



# AMERICAN SAMOA (USA) METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE COUNTRY REPORT

Reporting on National Priority Actions of the Pacific Islands Meteorological  
Strategy (PIMS) 2017-2026

This Report is presented to the Fifth Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-5) Meeting held in Apia, Samoa from 7-9 August 2019

Elinor Lutu-McMoore  
elinor.lutu-mcmoore@noaa.gov

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## Country Report Guideline (Text)

The report is structured to allow the secretariat to capture the Progress of each NMHSs against the National Priority Actions of the 11 Pacific Key Outcomes (PKO's) of the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy (PIMS) 2017-2026 which will be reviewed at this meeting. This report will contribute to;

- i. monitoring the progress of each NMHSs against the implementation of the PIMS
- ii. inform the Work Program of the Pacific Met Desk Partnership (PMDP)
- iii. identify gaps and needs some of which will be packaged for projects and presented to the Donors and Partners

The draft of the Country Report is expected to be submitted by Heads of each NMHSs to the Pacific Met Desk Partnership by **26 July 2019** to assist in its planning as highlighted above. The Head of the NMHS can delegate the compilation of this report to their staff.

Provide diagrams, photos and other materials that will be useful for measuring or comparing the progress of the NMHS from 2017 to 2019.

Information in this report will be made available on request by donors and partners unless indicated otherwise by the NMHSs directors.

The Pacific Key Outcomes (PKO's) which are priority activities of the Pacific Islands Meteorological Service (PIMS) are outlined below:

PACIFIC KEY OUTCOME (PKO) **1**: Improved meteorological services for air navigation

PACIFIC KEY OUTCOME (PKO) **2**: Improved Marine weather services and establishment of ocean services

PACIFIC KEY OUTCOME (PKO) **3**: Improved Public weather services

PACIFIC KEY OUTCOME (PKO) **4**: Strengthened NHMS capacity to implement Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) for tropical cyclones, coastal inundation and tsunamis

PACIFIC KEY OUTCOME (PKO) **5**: NHMS contribution to climate change activities

PACIFIC KEY OUTCOME (PKO) **6**: Improved climate information and prediction services through the implementation of the Pacific Roadmap for Strengthened Climate Services

PACIFIC KEY OUTCOME (PKO) **7**: Strengthen collaboration between meteorological and hydrological services to better manage water resources and reduce the impact of water related hazards

PACIFIC KEY OUTCOME (PKO) **8**: Integrated observing and communication systems

PACIFIC KEY OUTCOME (PKO) **9**: NMHS institutional strengthening and capacity development

PACIFIC KEY OUTCOME (PKO) **10**: Support to NMHSs is coordinated

PACIFIC KEY OUTCOME (PKO) **11**: PMC is an efficient and effective body

## 1.0 Summary

*This is a country report of WSO Pago Pago - American Samoa to the PMC-5 meeting in Apia, Samoa (August 7-9, 2019).*

	Contact of the [country] NMS	Alternate Contact
<b>Contact</b>	Name: Elinor Lutu-McMoore Division Title: Meteorologist-In-Charge Address: P.O. Box 789 Pago Pago, AS 96799 E-mail: elinor.lutu-mcmoore@noaa.gov Work Tel: (684) 699-9130 Mobile: (684) 256-1334 Fax: (684) 699-1550	Name: Ray Tanabe Division Title: Regional Director (U.S. National Weather Service – Pacific Region) Address: 1845 Wasp Blvd, Bldg 176 Honolulu, HI 96818 E-mail: raymond.tanabe@noaa.gov Work Tel: (808) 725-6000 Mobile: (808) 271-6267

## 2.0 Background Information

### 2.1 Institutional Setup

The Weather Service Office (WSO) Pago Pago, located in American Samoa, is the only United States (U.S.) National Weather Service (NWS) office located in the southern hemisphere. In its main mission of saving lives and property, WSO Pago Pago operates 24 hours, 365 days per year to provide weather forecasts, warnings, advisories and statements. Since the devastating 2009 Tonga trench tsunami, WSO Pago Pago services expanded to include the issuance of tsunami warnings for local tsunamis. Furthermore, WSO Pago Pago collects and disseminate observations

such as surface observations and launch weather balloons twice daily, administer the Cooperative Weather Observer Program and prepare local climatological data summaries and reports.

Although WSO Pago Pago offers services for the government and citizens of American Samoa, its structure is unique from other members, in which WSO Pago Pago falls under the U.S. federal government jurisdiction, with its main support from the regional headquarters located in Hawaii, under the directorship of Mr. Ray Tanabe.

U.S. National Weather Service  
(Director: Louis Uccellini)



U.S. National Weather Service – Pacific Region  
Headquarters  
(Director: Ray Tanabe)



AMERICAN SAMOA (WSO Pago Pago)  
U.S. National Weather Service – Pacific Region  
Headquarters  
(Meteorologist-In-Charge: Elinor Lutu-McMoore)



**Meteorologists (General Forecasters):**  
1. Scott Rozanski  
2. Hans Malala  
3. Theodora Meredith  
4. Joe LaPlante  
5. Jane Taifane

**Meteorological Technicians:**  
1. Sina Solomona-Tilo  
2. Tanielu Sonoma  
3. Tamara Toilolo

**Electronics Technician:**  
1. Marcus Langkilde

<b>Governance</b>	<b>Description</b>
MET LEGISLATION: Update on whether or not your country have a stand-alone Meteorology Act or equivalent in place.	U.S. Weather research and forecasting innovation act of 2017. Signed into law by President Trump April 18, 2017.
Do you require for your Act to be reviewed? What support would you require to complete this activity.	No
<b>Strategic Planning</b>	
Does your NMHS have a strategic plan, implementation/operational plan or equivalent(s)?	<b>Yes, we fall under the NWS Strategic Plan 2019-2022</b>
Describe how meteorology (weather) and climatology (climate variability and climate change) are featured in the current national development plan, government ministries corporate and implementation/operational plans.	On a territorial level, American Samoa government is working on a territorial plan (framework) for resilience inclusive of meteorology and climatology.
Describe the process if your NMHSs is reporting against the SDG or its national equivalent	As a federal entity, WSO Pago Pago highly supports Diversity and EEO policies and activities. We provide opportunities for staff members to pursue individual career development. We also strengthen external relationships by promoting community engagement of our staff.

## 2.2 Staffing

As of July 2019, WSO Pago Pago has officially filled all its vacancies as listed in the organizational chart above. WSO Pago Pago has a total of five females and five males: six meteorologists (3 females, 3 males); three meteorological technicians (2 females, 1 male); one electronics technician (male). 80% of the staff are Samoan natives.

All staff of WSO Pago Pago are U.S. federal employees.

## 3.0 Progress of the NMHS

### 3.1. UPDATE on Achievements of the NMHS from 2017-2019

[This can reflect new activities, programs, services implemented by the NMHSs. Under each of the activities, indicate which PKO(s) this activity has achieved. One Activity can contribute to more than 1 PKO]

<b>No.</b>	<b>Achievements (Activities) of the NMHS (2015-2017)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
1	Completion of Maritime Hazard Tsunami Maps		x	X	x					X		
2	Transition training of staff to utilizing AWIPS system for issuance of forecasts, warnings and statements		X	X	X				X			





