

Samoa

Population: 201,316 (2022 census) homogeneous one language Samoan in addition to English.

Accessibility: Logistically easy to access with SPREP HQ and POLP PMU in Samoa - Four inhabited islands can all be reached in hours.

Statistics around Waste (including plastic waste data)

| Coastal population | Waste generation rate [kg/person/day] | % Plastic in waste stream | % Inadequately managed waste | Waste generation [kg/day] | Plastic waste generation [kg/day] | Inadequately managed plastic waste [kg/day] | Plastic waste littered [kg/day] | Mismanaged plastic waste [kg/person/day] | Mismanaged plastic waste in 2010 [tonnes] | Mismanaged plastic waste in 2025 [tonnes] |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 168,025 | 0.79 | 13 | 80 | 132,740 | 17,190 | 13,688 | 344 | 0.084 | 5,122 | 10,989 |

Source Jambek 2016

Information and data directly from customs agencies is key to quantifying importation of single use plastics. However the ambiguity of HS codes does not help and leakage is evident as many single use plastics (bags) can be found in many stores. According to World Bank Waste Audit 2021 Banned single-use plastic shopping bags represent 0.67% of the material currently entering the waste stream and approximately 180 tonnes per annum of material that will not be required to be managed at the landfill. No household segregation of waste streams for collection.

Legal/Policy framework to address single use plastics Regulation in place banning single use plastics, polystyrene plates, and plastic straws. Scope for more SUP coverage (nappies/cutlery).

Single Use Plastic policy: None at present

| | Single Use Plastic Policy | Dedicated Single Use Plastic Orders, Acts and Regulations | | | | | | | Economic Instruments to internalise costs | | | | Recycling | National Campaigns targeting SUP | R&D Alternatives |
|-------|---------------------------|---|--------------------|--------|---------------------------|---------------------|-----|------------------------------------|---|-------------------|----------|------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| | | Plastic bags | Polystyrene plates | Straws | Styrofoam food Containers | Cups plates cutlery | PET | Plastic ice blocks pouches nappies | Container Deposit Scheme | Levy Plastic Bags | Duty SUP | ARDC | Recycling Of plastics | | |
| Samoa | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Economic Instruments: MNRE is considering feasibility of *Advance Recovery Fee & Deposit (ARFD)* Systems economic instruments being promoted by PacWastePlus. Duties on bgas higher (20%) than on plastics (8%) and reversing this duty will promote importation of bgas products.

Institutional capacity: Waste Management (including plastic waste/pollution) run by a unit of 3 within the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Division (1 of 9 divisions). CEO putting paper to cabinet to create a Waste Division. Division capacity needs to be built as stretched across many functions including implementing MEAs.

Enforcement and compliance Low for environmental crimes Jurisdictional issues (Environment Officers v. Police) . Littering in common areas (rivers, reserves, coastal areas is widespread) is a problem in spite of notices and media campaigns run by government.

Community Governance and organisation: Good traditional governance systems in place through village councils operating in Samoas approximately 310 villages run by village chiefs. Active church groups, women and untitled men and youth units within villages. Good potential under POLP to enhance compliance and enforcement around single use plastics through Village by laws (Village Fono amendment act No.3)

Public Awareness- communities/villagers: Government (MNRE) has held regular community clean ups, workshops to address littering of waste and has an Annual National Environment Day.

Public Awareness schools and involvement of youth School programmes being piloted by PacWastPlus and UNDP through its NEAP programme. Tide Turners and Brown Girl Work tackle single use plastic issues and have presence and participate in environment events like coastal clean up day.

Public Awareness local consumers: Scope for awareness and behavioural change programmes targeting communities where there is a lot of plastic waste pollution (through littering/burning). Use of traditional alternatives has declined because plastics provide a cheaper and quicker alternative (eg plastic plates cf woven coconut plates). There are village beautification competitions and participation rates are high. Potential for plastic free village campaigns,

Public Awareness- tourism: Scope for reducing single use plastics in hotels through alternative products (environmentally friendly packaging of soaps, coffee sachels) introduction of water filtration systems cf sale of PET bottles as well as ecosystem based hotels that dot the coastal areas.

Private Sector: Chamber of commerce is active and a useful conduit to bring together government and business to address SUP solutions.

Research and Development into Single Use Plastic alternatives: Research/trials in alternative products being conducted by Samoa Scientific Research Organisation. Recycling/reuse UNDP is piloting a shredder system with NGO and Japan under JPRISM also purchased a shredder machine to make pellets for export to Malaysian and Japanese markets and to convert plastic waste into bricks. This work is in experimental stages.

Media and Communications Number of national and private media outlets (TV, newspapers, radio) IT connectivity is good around country. Very good potential to use media outlets and IT to promote and spread POLP message and Communication Strategy

Summary Overview

- Logistically easy to access- can reach all 4 islands of Samoa in a day. SPREP/POLP presence in Samoa makes it a good pilot site to add value to current initiatives.
- Has laws banning single use plastics, polystyrene plates, and plastic straws. Scope for more SUP coverage (nappies/cutlery), economic instruments.
- In need of a Single Use Plastics policy.
- Research/trials in alternative products being conducted by *Samoa Scientific Research Organisation*. Only Pacific country doing this according to literature review and investment in local research should be encouraged.
- Scope for awareness and behavioural change programmes targeting communities where there is a lot of plastic waste pollution (through littering/burning).