



American Samoa



American Samoa Forest Resource Fact Sheet – 2006/2007

American Samoa is located in the South Pacific, just east of the International Date Line (lat. 14° 18' S. and long. 170° 41'W). These islands are approximately 1,000 miles south of the equator and 2,500 miles south of Hawaii, 1,600 miles from New Zealand and 4,200 miles from Los Angeles. There are 5 islands and 2 atolls that make up American Samoa: Tutuila (54 sq. mi.), Aunu'u (.6 sq. mi.), Ofu (2.8 sq. mi.), Olosega (2.1 sq. mi.), Ta'u (17.7 sq. mi.), Swain's atoll (1 sq. mi.) and Rose atoll (.2 sq. mi.). The Manu'a island group (Ofu, Olosega and Ta'u) is approximately 60 mi. from Tutuila. The highest point in American Samoa is Mt. Lata on Ta'u Island, which is 3166 ft (965 m). Tutuila's highest point is Mt. Matafao at 2142 ft (653 m).

American Samoa has a maritime climate with abundant rain ranging from 125 in. to over 250 in. per year depending of the specific area and island. The driest months are June through September and the wettest December through March. The temperature ranges from 70° to 90° with nearly 100% humidity throughout the year. The coolest weather coincides with the dry season and the warmest weather with the wet season. Heavy rain showers can occur all year and often cause damage such as flooding, landslides, electrical power failures and road and culvert damage. Cyclones are fairly common, occurring generally once every decade. The population is approximately 62,000, the majority of which is on the island of Tutuila.

Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

(Budget Figures are Estimates FY 07)

	FY-06 Fed	FY-06 Match	FY-07 Fed	FY-07 Match
Forest Health Protection	50,000	9,600	55,000	10,000
Cooperative Fire Protection – State	0	0	40,000	17,000
CFHP-IP –Invasive Plants	26,000	11,520	23,000	12,000
Forest Stewardship Program	59,000	18,000	53,000	18,000
Urban and Community Forestry	98,500	82,800	110,000	90,000
Natural Resource Conservation Education	7,000	7,000	10,000	7,000
Forest Legacy	10,000	3,334	500,000	200,000
Forest Stewardship Spatial Analysis Program (SAP)	15,000	12,000	0	0
Forest Land Enhancement Program	15,000	7,000	0	0

*American Samoa matches \$1 for \$1 for the amount over \$200,000.

The Cooperative Forestry Programs are administered and implemented through a partnership with American Samoa Community College/Community & Natural Resources Forestry Department; Department of Public Safety Fire Division, USDA Forest Service, and several other private and government entities. These programs are designed to promote the health and productivity of American Samoa's forestlands, educational system, and rural economies. Emphasis is placed on public education and tree planting, agro forestry, watersheds and other natural resources, coastal stabilization, community beautification, wildlife, and conservation practices. The goals are to help maintain and improve the health of American Samoa's community trees, rainforests, and to conserve all natural resources.

These programs are effective because they:

- Are culturally sensitive to the values and decision-making processes of American Samoans
- Reduce costs through the use of partnerships
- Raise awareness about the values of forests and natural resources and,
- Are voluntary and use non-regulatory approaches.
- Bring people together to share and explore other opportunities in forestry and natural resource management.

Key Issues:

- Promote the establishment of the Forest Legacy Program in the Territory for saving the threatened lowland rainforest in Ottoville, and other special management areas.
- Promote capacity building of forestry staff through trainings to increase technical knowledge and practical skills in forestry and natural resource management.
- Promote Spatial Analysis Program (SAP) in the Territory of American Samoa
- Improve collaborative programs and projects in the Territory through partnerships with inter-governmental agencies, federal and private sector.
- Increase island wide awareness of the importance of environmental stewardship of the forestlands and education of natural resources and people.
- Re-forestation of John Kneubal's Memorial Garden at Taputimu with assorted native species for tours and school visits.
- Identification and management of invasive species in Tutuila, Aunu'u, Manu'a Islands, Swains Island, and neighboring islands.
- Promote seed collection of assorted native species, fruit trees, palms, medicinal plants, and food crops for propagation and multiplication
- Develop Agroforestry Projects that utilize and promote the Vertiver Grass for soil and water conservation

Program Highlights:

Urban and Community Forestry

- The theme of the Arbor Week in 2006 is Learning, Leading, and Serving the Land of American Samoa A weeklong activities have reached almost 2500 students, teachers and interested people who attended presentations and tree plantings. The local KVZK Television and the newspaper highlighted the events for a week in classrooms and in the field.
- American Samoan Forestry crewmembers Logona Misa and Simon Stowers were instrumental in assisting the completion of Federated States of Micronesia (Ponapei) Forestry Inventory Assessments.
- The greenhouse in Tau- Manu'a is currently serving the schools with forestry and agricultural information and producing plant materials to supply the needs of communities in Manu'a.

- The construction of the forestry storage facility is completed and it is also used as a central Office, where the program is administered, and to provide the services for schools and communities.
- The intent of our program this year is focused on the development of different aspects of forestry and agro-forestry on Manu'a Islands.
- Develop more tree planting projects in village communities and assist schools with beautification projects

Landowner Assistance:

- Establish more forestry trails at Land Grant Station and other sites to enhance eco-tourists and conservation education program.
- Educate government and political leaders about the importance of caring for the forestlands and its resources, now and the future.
- Provide more technical assistance through site visits and increase more field days with forestry clients.
- Promote the establishment of fruit trees for the control of soil erosion along stream banks and also to increase the availability of production for nutritious dietary needs

Forest Health Protection:

- Identification and management of Invasive Tree Species in the Territory.
- Promote the propagation, multiplication, planting, and protection of Native Tree species in the Territory.
- Conduct Forest Inventory for American Samoa for the second round since the last five year (2000).

Selected Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts		Selected Results	
Population	62,000	Stewardship Plans Prepared (current)	45
Acres of Forest Land	43,500	Acres Under Stewardship Plans(current)	64
Acres of Non-Industrial Private Forest Land	23,000	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (All yrs)	1,564
Number of NIPF Landowners	20,000	Multi-resource practices implemented on NIPF-Acres	60
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	Volunteer Fire Department Assisted SPF, NPF	0
Acres of Private Land Under Fire Protection	0	State Fire-Communities Assisted SPF NPF	0
Number Rural Fire Departments	1	Coop Forest Health-Acres Protected SPF NPF	8
Number of Cities and Towns	73	Forest Legacy Project Acquisition-Acres	0
Forest Based Employment	40	Urban Forestry-Participating communities	40
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)		Urban Forestry-Volunteer Assistance Generated Days	250
State Forestry Budget (All Source)	\$280,500	EAP-Community working under broad based local strategic plans	6

For more information contact:



Malala Malaeti'a Misa,
Territorial Forester
ASCC/CNR-Forestry
P. O. Box 5319
Pago Pago, AS 96799
Phone: 648-699-1575/1394
FAX: 684-699-5011
Email: malaetia1@yahoo.com

Leigh Beck
State & Private Forestry
USDA Forest Service
Telephone: 707-562-8918
Fax: 707-562-9054
Email: lbeck@fs.fed.us

