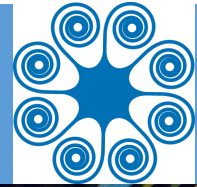


Planning for a Resilient National Marine Sanctuary and Territory of American Samoa



Project Goal and Objectives:

The overarching goal of this project is to assess regional vulnerabilities of natural resources and ecosystem services to climate change and to develop adaptation actions for the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa. The project's objectives are to:

1. **Assess the regional vulnerabilities** and resilience of priority natural resources and ecosystem services to climate and non-climate stressors using an expert-driven approach;
2. Collaboratively **identify adaptation strategies and actions** and develop an adaptation plan, including where, when, and how to implement, in order to conserve priority natural resources and ecosystem services.

Background:

The ocean systems and the interdependent lives and economies that are protected by our National Marine Sanctuaries (NMS) are affected by diverse and compounding anthropogenic factors. These range from marine debris and pollution, to human development and fishing practices, to climate change and ocean acidification. Sanctuary planning and management help to ensure that the natural systems on which wildlife and human communities depend are healthy and sustainable for generations to come despite these far-reaching stressors. For emerging threats like climate change and ocean acidification, marine and coastal resource managers often recognize the threats climate change poses to the resilience, health, and ecosystem services of the special coastal and ocean places they protect, yet are still struggling with how to develop appropriate management options.

This project will support a rapid vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning for the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa (NMSAS) by engaging with stakeholders, including community members, resource managers, local government, and business owners that rely on the sanctuaries resources with the goal increasing climate resilience of the NMSAS.

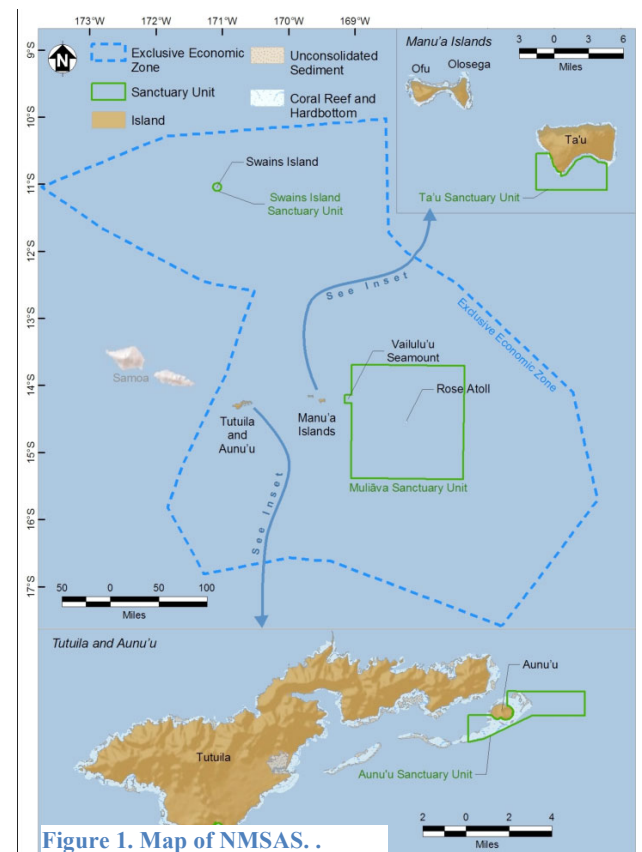


Figure 1. Map of NMSAS. .

Approach:

- Establish Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) Climate Adaptation Working Group (CAWG) to help define needs, priorities, and issues specific to each site; identify possible priority resources; provide input into product formats and content; and review draft materials.
- Collaboratively select priority resources of habitats, species, and ecosystem services using multi-criteria decision analysis.
- Lead a vulnerability assessment of focal resources and develop associated adaptation strategies to help build resistance, enhance resilience, or facilitate ecological transitions
- Develop implementation plans that lead to on- the-ground adaptation actions
- Educate and engage with resource managers and planners, conservation practitioners, and others to provide tools and resources that can be applied in their own work

Key Partners and Participants:

- NMSAM
- NMSF
- Local community groups
- Tribal governments
- Natural resource agencies
- Private sector entities
- Non-governmental organizations
- Scientists

Workshops:

This project involves two workshops to be held in American Samoa:

1. July 19-20, 2016: **Vulnerability Assessment Workshop of Focal Resources.**
We will convene a 2-day workshop with scientists, resource managers, conservation practitioners, and other stakeholders to collaboratively assess the vulnerability of selected 8-10 focal resources.
2. September 20-21, 2016: **Identifying Adaptation Strategies.**
We will convene a two-day workshop with scientists, managers, conservation practitioners, and others (including those who participated in the first workshop) to use the findings of the vulnerability assessment to inform the development of climate- smart adaptation strategies and actions to conserve priority resources.

This project is funded by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and led by EcoAdapt, National Marine Sanctuary Program, Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa.



This project is part of EcoAdapt's Awareness to Action Program where we help you make climate-informed actions. Building capacity and bringing our partners from Awareness to Action are central to EcoAdapt's mission. Our adaptation experts have pioneered a series of innovative and interactive climate adaptation workshops to bring those engaged in the early stages of climate change adaptation from awareness to implementation. The underlying goals of the Awareness to Action: Climate Adaptation Workshops are to strengthen the ability of people working on the ground to respond to climate change and create a network wherein they can share knowledge, experiences and ideas, and develop plans focused on specific regions, species, or biomes

How can you get involved?

- **READ** updates on our blog, *Adaptation Nation*, <http://climate-adaptation.blogspot.com>
- **CONTACT** Project Manager, Alex Score at Alex@EcoAdapt.org.