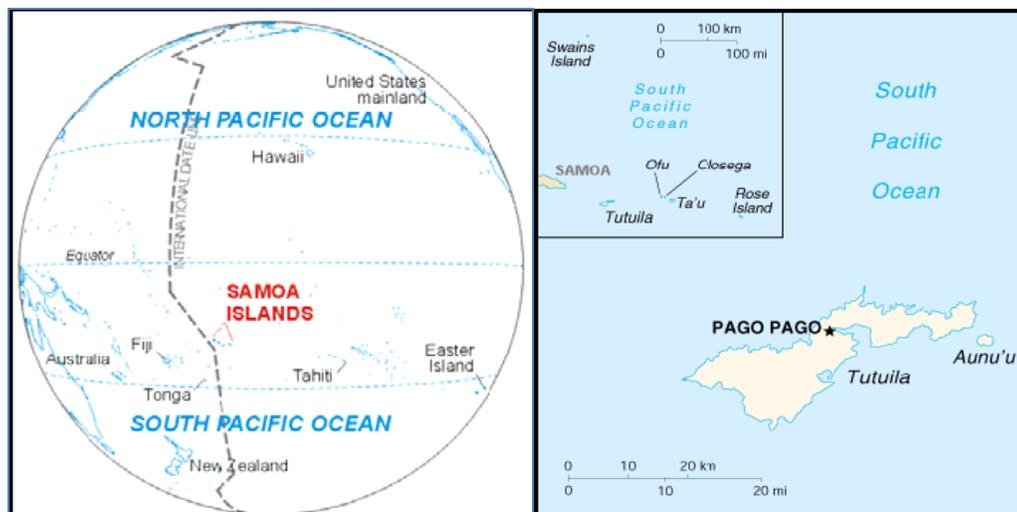

American Samoa

2010 - 2012 Statement of Work Coral Reef Management Fellowship

Project Location

American Samoa, located some 2,600 miles southwest of Hawaii, is a group of five volcanic islands and two coral atolls that total 76 square miles and are inhabited by approximately 69,000 people. The Samoan way of life, called Fa'asamoa, defines the basic structure of local communities and is based on family, tradition, and respect. The traditional way of life promotes village welfare over that of an individual. Extended families, or aigas, communally own lands extending from the mountaintop to the outer edge of the coral reef and ninety-two percent of lands in American Samoa are still owned by aigas. All resource management activities in American Samoa must be adaptive to this existing cultural framework.



Program/Agency Background

American Samoa coordinates all of its coral reef management activities through the Governor's Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG). CRAG actively works with other agency staff, community organizations, government agencies, universities, and nongovernmental organizations. These agencies collaborate to plan and implement actions related to the management of American Samoa's estimated 296 square kilometers of coral reefs. Key advisory group partners include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR);

- American Samoa Community College (ASCC; which includes both the Sea Grant and Land Grant programs);
- American Samoa Department of Commerce (DOC; which houses the American Samoa Coastal Management Program (ASCMP) and Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary (FBNMS));
- National Park of American Samoa;
- American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA);

Interagency management efforts have been more clearly defined via the development and implementation of Local Action Strategies (LAS). CRAG has identified four primary threats to American Samoa's coral reefs: global climate change, land-based sources of pollution, fisheries management, and population pressure. The LAS for each of these threats remain living documents and include steps to address the problems and a timeline for the implementation of targeted, collaborative projects. CRAG believes that many of these threats can be eliminated or minimized with better public and governmental understanding, as well as increased transparency and coordination amongst CRAG agencies.

Project Goals & Objectives

The fellow will be integrated into the existing Coral Reef Advisory Group team housed at the Department of Commerce and will be expected to network with partner organizations and agencies as needed in order to complete this multifaceted fellowship. The fellow will be involved in each of the tasks below, some of which will be accomplished concurrently.

The fellow will work closely with mentors and other agency personnel to complete projects and to further CRAG's long-term management goals. The primary focus of the Fellow during the next two years will be to enhance the territory's ability to manage its coastal resources with respect to climate change. One of the predominant threats to small islands globally is that of climate change. American Samoa's reefs are expected to come under increasing stress from the rise in global sea temperatures as well as acidification of coastal waters. Coastal communities are similarly threatened by potential sea level rise and changes in storm patterns. This is of particular concern in American Samoa where 100% of the population lives along the coast.

The primary responsibility of the Fellow during the next two years is to assist with the development and coordination of the Climate Change LAS, an inter-agency working group seeking to devise a territorial plan to adequately address the impacts of climate change. The vision of the group is to sustain healthy coral reef ecosystems and socio-economic conditions which are resilient to climate change. Local staff are currently revising the 2004-2007 Climate Change Local Action Strategy and the fellow will primarily focus on advancing the goals and aims of this revised strategy to address critical scientific and community knowledge gaps, improve monitoring and predictions, evaluate strategies, and translate information into active management actions.

Project Description

The Fellow will provide support for ongoing CRAG initiatives and projects, and will work closely with local resource managers to implement long-term management goals. Within these areas, CRAG expects issues such as capacity building, project management, education and outreach, general planning, and interagency activity coordination to be priorities. The fellowship starts January 2010 and will end January 2012.

Task 1: Orientation (1-2 months)

The fellow will be introduced to the staff and management of CRAG and partner agencies. The fellow will review background information regarding American Samoa's Coral Reef Initiative, ongoing projects, and status reports. After participating in these activities, the fellow and CRAG management will write a project work plan that will be reviewed and revised after the first year of the fellowship.

Outcomes/Deliverables:

- Gain familiarity with staff, operations, and resources of CRAG and member agencies;
- Integrate into CRAG and clarify his/her role in ongoing and planned projects;
- Conduct background research on the existing and potential projects;
- Meet and interview CRAG staff and member agency staff involved in the Fellow's projects; and
- Develop a project work plan with objectives, deliverables, and a timeline (to be completed by April 2010).

Task 2: Coordination of Climate Change Local Action Strategy (50% of time)

The fellow will work closely with agency personnel at the Department of Commerce, and other CRAG agencies to:

- Coordinate the existing Climate Change LAS working group in order to develop collaborative projects via the facilitation of meetings as needed;
- Finalize the three year local action strategy work plan and gain agency/departmental approval to implement its proposed activities (to be completed by July 2010);
- Work to integrate Climate Change LAS and Population Pressure LAS planning and efforts;
- Support the review of relevant management plans and determine their potential role in addressing climate change issues.

Task 3: Education and Outreach (25% of time)

Provide support and technical advice to the Education/Outreach Coordinator as part of a working group to develop and implement education and outreach activities, with a focus on capacity building, to:

- Develop a climate change outreach strategy to create a citizenry who is informed about climate change and taking steps to reduce climate change causes and impacts (to be completed by January 2011);

- Assist with socioeconomic research efforts to study perceptions and attitudes towards climate change mitigation and adaptation policies in the territory (study to investigate behavior change to be completed by July 2011);
- Participate in the implementation of the education and outreach plans targeting government, schools, and villages.

Task 4: General CRAG Program Support (25% of time)

- Support CRAG planning and reporting activities by working closely with mentors and other agency personnel to further CRAG's long-term goals and ongoing projects;
- Assist Coral Reef Initiative (CRI) Coordinator and CRAG Chair with participation in regional cooperation and policy initiatives;
- Provide comments and attend meetings, as necessary, on local, regional, and international developments in coastal zone and coral reef management and policy;
- Assist in tracking CRI-funded projects, the research of funding and partnership opportunities, and provide assistance with other projects as needs arise;
- Assist with the implementation of the local action strategies for fisheries management, land based sources of pollution, global climate change, and population pressure.

Outcomes/Deliverables:

- Creation of a three year action plan for the Climate Change LAS;
- Creation of a socio-economic study on climate change and behavior change;
- A comprehensive climate change education/outreach plan for use in schools, villages, churches and the media.

Supervisor

The fellow will be mentored by the ASCMP manager, the FBNMS Superintendent, the CRAG Point of Contact, and the Coral Reef Initiative Coordinator at the Department of Commerce. The fellow will be located in the same office as CRAG/DOC staff and they will be the primary points of contact for administrative questions and project guidance. The CRI Coordinator will be the fellow's immediate supervisor on day to day activities, although the AS POC will have oversight for all CRI activities.

The fellow will be considered CRAG/DOC staff and will be expected to attend staff meetings and participate in program discussions. He or she will be provided opportunities to join staff members on field visits and in internal and external meetings. This project provides an exciting opportunity to not only learn about a wide range of island resource management issues, but to participate in devising collaborative solutions and projects. The fellow will receive assistance in identifying key individuals with whom to meet and important sources of background information. He or she will be provided with the necessary resources to carry out the various ongoing projects.

In-Kind Support

Office space, including a desk and computer/printer, will be provided by the American Samoa Department of Commerce. The Fellow will have access to all DOC vehicles (including the coral car, also known as ‘inspiration transportation’), and will be treated as if they are part of the local DOC staff.



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. Coastal or marine management experience preferred.

Desired Background and Skill Sets

- Expert knowledge on climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies;
- Knowledge of and experience working in tropical marine ecosystems;
- 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 education and outreach programs and development;
- Public speaking, events planning, and meeting facilitation experience;
- Project management experience;
- Experience living and working in another culture or in an island community;
- Desire to be involved with many aspects of coastal and marine resource management (e.g., fisheries, coral reef monitoring and management, nonpoint source pollution, vessel groundings, recreation, etc.);
- Creative, flexible, and adaptable;
- Sense of humor.

Salary

Fellow will receive a yearly salary of \$32,000, plus subsidized housing available.

To apply

In addition to your resume, please include a cover letter describing how your qualifications meet the needs of this fellowship (as described in this Statement of Work), and contact information for three references by **July 31, 2009**.

Please email application package to jobs@imsg.com with the following subject heading:
NOA09023 American Samoa Fellowship.

If you are interested in applying to more than one fellowship location, you must send a separate application package (cover letter, resume, and references) with the appropriate jurisdiction's subject heading.