THE CONVERGENCE INITIATIVE

THE CONVERGENCE ACTION BLUEPRINT OF SAMOA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Convergence Action Blueprint (CAB) serves as a practical framework to facilitate synergies between food systems transformation and climate action, supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement objectives at the national level through national food systems policies, plans, and programs.

Samoa's CAB is a living document and will be updated periodically. It provides a structured approach for conceptualizing and implementing Samoa's strategic actions that align with both agendas while promoting sustainable development.

Samoa's CAB comprises four main pillars:

- **Pillar 1: Convergence vision and objectives**
- **Pillar 2: Key convergence interventions**
- **Pillar 3: Convergence milestones**
- **Pillar 4. Monitoring, evaluation, and accountability**

Implementation will be anchored in Samoa's existing national, sectoral, and community governance and coordination systems to ensure integrated delivery of food systems transformation and climate action. The CAB aligns with the Pathway for the Development of Samoa; Sector Plans (14 sector plans inclusive of the Agriculture & Fisheries Sector, Health Sector, etc) (PDS), the Samoa Food Systems Pathway (SFSP) 2030, the Samoa Climate Change Policy (SCCP) 2020–2030, the Samoa Agriculture and Fisheries Climate Change Policy (SAFCCP) 2023–2028, the District Development Programme (DDP), and other relevant national frameworks and strategies. This alignment strengthens policy coherence, implementation coordination, and community-level impact across Samoa.

1. BACKGROUND

The United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) 2021 marked a critical turning point in global efforts to transform food systems, recognizing their centrality to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As part of this global process, Samoa developed its first 'Samoa Food Systems Pathway (SFSP) 2030' in 2021, outlining national priorities and strategic actions to drive sustainable food systems transformation. Implementation is ongoing, with a strong emphasis on strengthening multi-sectoral collaborative efforts, policy coherence, resourcing and financial commitments, capacity building, governance and implementation oversight, and monitoring and evaluation. The Convergence Initiative bridges two global milestones: the UN Secretary-General's Call to Action for Accelerated Food Systems Transformation (UNFSS+2) and the COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action. Together, these highlight the urgency of aligning food systems transformation with climate action to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement goals.

Samoa's CAB reinforces the country's ongoing commitment to transforming its food system and to climate action. It highlights key issues and challenges at the intersection of food systems transformation and climate action and identifies key strategic areas for convergence. Samoa's CAB is a collaborative effort of key stakeholders developed with the support of our UN agencies.

The Convergence Initiative Dialogue held on 6 November 2025 provided an inclusive space for key stakeholders across sectors to come together and contribute collectively to the development of the CAB. The Initiative aligns with national development frameworks, including those for human development and social protection, to ensure that improved food systems also advance family well-being, nutrition, school attendance, and protection outcomes.

2. SAMOA FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION AND CLIMATE ACTION

Climate change is the greatest threat to Samoa, a small Pacific island developing country with a population of 205,557. Due to its physical and natural endowments (tropical, isolated, islandness, and small), the country is extremely vulnerable to natural disasters, climate change, and other external shocks and stresses. This situates Samoa as the 44th most vulnerable country, with 44 percent of the population falling into this category. The country relies heavily on its natural resources for food, livelihoods, and income security, as well as for sustainable economic growth. These natural resources, which underpin the interdependent and sustainable development of food systems and the agriculture and fisheries sector (the backbone of the economy), are under extreme stress and face severe threats from climate change. Changing weather patterns and extreme, uncomfortable conditions (due to increased intensity and erratic rainfall, for instance) contribute to an increasingly volatile environment that affects productivity. Existential threats and hazards from sea level rise, flooding, coastal erosion, and increasingly severe tropical cyclones directly endanger ecosystems, infrastructure, food security, and livelihoods. Samoa is projected to incur about USD 10 million in annual losses from earthquakes and tropical cyclones, with a 50 percent chance of a disaster-related loss exceeding USD 110 million and a 10 percent chance exceeding USD350 million over the next four decades.

Ongoing challenges include environmental degradation; scarcity of land and water resources; limited diversification; decline in labor and people's engagement in unsustainable agricultural activities; increases in diseases (human, animals, and plants); high cost of production; increasing population (increasing demand), urbanization, changing lifestyles; and increasing dependence on food imports. 3 percent of Samoans face severe food insecurity, while 20 percent face moderate food insecurity, with 22 percent of the population living below the basic national poverty line. The Samoan diet is not diversified, falling short of the required micronutrients, and is rich in fats and low in carbohydrates. Only 40 percent of households are likely to afford a nutritious diet. With the increasing burden of malnutrition and diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs), over 70 percent of the population is overweight, and half are obese, with NCDs contributing to around 80 percent of deaths; more than half are premature deaths. NCDs are estimated to cost 9 percent of GDP by 2040. The substantial increases in diabetic and obesity rates signify a transformational shift in the population's dietary patterns and food and nutrition systems over centuries, with expected increases to continue into the near future.

The convergence of food systems transformation and climate action is essential to strengthening resilience, mitigating impacts, ensuring sustainable food production and supply chains, and addressing nutrition security. This requires integrated policy, innovative financial solutions and technological investments, collaborative and inclusive governance and implementation, and strong and effective leadership. Samoa has established its national

policy and planning frameworks to direct and guide its food systems and transformation, signifying its commitment to advancing the climate action and sustainable development agenda. These are articulated in its Pathway for the Development of Samoa (PDS) 2021-2026; Food Systems Pathway (SFSP) 2030; Samoa Climate Change Policy (SCCP) 2020-2030; Samoa Agriculture and Fisheries Climate Change Policy (AFSP) 2023-2028; National Food and Nutrition Policy (NFNP) 2021-2026; Samoa National Determination Contribution (NDC) 3.0; and others.

The SFSP 2030 outlined an ambitious agenda aimed at '*transforming food systems for a resilient and healthy Samoa where no one is left behind',* to:

- ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all;
- shift to sustainable consumption patterns;
- boost nature-positive production;
- build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stress.

Samoa's Climate Change Policy (SCCP) 2020–2030 establishes a comprehensive framework guiding adaptation and mitigation efforts, adopting a whole-of-country approach (through the sector-wide planning framework) to strengthen resilience against climate change impacts. Adaptation measures at the grassroots level are made in accordance with Community Integrated Management (CIM) Plans covering all 368 villages in Samoa.

To address the specific vulnerabilities and needs of the agriculture and fisheries sector, Samoa developed its first Samoa Agriculture and Fisheries Climate Change Policy (SAFCCP) in 2023. It identified climate risks in the agriculture and fisheries sector and food systems, and outlined a framework of adaptation and mitigation actions that stakeholders should adopt, develop, and implement to enhance the sector's response to climate change risks and impacts. Mitigation and adaptation actions targeted the achievement of five strategic objectives:

- build evidence-based knowledge of climate change and its impacts on the sector;
- boost adaptation and resilience of the sector through climate-smart actions;
- enhance the sector's contribution to climate change mitigation;
- develop capacities, resourcing, and investments for sector climate-smart actions;
- strengthen the sector enabling environment for climate-smart actions.

Samoa's NDC 3.0 (third submission) aimed to reduce GHG emissions in the energy, agriculture, forestry, and other land use (AFOLU) sectors by 21 percent and 55 percent, respectively, in 2035. Key mitigation and adaptation actions include restoring mangrove forests and agroforestry, strengthening loss and damage response, and ensuring gender and social inclusion initiatives.

Only USD 3 million per year is allocated to implementing climate actions in Samoa's food systems. Under the established national policy and planning framework, Samoa will need

USD 14 million per year to implement its SFSP 2030 (with a primary focus on boosting local production and sustainable consumption to improve food and nutrition security), as well as USD 15 million to implement mitigation and adaptation actions in food systems. These amounts are for climate financing in the food systems, agriculture, and fisheries sectors only, and do not include overall climate change actions across all other sectors of the economy.

The key challenges with the realization of Samoa's food systems transformation and climate action agenda lie in effective implementation through a sector-wide approach and collaborative commitments. Barriers include the lack of dedicated funding or committed resourcing; limited capacity (lack of knowledge and human resources in critical technical areas of the food systems and climate action); competing priorities for implementation across different sectors operating within limited resources; lack of effective and robust monitoring and evaluation; and lack of sustained leadership commitment and collaboration to drive and sustain the implementation of the agenda. Policy coherence and alignment of programming actions across all sections through multi-sectoral approaches need improvement.

Through the Convergence Initiative workshop and consultations, stakeholders identified key drivers at the intersection of food systems transformation and climate action: a) supply chain transformation through rural development; b) agroecological and circular food systems transformation; c) shift in consumption and nutrition patterns; d) sustainable financing for food systems transformation and climate action convergence; and e) innovation and technological investments. These interconnected key drivers signify the complex interdependencies between socio-economic development, environmental sustainability, and food systems adaptation and resilience. Addressing these challenges requires collaborative, multi-sectoral approaches to ensure food systems in Samoa can support economic growth, improve nutrition outcomes, and build resilience to climate change impacts.

3. CONVERGENCE ACTION

3.1. PILLAR 1 – VISION AND OBJECTIVES

Vision: Transforming sustainable food systems through agroecological, integrative, innovative, and climate-smart action for a resilient, equitable, and healthy Samoa where every person and community participates and benefits.

Objectives:

- To strengthen multi-sectoral approaches and policy coherence between food systems, climate action, and nutrition.
- To boost supply chain transformation through rural development.
- To enhance the transformation of agroecological and circular food systems.
- To stimulate the shift in consumption and nutrition patterns.
- To enhance climate-smart innovation and technological investments in food systems.
- To foster sustainable financing for food systems transformation and climate action convergence.
- To build capacity in sustainable food systems transformation, climate adaptation, and mitigation.
- To embed gender equality, disability inclusion, and social protection across all convergence actions.

3.2. PILLAR 2 – KEY CONVERGENCE INITIATIVES

Figure 1 below outlines the interconnected areas for convergence interventions:

Figure 1. Key convergence intervention areas

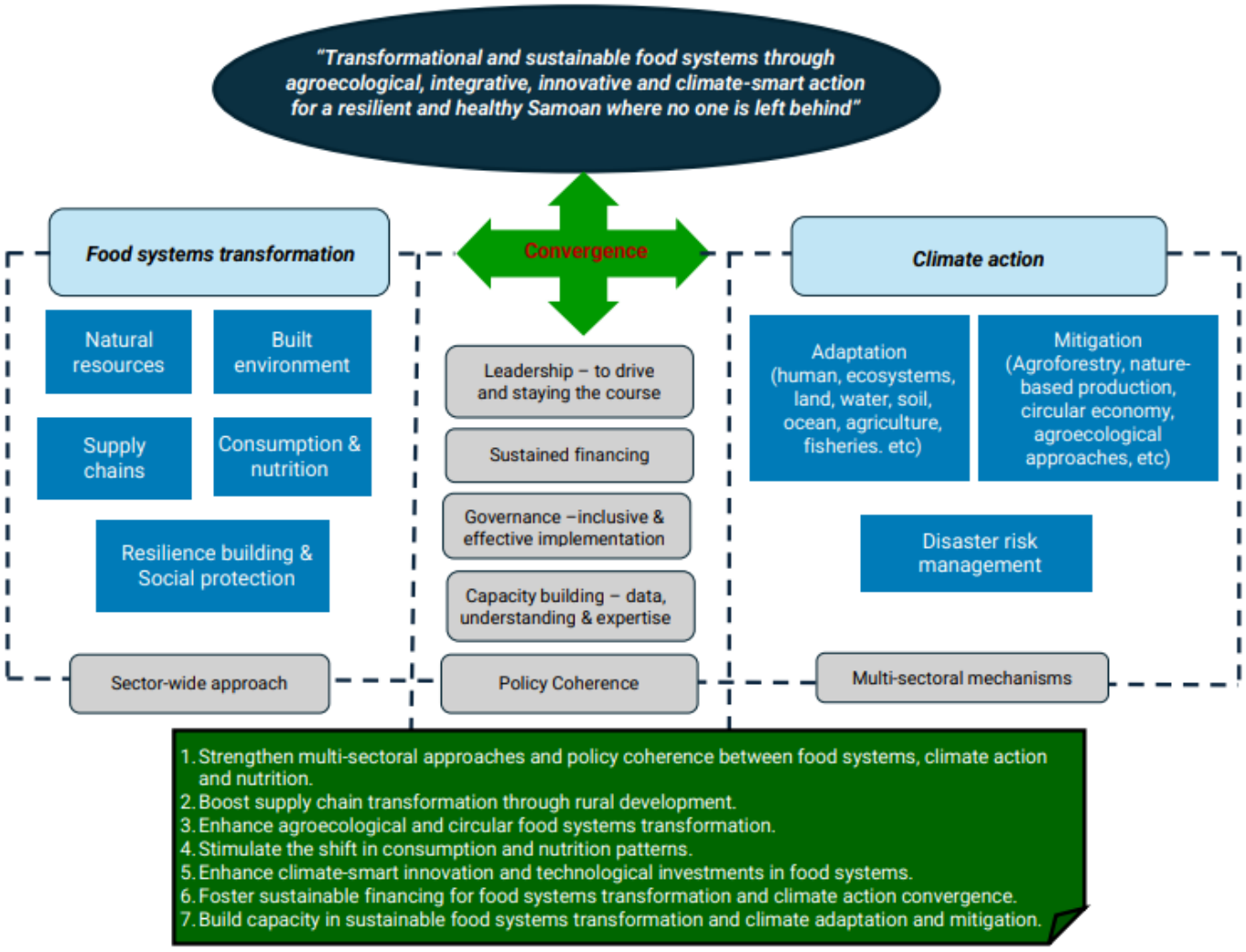

Table 1 identifies key intervention actions to accelerate the transition toward convergence.

Table 1: Convergence intervention actions

Key convergence intervention areas	Convergence intervention actions
1. Strengthen multi-sectoral approaches and policy coherence between food systems, climate action, and nutrition.	1.1. Ensure alignment of all sectoral policies and plans for integrative food systems transformation and climate action across all sectors. 1.2. Ensure all required development and regulatory policies governing food systems and climate action convergence are in place and remain up to date. 1.3. Facilitate multi-sectoral approaches to enhance effective and inclusive implementation of food systems transformation and climate action.
2. Boost supply chain transformation through rural development.	2.1. Boost local food production and value chain transformation through district development programs and support from other development partners. 2.2. Integrate nature-positive production and climate-smart agricultural practices to foster agrifood systems development. 2.3. Stimulate trade and exports to incentivize increased commercialization and import substitution.
3. Enhance agroecological and circular food systems transformation.	3.1. Promote agroecological practices in convergence actions. 3.2. Adopt initiatives to advance the circular economy. 3.3. Build awareness and capacity for agroecological practices and the transformation of circular food systems. 3.4. Ensure accessibility for vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, elderly farmers, and low-income households, by integrating assistive technologies and universal design principles.
4. Stimulate the shift in consumption and nutrition patterns.	4.1. Promote, integrate, and operationalize the One Health concept into food systems transformation and convergence action. 4.2. Strengthen food safety and nutritional standards across Samoa. 4.3. Promote the consumption of locally-produced, nutritious foods.

5. Enhance climate-smart innovation and technological investments in food systems.	5.1. Building understanding of climate-smart innovation and technological investments suitable for Samoa's food systems. 5.2. Adopt a long-term (20-year) plan on climate-smart innovation and technological investments in food systems. 5.3. Acquire the knowledge and capacity to ensure the take-up of innovation and investments, and their sustainability.
6. Foster sustainable financing for food systems transformation and for the convergence of climate action.	6.1. Develop a clear and well-articulated financing framework and plan for sustainable food systems transformation and climate action convergence. 6.2. Seek the long-term financial commitments of development partners in sustainable food systems transformation and climate action convergence. 6.3. Seek to develop and implement local sustainable financial models and practices for key players of the food systems transformation and climate action convergence.
7. Build capacity in sustainable food systems transformation, climate adaptation, and mitigation	7.1. Formulate and implement a capacity development plan in food systems transformation and climate action convergence. 7.2. Strengthen data and evidence as the basis of building understanding and better informed policy and planning in food systems transformation and climate action convergence. 7.3. Leverage sustained leadership commitment to drive the food systems transformation and climate action convergence agenda.
8. Embed gender equality, disability inclusion, and social protection across all convergence actions.	8.1. Ensure the integration of gender equality, disability inclusion, and social protection in convergence initiatives/actions. 8.2. Ensure equitable participation and targeted financing for women, youth, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups. 8.3. Ensure disaggregated data and reporting integrate gender-, age-, disability-, and social inclusion aspects, and that evidence informs convergence decisions and actions.

3.3. PILLAR 3 – CONVERGENCE MILESTONES

Convergence Intervention Area	Short Term (2027)	Medium Term (2030)	Long Term (2030)
1. Strengthen multi-sectoral approaches and policy coherence	All relevant sectoral policies reviewed and gaps identified. A national multi-sectoral coordination mechanism for food systems and climate action is established and operational.	Policy coherence between food systems transformation, climate action, and nutrition is fully achieved. All sectoral plans are aligned and actively being implemented in an integrated manner.	Multi-sectoral governance is institutionalised and self-sustaining, with regular policy reviews ensuring adaptation to emerging national and global priorities.
2. Boost supply chain transformation through rural development	District-level development programmes incorporating food production and value chain support are designed and piloted. Nature-positive and climate-smart agricultural practices are introduced in target communities.	Local food production is measurably increased, and value chains are strengthened across districts. Trade and export initiatives are operational, incentivising commercialisation and import substitution.	Local food value chains are resilient, competitive, and climate-adapted. Increased local food production consistently meets national demand and reduces import dependence.
3. Enhance agroecological and circular food systems transformation	Awareness campaigns and capacity-building programmes on agroecological practices and circular food systems are launched. Pilot initiatives on circular economy approaches are initiated.	Agroecological practices are adopted across key farming communities. Circular food system initiatives are operational, reducing waste and improving resource efficiency.	Agroecological and circular food system principles are mainstreamed across Samoa's agrifood sector, with all vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities and elderly farmers, benefiting from inclusive access.

4. Stimulate the shift in consumption and nutrition patterns	The One Health concept is integrated into national food systems planning. Food safety and nutritional standards are reviewed and updated. Awareness programmes promoting locally produced nutritious foods are launched.	Consumption of locally produced, nutritious foods has measurably increased. Food safety and nutritional standards are fully enforced across Samoa.	Samoa's population demonstrates improved dietary diversity and nutrition outcomes. Local food culture and nutritional standards are embedded in national health and food systems policies.
5. Enhance climate-smart innovation and technological investments	A baseline assessment of climate-smart innovation and technological needs for Samoa's food systems is completed. Priority technologies and innovations are identified through stakeholder consultation.	A 20-year plan on climate-smart innovation and technological investments in food systems is adopted. Initial technologies are operational, with capacity to manage and sustain them in place.	Climate-smart technologies and innovations are integrated across food systems at scale. Samoa has the institutional knowledge and capacity to independently sustain and expand technological investments.
6. Foster sustainable financing for food systems transformation	A financing framework and plan for sustainable food systems transformation and climate action convergence is developed. Initial financial commitments from development partners are secured.	Long-term financial commitments from development partners are in place. Local sustainable financing models are developed and being piloted by key food systems actors.	Sustainable local financing mechanisms are fully operational and self-sustaining. Samoa's food systems transformation and climate action convergence is adequately resourced through a diversified mix of domestic and international financing.
7. Build capacity in sustainable food	A national capacity development plan for	Capacity development	Samoa has a fully capable and resilient

	systems transformation and climate adaptation	food systems transformation and climate action convergence is formulated and implementation begun. Baseline data on food systems and climate action are collected and systematised.	programmes are delivering measurable improvements in technical skills and institutional knowledge. Data and evidence systems are informing policy and planning decisions across sectors.	national workforce to lead and sustain food systems transformation and climate action. Robust, disaggregated data systems support ongoing evidence-based decision-making.
8.	Embed gender equality, disability inclusion, and social protection	Gender equality, disability inclusion, and social protection standards are integrated into the design of all convergence initiatives. Disaggregated data collection systems are established.	Women, youth, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups are equitably participating in and benefiting from convergence actions. Targeted financing mechanisms for these groups are operational.	Full and equitable inclusion of all groups is achieved across food.

3.4. PILLAR 4 – MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Samoa will establish a monitoring, evaluation, and accountability framework and systems for its Convergence Initiative. It will incorporate and address the following areas and mechanisms to facilitate effective and efficient monitoring, evaluation, and accountability of Samoa's CAB:

- Consolidation of key performance indicators, targets, and measurements of the Convergence intervention action plan.
- Systems to track the implementation of the approved implementation plan on the Convergence intervention actions.
- Reporting requirements and mechanisms to provide updates on implementation progress and achievements of the Convergence intervention actions.

- Identification of data requirements and data sources of the Samoa's CAB to provide a comprehensive, holistic, and better-informed understanding of the Convergence Initiative and its adoption and implementation in Samoa.
- Mechanisms to develop and implement a One Data Initiative to integrate or consolidate all data and information required (across all sectors) for monitoring, evaluation, and reporting purposes, including systems to streamline, access, share, store, and analyze data and information to inform Convergence intervention actions and areas for continuous improvements.
- Development of a national digital dashboard for monitoring CAB progress.
- National data systems and reporting will harmonize with district-level MIS platforms to ensure sex-, age-, and disability-disaggregated evidence informs all decisions and budgets.
- Establishment of a national indicator that 'by 2030, 100% of districts reporting disaggregated data on food, climate, and social resilience indicators'.
- Establishment of a Data Governance Subgroup to standardize indicators, ensure data interoperability, and guide national evidence-building for convergence.
- Strengthen integration and coherence in the monitoring, evaluation, and accountability requirements for all food systems and climate change policies - SFSP 2030; SCCP 2020-2030; SAFCCP 2023-2028; NFNP 2021-2026; Samoa NDC; and others.
- Ensure the conduct of annual reviews, mid-term evaluations, and final evaluations of all food systems and climate change policies (SFSP 2030; SCCP 2020-2030; SAFCCP 2023-2028; NFNP 2021-2026; Samoa NDC; and others) to identify lessons learned and inform improvements to the Convergence Action.
- Adjustment of Samoa CAB or Convergence Initiative's indicators, targets, and other variables in the monitoring, evaluation, and accountability framework to ensure ongoing and future relevance.

The Samoa Agriculture and Fisheries Sector Advisory Committee (SAFSAC) is the coordinating body and National Convenor of Samoa's CAB. It will continue to strengthen the sector-wide approach and multi-sectoral working mechanisms required for the CAB. The composition of the SAFSAC will be reviewed regularly to ensure inclusive participation of key stakeholders and development partners of the food systems and climate action agendas. The SAFSAC provides strategic leadership and governance oversight of the adoption and implementation of Samoa's CAB.

The Samoa Convergence Group will be included in one of the four Samoa Agriculture and Fisheries Sector Working Groups (SAFSWC). The Samoa Convergence Group ensures inclusive participation by key players, including farmers, producers, and climate change actors. The Group regularly reports to SAFSAC on progress made with Samoa's CAB. Together with the National Convenor, the Convergence Group identifies technically sound and politically feasible policy and programming interventions for progressing food systems transformation and climate action convergence. They analyze Samoa's agrifood systems, climate risks and actions, assess modeling capacities, and map and develop engagement.

4. NEXT STEPS

Samoa's CAB serves as a ***living document*** to be updated. Further consultations will take place to ensure that additional inputs and views are incorporated into the Samoa CAB and that the CAB remains updated, reflecting the views of stakeholders and key issues, challenges, and priorities.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, together with key partners (UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, FAO, UN Agencies, and other development partners) and Convergence Group, will circulate this document amongst all sector stakeholders and partners. This includes building awareness and understanding of the Samoa CAB amongst all stakeholders, and facilitating the take-up of initiatives to integrate and operationalize the Samoa CAB across all sectors, sub-sectors, and organizational policies and programs.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, together with the Convergence Group, will establish mechanisms to implement evidence-informed convergence.