

Strategy Effectiveness Review Report Faga'alu Watershed, American Samoa

Introduction

The development of Faga'alu Watershed Management and Conservation Action Plan began in May 2011 using the Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) process led by the American Samoa Land Based Sources of Pollution (LBS) working group. The working group engaged with the Faga'alu to identify resources important to them and threats that are affecting those resources. The villagers identified (1) Trash, (2) Sedimentation, and (3) illegal fishing as the main threats affecting Faga'alu's resources.

In July 2011, The Nature Conservancy introduced the Conservation Action Planning to the LBS working group to help support the development of the management and conservation action plan. The focus of the implementation of CAP helped to refined the objectives that were initially developed during the PLA process. The main objectives developed were (1) reduce impacts of trash through increasing awareness, establishing village clean up groups, inspection teams, and establishing recycling program (2) reduce sedimentation by establishing storm water regulations, tree planting, stabilization of stream banks and coastlines, (3) reducing impacts of fishing through the establishment and enforcement of MPA in Faga'alu.

In December 2012, the Horsely Witten Group, Inc., an independent consultant on storm water management produced the Faga'alu Watershed Plan implementation supplement. The supplemental plan focus on watershed restoration and proposed new strategic action to enhance achieving the objectives of the action plan.

Since the development of the Watershed Management and Conservation Action Plan, there have been activities implemented and revision of objectives through the additional planning and engagement that resulted in the implementation supplements. This presents an opportunity to review the strategies development in the action plan and to make updates/revision where necessary.

On October 29, 2013, a strategy effectiveness reviews was conducted with LAS Group and Faga'alu Mayor. The goal of the review was to determine whether Faga'alu management and conservation strategies are/will be effective in achieving desired outcomes for effective management and conservation of Faga'alu watershed. The main objectives of the review process were (1) determine progress of implementation of existing strategies (2) determine whether revision of strategies is needed (3) determine if existing indicator are appropriate, if not make revisions and (4) determine if changes to targets and threats is required.

Project updates (Presented by Christianera Tuitele)

1. Supplemental plan completed by Horsely Witten Group, Inc.
2. Correction plan for quarry under development

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3. Trash bins are already in place in Faga'alu
4. Noticeable changes in trash

During the review process there was no major changes to the objectives. It was agreed by participants that objectives are still relevant and the only changes required was the time frame from 2013 to 2015 for completion of objectives.

Issues (Group Discussion)

1. Major issue that still concern the Faga'alu community is the presence of quarry in the village that is the major contributor of sediment. There is the ongoing concern that the quarry operation is not legally permitted and have been in operation for 60 years. There seem to be the perception that AS EPA is the responsible agency to address that issue. However, it was made clear during the meeting that AS EPA has no legal mandate regarding the regulation of the quarry as well as enforcing water quality. There was a general agreement that this issue needs to be addressed through the proper channels, i.e Governor's Office, Attorney General's Office, Department of Health, Department of Commerce, and the American Samoa Fono.
2. There is still a concern for trash being generated by visitors to the hospital and at bus stops. There is still a need to continue to raise awareness on trash issue within Faga'alu and in American Samoa in general. If Faga'alu residents are able to take care of their trash, if out of village visitors to the hospital and students who frequent bus stops are not aware of trash issues, trash will continue to be an environmental issue in Faga'alu.
3. There continues to be a challenge in transporting trash from Faga'alu to the landfill.
4. Mayor needs to have the ability to issue citation on littering that will help improve enforcement.
5. Need for coordinated agency efforts on community related outreach as well as raising awareness on agencies roles and what could be provided to support community efforts

Suggested Further discussion on strategies (Group discussion)

1. Need for discussion and engagement with community and stakeholders on the emphasis of responsibility and ownership of resources and issues within Faga'alu community
2. Need further discussion amongst LAS group on whether type awareness that they have been doing are relevant or need to be adjusted
3. Need for further discussion on whether the agencies clean-up efforts with community are an effective use of their time and resources
4. Need for further discussion on what delivery mode of awareness would be most effective

Next steps (Group Discussion)

1. LAS group to check in with community to provide update on the management plan implementation and review process and solicit their input
2. LAS group to discuss and refine objectives, actions, and ensure agencies commitment to actions relevant to their agency
3. Work with Faga'alu core community representatives on revision of the plan
4. Present a revised Faga'alu Watershed Management and Conservation Action Plan to the Faga'alu community
5. LAS group to discuss and agree on a designated agency to be the point contact between community and the LAS group to ensure coordinated delivery of technical assistance

Agenda

**Strategy Effectiveness Review
Faga'alu Watershed, American Samoa
October 29, 2013
Venue: American Samoa, EPA Conference Room**

Goal: To determine whether Faga'alu CAP strategies are/will be effective in achieving desired outcomes for effective management and conservation of Faga'alu watershed

Objectives: By end of the review we will have:

- **determine progress of implementation of existing strategies**
- **determine whether revision of strategies is needed**
- **determine if existing indicator are appropriate, if not make revisions**
- **determine if changes to targets and threats is required**

Introductions

Presentation: Strategy Effectiveness review framework (Steven Victor)

Presentation: Faga'alu, conceptual model, results chain and associated objectives (Christianera)

Group discussion: Strategy Effectiveness measures review – based on objectives and indicators from above presentation (Steven Victor)

Group discussion: Make necessary revisions to conceptual diagram, results chain, strategies, and indicators (Steven Victor)

Participants

Christianera Tuitelle	American Samoa EPA
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Fatima Sau-Feaulea	NOAA PIRO
Kristine Buchianeri	Coral Reef Advisory Group
Nick Saumweber	USDA-NRCS
Kelly Anderson	Sea Grant
Mayor High Talking Chief Uso	Faga'alu Village
Susan Lagoo	Faga'alu Village
Sima Lagoo	Faga'alu Village
Joey Uigalelei	
Tavita Togia	National Park Service
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