives
 6. Key activities
 7. Key constraints to national coral reef management & conservation
 8. Way Forward

OCEANIA



SAMOA

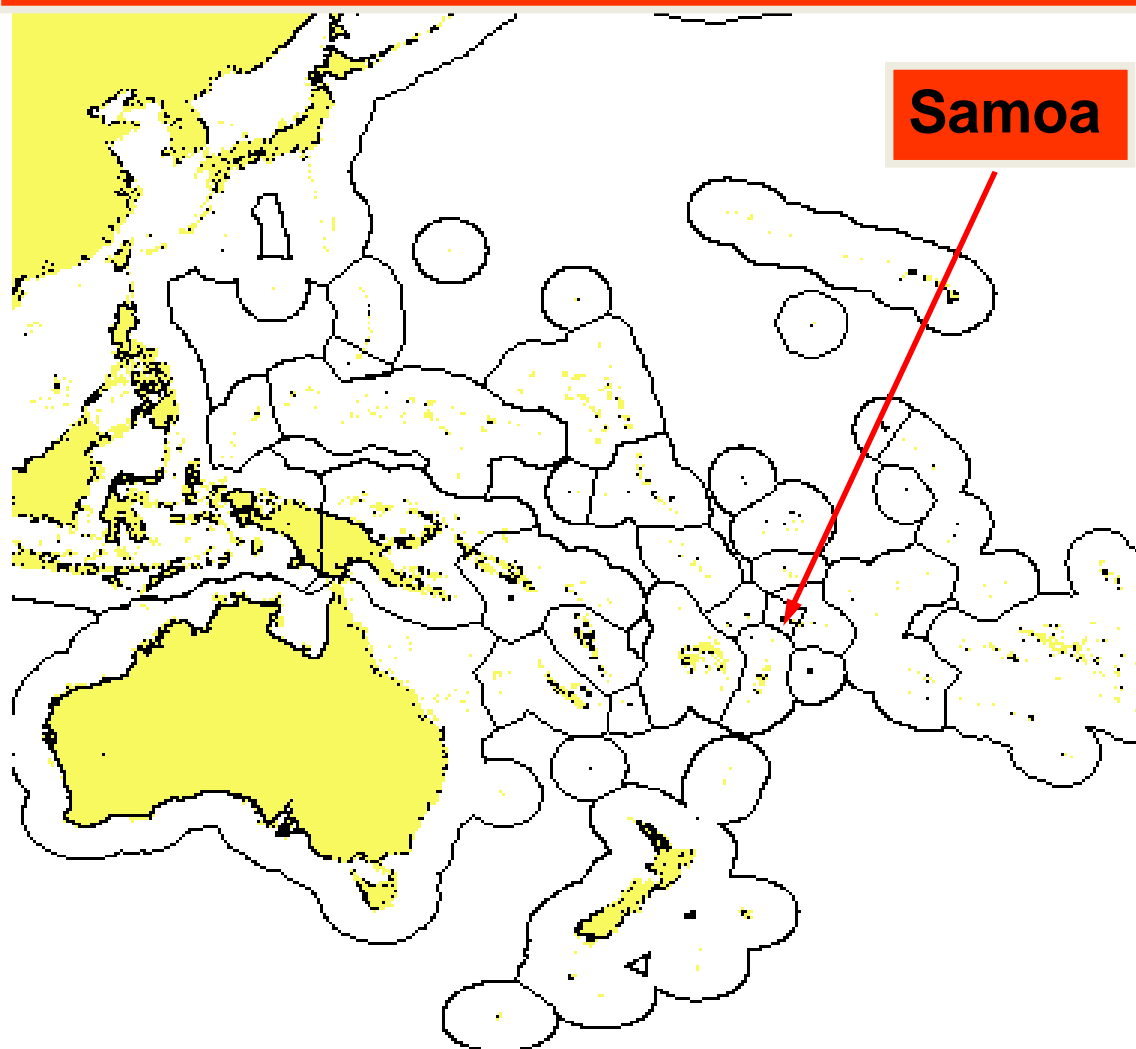


Background on Samoa

- Location – located in the SW Pacific Ocean between 13025'S and 14045'S, and 171023'W and 172048'W
- EEZ = 120,000 km²
- Population = 180,571 (2006)
- Annual GDP = 455.7 million USD ~ 11.4% from agriculture and fisheries
- Average annual seafood consumption per capita = 60kg
- Land area = 2,935 km²




ESTIMATED EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONES [EEZs] OF SOME PACIFIC COUNTRIES



Samoa

Pacific Countries EEZ Areas (km²):


Samoa	=	120,000
Tokelau	=	290,000
Am. Samoa	=	390,000
Tonga	=	700,000
Tuvalu	=	900,000
New Zealand	=	1,030,000
Fiji	=	1,290,000
Cook Islands	=	1,830,000
PNG	=	3,120,000
Australia	=	12,000,000



National legislative framework for Coral Reef Management & Conservation

Lands, Surveys and Environment Act 1989

Division 5, Sections 119 & 120: Protection of foreshore + coastal waters

- Ensuring and promoting the conservation and protection of the natural resources and environment of Samoa
 - Making recommendations in relation to;
 - The administration, management and control of national parks and reserve including the protection, conservation and management of wild life, water resources and other marine and terrestrial ecosystems
 - Carrying out investigations and research relevant to the protection and conservation of natural resources and the environment
 - Providing and promoting training in the skills relevant to its functions
 - Promoting public awareness to the importance of the environment and its conservation.
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National legislative framework for Coral Reef Management & Conservation

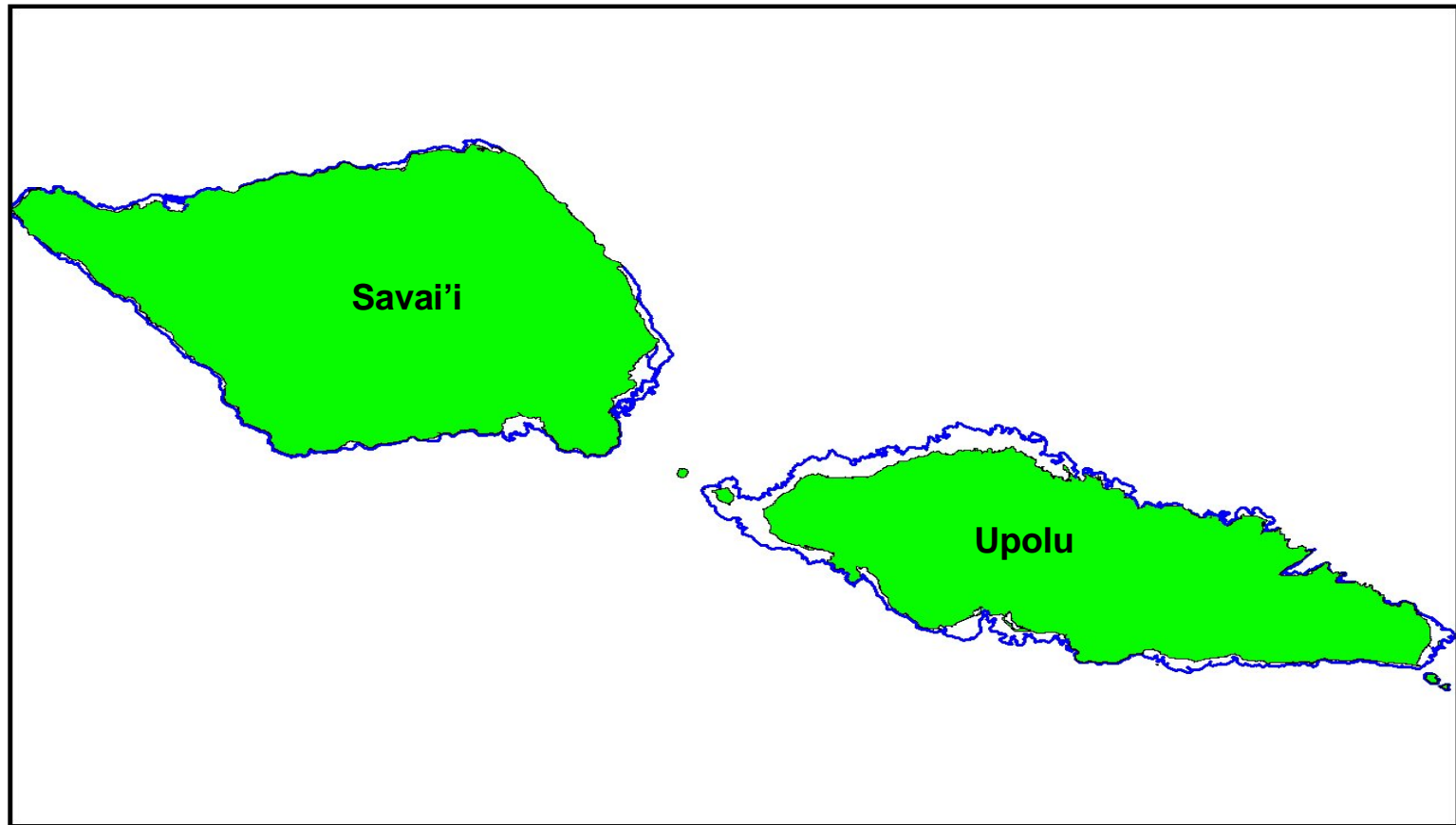
Fisheries Act 1988

Section 1(d) "To promote the protection and the conservations of the marine environment."

Fisheries By-laws.

- ✓ Fisheries Act 1988 – provides for formulation of by-laws.
- ✓ Local village laws, enforced by the villagers themselves.
- ✓ More effective – formulated by village fono, villagers are inclined to obey.
- ✓ Local village penalty system (Village Fono Act).


Coral Reefs of Samoa



Map of reefs surrounding the islands of Samoa. Fringing reefs are found close to shore while the barrier reefs are separated by a lagoon.



3. Coral Reefs of Samoa

- Samoa's reefs cover an estimated area of 490km²;
 - Past cyclones damaged an estimated 13% of reefs;
 - Total marine protected area (including coral reefs) - 12,011,437 ha;
 - Assessments of 2002, 2004 and 2008 revealed the percentage of live coral coverage fluctuating from a mean of 39% in 2002, 10.3% in 2004, and 43% in 2008;
 - Coral recovery is remarkable with *Acropora* being the dominant coral species;
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Coral Reefs of Samoa

- Edible reef fish - generally moderate densities (e.g. parrotfish herbivores density of 388/100m²);
- Low densities for edible invertebrates (sea cucumbers, giant clams, trochus) (0-3/100m²);



Key issues/threats to coral reefs

- Unsustainable coastal development (e.g. coastal reclamation, sand mining)
 - Over-fishing
 - Cyclones, tsunamis
 - Climate change (e.g. rising SST causing coral bleaching)
 - Marine invasive species
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National Coral Reef Monitoring Program/Initiatives

- Samoa has an overall coral reef conservation programme that aims at addressing the issue of degraded coral reefs at the national level;
- 4 major Components
 1. Coastal Management
 2. Public Awareness, Education and Training
 3. Research and monitoring (annual & long-term) to determine the status of coral reefs, with due consideration of the changes and the modern environmental and socio-economic challenges.
 4. Fisheries

Key activities - 1. Coastal Management

- Several 'integrated coastal zone management and protection projects and activities have been implemented and mainly with the local villages. Coastal Resources Management Plans as well as Coastal Infrastructure Management (CIM) Plans are further developed and implemented.
- A significant number of local villages are implementing community-based Coral Reef conservation and/or fisheries management projects. The interest is growing as more people realize the importance of conservation. Overall, there is improved and sustained management practices at the local level.
- Current national priority is the establishment of more marine protected areas/fish reserves or the extension and strengthening of the existing network to improve the conservation of marine resources and ecosystems. This will continue into the next ten years or so.
- Coastal Management and its related aspects have been properly included in the local Environment and Fisheries Legislations for national implementation.



Key activities - 1. Coastal Management

- National priority is also on the restoration of degraded mangrove and seagrass ecosystems in the selected sites/villages. Related activities include several assessments and mapping of known mangrove and seagrass areas and mangrove replanting.
- Samoa has continued to implement several national obligations mainly under the International Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).
- Conservation networks (working groups, committees) with the relevant stakeholders have been established and strengthened to exchange related information, knowledge and skills important for conservation.
- Strengthened collaboration with other relevant stakeholders on marine/coral reef/fisheries conservation and management at the national (e.g. local villages, METI, SUNGO, STA), regional (e.g. SPREP, CI, SPC, CRISP) and international (e.g. Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network Southwest Pacific Node) levels.



Key activities – 2. Public Awareness, Education & Training

- Capacity building
- Awareness materials are produced and disseminated for awareness;
- Workshops and field trips for students are often conducted for awareness purposes.
- The local communities and school students are made to participate in mangrove replanting and marine clean-up activities;



Awareness Materials



Key activities – 3. Research and monitoring

- Coral Reef research, scientific assessment and monitoring are conducted in various selected sites/villages (Marine invasive/alien species, coral diseases and bleaching are also important parts of these).
- An existing MoU for coral reefs monitoring that specifically addresses the standardization of assessment methodologies, sharing of limited resources (human, financial and equipments) and sharing of data.



Key activities – 4. Fisheries

- CBFMP
- Monitoring of seafood landing and catches rates
- Enforcement of fisheries regulations
- Control coastal fisheries development.






Key constraints to national coral reef management & conservation

- Limited financial resources
- Limited technically skilled staff
- Limited staff



Way forward

- Finalize and implement Samoa's National Coral Reef Action Plan;
 - Strengthen the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM);
 - Seek to improve support & assistance of the ICRI regional Coordinator;
 - Continue coral reef monitoring with the inclusion of more sites;
 - Strengthen existing national coral reef monitoring networks;
 - Improve reporting to ICRI;
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"Samoa; The Treasured Island Of The South Pacific"

Tofa Soifua

