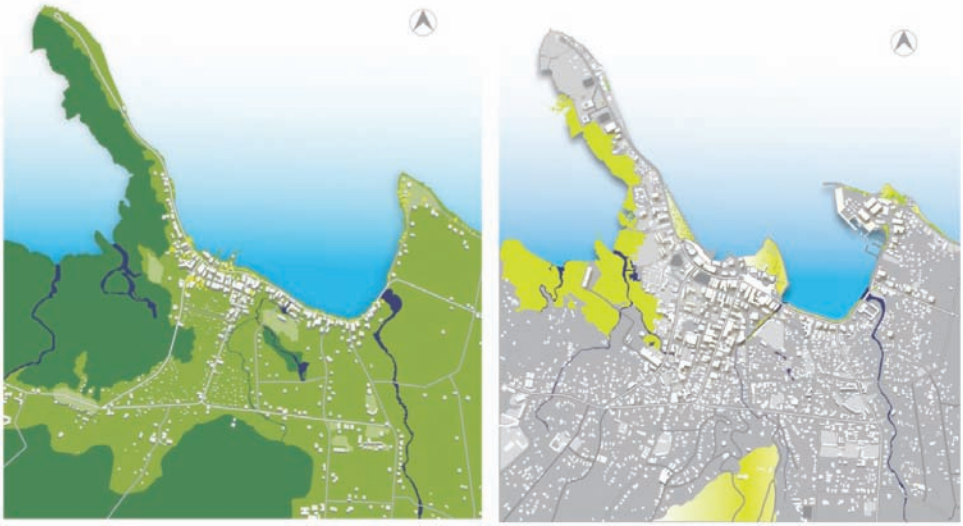
The Samoa National Urban Policy

"Sustainable, Resilient and Inclusive City"



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October 2013

Planning and Urban Management Agency
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

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FOREWORD

As part of the Government of Samoa's quest for improvement in, and sustainable management of the urban environment, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment through the Planning and Urban Management Agency is developing the National Urban Policy to establish a strategic framework for shaping the physical form of the Apia urban area (the City) and provide national guidance for future investments in infrastructure and services.

Since 1968, attempts have been made to improve the physical form of the City by developing town plans and strategies, and more lately, by the establishment of the Planning and Urban Management Agency (PUMA) in 2002. PUMA, however lacks the strong mechanism necessary to coordinate policy and planning across infrastructure and service providers. As a result, integrated urban management is unable to effectively coordinate land use policy or to plan for strategic infrastructure investments at the city level, which are demanded by a growing urban economy. In this respect the overriding need to coordinate infrastructure improvements with policies and planning is crucial.

The National Urban Policy sets the scene for building a more resilient and desirable physical form and it recognizes that future investment is required for making the City more workable, livable, inclusive, competitive and sustainable. This further reinforces the need for urban planning that acts as a conduit to coordinate land management with infrastructure, natural resources, and hazard risk reduction. It also recognizes the critical role of the public and private sectors and individuals, in planning, managing and investing in urban development.

I strongly recommend you all to participate in, support and be a part of this national initiative to enhance urban development and our environment.

Thank you for your commitment to this important national policy.

Hon Lealaiauloto Dr. Faale Tumaalii
Chairman, Planning and Urban Management Board
Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Urban Policy for Samoa sets the frame work for a long term National City strategic framework to guide urban development, growth and change. The policy encourages the effective and sustainable financing required for finding sources needed to provide infrastructure and services as urban Apia grows. The National Urban Policy charts a course for the development of Samoa's capital city, Apia ('the City'). It sets the track for urban development, especially strategies for urban land and expanding basic infrastructure and public services. The National Urban Policy provides a platform to address poor urban planning that is often attributed to the negative impacts of urban growth and development and land use settlement patterns.

ACRONYMS

ADB	Asia Development Bank
AUA	Apia Urban Area
AusAID	Australian Aid
EPC	Electric Power Corporation
F.K	Fa'atonuga a le Kapeneta (Cabinet Directive)
LTA	Land Transport Authority
MCIT	Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
MESC	Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture
MNRE	Ministry Of Natural Resources and Environment
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MWSCD	Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development
MWTI	Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure
NESP	National Environment Sector Plan
NISP	National Infrastructure Sector Plan
OGA	Office of the Attorney General
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PSC	Public Service Commission
PUMA	Planning and Urban Management Agency
SBS	Samoa Bureau of Statistics
SCDS	Samoa City Development Strategy
SDS	Samoa Development Strategy
STA	Samoa Tourism Authority
SWA	Samoa Water Authority
TSP	Transport Sector Plan
WLS	Water for Life Strategy

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1 Why do we need a National Urban Policy?

Apia's urban development challenges arise from problems of policy and planning. Therein lacks a strong mechanism necessary to coordinate policy and planning across infrastructure and service providers. As a result, integrated urban management is unable to effectively coordinate land use policy, or plan for strategic infrastructure investments at the city level that are demanded by a growing urban economy. In this respect the overriding need to coordinate infrastructure improvements with policies and planning is crucial.

1.1 Historical Context

Before 2002, several past attempts did not result in creating a system of controlling the use of land by developing development plans, structure plans, or land use plans.

However, by 27 March 2002 the government established the PUMA office. The institution was established to:

(i) improve urban infrastructure and services;
(ii) improve physical environment;
(iii) develop legislative and regulatory tools to administer the planning and urban management system; and
(iv) increase private sector participation.

PUMA's approach to land use control has largely focused on development permission. Long term visioning and city planning has only recently been given special priority. In addition, a key driver has been the issue of improving climate resilience and disaster risk reduction by mainstreaming existing data and climate projections into an urban land use plan.

1.2 Process

In 2013 PUMA embarked on a consultative process with stakeholders to raise awareness on urbanization and the urban development challenges as well as to identify the emerging urban issues. This consultative process targeted village leaders, business community representatives, institute of profession engineers, and public sector organizations.

The clear themes that were derived from the consultations identified:

- Inclusiveness and Cooperation with relevant ministries and the public.
- PUMA expanding their authority.
- Defining/Understanding the Apia Urban Area (AUA).
- Accessibility and smart planning.
- Creating a vibrant business environment and employment opportunities.
- Urban sustainability and protection (resilience) of natural urban assets.

The consultation outcome has informed the development of the National Urban Policy.[1]

The National Urban Policy articulates the overall objectives and directions for building a more resilient and desirable physical form. It also recognizes the future investments required for making the City more workable, livable, inclusive, competitive and sustainable. This further reinforces the need that urban planning must act as a conduit to coordinate land management with infrastructure, natural resources, and hazard risk reduction.

The National Urban Policy recognizes the critical roles of the public and the private sector and individuals, in planning, managing and investing in urban development.

[1] PUMA (2013) Urban Policy and Plan Consultations Outcome Report. Report prepared as part of the National Action Programme for Adaptation 4 – Planning Component.

2 Urbanization

Understanding the urban context in which town or city planning occurs differs from one country to another.[2]

2.1 Global Trends

The ADB *State of Pacific Towns and Cities* (2012) report documents the phenomenon of urbanization in the Pacific as a social, economic and physical transformation of village to city. It is projected that in the Asia-Pacific region from 2015 onward, effectively all of the region's population increase will occur in urban areas (ADB). The total urban population figures show that 2.03 million persons or 20% of the total Pacific population is in fact residing in urban centers. If PNG, due to its sheer landmass and population, is excluded from this figure the urban Pacific population increases to 34%.

2.2 Pacific Trends

Samoa's population has doubled over the last 50-years, from 97,327 persons in 1956 to 187,820 persons in 2011. The natural rate of population increase is estimated at approximately 2.6% per annum, a rate that is associated with the relatively moderate population growth. Key features of Samoa's demographics over the last two decades have been sustained out migration, a net population growth rate of just under approximately 1% per annum and the dominant influence of urban Apia in attracting population from other regions within Upolu and Savaii. On an island share basis, Upolu and Savaii accounted for 76% and 24% of the population in 2011 (compared to 72% and 28% of the population share respectively in 1991). The population share for Upolu has continued to rise throughout the 1900's.

It is recognized that more than half the national income is generated in urban areas. In fact, these percentages range from an average of 55% to 85%. For Samoa, the capital city or urban Apia accounts for 75% of the national income where the urban population accounts for 23% of the total population (GOS, 2003).

According to the ADB report, the urban challenges across the Pacific are many however the pertinent ones include (but not limited to):

- Urban population growth;
- Access to land, housing, and infrastructure;
- Supporting urban economy;
- Urban governance;

[2] The United Nations Habitat programme recognizes the variability among urban places and city size and therefore does not distinguish the population thresholds required to designate a place as City or urban (2013). Urban may be defined as geographic location that has qualities or characteristics associated with town or city life; urban is place-based characteristic that incorporates elements of population density, social and economic organization, and the transformation of the natural environment into a built environment.

- Addressing poverty;
- Addressing climate change and disaster risk reduction; and
- Improving institutional capacity.

At the city level, ADB notes that solutions require effective land use planning, planning regulations and capacity to implement them, sound capital investment planning and sustainable sources of finance.

2.3 Defining Urban Apia- Census Population

For enumeration purposes, the Samoa Bureau of Statistics defines in the Census the Apia Urban Area (AUA) as inclusive of Vaimauga West and Faleata East. The AUA covers approximately 60 km^2 and is residence to approximately 21% of the country's 187,820 people (GOS 2011). The essential characteristic here is that urban means nonagricultural activities; whereas rural means any place that is not urban. Therefore, the area and regions outside this definition is considered 'rural' by nature. If this narrow definition is continually used, it shows that the urban population share has reduced by 6% since the last census (see Table 1).

This suggests that the areas of Vaimauga East (comprising village settlements such as Laulii, Letogo, Vailele, Fagalii) and Faleata West (comprising village settlements such as Vaitele, Saina, Siusega, Ulululoa, Tuanaimato) where significant economic activity is mixed with other types of land use is steadily growing is considered non-urban. The population trends indicate that this area is vastly becoming peri-urban if not urban.

Table 1 demonstrates that the four urban districts have increased its urban population by more than 21%.

Table 1: *Urban Population Change from 1981 – 2011 (source: SBS)*

Population Indicator	***1981 Pop.***	***1991 Pop.***	***2001 Pop.***	***2011 Pop.***	***Change***
Total Population	156,349	161,296	176,848	187,820	Growth
Apia Urban Area (two districts)	33,170	35,489	38,836	36,735	Decline
Greater Urban Apia (four districts)	45,881	48,616	60,872	73,470	Growth
% change (four districts)	NA 1971-1981	5.9% 1981-1991	25.2% 1991-2001	20.7% 2001-2011	Static
% share of national population (four districts)	29%	30%	34.4%	30%	Static

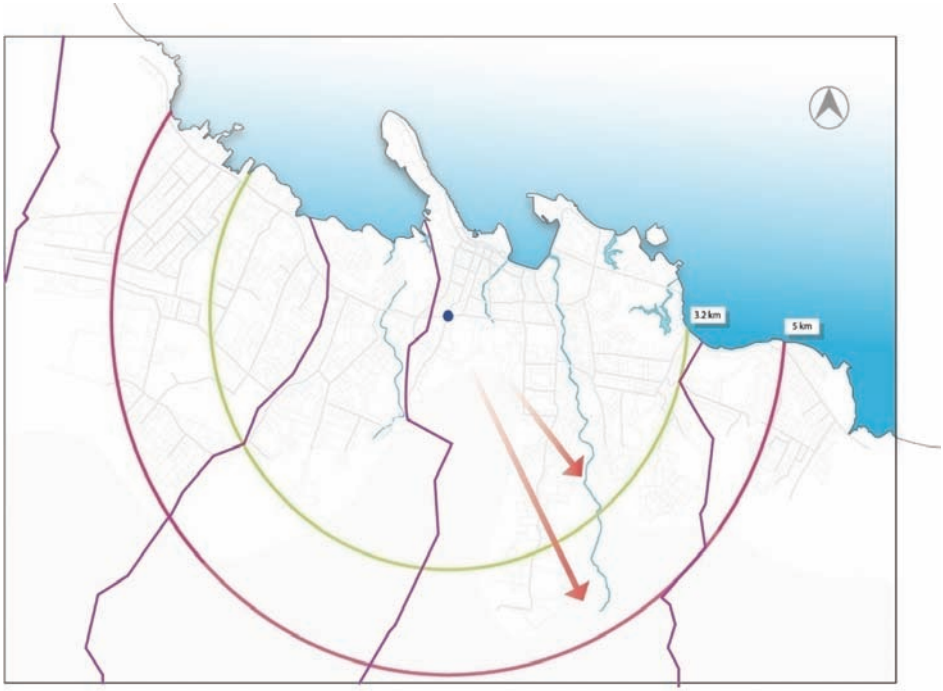
2.4 Existing Legal Definitions

Legal boundaries have also been established through various laws (see Figure 1). For instance the following interpretations are:

- Survey Regulations 2011 set the urban radius for Apia at precisely 5-km from the Vaea-Vaitele Street intersection (see Figure 1); and

- The Building Alignment Ordinance 1931 set the city boundary at 2 miles (or 3.2 km) from the Vaea-Vaitele Street intersection (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: *Defining the Urban Apia Boundary*



2.5 Political Administrative Purposes

The definition of the term 'urban' is also further being used by the Office of the Electoral Commissioner as it relates to proposed changes to the national electoral system as a result of the findings of the Commission of Inquiry. The term 'urban seats' is proposed for with respect to defining 'urban seats'.

2.6 Urban Planning Purposes

The PUM Act 2004 does not define urban, but uses the term "urban" in the context of urban development and urban form. PUMA recognizes that urban development pressures extend beyond the current legal definitions. There is a clear population shift in recent years where land is more readily available for acquisition particularly in the districts of Vaimauga East and Faleata West. In addition, there are strong ecological reasons, coupled with population characteristics, the extent of urban services and infrastructure networks, as well as, including villages due to their locations in a proposed regulation that clearly defines the city and urban environment in the context of urban planning and management.

Therefore for the context of urban planning, the agency defines the term "urban" for the Apia city boundaries as the electoral districts of Vaimauga East, Vaimauga West, Faleata East and Faleata West in this Samoa National Urban Policy document.

2.7 Infrastructure Planning and Coordination

Infrastructure coordination and investment are depicted in the National Infrastructure Strategic Plan 2011. The National Infrastructure Strategic Plan outlines several priorities amongst the different public sector service providers within the sector; however, issues remain unchanged regarding the integration and coordination.

PUMA has a primary responsibility to plan for urban growth and change. To support crucial Government service providers to plan ahead, PUMA needs to work cooperatively with the different authorities and their respective mandates.

The Government has made significant investments in urban Apia through its contribution to the development of economic, health, education, transport and other infrastructure (telecommunications, water and power). These investments, together with a range of regulatory activities, influence the way cities are planned, managed and developed.

3 Civic Design and Urban Development

There are limited examples of best urban practice in Apia city. These include ideas that are compatible in one sense, such as the location of parks, but unsuited in another such as parks built next to hazard zones accidentally. This is primarily due to the absence of a policy framework such as the National Urban Policy, but also because of restrictive site considerations and infrastructure investment limitations (both public and private). Issues include the declining quality of the building stock, insufficient funding to maintain and renew urban infrastructure, and pressure to accept poor quality design to secure economic development opportunities at the expense of our ecological systems.

Towns and cities are complex systems that require integrated management. The decisions around the built urban environment require coordinated thinking and a more structured approach to the management of urban Apia.

Figure 2 highlights the opportunities for improving land use and infrastructure development. It identifies the underutilized areas and offers a perspective to re-configure space and urban form to improve the urban experience.

Figure 2: *Spatial Analysis*

> *"Urban design operates at the macro-scale of the urban structure (planning, zoning, transport and infrastructure networks to the micro-scale of street furniture. When fully incorporated into policy and planning systems, urban design can inform planning, infrastructure, built form and even the socio-demographic mix of a place."*
>
> *The Australian Government*

Recognizing the economic importance of urban Apia to the national economy, the relevance of urban design and sustainable built form becomes an emerging priority to improve the efficiency of urban infrastructure.

> *"Quality urban design increases economic value with higher returns on investment, reduced management and maintenance costs, more productive workplaces and enhanced image and prestige."*
>
> *Ministry for the Environment, New Zealand*

The lack of exemplar civic design presents an opportunity to address the urban planning challenges such as traffic congestion, unsustainable energy use and overloaded urban infrastructure.

It will also bring focus to the lack of a strong and distinct identity in the Apia city and reduced physical activity with its associated problems of obesity, diabetes, and heart disease to promote a healthy community mindset.

3.1 Cultural Heritage

Heritage buildings are a unique part of the city scape that adds character, value and life to the City as a whole. The heritage building list unfortunately has been reduced to a mere few buildings, structures and sites. The PUMA office recognizes that action must be directed at preserving, restoring and archiving records of such places where practicably possible.

The PUMA 2004 requires that development assessments consider the archeological and heritage value of buildings, structures and sites. The legal mandate must be strengthened to provide protection and equally encourage incentives to promote alternative business revenue generating activities.

3.2 Sustainable Building Designs and Construction Practice

Reducing the energy consumption of buildings can greatly reduce the total energy generation needs and is one of the most cost-effective ways of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Existing buildings need to be retrofitted to substantially improve their energy efficiency and new building design needs to be based on green building standards. Green building code, standards and procurement based on eco-efficiency principles need to be established with the construction sector stakeholders. The lead agencies will be PUMA and Building Division (MWTI). This requirement will also require exploring the fiscal incentives or innovative financing.

3.3 Regulatory and Institutional Context

The National Urban Policy represents a significant contribution by the Government of Samoa to the urban policy agenda and campaign. PUMA has a primary responsibility to plan for urban growth and change. The strategic planning system functions are clearly mandated in the PUM Act 2004; in addition development assessment and approvals are included (Development Consenting). The system is geared towards contributing to improving the existing and future built form and urban structure.

The compelling issue consistently raised in this respect is the lack of coordination as a result of the current governance arrangements within the Government. This matter requires the National Urban Policy to establish a forum by which public sector authorities manage the statutory decision making processes, integrate urban management, promote national awareness, work collaboratively with the private sector, and demonstrate quality urban planning and design through its own development and activities.

3.4 Climate Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction

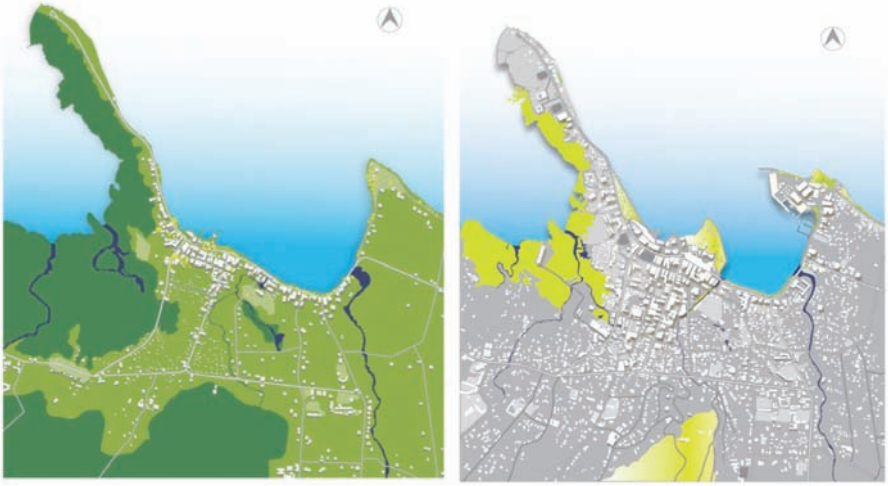
Planning processes have generally not taken climate change risks into adequate account and existing infrastructure has generally been designed, constructed and maintained with limited climate data or consideration of the hazards. There are significant areas of existing development at risk from sea level rise, storm surge, flooding and drainage issues. Similarly, the outward expansion of our urban area has allowed new development into upland areas of increasing flood and erosion risk, exacerbating the potential impacts on low-lying settlement and infrastructure. The impacts from the recent Cyclone Evan flash flooding is indicative of the types of hazard risks that area associated with development. The National Urban Policy represents an opportunity to incorporate aspects of climate change adaptation and disaster risk management in the following:

- Integrated urban plan;
- Development of design standards for flood-proofing buildings and infrastructure; and
- Flood plain guidelines and management plans.

3.5 Key Issues

The Apia urban system is an emerging issue of national concern and presents a substantial challenge. Figure 3 demonstrates the rapid development and settlement changes that have occurred during the last 50-years. Samoa faces a significant urban challenge to improve the current situation and provide strategic long range direction.

Figure 3: *Urban Intensification, 1954 - 2010*



The major barriers to improved urban planning that have been identified as a precursor to successfully implementing the National Urban Policy include:

- Recognition of the requirement for an overall strategic planning framework for the future urban development, growth and change of urban Apia is absent.
- Continued unstructured urban development.
- Lack of fiscal policy and investment required for capital improvements and urban revitalization and design across the relevant sectors.
- Lack of awareness and general community support.
- Property constraints concerning sensitivity around urban development and change.

4 Mission Statement

The overall mission goal is *"Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient City"*.

4.1 The Policy's Core Aims

The National Urban Policy aims to:

(a) establish the strategic planning system and framework: vision, mission, and principles;
(b) Define the urban boundary and develop supporting regulations;
(c) Initiate the City Development Strategy for city planning;
(d) Develop a spatial plan and implementation plan that improves planning and coordination of the urban infrastructure and services. For instance: waterfront development; central / civic revitalization; developing zoning regulations; and Precinct Master plans
(e) Improve institutional and governance arrangements; and
(f) Initiate the preparation of annual National State of City Reporting.

4.2 Statement of the Policy

The National Urban Policy is a holistic and integrated frame work to improve urban development in Samoa.

The National Urban Policy focuses on the following outcomes:

(a) Improved city centre structure and built form based on a shared vision;
(b) Introduce a Apia spatial city / urban plan for the city;
(c) Introduce relevant planning law reforms and regulations;
(d) Improved governance, planning, integration of urban structure, services management and disaster risk reduction/resilience; and
(e) Increase private sector participation

4.3 Objective

The overall policy objective sets out the Government's direction to urban planning for the future. The National Urban Policy reinforces the critical role between the Government authorities, the private sector and civil society in relation to planning, managing and investing in the Apia City.

4.4 Expected Benefits

The anticipated benefits are as follows:

(a) Improved efficiencies in urban infrastructure and services.
(b) Improved productivity within the various sectors by better managing land and infrastructure.
(c) Improved sustainability of Samoa's natural and built environment through better resource and risk management.
(d) Enhanced appreciation of urban design, planning and access to amenity facilities.
(e) Enhanced community wellbeing.
(f) Enhanced cultural identity within the Apia city.

4.5 Strategies for Achieving the Objective

The strategies outlined below will be implemented on a staged basis and where appropriate concurrently. Table 2 outlines the strategies that will be employed.

Table 2: *Strategies*

Period	Strategies	Timeframe
Short term	▪ Prepare City Development Strategy (CDS) ▪ Develop and finalize Apia Spatial / Urban Plan ▪ Develop and implementation of Central Precincts Urban Design and Master Plan Framework ▪ Develop the Apia Waterfront Redevelopment – Government Demonstration Project ▪ Endorse and acceptance of planning law reform ▪ Introduce zoning regulations ▪ Develop Flood overlay Plan ▪ Prepare Best Practice Urban Design Guidelines for government authorities ▪ Work collaboratively with professional institutes ▪ Undertake annual monitoring and review	0 – 5 years
Medium term	▪ On-going implementation of the above strategies, measure progress and adjustments accordingly.	5 – 10 years
Long term	▪ Develop Policy reforms and appropriate intervention measures.	10-20 years

4.6 Targets / Indicators

The National Urban Policy targets are:

Table 3: *Indicators*

Dimension	Indicators
Population	Population growth
	Population distribution
Demographic Change	Projected population
Housing diversity	Number of persons per household
Urban settlement	Population density
Dwelling Stock	Development approvals by dwelling type
Infrastructure provision	Value of infrastructure work
Water	Total urban water supplied
Energy	Energy consumption by sector
Climate change	Damage to urban infrastructure
Waste	Landfill waste

4.7 Relationship to the Strategy for the Development of Samoa and Sectoral Strategies

Strategy for the Development of Samoa

The Strategy for the Development of Samoa ('the SDS') 2012-2016, Key Outcome 13: Environment Sustainability, Strategic Area 7 requires the preparation of a "National Urban Agenda and Policy".

National Infrastructure Strategic Plan 2011

The National Infrastructure Strategic Plan recognizes the issues of coordination and lack of integration that occurs within the sector. It notes the poor strategic alignment of urban planning and infrastructure delivery detracts from improving efficiencies and productivity. Urban and rural linkages are not adequately identified. It encourages asset management and the implementation role of the Ministry of Works Transport and Infrastructure of the plan.

Water for Life Strategy 2012-2016

The Water for Life Strategy framework sets out the water and sanitation sector priorities. It provides the overall approach for water supply, water resource management, drainage and sanitation planning, management and infrastructure investment at the national level. The water and sanitation sector has clearly identified urban investments that are critical, it

also reinforces the need for improving building regulations around energy efficiencies and wastewater management as well as introduces the concept of zoning.

National Environment Sector Plan 2013-2016

The National Environment Sector Plan (NESP) focuses on implementing and providing strategies to protect Samoa's natural environment in regards to terrestrial habitats and species. In this respect, the NESP highlights the importance of the rural and urban built environment and identifies strategies to support the improvement of the built environment. The investment activities proposed in the NESP are consistent with the National Urban Policy roadmap of strategic planning investments.

Draft Transport Sector Plan 2013-2016

The Draft Transport Sector Plan outlines key strategies and objectives for Samoa's transport system for the next five years and for longer term development. The priority for this plan is to provide an integrated and mutual advance to the implementation of key priority initiatives identified and to ensure appropriate implementing and monitoring mechanisms. This plan would enable the most effective planning in relation to transport route to improve accessibility to different sectors and help reinforce zoning plans.

5 The Planning and Urban Management Agency

Samoa's *Planning and Urban Management Act 2004* (the Act) sets out the legal mandate for urban planning and management in Samoa. Specifically, Section 8 of the Act provides the legislative objectives as:

> *"To create an appropriate urban structure and form for the development of Apia…to provide equitable and orderly access to [services] and other opportunities"; and*
>
> *"To enable the orderly provision and co-ordination of public utilities…"*

5.1 Other Relevant Ministries

To assist implementation of the National Urban Policy the newly created Town Development Committee created to serve the F.K.(12) 44 *Town Plan* plays a critical role for pursuing improved coordination.

Other Ministries include:

- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure
- Samoa Water Authority
- Electric Power Corporation
- Land Transport Authority
- Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
- Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour
- Samoa Tourism Authority
- Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development
- Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture
- Ministry of Police

5.2 Budget Implications

Capital Investment Required

Table 4: *Potential Development Partners*

Potential Sources	Entry-points
AusAID	Apia Spatial Planning
NZAid	Tourism Infrastructure planning – Waterfront redevelopment. Establish relationship with Auckland Council – spatial planning.
World Bank	Flood hazard mapping investigations; and urban planning
Asian Development Bank	Policy support, climate and disaster risk information for urban planning and development control
Cities Alliance World Bank / UN-Habitat	Preparation of City Development Strategy
European Union	Flooding management plans and guidelines

5.3 Governmental Implications

There are three key legislative implications that will result from the National Urban Policy, they are as follows:

- The PUM Act 2004 reforms are streamlining the administrative processes by reducing the red tape. The major focus of the amendments include improving the efficiency and effectiveness of development approvals processes and introducing instant penalties;
- The approval of the Apia Spatial Urban Plan; and
- The regulatory changes that are likely to be proposed under the PUM Act 2004 include:
  (a) defining the Apia City and urban boundary limits; and
  (b) introducing land use zoning (precincts) regulations.

6 Capabilities -Employment Creation

6.1 Government and Public Service

The implementation of the National Urban Policy framework is envisaged to be carried out within the human resource capacities within the PUMA office to identify core responsibilities. Providing opportunities for training in areas such as engineering and planning in the sense of opening doors. The implications; however, require consistent international and local training opportunities as the functions are unique and experience is generally richer in other countries.

6.2 Private Sector

It is envisaged that the National Urban Policy and subsequent planning and physical works will generate several business opportunities. The multiplier effect is likely to generate an increase in demand for urban disciplines in engineering, architecture, urban planning and design to support the National Urban Policy initiatives and strategies development and implementation over the next several years.

7 Proposed Implementation Schedule

The proposed implementation schedule is as follows:

Table 5: *Proposed Implementation Plan*

Deliverable	Objectives	Timing	Responsibility
Apia Town Plan	Planning	Q4-2013	PUMA/MWTI
City Development Strategy	Planning	Q3-2014	PUMA/MWTI
Precinct Master Plans	Planning and Infrastructure	Q2-2014	PUMA
Organizational Review and Recommendations	Institutional Governance	Q1-2014	PUMA/PSC
Planning Act amendments	Regulatory	Q3-Q4-2013	PUMA/OAG
Planning (Urban and City Limits) Regulations	Regulatory	Q1-2015	PUMA/OAG
Planning (Zoning and Precincts) Regulations	Regulatory	Q1-2015	PUMA/OAG
Flood Hazard / Risk Investigations	Resilience	Q1-2015	MNRE
Flood mapping	Resilience	Q2-2014	MNRE
Urban Design Guidelines	Policy	Q3-2014	PUMA/MWTI
Annual monitoring and evaluation	Operational	Q2-annually	PUMA
Land acquisition for sensitive ecosystems	Sustainability	Annually	MNRE

8 Concluding Summary

The National Urban Policy provides a window to see what Apia could be in the coming years. It presents the opportunity for the Government of Samoa to address urban problems that have repeated themselves year and year concerning natural disasters and land functions as examples. A City that stands as a symbol of quality innovation appealing to the public but also contribute in magnifying Apia City presence in the Pacific.

A Sustainable, Resilient and Inclusive City that works in promoting the identity of Samoa to the world and meet urban challenges that are to come. This is a vision that the National Urban Policy will strive to shape into reality, a city for the wellbeing of Samoa and its citizens as well as visitors.

9 Glossary[3]

Accessibility

Accessibility is the degree to which a product, device, service, or environment is available to as many people as possible. The concept often focuses on people with disabilities or special needs (such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) and their right of access, enabling the use of assistive technology. Accessibility is strongly related to universal design when the approach involves "direct access." This is about making things accessible to all people (whether they have a disability or not).

Accessibility is not to be confused with usability, which is the extent to which a product (such as a device, service, or environment) can be used by specified users to achieve specified goals with effectiveness, efficiency and satisfaction in a specified context of use.

Civic Design

Is the design of public spaces or public areas or the creation of spaces and places with distinct beauty and identity.

Climate Proof/Resilient

Climate proofing can be defined as the modification of existing and future projects so that they are resilient to impacts from climate change.

Climate Resilient

Resilience comes from having the capacity to mitigate (diminish impacts) or adapt (respond to change.) It signifies the capacity of a system to absorb disturbances and surprises. It can mean the ability to reorganize so as to retain the same essential function, structure and identity. Resilience is an inherent quality of all healthy living systems. It is a state of dynamic equilibrium which enables systems to grow and evolve while keeping their coherence.

Connectivity

Refers to the state or extent of being connected or interconnected. It the state or quality of being connected or connective: the benefits of global connectivity.

Egress

The definition of Egress in the Context of this document is defined as a road/track that branches out of the main road.

[3] Information on the Glossary was found from different sections of the sources located in the Bibliography.

Environmental Impact Assessment

Environmental Impacts Assessments are analysis of activities associated with a project that may cause changes/impacts on the environment. This includes changes/Impacts on health and socio-economic conditions, on physical or cultural heritage, on the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes or any structure, site, or thing that is of historical, archaeological or architectural significance. EIA addresses both negative and positive potential environment impacts and any social implications.

Simply it is an assessment of the possible impacts that a proposed project may have on the environment, consisting of the environmental, social and economic aspects. The purpose of the assessment is to ensure that decision makers consider the environmental impacts when deciding whether or not to proceed with a project.

Green Cities

A city designed with consideration of environmental impact, inhabited by people dedicated to minimization of required inputs of energy, water and food, and waste output of heat, air pollution - CO2, methane, and water pollution.

There remains no completely agreed upon definition for what a sustainable city should be or completely agreed upon paradigm for what components should be included. Generally, developmental experts agree that a sustainable city should meet the needs of the present without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The ambiguity within this idea leads to a great deal of variation in terms of how cities carry out their attempts to become sustainable.[3] However, a sustainable city should be able to feed itself with minimal reliance on the surrounding countryside, and power itself with renewable sources of energy. The crux of this is to create the smallest possible ecological footprint, and to produce the lowest quantity of pollution possible, to efficiently use land; compost used materials, recycle it or convert waste-to-energy, and thus the city's overall contribution to climate change will be minimal, if such practices are adhered to.

Greenery

Refers to Green foliage, growing plants, or vegetation.

"Urban Greenery" therefore refers to all green spaces, foliage and vegetation, parks, plants, trees within ecosystems.

Landscape

Part of the earth's surface characterized by its pictorial aspect. Landscape comprises the visible features of an area of land, including the physical elements of landforms such as (ice-capped) mountains, hills, water bodies such as rivers, lakes, ponds and the sea, living elements of land cover including indigenous vegetation, human elements including different forms of land use, buildings and structures, and transitory elements such as lighting and weather conditions.

Combining both their physical origins and the cultural overlay of human presence, often created over millennia, landscapes reflect the living synthesis of people and place vital to local and national identity. Landscapes, their character and quality, help define the self-image of a region, its sense of place that differentiates it from other regions.

Landscape Planning

Planning documents, usually in the form of reports and drawings, for promoting the long-term preservation and development of natural and cultural landscape, to meet the demands of nature conservation and recreation.

Landscape planning is a branch of landscape architecture and is defined as an activity concerned with reconciling competing land uses while protecting natural processes and significant cultural and natural resources.

Master Plan

A master plan is a non-statutory document that outlines a vision to guide growth and development of a centre over a period of time.

The Master Plan serves as a guide for public and private decision-makers regarding the future physical development of the City. The master plan is composed of documents, or "elements," that cover the City's major geographical areas and its essential citywide facilities. These plans provide a framework for preserving the City's unique character, ensuring its diversity, supporting investment and promoting desired change.

Natural Disaster

A natural disaster is a major adverse event resulting from natural processes of the Earth; examples include floods, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, and other geologic processes.

Natural hazard

A natural hazard is a threat of a naturally occurring event that will have a negative effect on people or the environment. Many natural hazards are interrelated, e.g. earthquakes can cause tsunamis and drought can lead directly to famine or population displacement. It is possible that some natural hazards are intertemporally correlated, as well. A concrete example of the division between a natural hazard and a natural disaster is that the 1906 San Francisco earthquake was a disaster, whereas living on a fault line is a hazard.

Partnership

A partnership is an arrangement in which parties agree to cooperate to advance their mutual interests.

Peri-Urban Areas

Peri-urban areas can be described as those immediately adjoining urban areas, localized outside formal urban boundaries and urban jurisdictions, which are in a process of urbanization and which therefore progressively assume many of the characteristics of urban areas. On the other hand, rural areas are settled places outside towns and cities and they are distinct from more intensively settled urban and peri-urban areas.

As a specific and non-neutral space, a peri-urban area refers to a transition or interaction zone, where urban and rural activities are juxtaposed, and landscape features are subject to rapid modifications, inducing by human activities (Douglas, 2006). Peri–urban areas, which might include valuable protected areas, forested hills, preserved woodlands, prime agricultural lands and important wetlands, can provide essential life support services for urban residents.

Spatial Analysis

Making decisions relating to the location and distribution of land use activities.

Spatial analysis or spatial statistics includes any of the formal techniques which study entities using their topological, geometric, or geographic properties. The phrase properly refers to a variety of techniques, many still in their early development, using different analytic approaches and applied in fields as diverse as astronomy, with its studies of the placement of galaxies in the cosmos, to chip fabrication engineering, with its use of 'place and route' algorithms to build complex wiring structures. The phrase is often used in a more restricted sense to describe techniques applied to structures at the human scale, most notably in the analysis of geographic data.

Spatial Plan

Spatial planning refers to the methods used by the public sector to influence the distribution of people and activities in spaces of various scales. Discrete professional disciplines which involve spatial planning include land use, urban, regional, transport and environmental planning. Other related areas are also important, including economic and community planning. Spatial planning takes place on local, regional, national and inter-national levels and often result in the creation of a spatial plan.

Sustainable Management Plan

- Orderly, efficient and sustainable use of land;
- Development that integrates economic, social and environmental objectives;
- Urban structure & form to suit good transport, recreation, employment & other opportunities;
- Pleasant living conditions
- Orderly provision of services (utility & Infrastructure)
- To balance present and future needs.

Sustainable management takes the concepts from sustainability and synthesizes them with the concepts of management. Sustainability has three branches: the environment, the needs of present and future generations, and the economy. Using these branches, it creates the ability to keep a system running indefinitely without depleting resources, maintaining economic viability, and also nourishing the needs of the present and future generations. From this definition, sustainable management has been created to be defined as the application of sustainable practices in the categories of businesses, agriculture, society, environment, and personal life by managing them in a way that will benefit current generations and future generations.

Topography

The three-dimensional arrangement of physical attributes (such as shape, height, and depth) of a land surface in a place/ region.

Topography (from Greek τόπος topos, "place", and γράφω graphō, "write") is a field of planetary science comprising the study of surface shape and features of the Earth and other observable astronomical objects including planets, moons, and asteroids. It is also the description of such surface shapes and features (especially their depiction in maps). The topography of an area could also mean the surface shape and features themselves.

Town Plan/Country Plan

Refers to the design and regulation of the uses of space that focus on the physical form, economic functions, and social impacts of the urban environment and on the location of different activities within it. Town planning/ Country planning concerns itself with both the development of open land ("Greenfields sites") and the revitalization of existing parts of the city, thereby involving goal setting, data collection and analysis, forecasting, design, strategic thinking, and public consultation. Increasingly, the technology of geographic information systems (GIS) has been used to map the existing urban system and to project the consequences of changes. Town Planning involves both control of existing and new development, and "strategic planning" to ensure our resources are carefully managed to match our future needs and expectations.

Urban Areas

An urban area is characterized by higher population density and vast human features in comparison to the areas surrounding it. Urban areas may be cities, towns or conurbations, but the term is not commonly extended to rural settlements such as villages and hamlets.

Urban Design

Appearance and function of our suburbs, towns and cities. It is both a process and an outcome of creating localities in which people live, engage with each other, and engage with the physical place around them.

Urban design involves many different disciplines including planning, development, architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, economics, law and finance, among others.

Urban design is the process of designing and shaping cities, towns and villages. Whereas architecture focuses on individual buildings, urban design address the larger scale of groups of buildings, of streets and public spaces, whole neighborhoods and districts, and entire cities, basically the shaping of masses and spaces (solids & voids) to make urban areas functional, attractive, and sustainable.

Urban design is an inter-disciplinary subject that unites all the built environment professions, including urban planning, landscape architecture, architecture, civil and municipal engineering. It is common for professionals in all these disciplines to practice in urban design. In more recent times different sub-strands of urban design have emerged such as strategic urban design, landscape urbanism, water-sensitive urban design, and sustainable urbanism.

Urban Development

Urban development is the social, cultural, economic and physical development of cities, as well as the underlying causes of these processes.

Urban Fabric

Refers to the Urban Form or the physical design form of the town. The "Fabric" refers to the patterns of how the features of the location is laid out and connected.

Urban Infrastructure

Infrastructure refers to the basic physical and organizational structures needed for the operation of a society or enterprise or the services and facilities necessary for an economy to function. Infrastructure can be further classified into two categories; hard and soft Infrastructure. Hard infrastructure refers to the large physical networks necessary for the functioning of a modern industrial nation. Transport, Communications, Waste management, Energy Infrastructures are examples of Hard Infrastructure. Soft infrastructure refers to all the institutions which are required to maintain the economic, health, and cultural and social standards of a country, such as the financial system, the education system, and health care system, the system of government, and law enforcement, as well as emergency services. Urban or municipal infrastructure refers to hard infrastructure systems generally owned and operated by municipalities, such as streets, water distribution, and sewers. It may also include some of the facilities associated with soft infrastructure, such as parks, public pools and libraries.

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Urban Management

Co-ordination and integration of local authorities and the public to address major issues (Social, Environmental, Economic) in an urban area to ensure a harmonized and sustainable city

Urban Planning

Urban planning (urban, city, and town planning) is a technical and political process concerned with the use of land and design of the urban environment, including transportation networks, to guide and ensure the orderly development of settlements and communities. It concerns itself with research and analysis, strategic thinking, architecture, urban design, public consultation, policy recommendations, implementation and management.

Urban Sprawl

Urban sprawl or suburban sprawl is a multifaceted concept centered on the expansion of auto-oriented, low-density development. It refers to the rapid expansion of the geographic extent of cities and towns, often characterized by low-density residential housing, single-use zoning, and increased reliance on the private automobile for transportation. Urban sprawl is caused in part by the need to accommodate a rising urban population; however, in many metropolitan areas it results from a desire for increased living space and other residential amenities.

Urbanization

Urbanization is the physical growth of urban areas which result in rural migration and even suburban concentration into cities, particularly the very large ones. It is the process by which large numbers of people become permanently concentrated in relatively small areas, forming cities

Vista

A view or prospect, especially one seen through a long, narrow avenue or passage, as between rows of trees or houses

Walkability

The extent to which the built environment is friendly to the presence of people living livelihood, shopping, visiting, enjoying or spending time in an area.

Criteria affecting Walkability include:

- Street connectivity
- Land use mix
- Residential density
- Frequency and variety of buildings
- Orientation and proximity of homes and buildings to watch over the street

- Abundances of places to go near the majority of homes
- Placemaking
- Streets for people, not just motor vehicles and retail

Walkability attracts and encourages pedestrians to appreciate the built environment via walking as opposed to using motorized transport. Walkability promotes individual bodily health with exercise and enhances community health benefits with increased social interaction.

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