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SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Noumea, New Caledonia

AMERICAN SAMOA

COUNTRY REPORT

(July 1980)

SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMMEAMERICAN SAMOACountry Report

Proposed by:

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Review and recommended by the Environmental Quality Commission, American Samoa Government, to the Governor of American Samoa.

PART A ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION (Findings)

POLICY

- 1 The American Samoa Government (ASG) is now in receipt of the Economic Development Plan 1979-1984 (EDP). It anticipates receipt in the near future of a companion document, the Quality of Life Plan (QLP). The recently compiled Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) has been authorized by the ASG with effect from 1 September 1980 but has yet to receive (the anticipated) Federal endorsement. The EDP and the QLP together form the comprehensive Development Plan for American Samoa, while the CZMP is a Federally funded program complementary to the EDP and covering the whole territory.
- 2 There exists a Government policy on economic planning reflected in the EDP. Government policy on social planning will be reflected in the forthcoming QLP. Physical planning policy and proposals are incorporated in the CZMP. All major projects and all public works have to conform with the Federal

BOCA Code and be designed by professional engineers or architects. Government policy on agriculture and fisheries, reflecting a move towards self-sufficiency and self-reliance, is policy for the relevant Departments and is reflected in the EDP. A new initiative on energy policy summarized in a statement by Lt. Governor Tufele Li'a to the Senate Committee on Energy Resources and Energy Needs for Pacific Insular Areas sets the tone for energy policy.

There is a Government policy on water purity.

3 In the context of development on a territorial basis, there are guidelines for rural development in the CZMP and within the Department of Agriculture. Outer islands are always included in considerations and proposals generated from Tutuila. Government policy on urban development is not entirely clear, but there is a zoning plan of limited utility.

4 Government priorities in the above areas (paragraphs 1-3 above), arise mainly from a desire for 'Samoanization' and greater economic independence.

LEGISLATION

5 Environmental legislation exists in the form of the State Drinking Water Act; the Water Pollution Control Act; the Smean Health Code; and regulations which guide the Environmental Quality Commission. These ASG enactments are supplemented by Federal legislation including the Endangered Species Act (no listings); the Coastal Zone Management Act;

The Federal Water Pollution Act; the Pesticides (FIFRA) Act which are paramount amongst a multitude of Federal legislation.

6 Traditional legislation consists of a vast complex of oral tradition and laws which contain environmentally related provisions pertaining to traditional Samoan life.

7 No known environmental conventions have been entered into by the ASG but Federal agreements, some of which may have application in American Samoa.

8 The ASG would welcome information on other conventions specific to the South Pacific region.

ANNING

9 Environmental factors are considered in economic planning (see paragraph 1-2 above).

10 There are several resource, land use surveys and water studies. These will be embodied in the Coastal Atlas, which includes all land, being compiled under the CZMP.

11 The data referred to in the previous paragraph, which will appear in the Coastal Atlas, will be used in physical planning.

- 12 Environmental assessments are made in the form of Environmental Impact Statements for projects involving Federal funding, but this requirement has often been waived. The CZMP will reintroduce and reinforce environmental assessment procedures. Environmental evaluation is carried out by local agencies assisted by Federal agencies.
- 13 The ASG does not identify any problem with planning although it is concerned with policy implementation and enforcement.

ADMINISTRATION

- 14 Environmental policy is administered through the Environmental Quality Commission with sub-controls effected through the Public Health, Public Works, Public Safety, Parks and Recreation, Agricultural and Samoan Affairs Departments. Federal implementation arises in the main through the Coast Guard and the Army Corps of Engineers.
- 15 Implementation is effective in some sectors (e.g. control over the purity of drinking water) but there are shortcomings with regard to other projects.
- 16 There is adequate expertise for environmental assessment.
- 17 There is adequate expertise for comprehensive physical planning.
- 18 Many Departments and Agencies are involved in planning, and coordination is a problem. The CZMP indicates these shortcomings, and is intended to alleviate rather than add to them.

PART B ASSESSMENT (Findings)

MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL

PROBLEMS

- 19 Environmental damage arising in association with major development projects (in construction) can be most clearly identified at present in the case of road construction, with its attendant problems of rehabilitation of areas of cut-and-fill, coral smothering with detritus and silt.

- 20 Environmental problems arising in urban areas are confined mainly to the downtown area where the disposal of non-degradable rubbish, the malfunctioning of septic tanks, traffic congestion and air quality degradation are identified. Odors, water born effluents and sludge from the two fish canneries are environmental nuisances.

- 21 The rural areas' main environmental problems would include (as in urban areas) the disposal of non-degradable rubbish and disused motor vehicles, control over the movement of livestock and a large population of neglected dogs plus a degree of soil resource neglect as a consequence of unsound agricultural practices.

- 22 In coastal waters littoral erosion arising from inadequate protection against wave surge energy has, in the past, removed considerable portions of the narrow coastal platform. Other problems include fish poisoning and dynamiting with a consequent reduction in the variety of fish stocks. There is also a problem in the containment of oil spills and the dislocation of coastal outline due to irregular reclamation practices including land filling with rubbish. The effects of uncontrolled destruction on the outer edges of the 223 acres of mangrove and wetland areas on the coastal marine environment is a problem that needs assessment.
- 23 There are no known outside pressures on American Samoa for environmental degradation through destructive resource exploitation or toxic waste disposal.

RESEARCH AND MONITORING

- 24 Regular surveillance is undertaken in connection with the monitoring of safe drinking water and the ambient water quality - tested on a monthly basis. Four major permits are issued under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System - for the two canneries and the two municipal sewerage disposal plants. There are two minor permits issued to the Marine Railway and the Chevron oil depot.

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

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