

DFAT's response to the specific recommendations made in the report

	Recommendation	Management Response
A.	Support the Government of Samoa to access climate finance through coordinated and multilateral funds for implementation of the climate change risk reduction and resilience building sector plans developed under NAPA4 (e.g. the Green Climate Fund - GCF).	DFAT accepts this recommendation and will continue to offer its assistance to support the Government of Samoa develop funding proposals to multilateral and coordinated funds including the Green Climate Fund. It should be noted that other development partners (e.g. UN and NZ) also offer support in this area.
B.	Continue to support the national Meteorology Division to build capacities and provide access to skills and tools to enhance their early warning capabilities – through Australian regional programs.	DFAT notes this recommendation and is committed to continue its support for the development of early warning capabilities in the region. This will be considered in the design of a new regional climate change program.
C.	Facilitate future partnerships between sectors engaged in the Samoa-Australian aid investment program and the Samoa Meteorology Division, and resource these partnerships to enable the development of CLEWS and/or other relevant warning systems in the sectors - to reduce the risks of climate change impacts on Australian investments.	DFAT notes this recommendation. DFAT supports Samoa's efforts to integrate climate change resilience and disaster risk reduction across all sectors including those that DFAT is directly supporting.
D.	Through the education sector, support long-term climate risk reduction and resilience building skills development in Samoa through targeted scholarships, twinning arrangements, short courses and curriculum development.	DFAT notes this recommendation. DFAT currently supports the Education Sector to achieve the goals in the Education Sector Plan. Disaster and Climate Change resilience is a priority area under the Sector Plan. DFAT will continue to encourage the sector to adopt innovative approaches to build skills in climate risk reduction and resilience.

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E	Through appropriate investment channels (e.g. regional research for development and innovation funds) – support innovation to improve accessibility and reach of early warning systems in Pacific nations (including to people with disabilities), employing advances in communications technology and social media, to reach isolated communities in a timely and informative manner.	DFAT accepts this recommendation. This will be considered in the design of a new climate change regional program.
F.	<p>Expand the Civil Society Support Program (CSSP) to encompass a brokering role between Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and the Meteorological Division – to enable better tailoring of warning systems and weather / climate information to the needs of communities. This can be achieved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building the capacity of NGOs and CSOs to understand climate risks, CLEWS and other warning systems; • Resourcing NGOs and CSOs to work with communities to integrate community-level risks in their lives and livelihoods and carry out community-based adaptation; • Supporting the comprehensive community development planning process under development in the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development); • Continuing to supporting the small grants scheme under the CSSP, to specifically target opportunities to develop women's economic resilience to the impacts of climate change – e.g. by creating/enhancing productive climate resilient livelihood opportunities for women. 	DFAT accepts this recommendation noting that these climate resilience issues are now being addressed in the second 4-year phase of CSSP commencing July 2016, with support from the DFAT, the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme.
G.	Improve future funding for partnerships for maintaining and continuing to expand the meteorological and hydrological monitoring networks and critical climate change risk reduction infrastructure (e.g. fire and emergency services).	DFAT notes this recommendation. This will be considered in the design of a new regional program. It should also be noted that new programs funded by other development partners are also looking at improving this area.

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H.	Invest through coordinated regional programs in upgrading the quality of warning systems – for severe weather, extreme rainfall/flood, and seasonal predictions by strengthening international communities of practice for early warning systems – drawing on Australia’s position as the most advanced meteorological, hydrological and CLEWS expert in the region (through its Bureau of Meteorology), world-class expertise in geo-hazard early warning systems through Geoscience Australia and the Bureau, and in long-term climate change projections through Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and the Bureau; long established relationships with national meteorological services in relation to weather and climate services.	DFAT notes this recommendation and will consider this area further in the design of a new regional climate change program.
I.	Support collaborative local research partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking climate, climate variability and climate change to critical sector variables, e.g. crop yield, tourist activities, and disease outbreak, and the development of more targeted early warning systems; • To better understand, and document early warning systems taking account of traditional knowledge related to weather, climate, climate variability, to assist with the further development of more targeted systems and their effective communication; • To improve understanding of the impacts of climate variability and climate change on Samoan weather and climate and on Samoa more broadly, as a step towards improved early warning systems and to provide ever more robust information for climate change adaptation. 	DFAT notes this recommendation and will consider this area further in the design of a new regional climate change program.