

PART I

Territorial General Plan

Overview of the Territory

**American Samoa Government
Department of Commerce
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FOREWORD

Purpose of Part I

This Territorial General Plan is an indicative policy agenda for the economic and social development of the Territory of American Samoa. The purpose of the plan is to promote a better quality of life for the Territory's residents, protect the natural environment and preserve the Territory's resources for the sustainable development of the islands.

Part I of the Territorial General Plan introduces the reader to the Territory's islands and existing conditions. Chapters One and Two provide colorful pictures of the Territory's islands and infrastructure to augment the narrative and data, while Chapters Three and Four identify the principal issues and areas of concern for the future.

The issues put forward in Part I were identified by a planning process that included the participation of government agency representatives, private sector business people and interested individuals. The planning process also drew upon previous studies and recent social and economic development initiatives involving public input.

Part II of the Territorial General Plan sets out the policies and strategies for the sustainable development of the Territory's islands that the American Samoa Government will implement during the next several years. Part II follows upon Part I and presents the issues in greater detail on the basis of acute common issues, economic development imperatives, environmental concerns and social development needs.

The Territorial General Plan serves several important aims:

- to create a vision for the future;
- to focus upon the primary issues and concerns faced by the Territory;
- to create a permanent system of cooperation, coordination, planning and management among government and non-governmental organizations;
- to identify a rational and strategic path for development that makes the best use of available funding and resources;
- to create the capacity to implement programs with efficiency and for effectiveness; and
- to make known the policies and plans of the government administration and demonstrate to Federal oversight agencies and funding sources that the government has put-in-place a means to direct its progress and gauge its performance.

Scope of Plan

The scope of the plan is inclusive of a broad range of issues that are classified under the following areas of concern:

- commerce and economic development;
- environmental protection and resource management;
- social development and the delivery of social services; and
- capital improvements and infrastructure.

These four areas of concern form the framework of the Territorial General Plan. They are reviewed and summarized in Part I. In Part II, they each encompass a chapter devoted to issues, policies and strategies.

The Territorial General Plan is an indicative policy plan. It precedes master plans and comprehensive development plans. That is, it provides the initial direction and points the way toward the future development of the Territory, and enables the formulation of master and comprehensive plans. These latter plans will provide maps, infrastructure and schedules.

Where master and comprehensive plans exist, e.g. the Port Master Plan of 1999, the Territorial General Plan endorses these plans and builds in policy to support their agenda and functions. In essence, the Territorial General Plan provides the overall policy agenda and serves as the umbrella under which future government development, functional or action plans will be formulated.