



"an efficient statistical system providing relevant, quality statistics for the benefit of Samoa"

TOOLS & MODELLING APPROACHES FOR EXPERIMENTAL ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNTING (UN- NEW YORK)

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GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA

SAMOA BUREAU OF STATISTICS



Background

- Regional Workshop in Samoa in August 2013 on Developing Programmes for Implementing the 2008 SNA, the 2012 SEEA and Supporting Statistics in the Pacific Region.
- The region by 2020 to build capacity (as agreed by ESCAP committee in 2010) in the provision of statistics in the areas of population, economic, social and ENVIRONMENT.
- Due to climate change and environmental issues, (such as the rising sea level affecting low land Pacific Island Countries), policy makers need statistical evidenced that informs policy and for policy formulation.



Samoa

- Samoa through the Samoa Bureau of Statistics noted the need for improved environment statistics thus, establishing an Environment Unit in July 2013 as per advise by ISP consultants
- Environment statistics part of SSDS 2011-2021 (Samoa Strategy for the Development of Statistics), under sector statistics
- Local Sector Coordinator Workshop conducted in September 2013 and two of the aims were Identifying indicator gaps and to identify relevant methods/ models in developing relevant indicators. ENVIRONMENT SECTOR was one of the main sectors.
- SEEA implementation diagnostic tool being piloted in Samoa, facilitated by SPREP and MNRE.



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Samoa

- The bureau is currently implementing SNA 08. probably the first country in the region to do so!!



Policy Setting

- One of the priority areas in the SDS 2012-2016 (Strategy for the Development of Samoa).
- To be in line with MDG Goal 7, target 7A (reverse the loss of environmental resources) and 7B (reduce biodiversity loss).
- Integrated approach with other sectors of the economy, including the NESP 2013-2016 (National Environment Sector Plan).
- SOE 2013 (State of the Environment Report) which includes a set of derived indicators for monitoring the environment.
- Establishing of the Environment unit of the Samoa Bureau of Statistics to collect and compile environment statistics indicators.



Obstacles

- Lack of coordination/ collaboration in environment statistics as data is spread across agencies and within agencies. EG: MNRE consists of 12 divisions which poses a challenge in collecting administrative data.
- Limited technical knowledge on environmental statistics including the bureau as we are new 'players'.
(attachment to either NZ Stats or ABS on environmental statistics).
- Limited dissemination process of statistics in relation to environmental statistics for researchers and international organizations, where there studies can be served as a bench mark for policy formulation.