Nature-Based Solutions Workshop for Hazard Mitigation

August 25, 2021

Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management and
Office of the Governor
Welcome

Greetings and Talofa,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to American Samoa’s first Nature-Based Solutions Workshop for Hazard Mitigation. We are glad you are here, and we are excited to share this unique opportunity for you to learn more about an important and emerging area of practice for hazard mitigation: Nature-Based Solutions.

Although the term has many meanings, FEMA defines nature-based solutions as “sustainable planning, design, environmental management, and engineering practices that weave natural features or processes into the built environment to build more resilient communities.” As mentioned in my workshop invitation message, FEMA and other federal agencies have prioritized the use of nature-based solutions when awarding grant funding for hazard mitigation. With an unprecedented amount of federal hazard mitigation funding now available for FY-2021, today’s topic is both extremely relevant and very timely for American Samoa.

With the support of our Hazard Mitigation Council, American Samoa has been very successful in securing pre- and post-disaster hazard mitigation funding for over twenty years. We are eager to continue leveraging this support for implementing our highest priority projects as outlined in our Territorial Hazard Mitigation Plan. As such, the use of nature-based solutions has also been integrated into our own process for identifying and prioritizing proposed mitigation projects.

Today’s workshop is an important part of a larger effort to continue building and enhancing the Territory’s capacity and capability to improve our resilience to natural hazards and climate change. As outlined in this handout, we have assembled a truly exemplary panel of speakers who are familiar with American Samoa and bring deep knowledge for today’s agenda. We are confident the workshop will increase your understanding of how to use nature-based solutions for hazard mitigation, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas as well!

Thank you for your support and participation.

Sincerely,
Lima Fiatoa, State Hazard Mitigation Officer
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## Agenda
Click on the title of each presentation to view slides including Mentimeter poll results. Or click HERE for a recording of the entire workshop.

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Presentation Title</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:45 am – 9:00 am</td>
<td>Opening Remarks and Expected Outcomes</td>
<td>Salo Ale, Lieutenant Governor</td>
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<td>Lima Fiatoa, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Office of Disaster and Petroleum Management and Jamie Caplan, Principal, Jamie Caplan Consulting LLC</td>
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<td>9:00 am – 9:30 am</td>
<td>Engineering with Nature Introduction</td>
<td>Dr. Todd S. Bridges, Senior Research Scientist for Environmental Science, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 am – 9:50 am</td>
<td>Pacific Islands Regional Climate Assessment (PIRCA) Report and NBS in American Samoa</td>
<td>Dr. Victoria Keener, Senior Research Fellow at the East-West Center and Dr. Christopher Shuler, Researcher, Hydrology and Coastal Groundwater Research Group, University of Hawaii</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15 am – 10:35 am</td>
<td>American Samoa Living Shoreline Project</td>
<td>Kelley Anderson Tagarino, Extension Specialist for American Samoa, Aquaculture &amp; Marine Science, University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program, American Samoa Community College</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:35 am – 11:00 am</td>
<td>Building Resilience with Mangrove and Reef Natural Coastal Defenses</td>
<td>Dr. Michael W. Beck, Professor &amp; AXA Chair in Coastal Resilience, &amp; Dr. Borja G. Reguero, Associate Research Professor, Institute of Marine Sciences &amp; Coastal and Policy Program University of California Santa Cruz, Fellow with the Natural Capital Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 am – 11:15 am</td>
<td>FEMA’s BRIC Program Overview and Notice of Funding Opportunities</td>
<td>Jocelyn Madison-Kelly, Grants Management Specialist, FEMA RIX</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 am – 11:30 am</td>
<td>Next Steps and Additional Resources</td>
<td>Jamie Caplan and Lima Fiatoa</td>
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Speaker Biographies

**Kelley Anderson Tagarino**

*Extension Specialist for American Samoa, Aquaculture & Marine Science, University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program, American Samoa Community College*

Kelley Anderson Tagarino is an extension agent for the University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program (UH Sea Grant) and is based in American Samoa (AS) at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC). As the only Sea Grant Extension agent in AS, Kelley works in a number of different areas, focusing on supporting sustainable seafood in AS, supporting the Marine Science Program at the ASCC, and maintaining the PacIOOS instrument package that includes sensors for measuring the conductivity, temperature and depth of seawater located in Pago Pago Harbor. Kelley has lived in AS since 2009 and began working with UH Sea Grant in 2013. Previously Kelley was the Marine Science Coordinator for the ASCC where she directed the Marine Science Program as well as the Marine Option (MOP) program and taught Introduction to Oceanography and the associated lab, Introduction to Marine Biology and the associated lab, Natural Marine Resources, the three MOP courses, and Marine Science Special Projects.

**Dr. Michael W. Beck**

*Professor & AXA Chair in Coastal Resilience, University of California Santa Cruz*

Dr. Michael W. Beck is the AXA Chair in Coastal Resilience, Research Professor in the Institute of Marine Sciences, and Adjunct Professor in Ocean Sciences at the University of California Santa Cruz. Mike aims to reduce risks to people, property, and nature in his work across science, policy and practice. Mike works with governments, businesses, and conservation groups to bring clear tools and results to decision-makers. Mike served for 20 years as Lead Marine Scientist at The Nature Conservancy. Mike has advised government agencies in the US, Germany, UK, EU, Philippines, Jamaica, and Grenada among others. He has collaborated with many global agencies and companies including the World Bank, AXA XL, Munich Re, Swiss Re, Lloyd’s of London, Risk Management Solutions, and Jacobs. Mike has authored more than 80 peer-reviewed scientific papers and numerous Op-eds in the NY Times, The Hill, The
Conversation, and the Miami Herald. He has been a Fulbright Fellow and Pew Marine Conservation Fellow. You can find more on his work at https://coastalresilience.ucsc.edu/.

Dr. Todd S. Bridges

Senior Research Scientist for Environmental Science, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC)

Dr. Todd S. Bridges is the U.S. Army’s Senior Research Scientist (ST) for Environmental Science. He leads a number of research, development and environmental initiatives for the U.S. Army and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the areas of sustainable infrastructure, risk and decision analysis methods, and sediment assessment and management. Dr. Bridges is the National Lead for the USACE Engineering with Nature® initiative, which includes a network of research projects, field demonstrations, and communication activities to promote sustainable, resilient infrastructure systems. He leads efforts for USACE on the use of Natural and Nature-Based Features (NNBF) to support flood risk management, including an international collaboration to develop guidelines on the use of NNBF for coastal and fluvial systems.

Dr. Victoria Keener

Senior Research Fellow, East-West Center

Dr. Victoria Keener is a Senior Research Fellow at the East-West Center, the Co-Lead Principal Investigator of the NOAA Pacific Regional Integrated Sciences & Assessments (www.PacificRISA.org) program, and is the Lead Author of the Hawaii and Pacific Islands chapter of the 4th US National Climate Assessment. Dr. Keener also serves as the Chair of the City & County of Honolulu Climate Change Commission, which provides science-based recommendations to the Mayor and City Council. She earned a PhD in Agricultural & Biological Engineering from the University of Florida, specializing in regional and applied hydro-climatology. Dr. Keener leads an interdisciplinary research team of social and physical scientists that aims to reduce Pacific Islands’ vulnerability to climate change by translating research into actionable knowledge and working with a variety of stakeholders at the local, state, and regional level. Projects include producing downscaled climate and hydrological projections to estimate
future water availability; assessing stakeholders’ decision-support needs; impacts of climate and health on migration; and ecosystem service valuation and modeling.

Jocelyn Madison-Kelly

Grants Management Specialist, FEMA Region IX

Hazard Mitigation Grants Specialist for FEMA Region IX, and also serves as the Tribal Liaison, and regional BRIC co-lead. I have been in this position for about 2 years now, joining from the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services where I also worked as a Hazard Mitigation Grants Manager. I live in Roseville, CA a little suburb outside of Sacramento, and spend my free time drawing, reading, and playing with my 12-year-old daughter, Juliahna, and 9-month-old Husky puppy, David Bowie.

Jessica Podosky


Jessica received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Florida in Civil Engineering. While completing her degree she worked for the government of Martin County, Florida focusing on coastal projects and inlet management. She received a Master of Engineering degree from the University of Florida in Coastal Engineering, researching crenulate bay formation and prediction. Employed by the US Army Corps of Engineers since 2001, she has worked in both the Portland District (2.5 years) and the Honolulu District (16 years) as a coastal engineer. In 2019, she took on the position of Coastal Engineering Subject Matter Expert and O&M Technical Manager for the Honolulu District.
Dr. Borja G. Reguero

Associate Research Professor, Institute of Marine Sciences & Coastal and Policy Program University of California Santa Cruz, Fellow with the Natural Capital Project

Dr. Borja G. Reguero is a researcher at the University of California-Santa Cruz, and a Fellow with The Nature Conservancy's Global Oceans Team. He is a civil engineer with a PhD in coastal and marine engineering from the University of Cantabria’s Environmental Institute of Hydraulics. His research focuses on climate risks in coastal areas, with a special focus on the impacts of climate change and ecosystem-based adaptation. He has consulted for several international organizations, including the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank, where his work has informed policy through science and applied knowledge. His current areas of interest are disaster risk reduction and risk management in coastal areas; re-engineering of ecosystems for coastal protection, particularly coral reefs; and the economics associated with climate adaptation and the economy of nature.

Dr. Christopher Shuler

Researcher, Hydrology and Coastal Groundwater Research Group, University of Hawaii

Christopher Shuler is currently an affiliate researcher at the Water Resources Research Center at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He holds a PhD in Geology and Geophysics specializing in hydrology from University of Hawaii at Manoa, a B.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Oregon as well as a post-baccalaureate certification in Environmental Education from the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Christopher's current research is focused on ground and surface water resources in Hawaii and the American Samoa. His interests include numerical groundwater modeling, geo-chemical and isotopic aqueous chemistry, environmental water quality, and water sustainability studies. Christopher is an avid naturalist, outdoors person, and enjoys working in the field in both terrestrial and oceanic environments.
Speaker Contact Information

Lima Fiatoa  
State Hazard Mitigation Officer  
Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management, Territory of American Samoa  
Phone: 684-699-1329  
Email: lima.fiatoa@odapm.as.gov

Kelley Anderson Tagarino  
Extension Specialist for American Samoa, Aquaculture & Marine Science  
University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program, American Samoa Community College  
Phone: 684-699-3353  
Email: kelleyat@hawaii.edu

Dr. Michael W. Beck  
Professor & AXA Chair in Coastal Resilience  
University of California Santa Cruz  
Phone: 831-459-1459  
Email: mwbeck@ucsc.edu

Dr. Todd S. Bridges  
Senior Research Scientist for Environmental Science  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC)  
Phone: 601-634-3626  
Email: todd.s.bridges@usace.army.mil

Dr. Victoria Keener  
Senior Research Fellow  
East-West Center  
Phone: 808-944-7220  
Email: KeenerV@EastWestCenter.org

Jocelyn Madison-Kelly  
Grants Management Specialist  
FEMA Region IX  
Phone: 510-627-7179  
Email: jocelyn.madisonkelly@fema.dhs.gov

Jessica Podosky  
Coastal Engineering Subject Matter Expert & O&M Technical Manager  
US Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District, Civil Works Technical Branch  
Phone: 808-835-4146  
Email: Jessica.h.podoski@usace.army.mil
Dr. Borja G. Reguero
Associate Research Professor, Institute of Marine Sciences & Coastal and Policy Program
University of California Santa Cruz, Fellow with the Natural Capital Project
Phone: +34 600 799275
Email: breguero@ucsc.edu

Dr. Christopher Shuler
Researcher
Hydrology and Coastal Groundwater Research Group, University of Hawaii
Phone: 808-518-7004
Email: cshuler@hawaii.edu
Attendees

Hosts

- Lima Fiatoa, ODAPM
- Jamie Caplan, Jamie Caplan Consulting
- Darrin Punchard, Punchard Consulting (Jamie Caplan Consulting Team)

Speakers

- Dr. Todd S. Bridges, Senior Research Scientist for Environmental Science, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC)
- Dr. Victoria Keener, Senior Research Fellow at the East-West Center
- Dr. Christopher Shuler, Researcher, Hydrology and Coastal Groundwater Research Group, University of Hawaii
- Jessica Podosky, USACE Honolulu District
- Dr. Michael W. Beck, Professor & AXA Chair in Coastal Resilience
- Borja Reguero, Associate Research Professor, Institute of Marine Sciences & Coastal and Policy Program University of California Santa Cruz, Fellow with the Natural Capital Project
- Jocelyn Madison-Kelly, FEMA Region 9, Mitigation

On Zoom

- David Kulberg, CFM, FEMA Reservist, AS resident
- Michael Hornick FEMA R9 MT RAB, Building Science/NFIP/NEHRP
- Curt Storlazzi, Research Geologist, USGS Pacific Coastal and Marine Science Center
- John Nielsen, Economist, USACE. Sacramento District
- Harrison Togia; Civil & Environmental Engineering + Geology Geophysics at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, in conjunction with HDOT and the NDPTC
- JoAnn Scordino, FEMA Region 9, Mitigation Community Planner
- Kate Kilduff, Risk Analysis for Mitigation at FEMA Region 9
- John Goertz, USACE Coastal Engineer, LA District
- Lori Schultz, USACE Sacramento H&H
- Adam Whelchel, The Nature Conservancy
- Ben Reder, USACE Honolulu District
- Kate Kilduff, FEMA Region 9
- Ellie Covington, US Army Corps of Engineers
- Caroline Cunningham, Stantec
- Christina Hurley, Stantec
In the Room Attendees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>OFFICE/AGENCY</th>
<th>EMAIL</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
<th>INITIAL</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Akenese Nikolao</td>
<td>HR &amp; Grants Management Director</td>
<td>LBJ</td>
<td><a href="mailto:akenese.nikolaos@lja.as">akenese.nikolaos@lja.as</a></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Alex Baker</td>
<td></td>
<td>AS-DHS</td>
<td><a href="mailto:a.baker@aschsa.as.gov">a.baker@aschsa.as.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Brian Thompson</td>
<td>Specialist</td>
<td>ASPA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brian@aspower.com">brian@aspower.com</a></td>
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<td>k</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Brian Vitolo</td>
<td>Property Management</td>
<td>LBJ</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brian.vitolo@lj.as">brian.vitolo@lj.as</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Bryan Maifea</td>
<td>Field Compliance Officer</td>
<td>ODAPM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bryanmaifea@odapm.as.gov">bryanmaifea@odapm.as.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Camilla Pouf</td>
<td>HM Planner</td>
<td>ODAPM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:camilla.pouf@odapm.as.gov">camilla.pouf@odapm.as.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Charlene Fuimaono</td>
<td>Grant Assistant</td>
<td>ASPA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:charlene@aspower.com">charlene@aspower.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Christopher King</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Port Administration</td>
<td><a href="mailto:king.ch@gmail.com">king.ch@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Ella Gurr</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td><a href="mailto:eguur@patcas.com">eguur@patcas.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Elvis Zodiacal</td>
<td>Executive Director &amp; Historic Preservation Officer</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:elviszodiacal@gmail.com">elviszodiacal@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Estela, P. Rubin</td>
<td>Civil Engineer</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td><a href="mailto:estela.rubin@dpw.as.gov">estela.rubin@dpw.as.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Falaga Tauilili</td>
<td>Acting Grants Supervisor</td>
<td>ASPA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:falaga@aspower.com">falaga@aspower.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Falenaotu Loi-On Fruean</td>
<td>Deputy Director</td>
<td>DPA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:faile_loeon@yahoo.com">faile_loeon@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Faleosina Puletasu</td>
<td>Procurement</td>
<td>Dept. of Agriculture</td>
<td><a href="mailto:faleosinap@gmail.com">faleosinap@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Faletoa Ulufale</td>
<td>Safety Officer</td>
<td>LBJ</td>
<td><a href="mailto:faletoa.ulufale@lj.as">faletoa.ulufale@lj.as</a></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Gina Faiga-Naseri</td>
<td>Manager/Environmental</td>
<td>DOC</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ginafaiga@doc.as">ginafaiga@doc.as</a></td>
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<td>Grace Felse</td>
<td>GIS/IT Tech</td>
<td>DOC</td>
<td><a href="mailto:grace.felse@doc.as.gov">grace.felse@doc.as.gov</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Letitia Matatia</td>
<td>Finance Manager</td>
<td>Dept. of Agriculture</td>
<td><a href="mailto:imatatia830@gmail.com">imatatia830@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>James Faumuina</td>
<td>Compliance Officer</td>
<td>AS-DHS</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jila.faumuina@asdhss.as.gov">jila.faumuina@asdhss.as.gov</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jewel Tulasosopo</td>
<td>Technical Services Division Head</td>
<td>EPA</td>
<td>jielu.tu/asosopo@epa.as.gov</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Meredith</td>
<td>GIS Tech</td>
<td>DOC</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joseph.meredith@doc.as.gov">joseph.meredith@doc.as.gov</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Katie Nalesere</td>
<td>Resilience Coordinator</td>
<td>DMWR/CRAG</td>
<td><a href="mailto:katie.nalesere@crag.as">katie.nalesere@crag.as</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelley Anderson Tagarino</td>
<td>HI Sea Grant Am. Samoa Extension Agent</td>
<td>ASCC</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kelleyat@hawaii.edu">kelleyat@hawaii.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Levi Levi</td>
<td>Field Compliance Officer</td>
<td>ODAPM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:levi.levi@odapm.as.gov">levi.levi@odapm.as.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lima Fiaota</td>
<td>SHMO</td>
<td>ODAPM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:linea.fiaota@odapm.as.gov">linea.fiaota@odapm.as.gov</a></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Tuatoo</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>ODAPM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lisa.tuatoo@odapm.as.gov">lisa.tuatoo@odapm.as.gov</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Loretta S. Lees</td>
<td>HR Credentialing Coordinator</td>
<td>LBJ</td>
<td><a href="mailto:loretta.lees@lbl.as">loretta.lees@lbl.as</a></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mika Aga</td>
<td>Port Engineer</td>
<td>Port Administration</td>
<td>mikaaga@<a href="mailto:y@gmail.com">y@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Asfoa</td>
<td>Dist. 17 Representative</td>
<td>FOND</td>
<td><a href="mailto:asfoamike@gmail.com">asfoamike@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mulivano Alumu</td>
<td>TEMCO Tsunami Program Coordinator</td>
<td>AS-DHS</td>
<td><a href="mailto:m.aiemu@asdhss.as.gov">m.aiemu@asdhss.as.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Naoafioga Sagaga</td>
<td>Project Manager</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td><a href="mailto:naoafioga.sagaga@dpw.as.gov">naoafioga.sagaga@dpw.as.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Natalia Palamo</td>
<td>Senior Engineer</td>
<td>Port Administration</td>
<td><a href="mailto:natalia.palamo@gmail.com">natalia.palamo@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reuben Siaiuu</td>
<td>Chief Engineer</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td><a href="mailto:reuben.siaiuu@dpw.as.gov">reuben.siaiuu@dpw.as.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sabrina Woolfer</td>
<td>CRAG Coordinator</td>
<td>DMWR/CRAG</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sabrina.woolfer@crag.as">sabrina.woolfer@crag.as</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandi Tonumaipua</td>
<td>HM Coordinator</td>
<td>ODAPM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sandi.tonumaipua@odapm.as.gov">sandi.tonumaipua@odapm.as.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Shanee Masoli</td>
<td>Constituent Services Coordinator</td>
<td>Office of Lt. Governor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:masolishanee@gmail.com">masolishanee@gmail.com</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinafoa Tavai</td>
<td>Grant Writer</td>
<td>Dept. of Agriculture</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sinafoa@gmail.com">sinafoa@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanya Mao-Aab</td>
<td>Office Manager</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td><a href="mailto:taumafab66@gmail.com">taumafab66@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tausaafia Ulagalelei</td>
<td>DHS Grant Coordinator</td>
<td>AS-DHS</td>
<td><a href="mailto:t.ulagalelei@asdhs.as.gov">t.ulagalelei@asdhs.as.gov</a></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ted Leilato</td>
<td>Outside Plant Director</td>
<td>ASTCA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ted.leilato@astca.net">ted.leilato@astca.net</a></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tofiga Lilaiga</td>
<td>Engineering/ Grant Writer</td>
<td>ASTCA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tofiga.lilaiga@astca.net">tofiga.lilaiga@astca.net</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony Tualii</td>
<td>GIS Technician II</td>
<td>DDC</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tony.tualii@ddc.as">tony.tualii@ddc.as</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumua Matuu</td>
<td>Deputy Director</td>
<td>Port Administration</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tumuamatuu@hotmail.com">tumuamatuu@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uaealesi Doris Sipeii</td>
<td>Civil Engineer</td>
<td>DPW</td>
<td><a href="mailto:uaealesi.sipeii@dpw.as.gov">uaealesi.sipeii@dpw.as.gov</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace Tualafono</td>
<td></td>
<td>ASCC</td>
<td><a href="mailto:g.tualafono@ascw.as.gov">g.tualafono@ascw.as.gov</a></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Sofia</td>
<td></td>
<td>ASCC</td>
<td><a href="mailto:j.sofia@ascw.as.gov">j.sofia@ascw.as.gov</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Maxi Bumade</td>
<td></td>
<td>ASCC</td>
<td><a href="mailto:maxibumade@ascw.as.gov">maxibumade@ascw.as.gov</a></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selvina Tia</td>
<td></td>
<td>ASCC</td>
<td><a href="mailto:selvintia@ascw.as.gov">selvintia@ascw.as.gov</a></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ersie Lasa</td>
<td></td>
<td>ASCC</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ersielasa@ascw.as.gov">ersielasa@ascw.as.gov</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Haakoa Sinafoa</td>
<td></td>
<td>ASCC</td>
<td><a href="mailto:haakosasinafoa@ascw.as.gov">haakosasinafoa@ascw.as.gov</a></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fealeavei Veejai</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>ASCC</td>
<td><a href="mailto:j.veejai@ascw.as.gov">j.veejai@ascw.as.gov</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessie Sine</td>
<td>Personnel Manager</td>
<td>ASCC</td>
<td><a href="mailto:j.sine@ascw.as.gov">j.sine@ascw.as.gov</a></td>
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**Nature-Based Solutions Resources**

**American Samoa Specific Resources**

A Resilient Future for Coastal Communities, Federal Policy Recommendations from Solutions in Practice, October 2020

American Samoa’s Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG)
CRAG is a collaboration of seven local agencies: the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR), the Department of Commerce (DOC)'s Coastal Zone Management Program (AS-CMP), the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa (NMSAS), the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the American Samoa Community College (ASCC), the National Park of American Samoa (NPSA), and the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) Rose Atoll National Wildlife Refuge and Marine National Monument.
[https://www.crag.as](https://www.crag.as)
Piggery Runoff Solutions
[https://www.ridgetoreefs.org/american-samoa-piggeries-project-home-page-](https://www.ridgetoreefs.org/american-samoa-piggeries-project-home-page-)
Protecting American Samoa’s Coral Reefs One Rain Garden at a Time

American Samoa Watershed Assessment – Review Plan, March 2021, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Climate Change in American Samoa, Report for the Pacific Islands, Regional Climate Assessment (PIRCA)

Climate Related Vulnerability Assessment for Transportation Infrastructure, March 2020
Appendices, Climate Related Vulnerability Assessment for Transportation Infrastructure, March 2020
Fact Sheet by Jessica H. Podoski, P.E. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI)
Fact Sheet: Federal Resources for Nature-Based Solutions to Climate Change, February 2020
Fact Sheet: Nature as Resilient Infrastructure: An Overview of Nature-Based Solutions, September 2019

Fourth National Climate Assessment, Chapter 27: Hawai’i and U.S. – Affiliated Pacific Islands
https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/chapter/27/

Hawaii and Pacific Islands King Tides Project
http://www.pacioos.hawai.earth/king-tides/map.html

Promoting the Use of Green Stormwater Infrastructure in American Samoa, Regulatory and Programmatic Recommendations, April 2019

The Value of U.S. Coral Reefs for Risk Reduction, Facts for American Samoa
Report Summary
Full Report and Article

**EPA Resources**

Green Infrastructure
https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure
https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/what-green-infrastructure

Greening America’s Communities
https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/greening-americas-communities

Lessons Learned on Integrating Water Quality and Nature-based Approaches into Hazard Mitigation Plans

Flood Resilience Checklist
https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/flood-resilience-checklist

Including Watershed Planning and Green Infrastructure into State Hazard Mitigation Plans
Environmental Law Institute Resources

Nature-Based Mitigation Goals and Actions in State and Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plans, April 2021

FEMA Resources

Building Community Resilience with Nature-Based Solutions: A Guide for Local Communities

The Nature Conservancy Guide to FEMA mitigation funding gives a lot of examples of what might be considered “nature-based” for different hazards and includes case studies

FEMA Training

FEMA is also offering a series of webinars that may interest folks you. Below is the full schedule. Recordings of past webinars will be available. Details regarding each webinar may be found on the this link: https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/2021-building-resilient-infrastructure-and-communities-and-flood-mitigation-assistance-programs

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<th>Training Date</th>
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<td>28-Jul-21</td>
<td>Climate Change, Future Conditions, and Nature-based Solutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 4, 2021</td>
<td>Fiscal Year 2020 Data and Trends</td>
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<td>Aug. 11, 2021</td>
<td>Notice of Funding Opportunity for 2021 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants -Webinar #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 18, 2021</td>
<td>Where Equity Fits into Design and Community Resilience</td>
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<td>Aug. 24, 2021</td>
<td>Severe Repetitive Loss/Repetitive Loss Mitigation Priorities</td>
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<td>Aug. 26, 2021</td>
<td>Notice of Funding Opportunity for 2021 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants -Webinar #2</td>
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<td>Sept. 1, 2021</td>
<td>Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants Application Pitfalls – Webinar #1</td>
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<td>Sept. 8, 2021</td>
<td>Fiscal Year 2021 NOFO Notice of Funding Opportunity Technical and Qualitative Criteria</td>
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<td>Sept. 13, 2021</td>
<td>Notice of Funding Opportunity for 2021 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants for Tribal applicants - NOFO Webinar #3 – Tribal</td>
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<td>Sept. 20, 2021</td>
<td>Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants Application Pitfalls – Webinar #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 13, 2021</td>
<td>Federal Agency Roundtable and Partnerships</td>
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NOAA Resources

Climate Resilience Toolkit  
https://toolkit.climate.gov

Coastal Flood Exposure Mapper  
https://coast.noaa.gov/floodexposure

Coastal Resilience Evaluation and Siting Tool  
https://resilientcoasts.org

Digital Coast  
https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast

Digital Coast Natural Infrastructure Resources  
https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/topics/green-infrastructure.html

Living Shorelines Resources Webpage  
https://www.habitatblueprint.noaa.gov/living-shorelines

National Centers for Environmental Information  
https://www.ncei.noaa.gov

National Estuarine Research Reserve System  
https://coast.noaa.gov/nerrs

Natural Infrastructure Fast Facts  

NOAA Green Infrastructure Effectiveness Database  
https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/training/gi-database.html

NOAA Nature-Based Solutions for Coastal Hazards Training  
https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/training/green.html

NOAA Sea Grant  
https://seagrant.noaa.gov

NOAA training on coastal projects.  
Nature-Based Solutions for Coastal Hazards: The Basics (noaa.gov)

Regional Integrated Science and Assessment Programs  
https://cpo.noaa.gov/Meet-the-Divisions/Climate-and-Societal-Interactions/RISA

Sea Level Rise Viewer  
https://coast.noaa.gov/slr
Sea Level Trends
https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/sltrends/sltrends.html

State Coastal Management Program
https://coast.noaa.gov/czm

State of High Tide Flooding and Annual Outlook
https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/HighTideFlooding_AnnualOutlook.html

The Climate Explorer
https://crt-climate-explorer.nemac.org

American Samoa Climate Explorer Charts

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research Development**

Engineering with Nature
https://ewn.el.erdc.dren.mil/index.html

Engineer Research Development (ERDC)
https://www.erdc.usace.army.mil

Fact Sheet: Engineering with Nature CSTORM Modeling Toolkit

**U.S.G.S. Resources**

American Samoa Coral Reefs and Coastal Hazard Risk Reduction

Other Resources

American Association of State Climatologists
https://stateclimate.org

Coastal Resilience Mapping Portal
https://maps.coastalresilience.org

Engineering with Nature an Atlas
https://ewn.el.erdc.dren.mil/atlas.html

Floodplain Buyouts: An Action Guide for Local Governments on How to Maximize Community Benefits, Habitat Connectivity, and Resilience

Floodplain Prioritization Tool
https://freshwaternetwork.org/innovative-tools/floodplain-prioritization-tool/

Fourth National Climate Assessment
https://nca2018.globalchange.gov

Green Infrastructure Toolkit

Naturally Resilient Communities
http://nrcsolutions.org

Op-Ed: How to Save Beaches and Coastlines from Climate Change Disasters, Michael W. Beck, Los Angeles Times, April 11, 2021

Planning for Infrastructure Resilience
https://www.planning.org/publications/report/9192800