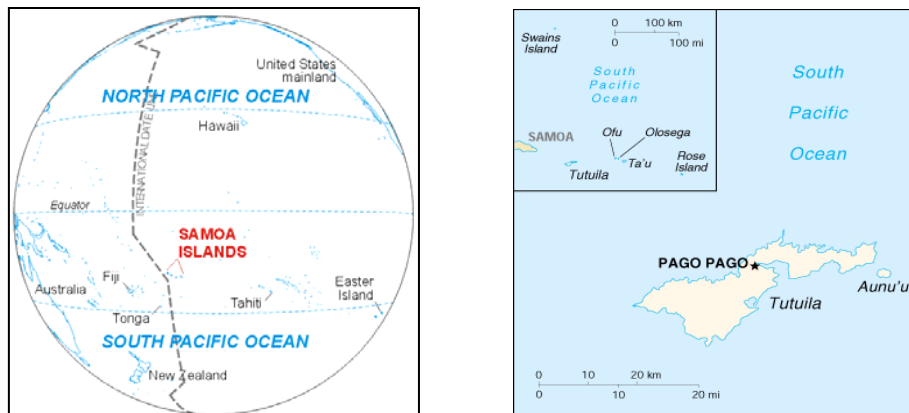


2005–2007 Coral Management Fellowship American Samoa Statement of Work

Location of the Project

The host agency for the 2005–2007 Coral Management Fellowship in American Samoa is the American Samoa Coastal Management Program (ASCMP), which is housed in the American Samoa Government Department of Commerce. The ASCMP office is located in Utulei, near Pago Pago, American Samoa.

American Samoa, located some 2,600 miles southwest of Hawaii, consists of a group of five volcanic islands and two coral atolls that total 76 square miles and are inhabited by approximately 62,000 people. The Samoan way of life, called Fa'a Samoa, is based on family, tradition, and respect, and it continues to govern many aspects of life in American Samoa today. The Fa'a Samoa defines the basic structure of local communities based on ancient traditions. For example, the traditional way of life promotes village welfare over that of an individual. Extended families, or aigas, identify with the lands owned by their ancestors, which extend from the mountaintop to the outer edge of the coral reef. Ninety-two percent of communal lands are still owned by aigas. All resource management activities on the islands must be adaptive to the existing cultural framework.



Program/Agency Background

American Samoa coordinates all its coral reef management activities through the Governor's Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG). This group is comprised of territorial and federal agencies, including the American Samoa Government Department of Commerce, which houses ASCMP and Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary. CRAG also includes the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency, American Samoa Community College, and the National Park of American Samoa. These agencies collaborate to plan and implement actions related to the management of American Samoa's estimated 296 square kilometers of coral reefs.

The American Samoa Coastal Management Program was established in 1980 with a mission to "ensure the wise use, management, protection, and enhancement of the territory's land and water resources." The coastal zone in American Samoa includes all land resources and marine waters within 3 miles of the coast, as well as the Special

2005–2007 Coral Management Fellowship American Samoa Statement of Work

Management Areas of Pago Pago Harbor and Pala Lagoon. ASCMP is a network of various government agencies having the collective responsibility and technical expertise to manage coastal resources, including coral reefs. ASCMP has seven program areas: the Project Notification and Review System (PNRS), which is a land use permitting function, Community Based Wetlands Management Program, Cumulative and Secondary Impacts Program, Ocean Resources Management Program, Public Awareness Program, Geographical Information System Program, and Nonpoint Source Pollution Program.

Coral reefs in American Samoa are in a long recovery phase after numerous challenges ranging from poor water quality in the harbor, crown of thorns starfish outbreaks, hurricanes, and coral bleaching. Although many of the more remote reefs have recovered, those impacted by human activities have been slower to improve. The reefs in Pago Pago Harbor remain the most affected by human activities. Population density, commercial activity on and near the water, and historical dumping of civilian and military industrial waste in the inner harbor area are all contributing factors to the ecological damage and slow improvement of coral habitats.

Many of the threats to coral reefs here are due to ignorance of the fragility and importance of coral reefs. CRAG believes that many of these threats could be eliminated or minimized with better public and governmental understanding. CRAG identifies ongoing and new problems for the reefs, has developed and actively updates a Coral Reef Initiative Plan, and is developing a local action strategy for four recently identified focal areas. These include overfishing, unregulated development, global climate change, and population pressure. CRAG plans to continue to build capacity for its coral reef efforts by funding ongoing projects, as well as new ones.

Project Goals and Objectives

The goal of this fellowship project is to help develop and implement the local action strategies for overfishing, unregulated development, global climate change, and population pressure in American Samoa. Within these areas, CRAG expects issues such as education and outreach, transfer of knowledge and skills, general planning, project management, and interagency activity coordination to be priorities.

Project Description

Below is a description of the overall project. The fellow will be integrated into ASCMP and will network with partner organizations and agencies to complete this multifaceted project. The fellow will be involved in each of these tasks, and some of them will be accomplished concurrently.

Orientation (4 months)

The fellow will be introduced to the staff and management of ASCMP and partner agencies. The fellow will review background information regarding American Samoa's coral reef initiative, as well as other coastal management issues. The fellow will

2005–2007 Coral Management Fellowship American Samoa Statement of Work

participate in a management evaluation (i.e., gaps and needs) with program staff members, field visits, interagency meetings, and outreach activities. After participating in these activities, the fellow, with input from the mentor, will write a project work plan that will be reviewed and revised after the first year of the fellowship.

- Familiarity with staff, operations, and resources of state coastal program
- Integration into ASCMP and clarification of role in project
- Develop a project work plan

Support implementation of CRAG initiatives (remainder of fellowship)

The fellow will work closely with mentors and other agency personnel to complete projects and to further CRAG long-term goals in the following areas:

Education and Outreach

- Support and advise the education coordinator as part of a working group to develop and implement a three-year education campaign
- Ascertain which Pacific and international organizations might lend material support, advice, or other expertise
- Develop and participate in outreach programs targeting government, schools, and villages
- Assist the Coral Reef Initiative (CRI) coordinator and the American Samoa Community College Marine Science Program director in developing mechanisms to involve local marine science students in projects and events that CRAG participates in, or assumes leadership on. This may involve mentoring, helping with grants, and being a liaison to outside project managers to find suitable tasks for students to complete, etc.

Overpopulation Program

Fellow will lead the Overpopulation Working Group in the development and implementation of Overpopulation Local Action Strategy (LAS) projects, including the following:

- Coordinate efforts to increase local agency awareness of infrastructure needs resulting from population growth
- Develop and coordinate, in cooperation with the education coordinator, workshops to bring the issues of overpopulation to the attention of village leaders

Support CRAG planning and reporting activities (remainder of assistantship)

The fellow will work closely with mentors and other agency personnel to further CRAG long-term goals and to work on the following reporting and planning projects:

- Assist in tracking CRI-funded projects
- Provide logistical support to the office of the CRI coordinator
- Develop overviews of various territorial and CRAG programs, such as marine protected area efforts, monitoring efforts, and water reduction efforts
- Assist CRAG with identifying potential donors and developing targeted proposals to

2005–2007 Coral Management Fellowship American Samoa Statement of Work

fund the Territorial Marine Lab

Eligibility Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in natural resource management or environmental-related fields with 4 to 6 years experience OR a master's degree in natural resource management or environmental-related fields with 2 years experience. Population, coastal, or marine management preferred.
- Valid driver's license

Desired Background and Skill Sets

- Demonstrated oral, written, and interpersonal communication and leadership skills
- A proven ability to be well-organized and able to manage and prioritize multiple tasks
- Knowledge of tropical marine ecosystems
- Public speaking, events planning, and meeting facilitation experience
- Ability to work independently
- Creative, flexible, adaptable
- Experience living and working in another culture or in an island community
- Experience working with different user groups
- Desire to be involved with many aspects of coastal resource management (e.g., fisheries, coral reef monitoring and management, nonpoint source pollution, vessel groundings, recreation, etc.)
- Familiarity through school, volunteer, or work experience with overpopulation issues and solutions