

Samoa's Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Services Value

372M

Samoaan tala

is the total value of Samoa's Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Services

The role that natural ecosystems, especially marine and coastal ecosystems, play in human wellbeing is often overlooked or taken for granted. The benefits humans receive from ecosystems, called *ecosystem service*. Coastal and marine resources and biodiversity provide Samoa's businesses, households and government many real and measurable benefits.

The economic value of seven marine and coastal ecosystem services in Samoa was determined in 2020 study. This study is a step towards a national process of recognizing the human benefits from natural ecosystem processes and functions, which will lead to more equitable and sustainable management of Samoa's marine natural assets.

Nature provides ecosystem services for free

TOURISM



76M-
222M

The extent to which tourism and recreation are considered ecosystem services depends on the extent that these activities depend on the natural ecosystems. The government of Samoa also benefits from marine and coastal tourism through tax revenue.

RESEARCH, EDUCATION & MANAGEMENT



65M

Marine and coastal areas attract foreign aid for research, development and management work that benefits the Government and Samoan people.

SAND & AGGREGATE



26.5K

Sand is extracted for commercial and private use in Samoa. The total gross revenue derived from sales of sand permits in 2018/19 was SAT\$26,430. However, this amount is an under-estimation of the value of this ecosystem service as information on the extraction activities and location of the sites is unavailable.

384K



CARBON SEQUESTRATION

Samoa's mangroves provide carbon sequestration benefits to the world. If mangroves at risks are protected, they could be sold as carbon offsets.

SUBSISTENCE FISHERIES 50M

Coastal subsistence fishing refers to harvesting of fish and other marine products for household consumption, given as gifts, or exchanged with other goods and services by fishers.

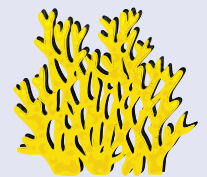


54M COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

The coastal commercial catch is mostly destined for sale at the local markets. The domestic commercial fisheries also include deep-water bottom fishing, trolling and small-scale tuna longlining.

COASTAL PROTECTION

19M



The annual value of coastal protection provided by coral reefs against damage from storm flooding in Samoa for residential and tourist accommodation along the coastal areas is estimated at SAT\$19,7M.