

CASE STUDY ON MAINSTREAMING – SAMOA'S NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL FRAMEWORK & PLANNING PROCESSES.



2-6 February 2009, Nadi, presentation by:
Planning Urban Management Agency (PUMA)
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- National Environmental Management Strategy
- Planning Framework in Samoa
 - (-) Overall Planning – SDS
 - (-) PUMA
 - Development Consent Process
- Further mainstreaming potential

National Environmental Policy Framework

- Lands, Survey and Environment Act 1989 created the Environment Division tasked with management of environmental concerns.
- “National Environmental Management Strategy” (NEMS) in 1994
- Samoa Development Strategies; 1996-to present

1. Between 1962 to 1992, a total 7 Development Plans (DPs) were produced

- *Comprehensive (Had both National, Sectoral, Corporate objectives & strategies)*
- *Minimal consultation/ownership*

2. 1996 –to date 6 Strategic Plans developed

- **1996 -1998** (*A New Partnership*)
- **1998-1999** (*Strengthening the Partnership*)
- **2000-2001** (*Partnership for a Prosperous Society*)
- **2002-2004** (*Opportunity for All*)
- **2005-2007** (*Enhancing peoples choices*)
- **2008-2012** ()

Mainstreaming through land-use planning

Planning and Urban Management Act 2004

Planning and Urban Management Agency – set up in 2002, legally established 2004.

- Development Consent Process

;the Act

;CIM Strategy 2001/ 2006

;41 CIM District Plans 2001/2006

;Codes of Env'tal Practice 2006

;Parking Standards 2006

;Housing Guidelines 2006

;EIA Regulation 2007

;Disability Guideline (draft)

; Sanitation policy (ongoing)

;Other planning policies /
guidelines

The Coastal Infrastructure Management (CIM) Strategy 2001/2006 derived 41 District CIM Plans

- promotes the better management of coastal infrastructure and development of greater hazard resilience for Samoan communities.
- Looked at impacts on infrastructure and community vulnerabilities to coastal hazards – some of which have become further exacerbated by Climate Change, such as strong wave action, storm surges, coastal inundation, flooding, food security, quality/shortage of drinking water...

Extensive Consultation for Samoa's Coastal Infrastructure Management Plans



As part of a World Bank initiative, the Government of Samoa in conjunction with Beca International Consultants developed Coastal Infrastructure Management (CIM) Plans for the Country. 41 plans were developed, one for each district. This involved meeting with 283 villages and approximately 6,000 people over 7 years. The scale of consultation was very extensive with approximately 8% of the total adult population of the country being directly consulted.



www.mnre.gov.ws



www.becca.com

CIM Plan development:

- Developed through a process of :
 - Information gathering;
 - Coastal Hazard Zone maps;
flooding / erosion / land slips /
 - Walk-through with communities;
loss of land, freshwater pools, waste water, rubbish,
loss of mangroves, housing, fishing techniques...
 - Consultation (problems & solutions);
 - Local communities;
 - Discussion with infrastructure providers; and
 - Other public and private stakeholders.
 - Evaluation of findings – village / district problems,
priorities, responsibilities
 - District Committees
 - District Acceptance and Endorsement

Biodiversity consideration & planning

- EIA Regulation 2007
- EIA Reporting – description of existing environment, methodologies used, impacts recognition, mitigation measures.
- Referral role of Agency
- Development Consent conditions – a legal document that binds the developer
- Monitoring of consent / EIA conditions
- Compliance and Enforcement

Mainstreaming possibilities for biodiversity:

Improving quality EIA reporting – we (planners and biodiversity personnel) need to specify exactly what it is the EIA industry should be looking at when reporting on biodiversity, the accuracy of biodiversity baseline data (not just from other literature), the methodologies needed for certain areas, and an acceptable and practical monitoring plan with monitoring parameters

Improving EIA Reviews – we need to be critical when reviewing EIAs...my review would be different perhaps from a biodiversity expert who knows the area – here the referral process must be improved

Monitoring Role – joint efforts in monitoring the application of mitigation measures particularly in sensitive areas.

Sharing specific data – inform planners about crucial sites – MPA boundaries, nesting sites, native forests, sensitive areas, valuable habitats etc

Strengthen coordination between land-use planners and biodiversity personnel

Development of biodiversity conditions / standards for enforcement
-Need effective and practical planning controls

Taking legal action or legal proceedings for non-compliance

Invest in planning agencies/authorities as the key drivers in mainstreaming – may wear different hats but we all have the same goals....Planners also need capacity building on environmental issues

CONCLUDE by saying that

'where our national development strategies have not been fully successful, PUMA's role as a regulator is crucial in mainstreaming environmental values through to the ground level – biodiversity and climate change issues included.