In-depth analysis of Partnerships for Small Island Developing States

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Advance version

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Executive Summary

Introduction

At the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS Conference) held in 2014 in Apia, Samoa, member States emphasized that international cooperation and partnerships of various kinds and across a wide variety of stakeholders are critical for the implementation of the sustainable development of SIDS. The Conference resulted in an intergovernmental agreed outcome document – the SAMOA Pathway - and the announcement of 300 multi-stakeholder partnerships devoted to the sustainable development of SIDS. It also resulted in the subsequent development of the SIDS Action Platform designed to monitor progress of existing, and stimulate the launch of new SIDS partnerships.

On 27 September 2019, Member States will convene a one-day high-level meeting at United Nations to review progress made in addressing the priorities of SIDS through the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway [1]. A robust preparatory process is currently underway, which has featured three regional meetings of SIDS in their respective regions, as well as an interregional meeting for all SIDS to be held in Apia, Samoa, from 30 October to 2 November 2019.

As part of the inter-regional meeting, a **Samoa Partnership Dialogue** will take place on 29 October 2018 in Apia, Samoa. The Dialogue will build on the outcomes of three regional partnership dialogues[2], with the overall objective to advance the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in SIDS by increasing the capacity of stakeholders in forging new, genuine and durable multi-stakeholder partnerships, and strengthening the monitoring and review process of partnerships in SIDS.

The in-depth analysis of existing partnerships for SIDS has been undertaken for the purpose of helping countries prepare for the Samoa Partnership Dialogue. The in-depth analysis aims to answer the following questions:

- What is the status and trends of SIDS partnerships globally, regionally and nationally?
- How have these partnerships addressed the SAMOA Pathway priority areas?
- Are there under-represented areas of the SAMOA Pathway that may need to be addressed through further partnerships?
- Have the partnerships had an impact on their beneficiaries and on sustainable development of SIDS?
- What challenges have the partnerships faced?

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[1] A/RES/72/217

[2] Organized as part of a project by UN DESA with funding provided by Italy

- What lessons have been learned that could help in developing the next generation of genuine and durable multi-stakeholder partnerships?

Summary of status and trends

Overall, the results of the in-depth analysis show that numbers of partnerships have increased in all regions since the 2014 SIDS Conference.

The Pacific region has the most partnerships, followed by the Caribbean, and AIMS/IAS. In addition, SIDS in all regions participate in global and multi-regional partnerships that are included in this analysis. The numbers of SIDS partnerships regionally and globally are summarized in the table below.

The term "active partnerships" refers to those partnerships that are currently operating, leaving out partnerships that have already completed their work. A relatively large number of partnerships have now been completed (246 across all regions and globally), and many more will come to an end soon. These partnerships have valuable experience and lessons learned to offer, providing an opportunity to apply them in the design of the next generation of genuine and durable SIDS partnerships.

Table 1 - Distribution of partnerships

	Partnerships registered at the 2014 SIDS Conference	**Total partnerships in October 2018**	**Total active partnerships in October 2018**
Global	113	147	127
AIMS/AIS	20	72	49
Caribbean	42	178	141
Pacific	134	387	223

Participation

The main entities leading partnerships include governments, regional organizations and United Nations organizations. At the global level, the majority (52%) of partnerships are led by United Nations organizations, while governments generally lead the majority of partnerships in the regions, with regional organizations also coordinating a substantial number of partnerships.

In the Caribbean, a larger number of partnerships were led by regional organizations than by governments. In the AIMS/AIS region, the lack of a regional coordinating body resulted in very few partnerships that encompassed the entire region, with most being either national or sub-regional in scope.

NGOs and civil society participate in partnerships throughout all regions, but lead a minority of them. Their participation was the highest in the Pacific region, where 16% of partnerships were led by NGOs and civil society, likely due to the many partnerships in that region that work with local communities. Participation by the private sector and by academia was generally lower than that of NGOs and civil society.

All three Regional Partnerships Dialogues agreed that genuine and durable partnerships include the participation of, and ownership by, all stakeholders. Thus there is need to strengthen the participation of under-represented stakeholders in partnerships, including the private sector, civil society and academic/research organizations.

Reporting

The reporting rate of partnerships to the SIDS Action platform is low, and is currently around an average of 50% for most regions. Regional partnerships have, in general, slightly higher reporting rates than national ones.

Reporting on impacts of partnerships on beneficiaries is generally lacking, which makes it difficult to assess the overall impacts of partnerships on the sustainable development of SIDS nationally, regionally and globally. In some cases, individual partnerships may not undertake review and monitoring of the impacts of their activities, baseline data may be lacking, and some partnerships report primarily to their donors or to national/regional processes.

There is clearly a need to strengthen both the review and monitoring undertaken by individual partnerships, as well as the reporting pathways between national, regional and global levels. This need was also identified and discussed at the three Regional Partnership Dialogues.

Summary of how partnerships address Samoa Pathway priority areas

The in-depth analysis assessed how existing partnerships have addressed Samoa Pathway priority areas, including the numbers of partnerships in each priority area, their focus, and, in some cases, their content. It is generally agreed that numbers cannot tell the full story, and that a few good and comprehensive partnerships may be more effective than a larger number of poorly executed partnerships. However, partnership numbers still provide an indication of interest and priority given to specific issues by donors, governments and intergovernmental organizations. A larger number of partnerships may also indicate that many different aspects of a priority area are being addressed on levels ranging from local, national, regional to global.

Overall, the existing partnerships address all Samoa Pathway priority areas, but in an uneven way. In most regions, oceans and seas and climate change are well addressed, with many partnerships also focusing on sustainable economic growth, renewable energy and disaster risk reduction. However, there are also some regional differences, as discussed below.

Global:

Global partnerships have the important function of providing for dialogue and learning between regions, while allowing countries to make collective progress on issues and policies of common concern.

Climate change and resilience is by far the largest priority area of global SIDS partnerships, approximately half of which address this topic in some way. Other common priority areas of partnerships on the global level include biodiversity and oceans; access to education, particularly higher education; access to technologies, data and information; as well as renewable energy.

The priority area of sustainable economic development includes partnerships designed to assist national transitions to green and blue economies, including its components such as sustainable tourism and fisheries. Priority areas with far fewer partnerships include social development, poverty, gender equality, sustainable consumption and production, health and NCDs, and sustainable transportation.

AIMS/AIS:

Oceans and seas is the largest priority area in the AIMS/AIS region (28% of total partnerships), followed by social development and sustainable economic growth. The oceans and seas priority area includes partnerships on marine and coastal conservation, spatial planning, species conservation, sustainable aquaculture, marine pollution prevention, and blue economies. None of the priority areas is particularly under-represented, but a primary focus on health and NCDs, as well as gender is lacking in partnerships.

Climate change and disaster risk priority areas are less prominently addressed in this region than in other regions. Food security has a strong focus on fisheries, with agriculture less prominently featured, while the few sustainable transportation partnerships focused on shipping. With some of the water, wastewater, sanitation and watershed management partnerships now having completed their work, this area may also be an area that requires further focus.

Pacific:

The existing partnerships are broadly aligned with regional priorities on oceans (5o% of partnerships related to this priority area in one way or another), with climate change, disaster risk reduction and economic development also well represented. The ocean partnerships included marine protected areas, locally managed marine areas, coral reef and mangrove conservation, marine spatial planning, climate resilience and ocean acidification, scientific research and fisheries.

Sustainable economic growth was a component of approximately 30% of the partnerships, and ranged from green and blue economies to sustainable financial services and initiatives relating to tourism, agriculture and aquaculture.

A number of partnerships incorporated aspects of traditional knowledge and culture. Sustainable and renewable energy and energy efficiency, gender, wastewater and sanitation, health and NCDs, and sustainable transportation were also addressed in partnerships, though aspects of these issues may require further work, for example low cost and energy efficient

transportation to remote islands in the region. Under-represented areas included poverty, inequality, and sustainable consumption and production.

Caribbean:

Existing partnerships addressed all of the Samoa Pathway priority areas, with partnerships in oceans and seas (16%), sustainable economic growth (15%), climate change (13%), and sustainable energy (12%) having the largest number of partnerships. Ocean-related partnerships incorporated similar issues to the partnerships in the Pacific, detailed above.

The economic growth priority area included the development of national green and blue economies, sustainable tourism and fisheries, fostering private investment in nations around the Caribbean, rural economic development, and improving capacity in public finance. Sustainable energy partnerships centered on energy efficiency and development of clean and renewable energy technologies, with many Caribbean-wide partnerships.

Issues related to the social development priority area included programs for youth, protection of the rights of children, gender issues, strengthening civil society, protection of traditional knowledge and cultural heritage, and a variety of educational initiatives. Also represented were food security and nutrition and disaster risk reduction. Priority areas with fewer partnerships included terrestrial biodiversity, sustainable consumption and production, trade, sustainable transportation, recycling, hazardous wastes and wastewater.

Integration in partnerships

Most partnerships included in the analysis addressed multiple Samoa Pathway priority areas, demonstrating a high degree of integration in their design. For example, partnerships relating to fisheries also often promote economic and social development, sustainable consumption and production, food security and nutrition, as well as gender equality. Partnerships relating to water and sanitation also recognize a contribution to human and environmental health and economic development. Many climate change-related partnerships also incorporate issues related to renewable energy, environmental sustainability, resilience, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and marine transportation.

Perhaps the most well-integrated partnerships are those relating to green and blue economies, which place themselves in the nexus of economic development, social inclusion and environmental protection. These partnerships often seek to advance innovation, new technologies, and capacities, and provide employment opportunities in sectors including sustainable tourism, fisheries, aquaculture, renewable energy, transportation, blue carbon, etc.

Impacts of partnerships

Partnerships seldom report on their impacts on the global level, and thus there is no consistent source of information about their impacts on beneficiaries. Some information on this respect is available from individual partnerships and from donor-conducted evaluations.

Demonstrable impacts of SIDS partnerships include increasing protection of marine and terrestrial environments, and improving the management and funding of protected areas. Some effective regional approaches, particularly on marine protection, have been greatly scaled up, demonstrating the potential of successful partnership approaches to spread across regions. One example is the Locally Managed Marine Areas Network, which has expanded from a single village in Fiji to incorporating 600 villages and covering an area of more than 12,000 km^2 in 15 Pacific Island States and some Indian Ocean countries, providing benefits on fisheries and community livelihoods. Another example is the Micronesia challenge to effectively conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020, which has inspired the Caribbean Challenge and the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge.

Other demonstrable impacts of partnerships include improving access of communities to water, which reduces poverty, improves health outcomes, facilitates climate change adaptation, and mitigates the threat of natural and man-made hazards; providing opportunities for marginalized women to access finance and incorporating their economic potential into the wider economy; and piloting financing mechanisms for wastewater management, for supporting the work of civil society organizations; and for conservation and climate adaptation activities.

A majority of partnerships provide some degree of capacity building and, in some cases, technology transfer. Thus, their impacts may include long-lasting skill-building on the individual level, as well as strengthening institutions in the region.

Identifying under-represented areas that could be addressed through new or enhanced partnerships

The results of the in-depth analysis, as well as data from the Human Development Index (HDI) compiled for SIDS countries by UNDP, highlight some under-represented Samoa Pathway priority areas, which may require further attention, including through partnerships. These areas include:

- **Aspects of social and economic development, in particular addressing inequality and ensuring that no one is left behind**. Such partnerships may include actions relating to income inequality, poverty, education, and health, and provide for the inclusion of marginalized groups.
- **Multiple dimensions of poverty**, particularly in countries and areas with a high number of poor and vulnerable households. These partnerships may require sustained investments in human capital, such as education and health, and food and nutrition security, and may include agriculture, small-scale fisheries, rural development, market development, trade and other activities.
- **Sustainable transportation**, particularly in terms of low-carbon, low cost options for communities on remote islands.
- **Water, wastewater and sanitation** in many areas where these services are still inadequate.
- **Health and NCDs**, particularly in assisting countries implement their NCD-related activities.

- **Gender considerations,** particularly in regards to income equality, women's participation in the workforce, and women's leadership**.**
- **Integrated ecosystem management focusing on whole islands,** particularly on terrestrial and watershed areas, and their connection to the sea, as well as human livelihoods.
- **Sustainable consumption and production**, including addressing this topic holistically in the context of small islands.
- **Sourcing development finance for SIDS**, which is an area that has not seen previous partnerships. One proposal was to engage in partnerships with the insurance industry to mobilize innovative financing.

In addition, each region put forward a number of specific gap areas, which broadly overlap with the general gaps presented above. However, the combination of the present review and the regional partnership dialogues and preparatory workshops also articulated additional and more specific issues that may require further attention.

Table 2 Regionally-specific gap areas

Region	**Identified gap areas**
AIMS/AIS	- Sustainable, equitable and inclusive economic growth, health and NCDs, and gender equality and women's empowerment - Climate change resilience and disaster risk reduction - Fresh water, waste management, WASH - Reducing dependence on imported fuels and expensive transport - Involving more women and youth in decision-making processes - Innovation and the transfer of technology
Pacific	- Poverty, social protections, equality, sustainable consumption and production, water and sanitation, sustainable transportation - Technology transfer for surveillance and monitoring of EEZs, including as it relates to illegal fishing and piracy - Technology as a driver of sustainable development - Participation of women in parliament - Youth, marginalized groups, including people with disabilities
Caribbean	- NCDs, terrestrial biodiversity, trade, wastewater and sanitation, trade, and sustainable transportation - Building resilient health systems, including physical and mental well-being - Development of an integrated regional emergency response including in relation to pests and animal diseases - Fostering innovation in the maritime domain, and maximizing socio-economic benefits of open science and open data towards developing blue economies

Understanding and defining a genuine and durable partnership

The partnerships included in this analysis are heterogeneous in nature. This is not surprising since different partnership types and structures and approaches may be required to address different issues in different countries on levels ranging from local to global. At the same time, the partnerships registered in the SIDS Action Platform also include single events such as conferences, implementing and developing government policy and regulations, and projects related to overseas development funding, some of which are unlikely to be true multi-stakeholder partnerships. All three Regional Partnership Dialogues noted that there is a need to better define and understand what constitutes a genuine and durable partnership, and to build capacity on this issue among those coordinating partnerships. The development of partnership norms, based on the SMART criteria, as well as capacity building, was proposed to address this issue.

Partnership challenges

Common partnership challenges across the three regions included sustainable financing; capacity (human and institutional); an enabling environment dictated by the national social and political context; enabling conditions for the participation of all stakeholders in partnerships; ensuring that the right people with the right expertise are involved in each partnership; lack of trust between partners; and weak institutional, legal and governance structures.

In addition, the monitoring of partnerships and their impacts presented many challenges. There is a lack of baseline data for partnerships, as well as limited monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess progress. Access to information and statistics, managing data, and knowledge transfer were issues in many countries.

Lessons learned and best practices

Lessons learned from partnerships are currently not well documented, and require further attention in the reporting process. In particular partnerships that have been completed will have lessons to offer to the broader community, and may also have suggestions for further partnership work. These experiences should be documented as part of reporting and evaluation processes, and shared through the SIDS Action Platform.

The Regional Partnership Dialogues documented a number of lessons learned and best practices. All regions agreed that successful partnerships depend on ownership, mutual trust, respect, transparency and accountability. The importance of the following for the success of partnerships were also acknowledged: (i) a clear, mandate agreed upon by all partners, with focused science-based goals and objectives; (ii) a robust governance structure; (iii) strong leadership; (iv) a high degree of participation with shared commitments and benefits; (v) a review and monitoring process; (vi) sustainable funding; (vii) partnership champions; (viii) the ability to withstand shock; and (ix) support from the highest political levels.

In addition, it was agreed that partnerships must be inclusive of all stakeholders, and an effort must be made to include marginalized groups so as to leave no one behind. Successful partnerships bring together all stakeholders from the very beginning, ensuring ownership in the process. Partnerships need to be accountable to their beneficiaries and maintain dialogue

with all partners, including communities, throughout the lifetime of the partnership. In order to have buy-in from communities, NGOs and civil society need to be involved. The involvement of academia can improve the scientific (including social science) basis of partnerships, as well as their design and monitoring. Partnerships must also work and cooperate with government and government entities. There is also a need to enhance the involvement of the private sector in all regions, including through the use of evidence-based information and data.

Objectives of the in-depth analysis

The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS Conference) was held from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa under the overarching theme of "*The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships*". The Conference resulted in an intergovernmental agreed outcome document – the SAMOA Pathway - and the announcement of 300 multi-stakeholder partnerships devoted to the sustainable development of SIDS.

Many more partnerships have been initiated since the 2014 SIDS Conference, and some of the partnerships that were announced at that conference have since been completed. The partnerships registered by countries have been incorporated into the *SIDS Action Platform,* which was a key outcome of the SIDS Conference,[3] and is designed to monitor progress of existing, and stimulate the launch of new, genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of SIDS.

There has, in general, been a steady rise in the number of partnerships over the last four years, with the UN Ocean Conference in June 2017 resulting in over 1400 new commitments, which contained many SIDS partnerships for the oceans. Collectively, the partnerships have made considerable contributions to the sustainable development of SIDS.

On 27 September 2019, Member States will convene a one-day high-level meeting at the United Nations to review progress made in addressing the priorities of SIDS through the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway[4]. A robust preparatory process is underway and has included three regional meetings, one in each of the SIDS regions (AIMS/AIS, Pacific and Caribbean), and will culminate in an interregional meeting for all SIDS to be held in Apia, Samoa, from 30 October to 2 November 2018.

As part of the inter-regional meeting, the **Samoa Partnership Dialogue** will take place on 29 October 2018 in Apia, Samoa. The Dialogue will build on the outcomes of the three regional partnership dialogues[5], with the overall objective to advance the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in SIDS by increasing the capacity of stakeholders in forging new, genuine and durable multi-stakeholder partnerships, and strengthening the monitoring and review process of partnerships in SIDS.

This in-depth review of SIDS partnerships aims to assist Member States in better understanding the landscape of the many SIDS partnerships that have been undertaken to implement the SAMOA pathway, and how these partnerships have addressed its priority areas. Specifically, the in-depth review aims to answer the following questions:

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[3] A/RES/70/202

[4] A/RES/72/217

[5] Organized as part of a project by UN DESA with funding provided by Italy

- What is the status and trends of SIDS partnerships globally, regionally and nationally?
- How have these partnerships addressed the SAMOA Pathway priority areas?
- Are there under-represented areas of the SAMOA Pathway that may need to be addressed through further partnerships?
- Have the partnerships had an impact on their beneficiaries and on sustainable development of SIDS?
- What challenges have the partnerships faced?
- What lessons have been learned that could help in developing the next generation of genuine and durable multi-stakeholder partnerships?

The results of this review rely on many different sources of information, as detailed in the next section, and yet information on certain topics, such as the impacts of partnerships, is difficult to come by. To improve this situation for future reviews, the issue of monitoring and reporting will be addressed during the Samoa Partnership Dialogue.

The in-depth analysis is presented in four components. The first component looks at global SIDS partnerships (and global partnerships with SIDS participation), while the second component looks at each region individually, including status and trends of partnerships, representation of Samoa Pathway priority areas in partnerships, their impacts, integration of topics addressed and spillover effects, challenges, and best practices. The third component reviews information from the UNDP 2017 Human Development Index for SIDS for potential priority areas for new partnerships. The fourth and final component provides a summary of the regional analyses and partnership experiences.

Materials and methods

Sources of information

There were many different sources of information that contributed to the present in-depth analysis. The SIDS Acton Platform was, initially, the primary source of information on partnerships and their progress. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), developed, in close collaboration with the Steering Committee, a standardized reporting template[6] for all partnerships that are registered on the SIDS Action Platform[7]. Focal points of the partnerships are requested to use the template as a way to provide progress updates of the partnership, once a year until the partnership is completed. The template seeks information on a) implementation status of the partnership; b) recent achievements of the partnership; c) any challenges faced in implementation; d) next steps for the partnership; e) description of who the beneficiaries of the partnership are; and f) specific

[6] http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/progress/

[7] http://www.sids2014.org/

actions taken to positively impact those beneficiaries. The UN Secretariat uses the information submitted to inform stakeholders of the work of the partnerships.

In addition to the SIDS Action Platform, information about partnerships and their status came from many sources, which included the three regional partnership dialogues, additional work undertaken by regional organizations to analyze partnerships, the reports of the Secretary-General relating to SIDS, websites and published information relating to specific partnerships, including final evaluations of selected partnerships, as well as other sources. Thus, the analysis relied on the following information:

- **SIDS Action Platform – Samoa Pathway partnerships**
- **SIDS Action Platform – 2017 UN Ocean Conference partnerships for SIDS**
- **Information received from regional organizations and from partnership dialogues**. For the Pacific region, this includes information from an analysis conducted by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS). For the Caribbean region, it includes information from a study undertaken by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Each of these sources is referenced in the appropriate section.
- **Information from an analysis of SIDS Human Development indices** undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- **Other relevant information**, such as reports of the Secretary-General, published reports, websites, etc. Each of these sources if referenced as appropriate.

Uncertainties

While efforts have been made to locate additional information about SIDS partnerships, it should be kept in mind that this information is still likely to be incomplete. Many partnerships may not report to international or even regional processes, and governments may not be aware of all active partnerships. Thus, it is very likely that the information in this report may under-estimate the number of partnerships, and that many other partnerships, particularly at the local level, are operating in the regions. Partnerships are also dynamic, with new partnerships being formed and old ones being completed**. The numbers in this report should therefore be interpreted more as an indication of status and trends rather than absolute values.**

In addition, the reporting rate by partnerships is very low, and information about challenges experienced, lessons learned and impacts of partnerships is difficult to find in the SIDS Action Platform. Thus all information about these components comes from the Regional Partnership Dialogues, partnership focal points, and other additional materials.

Status and trends of global SIDS-relevant partnerships

Number of partnerships at 2014 SIDS Conference	Current number of partnerships	Number of completed partnerships	Active partnerships	Number reporting
113	147	22	127	97

There are currently 147 global and inter-regional SIDS-relevant partnerships registered. These are either partnerships specifically designed for SIDS to collaborate across regions and share experiences, or global partnerships involving SIDS and other countries. South-South cooperation, in particular, offers opportunities for SIDS to advance knowledge and implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

Out of the 147 partnerships, the overwhelming majority, a total of 76 partnerships, are led by United Nations organizations. 21 are led by NGOs, 17 by IGOs, 11 by governments, 9 by coalitions of organizations, 7 by academia/research organizations, 5 by the private sector, and one by several regional organizations working together. There was relatively higher degree of reporting by global partnerships as compared to the regional ones.

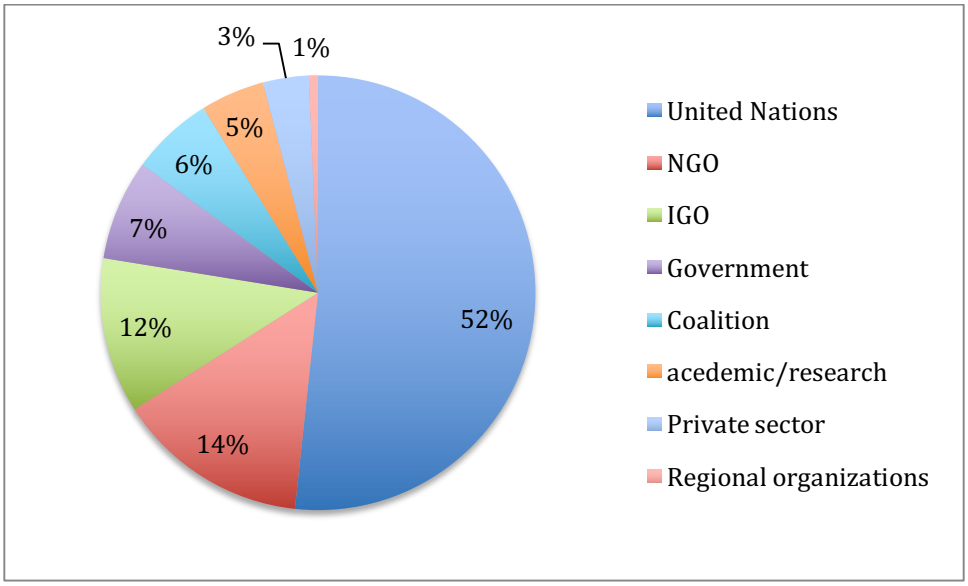

Figure 1 Entities leading partnerships globally. Partnerships by United Nations agencies dominate

At the 2014 SIDS Conference, 113 global/inter-regional partnerships were registered, and the current number of 147 is a slight increase on the 2014 total. However, 22 of the registered

partnerships have now been completed, making the total number of current active global partnerships 127. Several partnerships are set to expire in 2018, and this may present an opportunity for new global partnerships to be registered in response to priority and underrepresented areas.

One important function of global SIDS partnerships is to provide for dialogue and learning between regions, and at the same time, to allow countries to make collective progress on issues and policies of common concern. The Global Island Partnership (see box below) is an example of a global high level islands partnership that aims to build resilient and sustainable island communities by inspiring leadership, catalyzing commitments and facilitating collaboration for all islands.

Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)

Led by the Presidents of Palau and Seychelles, the Prime Minister of Grenada and the Premier of the British Virgin Islands, the Global Island Partnership promotes action to build resilient and sustainable island communities by inspiring leadership, catalyzing commitments and facilitating collaboration. It is a partnership for all islands, regardless of size or political status, to take greater action to conserve and sustainably utilize invaluable island natural resources that support people, culture and livelihoods around the world.

GLISPA realizes its mission by undertaking the following actions:

- Mobilizing high level political will for island commitments and action on resilience and sustainability.
- Building and strengthening partnerships that implement global resilience, conservation & sustainability goals on islands, especially the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Helping members strategize to bring global attention to and support for island solutions and initiatives, especially through major international meetings & conferences.

Since launch in 2006, the Partnership has engaged high-level leaders to catalyze US$150 million for island action and assisted 35+ countries to launch or strengthen major sustainable island commitments. GLISPA now has more than 30 members and 37 friends as part of the island movement.

More information is available at http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/?p=1675 and http://www.glispa.org/

Figure 2 Global Island Partnership

While GLISPA provides an overarching platform for collaboration on island issues, most of the global partnerships are focused on one or several Samoa Pathway priority areas. The global partnerships do not address the Samoa Pathway priority areas in an even way, but rather focus more extensively on a few of them. In particular, climate change and renewable

energy are addressed through many partnerships, while other priority areas, particularly those relating to poverty, health and social sustainability are less represented overall.

Climate change is by far the largest priority area of global partnerships, and approximately half of the registered global partnerships address climate change or climate resilience in some way.

These partnerships cover resilience-building, adaptation, climate finance, climate data, migration, climate change and health, and other relevant topics. Many of the partnerships provide opportunities for South-South collaboration, and for learning from a community of climate practitioners.

Some examples of climate change-related partnerships include the SIDS Blue Guardians Partnership for Protecting Oceans and Climate-resilient Blue Economies; South-South Cooperation between Pacific and Caribbean SIDS on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management (DRM); German Strategic Cooperation with SIDS on Climate Change Adaptation & Disaster Risk Management; World Bank's Small Island States Resilience Initiative (SISRI); The Commonwealth's Climate Finance Access Hub; the Global Adaptation Network (GAN) to help build climate resilience of vulnerable communities, ecosystems and economies through the mobilization of knowledge for adaptation; and Climate Resilient Islands Partnership: An Inter-Regional Partnership on Climate Change Planning and Finance in Small Island Developing States.

Renewable energy and energy efficiency is the focus of more than 15 of the global SIDS partnerships. Some examples of these partnerships include the Lighthouses Initiative led by IRENA (see box below); SIDS-SIDS Partnership on Sustainable Energy for Blue Island Economies; German Strategic Cooperation with SIDS on Sustainable Energy; Global Efficient Lighting Partnership Programme; The En.lighten Initiative, which promotes efficient lighting technologies; and IRENA's Global Renewable Energy Islands Network (GREIN).

Lighthouses Initiative

IRENA has developed the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative to support the strategic deployment of renewable energy in SIDS, to bring clarity to policy makers regarding the required steps, and to enable targeted action. As a joint effort of SIDS and development partners, this framework for action will assist in transforming SIDS energy systems through the establishment of the enabling conditions for a renewable energy-based future, by moving away from developing projects in isolation to a holistic approach that considers all relevant elements spanning from policy and market frameworks, through technology options to capacity building.

The Lighthouses Initiative has five main objectives:

1. Develop and implement a structured approach to island power sector transitions to high shares of renewable energy through a set of guidelines, tools and support mechanisms, thus enabling more efficient use of resources
2. Accelerate renewable energy transitions through identification of needs and gaps, and learning from experiences on other islands.
3. Strengthen knowledge base and building of institutional capacity that can handle a rapid and profound transition
4. Facilitate development of enabling frameworks for investment
5. Identify funding opportunities and facilitate matchmaking between project developers and

funding organizations

More information at: http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/?p=7963

Figure 3 Lighthouses Initiative

While disaster risk reduction is often featured in climate change partnerships, it is not as prominent of a topic as adaptation. Other disaster risk reduction topics for partnerships include global tsunami warning and mitigation systems.

Biodiversity and the oceans are, either directly or indirectly, part of more than half of the registered partnerships. Oceans-related initiatives are more common than terrestrial ones, and include many large global collaborations on topics such as marine protected areas, prevention of marine pollution, blue carbon, coral reefs, ocean acidification, and improved governance of fisheries and other ocean resources. Some examples include UNEP's Blue Carbon Initiative; the Global Programme of Action for Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-based sources (UNEP-GPA), and its partnerships on marine litter, wastewater, nutrients, and waste; International Coral Reef Initiative, Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network; Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON); and SANDWATCH, a Global Observatory of Changing Environments in SIDS based on citizen science.

Many global partnerships focus on improving access to education, particularly higher education in SIDS, and on improving the available data for ecosystem management. The educational initiatives include the University Consortium of Small Island States (UCSIS) and its efforts at SIDS-related curriculum development, including an online higher degree on sustainable development (see box below). Other educational programmes include the Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES), which is UNEP's flagship program on environmental education, aiming to increase mainstreaming of environment and sustainability practices to curricula in universities; and the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC), which is a university training network of small countries committed to the collaborative development of free content resources for use in an educational context.

DOALOS collaborates with the International Seabed Authority and other inter-governmental organizations to promote and facilitate the development and conduct of marine scientific research (MSR) in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The partnership will include demand-driven online training courses, and providing an ongoing opportunity for MSR Professionals to reinforce their knowledge and share experiences within a community of practice, which will be networked through an Internet Portal. The Nippon Foundation and DOALOS collaborate on building capacities on ocean governance for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

University Consortium of Small Island States (UCSIS)

The UCSIS, with the support of UNDESA and the Government of Spain developed an online Master of Science course on Sustainable Development, which launched in 2014. The degree is targeted for students from UCSIS member universities and is supported by an IT platform developed for the universities under the project. Building on this success, the UCSIS will design a joint research programme to develop solutions to key development issues affecting Small Island States. The

programme will involve universities within the UCSIS and the Caribbean Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

More information is available at http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/?p=7537

Figure 4 University Consortium of Small Island States

There were also many partnerships that sought to improve access to technologies and information for sustainable development in SIDS. A number of organizations, including the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) and UNEP support access to technologies. They include WIPO's Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI), which provides research institutions in developing countries free or low-cost access to over 20,000 journals, books and reference works across numerous scientific and technical disciplines; and WIPO GREEN, which promotes innovation and diffusion of green technologies by promoting skill and technology sharing. UNEP Live provides support to integrated environmental assessment processes by making accessible global, regional and national data and knowledge flows. The ICT4SIDS Partnership provides assistance to the implementation of SDGs through latest digital innovations. The private sector was involved in partnerships to provide better telecommunications and broadband access to SIDS.

In addition to technologies, a number of partnerships support SIDS through better access to environmental data. They include the International Hydrographic Organization, which provides fundamental mapping of seas and oceans, as well as hydrographic data, and the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI), which compiles data on marine biodiversity, including ecosystems and species, for better understanding and management of the ocean.

The priority area of economic development is also relatively well covered, though topics such as trade are under-represented. Partnerships relating to economic development incorporate national transitions to green and blue economies, sustainable tourism, microfinance, repurposing plastic litter in the ocean, rebuilding fisheries, combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and trade in fisheries. Some examples of partnerships include UNEP's Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE); Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism; Microlead, a local microfinance programme led by UNCDF; the Commonwealth Marine Economies (CME) Programme; FAO's programmes on blue growth, strengthening fisheries and implementing the Port State Measures Agreement; and UNCTAD's Trade in Fisheries initiative. An innovative economic initiative undertaken by Parley for the Oceans, in collaboration with the private sector and governments, seeks to repurpose plastic waste found on beaches (see box below).

Parley for the Oceans – repurposing plastic waste

Parley for the Oceans has initiated a global movement with a proven approach to solutions: the Parley AIR Strategy: Avoid. Intercept. Redesign. Led by the principles of AIR, the organization aims to tackle the global marine plastic pollution crisis through creativity, collaboration, and eco-innovation, providing a space and network where creators, thinkers, and leaders come together to raise awareness for the beauty and fragility of our oceans and collaborate on projects that can end their destruction.

Since its inception in 2012, Parley for the Oceans has partnered with progressive private sector partners, notably Adidas to change industry and consumer behavior around use of plastics. Through its Corporate AIR guidelines, Adidas has phased out their use of plastics and microplastics in their consumer products and focused on integrating Parley Ocean PlasticTM as a replacement for virgin plastic. Parley Ocean Plastic is made from upcycled plastic waste material recovered from coastal areas through Parley cleanup operations implemented in partnership with governments under its Remote Island Coastal Interception Program. Parley through its partnership with UN SIDS focuses on a Call To Action to scale up the implementation of Parley AIR in vulnerable countries. The Republic of the Maldives and the Government of Grenada have already implemented Parley AIR with others on board to implement AIR before the end of 2017.

More information is available at http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/?p=15581

Figure 5 Parley for the Oceans

The area of social development is under-represented in global partnerships, and there was no partnership found that specifically focused on poverty reduction. While there were several partnerships relating to youth, such as the SIDS Youth Network, only one global partnership directly addressed gender equality. This was a partnership to enhance the role of women in marine scientific research through capacity building led by the International Seabed Authority. One partnership, a corporate programme of the GEF implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), sought to reduce the vulnerability and increase adaptive capacity of communities and disabled persons to manage the additional risks of climate change.

Sustainable Consumption and Production was similarly under-represented, with one partnership titled the "Sustainable Consumption and Production for SIDS Initiative". This partnership aims to undertake the development of national SCP Plans and sub-regional coordination planning frameworks for SIDS, including the promotion of lifecycle based and integrated planning methods.

The Samoa Pathway priority area of health was represented by two registered global partnerships: the Joint United Nations Team on AIDS (JUNTA) initiative on HIV/AIDS prevention, and the NCD Alliance, which is a 2,000 civil society organizations in more than 170 countries, dedicated to improving NCD prevention and control worldwide. Considering the prevalence of NCDs in SIDS, this area could be enhanced through improved support to SIDS on their national NCD actions.

Finally, transportation was represented by two International Maritime Organization (IMO) projects: the IMO's Global Maritime Technology Cooperation Centres' Network Project (GMN), which conducts training on energy efficiency and GHG in shipping; and a project to reduce hull fouling in ships.

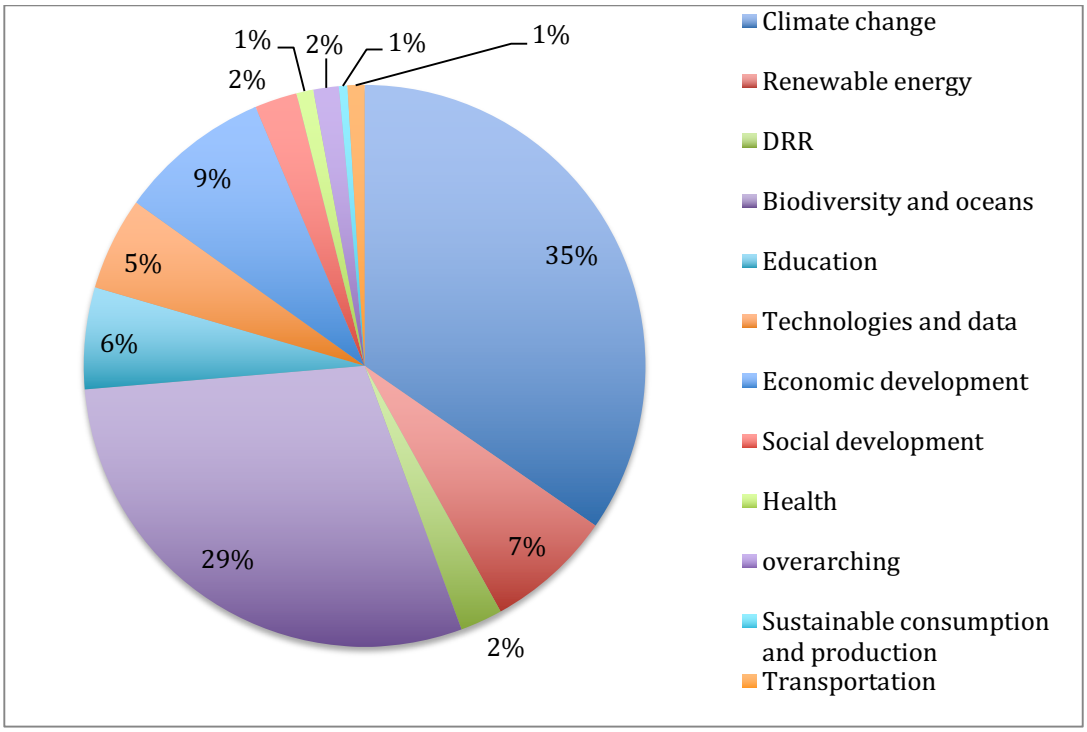

Figure 6 Percentage of global partnerships addressing Samoa Pathway priority areas. Climate change, oceans and biodiversity dominate.

Status of partnerships by SIDS region

This section will go trough partnerships in each of the three SIDS regions: AIMS/AIS, the Pacific and the Caribbean, and provide a summary of partnership status and trends, coverage of Samoa Pathway priority areas, gaps and under-represented areas, challenges, and lessons learned. A summary of the three regions will be provided in the end.

AIMS/AIS

Background to the region

The nine AIMS-region SIDS are spread across the Atlantic Ocean (Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, São Tomé and Principe), the Indian Ocean (Comoros, the Maldives, Mauritius, the Seychelles), the Persian Gulf (Bahrain), and the South China Sea (Singapore). Two small island states in the Mediterranean, Cyprus and Malta, are no longer included. While the region is geographically dispersed and culturally diverse, the SIDS in this region share many common features and challenges. They range in size from the Maldives with an area of 298 km^2 to Guinea-Bissau with an area of 36,120 km^2, and with arable land ranging from 2% in Singapore

to 49% in Mauritius[8]. While they vary in the level of economic development, all rely heavily upon natural resources for livelihoods (with fish being the common resource), and some face significant challenges regarding economic development, social justice, and environmental preservation[9]. Many SIDS in the region have sought to overcome such challenges by expanding development in tourism, fisheries, agricultural production, offshore financial centers, gambling havens and trading hubs. All these developments however, rely heavily on the natural resource base, and through years of exploitation, the ecosystems and services that ecosystems provide have reduced in many SIDS causing further erosion to socio-economic growth. Climate change and sea level rise has been identified as the main present and future threat for many countries to address sustainable development challenges[10].

The geographic dispersion of the region represents a special challenge in terms of coordination and intra-regional cooperation. There is currently no regional body to address cooperation on sustainable development for the entire AIMS region, and the urgent need to develop further and strengthen regional support mechanisms for intra-regional cooperation, partnerships and exchange has been noted by the United Nations[11]. The Indian Ocean Commission brings together five countries in the region [Comoros, France (Reunion), Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles], and has taken an active role in facilitating partnerships. The lack of a regional framework has been cited as a reason for infrequent knowledge integration and lack of policy coherence on topics such as food security and ecosystem-based adaptation[12], and likely contributes to the shortage of partnerships encompassing the entire AIMS region. Despite these challenges, many sub-regional and national partnerships exist in the region, greatly contributing to its sustainable development.

Status and trends of partnerships

2014 SIDS Conference	Current number of	Number of completed	Active partnerships	Number reporting

[8] Mercer, J., Kurvits, T., Kelman, I., & Mavrogenis, S. (2014). Ecosystem-based adaptation for food security in the AIMS SIDS: integrating external and local knowledge. *Sustainability*, *6*(9), 5566-5597.

[9] United Nations (2010) AIMS Regional Synthesis report for the Five-year Review of the Mauritius Strategy for Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (MSI+5); United Nations: New York, NY, USA.

[10] United Nations (2010) AIMS Regional Synthesis report for the Five-year Review of the Mauritius Strategy for Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (MSI+5); United Nations: New York, NY, USA

[11] United Nations (2010) AIMS Regional Synthesis report for the Five-year Review of the Mauritius Strategy for Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (MSI+5); United Nations: New York, NY, USA.

[12] Mercer, J., Kurvits, T., Kelman, I., & Mavrogenis, S. (2014). Ecosystem-based adaptation for food security in the AIMS SIDS: integrating external and local knowledge. *Sustainability*, *6*(9), 5566-5597.

	partnerships	partnerships		
20	72	23	49	39

A total of 72 registered partnerships pertain to the AIMS region. Of these partnerships, a majority, or 52, are undertaken on the national level, while 20 are sub-regional or regional, involving two or more countries. Thus, the majority of AIMS region partnerships are undertaken through collaborative arrangements between national agencies and other entities on the national and local levels. Countries in the AIMS region also frequently participated in partnerships that are global or encompass multiple SIDS regions. A total of 144 global and multi-regional partnerships include AIMS region countries. Singapore, Mauritius, Seychelles and the Maldives registered the most partnerships, and many of these were commitments for the UN Ocean Conference. On the opposite extreme, Bahrain did not participate in any registered partnerships. Sao Tome and Principe and Guinea Bissau are involved in four regional and/or global partnership.

There has been an increasing trend in partnerships in the AIMS region, which had only 20 partnerships registered at the 2014 SIDS Conference. The UN Ocean Conference provided a catalyst for a large number of new ocean-related partnerships, particularly in regards to national-level commitments for ocean action, and as a result, the number of national and regional AIMS partnerships rose from 20 to 72 between 2014 and 2018.

Given the lack of a regional coordinating organization for the AIMS region, there are very few partnerships that included all or the majority of the SIDS in this region. In fact, only one partnership, the SIDS Youth AIMS Hub expressly includes all the AIMS countries (see box below). More common are partnerships that include either the Indian Ocean SIDS countries or some sub-set of them (9 partnerships), or the Eastern Atlantic SIDS of the AIMS region (3 partnerships). Collaborations between two or three countries are also common. One partnership, the Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS Integrated Water Resources Management Project, brought together both the Indian Ocean and Atlantic SIDS, with Cabo Verde, Comoros, Maldives, Mauritius, São Tomé and Príncipe and Seychelles participating. This project, which was funded by the Global Environment Facility and implemented by UNEP and UNDP, was completed in 2017 (see box in the section on impacts).

SIDS Youth AIMS Hub (SYAH) – an example of a collaborative partnership involving the entire AIMS region

SYAH focuses on advancing and implementing youth-led sustainable development in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) found in the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean, and South China Sea (AIMS) region. Owing to the geographical dispersion of SIDS within the AIMS region, lack of access to youth funding, and the common need to set up an entity that will enable SIDS youth within the AIMS region to collaborate on addressing common needs, the youth participants of the My World, My SIDS AIMS Regional Youth Meeting organized by UNESCO, UNICEF and other UN agencies and partners in Seychelles during July 2013, committed to set up a dynamic network of young people within the AIMS region. The creation of such a youth network was also endorsed by Governments in the AIMS region in the Outcome Document of the SIDS AIMS Regional High-Level Preparatory Meeting.

The areas of collaboration will involve empowerment of vulnerable/marginalised youth, the environment and community development, amongst others.

More information is available at: http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/?p=7402

Figure 7 SIDS Youth AIMS Hub.

The majority, or 44, of the 72 regional and national partnerships are led by government entities, with two or more governments collaborating in some cases. This demonstrates a high degree of government leadership and involvement in partnerships. Six of the partnerships are lead by universities or other research organizations. Ten are led or implemented by NGOs and/or civil society, six by a regional organization, while four are led by a private sector organization, and two by a United Nations organization.

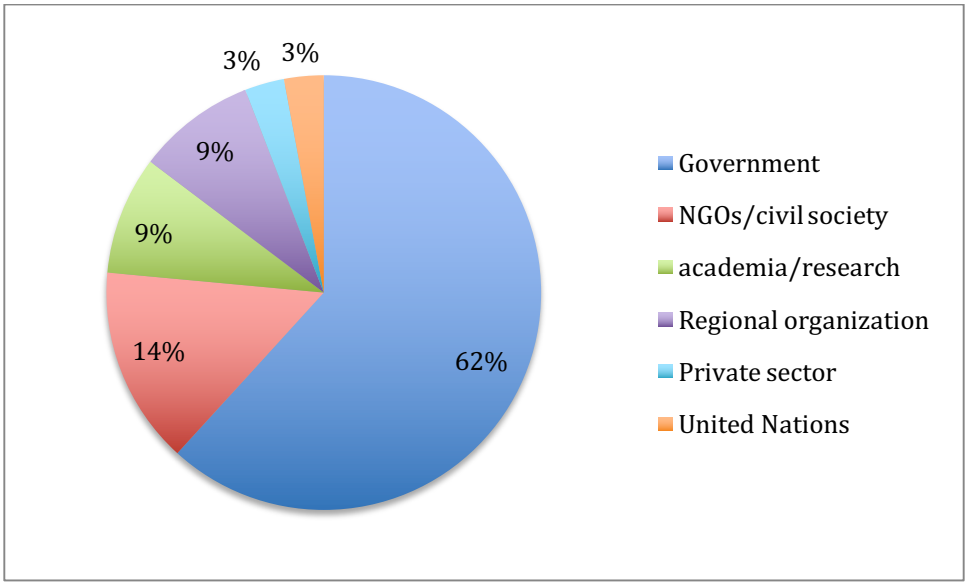

Figure 8 Entities leading partnerships in the AIMS/AIS region. Partnerships by governments dominate.

A total of 16 of the 72 national and regional partnerships fulfill the SMART criteria as currently reported, while the rest (56) do not. In some cases this may be a matter of how the project components are reported in the SIDS Action Platform. Thus the lack of adherence to SMART criteria likely indicates both a need for improved reporting on all aspects of a partnership, and the need to further define and understand the relationship between genuine and durable partnerships and the SMART criteria.

Out of the 72 national and regional partnerships, 23 have either been marked as completed or are assumed to be completed based on their ending dates. More than half, or 39 national or regional partnerships, have not provided reports on their progress. Only 10 national and regional partnerships were marked as being on track. Thus, the majority of partnerships are not reporting on their progress, which makes it difficult to assess how they are doing. This does not necessarily mean that these partnerships are inactive, only that they are not reporting to the SIDS Action Platform.

How SAMOA Pathway priority areas are addressed through partnerships

Transforming economies and societies for sustained inclusive and equitable growth - *Relevant SAMOA Pathway priority areas include: economic growth, trade, sustainable energy, sustainable transportation, water and sanitation, food security and nutrition, health and NCDs, social development, gender*

The 72 national and regional partnerships in the AIMS region address all of the SAMOA Pathway priority areas relating to "transforming economies and societies for sustained, inclusive and equitable growth. Each of these areas had several partnerships registered, and many partnerships contribute towards several different priority areas. The social development priority area had many (22) partnerships.

Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all has 16 partnerships. Gender equality is a component of 12 partnerships, but generally as one of many objectives rather than as the sole focus of a partnership.

Some examples of partnerships addressing multiple priority areas include the Islands Programme, led by the Indian Ocean Commission, which aims to provide a coherent process at national and regional levels towards sustainable development around 20 different themes; and the Multilateral Forum between Lusophone countries, which provides for cooperation between Portuguese speaking countries on economic, social, cultural, legal, technical and scientific issues, as well as capacity building.

There were also three partnerships specifically aimed at mobilizing youth: the SIDS Youth AIMS Hub on the regional level, as well as two national partnerships: the partnership titled "Unleashing a new generation of entrepreneurs in the Blue Economy" in the Seychelles and the partnership titled "Seeing Blue: Youth Vision for the Ocean" in Mauritius.

None of the SAMOA Pathway priority areas in this category were particularly under-represented in the AIMS region. Sustainable energy has 11 partnerships (see box below for an example), while water and sanitation has 10. The priority areas of food security and nutrition, and health and NCDs, both have 9 partnerships, while 7 partnerships address sustainable transport.

An example of a water and sanitation project was the MCA-CVII Infrastructure Grant Facility's Social Access Fund (FAS) (completed in 2015), which allowed local NGOs in Cabo Verde to work together with communities to improve water and sanitation services. All of the partnerships relating to sustainable transport have to do with shipping, while food security is either part of multi-priority area sustainable development partnerships or linked to fisheries, with little mention of agriculture.

Similarly, there were no regional AIMS partnerships addressing health and NCDs as their primary area listed in the SIDS Action Platform. Rather, this priority area was generally part of broader partnerships on sustainable development. However, reports of the Secretary-General on SIDS contain information about UNFPA work on drafting a national population policy that integrates evidence on population dynamics, sexual and reproductive health and

HIV in Mauritius and FAO work relating to agriculture in both the Atlantic and Indian Ocean[13], indicating potential UN-led partnerships in these areas.

ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE)

In 2010, the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) was established in Cape Verde with support of the ECOWAS Commission, UNIDO and the Austrian and Spanish Governments. The regional centre of excellence works in fifteen West African countries including the two small island developing states Cape Verde and Guinea Bissau. ECREEE aims at the establishment of an enabling environment for renewable energy and energy efficiency investments and markets. ECREEE coordinates and executes regional programs, projects and activities in the areas of capacity and policy development, information and data sharing, as well as investment and business promotion. In close partnership with SIDS DOCK it is intended to establish the centre as the coordinative hub and think-tank for regional sustainable energy cooperation between all African islands.

In providing for capacity building and technology transfer, ECREE has established regional train-the trainer networks and south-south/north-south partnerships for knowledge and technology transfer.

More information is available at http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/?p=7510

Figure 9 ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

Building a sustainable and resilient Caribbean: confronting climate change and other environmental related stressors - *Relevant SAMOA Pathway priority areas include: climate change, oceans and seas, waste management, biodiversity, sustainable consumption and production, disaster risk reduction*

Each of the SAMOA pathway priority areas in this cluster have been addressed through partnerships, but unevenly. As previously, most partnerships address multiple priority areas. Partnerships relating to oceans and seas, of which there are 53, dominate largely due to the commitments made at the UN Ocean Conference in 2017. Many of these are commitments are made by single countries, though regional and multi-country partnerships are also common. In the oceans and seas priority area, many of the newer partnerships relate to transitioning to a blue or ocean economy either nationally (in particularly in the Seychelles and Mauritius) or sub-regionally (for example the Northern Mozambique Channel partnership – see box in next section). Sustainable fisheries, marine conservation, species conservation, prevention of marine pollution, particularly plastics, and coastal and ocean management, including

[13] UNGA (2018) Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. A/73/226

spatial planning [for example the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge (WIOCC)] were also common, with aquaculture/mariculture a priority in some countries (see box below). Tourism and biodiversity also featured in one partnership, but is likely a more prominent priority area based on information in Secretary-General's reports on SIDS[14].

The priority areas of sustainable consumption and production and climate change have 12 partnerships each. Sustainable consumption and production is often a component of making fisheries more sustainable or reducing plastic pollution in the ocean, and includes in some cases collaboration from the private sector (tourism operators and others). In regards to oceans, sustainable consumption and production is seen as a key component for addressing pollution, and changing consumer behavior in purchasing plastic or using more sustainable fishing gear and methods. While sustainable consumption and production is often not the main focus of these partnerships, some AIMS SIDS participate in a global partnership focusing on all aspects of sustainable consumption and production.

The climate change priority area often occurs together with resilience building and disaster risk reduction in partnerships (10 partnerships), though the latter also includes other natural disasters, such as tsunamis. Oceans and seas and renewable energy are also often addressed in climate-related partnerships. Partnerships in these priority areas included the Climate Change Platform, which is an initiative to provide climate change information and data, and the Disaster Risk Management in the Islands of the Indian Ocean project. While not included in the SIDS Action Platform, UNCTAD and UNDP also support climate adaptation, resilience building and other climate-related projects in the region[15].

The management of chemicals and waste priority area has 10 partnerships, which relate to issues such as reducing land-based pollution or improving sanitation and waste management. An example of this type of partnership is the Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS Integrated Water Resources Management Project (see box in the next section), which took an integrated approach to managing freshwater and coastal and marine areas, but also addressed water supply, sanitation and protection and utilization of both groundwater and surface water.

The biodiversity priority area has 10 partnerships, most of which address marine and coastal biodiversity. However, one project expressly deals with forest areas, while reforestation and maintenance of watersheds is part of several partnerships. Only one partnership, dealing with implementation of the IMO Ballast Water Convention, relates to invasive alien species.

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[14] UNGA (2018) Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States**.** A/73/226

[15] UNGA (2018) Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States**.** A/73/226

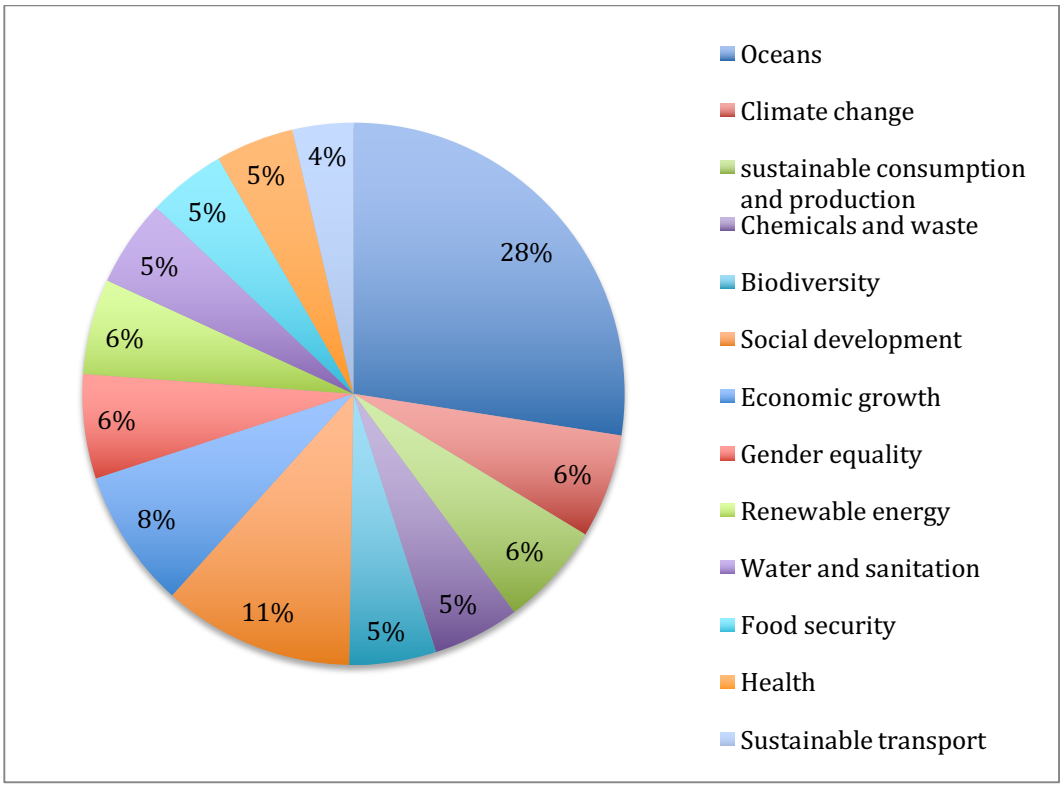

Figure 10 Percentage of AIMS/AIS partnerships addressing Samoa Pathway priority areas. While all areas are addressed, oceans have the most partnerships.

Expansion of sea cucumber grow-out operations to support coastal community livelihoods

A couple of years since the start of the sea cucumber fishery in the Maldives in mid-1980s, the fishery experienced a drastic decline. A fishery that exclusively targeted high-valued sea cucumber species changed quickly to include mid- and lower-valued varieties. The export-oriented sea cucumber trade generates close to USD 1 million annually. The fishery is usually carried out as a small-scale operation in rural island communities. The Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, with assistance from the International Fund for Agricultural Development launched the Mariculture Enterprise Development Project in 2013, with the objective of developing mariculture as an income and employment opportunity for the rural islands, with emphasis on creating opportunities for women and youth. Sea cucumber grow out is being piloted in two island communities, providing beneficiaries small loans in the form of material and seed required to start grow-out operations, since October 2016. The project targets supplementing incomes of households through the sea cucumber grow-out operation. The project collaborates with the only hatchery facility in operation in the Maldives for the provision of seed and training for the beneficiaries. The hatchery operation is committed to providing the pilot communities with seed required for future cycles.

More information is available at http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/?p=18028

Figure 11 Expansion of sea cucumber grow-out operations to support coastal community livelihoods

Measuring impacts of partnerships

While there is no consistent source of information about the impacts of partnerships on beneficiaries and on sustainable development in the region, some information is available from individual partnerships. Where impacts have been reported, they have often been real and tangible. This is the case, for example, for the Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS Integrated Water Resources Management Project as described in the box below.

The Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS Integrated Water Resources Management Project

The Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS Integrated Water Resources Management Project addressee issues related to the management of water resources, both freshwater and coastal marine areas in an integrated manner, in six participating SIDS of which 2 are located in the Atlantic Ocean (Cape Verde and Sao Tome & Principe) and 4 are located in the Indian Ocean (Comoros, Maldives, Mauritius and Seychelles). The project sought to accelerate progress on Integrated Water Resources Management and improved Water Use Efficiency plans, and water supply and sanitation development goals for the protection and utilization of groundwater and surface water in the participating countries. Demonstration projects were undertaken in all participating countries and, depending on national priorities, related to water use, management, sanitation and access to drinking water.

Through the combined efforts of these six SIDS, nearly 100,000 community members have benefitted from improved water quality, which reduces poverty, improves health outcomes, facilitates climate change adaptation, and mitigates the threat of natural and man-made hazards. Demonstration projects in each country have also contributed to gender equality by acknowledging and reinforcing the role that women play in managing water, and mainstreaming gender dimensions into wider project outputs.

More information available at: http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/?p=7480 and http://aio-iwrm.org/news/read-undps-exposure-story-on-our-project/#.W7aHFS0ZNZo

Figure 12 The Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS Integrated Water Resources Management Project

Going forward there is a need to improve monitoring of partnerships, and to make information about their impacts available through a central location. Some suggestions towards this end are made in the final section.

Integration of priority areas and spillover effects

The majority of the national and regional partnerships help achieve the goals of more than one of the SAMOA Pathway priority areas. Out of the 66 national and regional partnerships, 48 address at least two SAMOA Pathway priority areas, and many address multiple ones. Even the 18 partnerships and projects that indicate only one priority area (generally this was oceans and seas or sustainable transport) likely contribute to building human and institutional capacity, transfer of technology and improving information sharing and/or infrastructure, thus building skills, providing employment, improving the informational basis for decision-making, and impacting economic activities (for example, where shipping infrastructure was improved). Without monitoring and evaluation built into each partnership, however, it is difficult to measure these on-the-ground impacts.

Those partnerships that contributed to multiple SAMOA Pathway priority areas were often clustered together. For example, partnerships relating to fisheries, also often promote

sustainable consumption and production, and food security and nutrition. Partnerships relating to water and sanitation also recognized a contribution to human health. Partnerships relating to oceans or climate change also often included disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, and renewable energy. In some cases they also included social goals related to livelihoods, social development, human health and gender equality. One concrete example of this cluster is the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge (WIOCC), which promotes actions for climate resilient development that achieves effective conservation of biodiversity, enhanced livelihoods and economies for greater social security among coastal communities. Similarly, the partnerships relating to sustainable "blue" ocean economies placed themselves in the nexus of environmental protection and social and economic development, which require integrated approaches for governance, as demonstrated by the Northern Mozambique Channel partnership in the box below.

Northern Mozambique Channel Partnership – an example of an integrated approach

The Northern Mozambique Channel (NMC) region is one of the world's outstanding marine biodiversity areas and a biological reservoir for all East African coastal areas and the Indian Ocean at large. The natural and economic assets of the NMC will emerge as drivers of national and regional development on a scale not previously realised in East Africa, from living assets, hydrocarbons and human resources, and place unprecedented strain on ecosystems and natural resources. The Northern Mozambique Channel partnership is emerging, and will involve countries, civil society and the private sector with the goal to deliver a sustainable blue economy that preserves and builds the wealth of the region across the natural, social, and economic capitals. Its long term vision is that "the people, countries and economies of the Northern Mozambique Channel prosper in a sustainable future founded on the natural and cultural assets and diversity of the region".

The themes emerging from this work include regional collaboration on combating pollution and contingency planning; sustainable management of shared fish resources; oceans and climate change; transition to a low carbon pathway; integrated ocean governance; as well as the cross-cutting theme of harmonization of policy, sharing research and knowledge, and developing innovative financing mechanisms.

More information is available at http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/?p=15334

Figure 13 Northern Mozambique Channel Partnership

Potential gaps

The potential gap areas in partnerships in this region could be classified into geographic and thematic gaps, and gaps related to stakeholder involvement.

In regards to geographic gaps, there is only one partnership that covers the entire AIMS region, thus highlighting the need for collaboration and cooperation amongst all the SIDS in the region. While there are many excellent sub-regional and national partnerships, working across the entire region would allow for joint learning, capacity development and an exchange of information and experiences. It is likely that the lack of a regional coordinating mechanism for AIMS is one of the main reasons for the absence of partnerships covering the entire region.

In regards to thematic gaps, there seems to be a need for partnerships addressing certain SAMOA Pathway priority areas as their primary topics. These priority areas include sustainable, equitable and inclusive economic growth, health and NCDs and gender equality and women's empowerment. Partnerships targeting sustainable consumption and production were also lacking, but were made up for (at least for some countries) by a global partnership on this topic. On partnerships relating to the environment, there were few dealing with terrestrial issues, agriculture, and invasive alien species.

In addition, the AIMS Preparatory meeting for the Midterm Review of the Samoa Pathway identified a number of priorities, which, while not necessarily gaps, should be considered in further regional partnerships. They include climate change resilience and disaster risk reduction, fresh water, waste management, reducing dependence on imported fuels and expensive transport, involving more women and youth in decision-making processes, as well as innovation and the transfer of technology[16].

The partnerships in the AIMS region were mainly partnerships that were led by government agencies, while very few were led by other entities. The heavy emphasis on government action may be due to the fact that governments are more likely to report on their activities in United Nations databases. However, there is a need to further involve civil society, NGOs, the private sector, and academia in the work of the partnerships in this region.

Finally, many of the AIMS partnerships have either been completed or are soon coming to an end. Out of the 66 national and regional partnerships, a high percentage (32%) have now been completed. The mid-term review may thus provide a good opportunity to initiate and build new partnerships in accordance with regional, sub-regional and national priorities.

Challenges

While the SIDS Action Platform did not contain much information about challenges, participants at the SIDS Regional Partnership Dialogue for AIMS (Mauritius 22-23 May, 2018) identified a number of challenges, which included capacity (human and institutional); sustainable financing; the monitoring and review of partnerships to understand their impact in driving sustainable development; enabling conditions for the participation of all stakeholders in partnerships; the national social and political context within which the partnership operates; and digital information infrastructure to enable communication among partners and beneficiaries.

Challenges reported by other sources[17] indicate that weak legal, institutional and human capacities for effective governance are a problem in some countries in the region. Similarly, inadequate data and statistics for monitoring and evaluation, lack of baseline data and

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[16] Report of the AIMS Preparatory Meeting for the Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway. Mauritius, 23-25 May 2017

[17] UNGA (2018) Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. A/73/226

indicators, and inadequate links between data collection and planning and monitoring were challenges shared by many countries.

The participants at the regional workshop also felt that there is a clear need to raise the capacity of SIDS and stakeholders in how to develop genuine and durable partnerships, and enhance their competency in partnering, by developing learning material based on best practices, case studies and lessons learned from existing durable and genuine partnerships.

Lessons learned and best practices

Lessons learned discussed at the SIDS Regional Partnership Dialogue for AIMS including the following:

Building stronger partnerships

- Genuine and durable partnerships for SIDS are those based on mutual collaboration, ownership, trust, respect, accountability, and transparency, where SIDS and partners are equal.
- Ownership of partnerships needs to be country-driven, with a shared vision between SIDS and partners.
- Projects on the ground need to be stakeholder-driven, with strong ownership by the community.
- Strong leadership and partnership champions are important, as well as political support for partnerships.
- The national enabling environment (political and social context) is important for the success of the partnership.

Engaging stakeholders locally, nationally, regionally and globally

- There is a need for SIDS to create a set of interrelated local and national conditions that allow stakeholders to fully engage in national development issues and in partnerships.
- There is a need to develop innovative multi-stakeholder partnership engagement strategies, including the private sector, with focus on implementation, knowledge sharing and match-making on partnerships.
- Youth engagement should be done meaningfully and professionally, both in implementation programmes and advocacy.
- There is a need to engage and promote the work of partnerships through regional organizations

Reporting

- Partnership reporting should be based on accountability, effectiveness and impact of the partnership, evaluating outcomes, learning, knowledge sharing, with value added to those reporting.
- Reporting should be kept light and easy to use on local, national, regional and global levels, include input from implementing partners and beneficiaries, and other stakeholders, keeping in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to reporting of partnerships.

- There is a need to move away from "reporting", which seems to focus on one-way communication, to exchange of knowledge.

Other

- Data produced at the citizen level must be done through simple protocols which are acceptable at the scientific level.

Pacific

Background to the region

The Pacific SIDS include the countries of Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Tonga, Marshall Islands, Palau, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. The region also includes the territories of American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Marianas, Guam, New Caledonia, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, and Niue.

Pacific Island countries have a collective population of about 2.3 million people, spread across a unique and diverse region made up of hundreds of islands, and scattered over an area equivalent to 15% of the globe's surface. There is great diversity within the region from Fiji, which is the largest country of the group with a population of around 880,000, to Tuvalu and Nauru, with estimated populations around 10,000 each. Kiribati is one of the most remote and geographically-dispersed countries in the world, consisting of 33 coral atolls spread over 3.5 million square kilometers of ocean[18].

Each of these countries share similar challenges and opportunities as small and remote island economies. They are small in size with limited natural resources, narrowly-based economies, large distances away from major markets, and vulnerable to external shocks; all of which can affect growth and have often led to a high degree of economic volatility[19].

Pacific Island countries are also some of the most vulnerable in the world to the effects of climate change and natural disasters. According to the World Risk Report, five Pacific countries are among the top 20 most at risk countries in the world, with the highest average annual disaster losses scaled by gross domestic product. Evidence of the adverse effects of climate change is increasing in the region, particularly in atolls, where sea-level rise and wave-driven flooding are having grave impacts on ground water resources.

The Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) brings together several regional inter-governmental agencies, which play an important role in providing regional coordination and support for Pacific Island countries and territories. They include the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Pacific Islands Development

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[18] World Bank: https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/pacificislands/overview

[19] Ibid

Programme (PIDP), the South Pacific Travel Organization (SPTO), the University of the South Pacific (USP), the Pacific Aviation Safety Organisation, and the Pacific Power Association.

The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Secretariat acts as CROP's permanent chair and provides secretariat support. In addition, the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) and other regional organizations feature in partnerships. United Nations organizations are also active in the region.

Status and trends of partnerships

Number of partnerships at 2014 SIDS Conference	Current number of partnerships	Number of completed partnerships	Active partnerships	Number reporting
134	387	164	223	45% of Pacific partnerships registered in the SIDS Action Platform

Currently the SIDS Action Platform contains 238 Pacific SIDS national and regional partnerships. In addition, the Pacific SIDS individually or collectively participate in 146 global partnerships ranging from partnerships involving one or more SIDS regions to those that are global. An analysis conducted by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)[20] has compiled information on a number of additional Pacific partnerships that are considered in this review. The PIFS analysis counted a total of 223 national-level partnerships, 87 regional partnerships led by CROP agencies, and 77 partnerships with UN agencies. These include the partnerships in the SIDS Action Platform. This brings the total number of Pacific partnerships to 387.

There has been an increasing trend in registered partnerships following the 2014 SIDS conference, where a total of 134 Pacific partnerships were registered. At the same time, many of the early partnerships have now been completed. According to calculations by PIFS, there are currently 223 active partnerships operating in the Pacific region.

[20] First Quadrennial Pacific Sustainable Development: Executive Summary 2018. Prepared by Pacific Islands Forum Countries with support from CROP and UN Agencies in the Pacific; and presentation by Sione Tekiteki, Director, Political Governance, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat at the SIDS Regional Partnership meeting in Tonga

Regional agencies are active participants and lead agencies in partnerships. According to data from PIFS, out of the CROP agencies, SPC was involved in the most partnerships (as a lead agency in 14 partnerships, and as a participant in 32), followed by SPREP, USP, FFA and PIFS.

All Pacific island countries and territories were engaged also engaged in partnerships. According to the study by PIFS, Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, Tonga, Solomon Islands engaged in most partnerships. Fiji has the most nationally-led partnerships (mainly oceans related) followed by Samoa, Tonga, RMI and Vanuatu. The graph below summarizes participation in national-level partnerships.

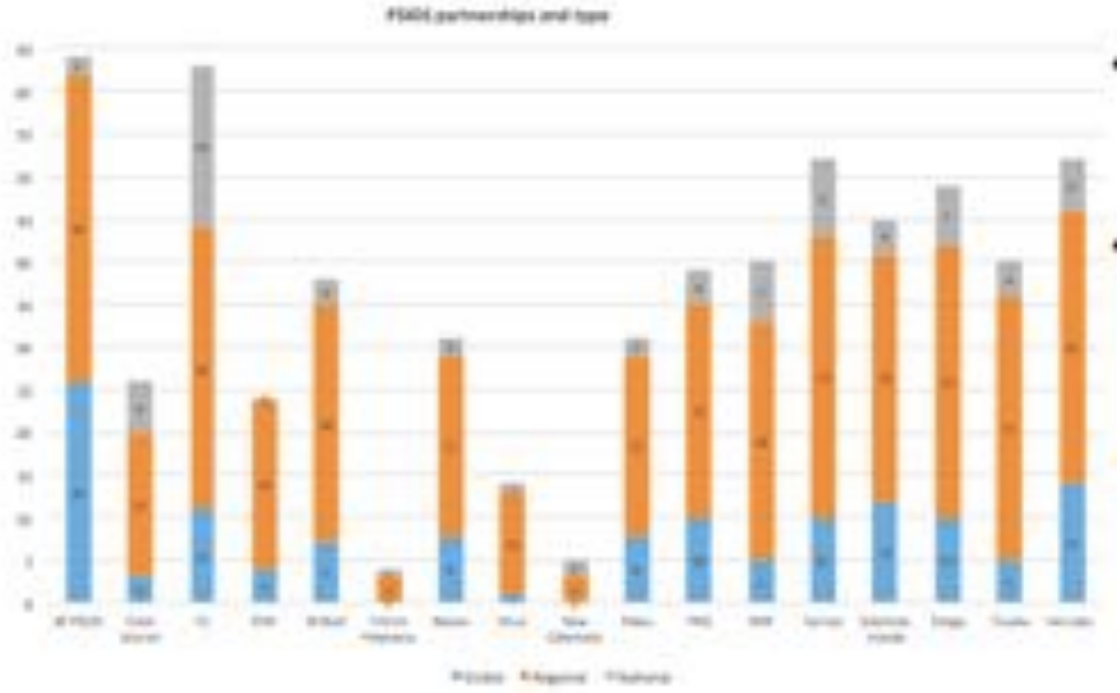

Figure 14 Pacific countries participation in partnerships. Graph from presentation by PIFS at the SIDS Regional Partnership meeting in Tonga in June 2018.

According to data in the SIDS Action Platform, a majority, or 62%, of the national-level partnerships are led by governments, often together with other partners. The participation of civil society and NGOs (a combined 16% of national partnerships are led by these entities) is relatively high, as is the inclusion of communities and local governments in partnerships. Private sector leads 6% of the partnerships on the national level. Academic institutions were also involved in many partnerships, and led 3% of them.

United Nations agencies participated in 77 partnerships in the region, and led 33 of them. UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and UNICEF were most involved in the region, but a total of 17 UN agencies were involved in partnerships in the region.

Reporting was found to be very low. According to PIFS, only 17% of the national partnerships and 44% of the regional partnerships had reported to the SIDS Action Platform as of June

2018[21]. The figure was higher in October 2018, and out of those partnerships already registered in the SIDS Action Platform (both national and regional) 45% had reported. Regardless, there is clearly a need to strengthen reporting overall.

As with all regions, the Pacific partnerships incorporated a broad set of activities from multi-sectoral partnerships to further goals from health to marine protection to government policies and single events. There is a need to categorize these partnerships further.

How SAMOA Pathway priority areas are addressed through partnerships

Transforming economies and societies for sustained inclusive and equitable growth - *Relevant SAMOA Pathway priority areas include: economic growth, trade, sustainable energy, sustainable transportation, water and sanitation, food security and nutrition, health and NCDs, social development, gender*

The Samoa Pathway priority areas relating to transforming economies and societies for sustained, inclusive and equitable growth are represented in the Pacific partnerships, though some areas are more prominent than others. Economic growth was a component of approximately 30% of the partnerships, and ranged from green and blue economies to sustainable financial services and initiatives relating to tourism, agriculture and aquaculture. Examples of these types of partnerships included the Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIF) (see case study below); Women & Trade – the SPC/WHO collaboration on Economic Empowerment of Women in the Pacific; the Tourism Resilience Partnership by South Pacific Tourism Organization; the Pacific Green Business Centre; aquaculture development in Fiji, Vanuatu and Tonga; and the "Organic Islands: Growing Our Future" partnership, relating to organic agriculture and the access of farmers to both domestic and export markets.

Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIF)

The Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP) is a Pacific-wide programme helping to provide sustainable financial services to low income households. By 2019 PFIP aims to have:

- One million low-income people in the Pacific, with at least 50 per cent women, gain access to appropriate/affordable financial services; (600,000 achieved by 2014)
- Additional 150,000 previously unbanked people, with at least 50 per cent women, gain access to a formal savings account;
- Four additional Pacific Islands Countries (PICs) have national financial inclusion strategies that reflect gender differences and which are based on sound and comprehensive diagnostics. Countries with strategies that are three or more years old review and update their strategies;
- Three additional PICs offer financial education through core curricula and;
- Three additional PICs have national financial literacy strategies in place.

PFIP currently covers Fiji, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samoa, Solomon Islands (SOI), Tonga and Vanuatu, with Kiribati and Tuvalu potentially covered before the end of July 2019.The aim of the

[21] First Quadrennial Pacific Sustainable Development: Executive Summary 2018. Prepared by Pacific Islands Forum Countries with support from CROP and UN Agencies in the Pacific

second phase of PFIP (PFIP 2), which will start in July 2014 and end in July 2019 is to respond to the current and emerging challenges that have been identified both from the first phase of PFIP, as well as a four -country onsite consultative process.

More information is available at https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=7348

Figure 15 Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme

Improving energy efficiency, including through renewable energy, continues to be a challenge for some Pacific countries, as are the environmental issues linked to energy use in the transportation sector in particular. Sustainable and renewable energy, as well as energy efficiency are a component of a large number of partnerships, including Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE), Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy (PIGGAREP), Samoa Renewable Energy Partnership Framework, and Partnership programme on renewable energy and climate change adaptation in the Pacific SIDS with Italy, Austria, Luxembourg and the Municipality of Milan.

Wastewater and sanitation were addressed through at least ten partnerships, either as a main topic or as a secondary topic. Examples include Pacific Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Coalition; Pacific Waste Management Solutions; Pacific Partnership for Action on Safe Water and Sanitation; and Waste Management and Sanitation Improvement (WMI) Programme. The Pacific Waste Management Solutions partnership, for example, focuses on research on waste management technologies that are particularly suitable for Pacific SIDS.

Sustainable transportation was limited to partnerships focusing on maritime transport, including improving shipping, port facilities and freight transport. One innovative partnership titled Implementing a Pan-Pacific Network of Traditionally Designed Sustainable Sea Transportation, seeks to revitalize traditional canoes for inter-island transport. Aviation is part of only one partnership: Pacific Islands Aviation Investment Program, which aims to improve aviation infrastructure, management and operations in Pacific Island countries.

Partnerships relating to health and NCDs were not as numerous as partnerships in some other areas, but included the “Reproductive Health and the Sustainable Development Goals in Pacific SIDS” partnership, which aims to strengthen the capacity of health workers in reproductive health; “Organic Islands: Growing Our Future”, on organic agriculture; “Pacific NCD Partnership for a Multi-sector Approach to Prevent and Control NCDs (Pacific NCD Partnership)”; and “Scaling up the Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Programme in the Pacific”. On the topic of food and nutrition, there were only a handful of partnerships, most of which related to sustainable fisheries, sustainable agriculture, and aquaculture. The “Responsible & Sustainable Aquaculture Practices for Fiji and Pacific Islands enabling Food Security & Natural Resource Preservation” partnership seeks to address poverty reduction and health through economic development, food security, sustainable livelihoods for coastal communities and biodiversity conservation through the protection of species, habitats and ecosystems.

Samoa Pathway priorities such as poverty, equality, peace and human rights are not as prominently addressed and may need more attention. While poverty is part of some partnerships, for example partnerships on Promoting Gender Equality in Sustainable Fisheries Management and Development in Fiji, the PacSIDS Ridge to Reef Programme Partnership, and a partnership titled Women's Economic Empowerment Driving Sustainable

Development in SIDS, it was not the sole focus on any partnerships. However, partnerships creating economic opportunities, particularly for women and marginalized groups are likely to also address poverty.

Gender was relatively well addressed through Pacific partnerships, and was the focus of at least eight partnerships, such as Pacific Island Women Caucus, Leadership for Rural and Urban Young Women, and an additional component in many others. There are at least three youth-related partnerships: Pacific Youth Development Framework Partnership (PYDF Partnership), FarmBiz Youth, and 21st Century learning and youth social entrepreneurship.

In addition, several partnerships addressed issues related to conservation of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge and practices. For example, Pacific Traditional Knowledge Action Plan aims at strengthening legislation protecting traditional knowledge, while Indigenous Approaches to Disaster Risk Reduction seeks to integrate traditional forms of knowledge and indigenous approaches to facilitating disaster risk reduction and social resilience.

Building a sustainable and resilient Caribbean: confronting climate change and other environmental related stressors - *Relevant SAMOA Pathway priority areas include: climate change, oceans and seas, waste management, biodiversity, sustainable consumption and production, disaster risk reduction*

The existing partnerships are broadly aligned with regional priorities on oceans, with climate change and economic development also well represented. More than 50% of the existing partnerships include activities related to oceans and seas, and many of these are voluntary commitments from the UN Ocean Conference. Ocean-related activities include sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, expanding the coverage of marine protected areas and locally managed marine areas, undertaking marine spatial planning, coral reef conservation, combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, preventing land-based sources of marine pollution, including marine litter and plastics, and transitioning to blue economies. Of the many marine conservation-related partnerships, some examples include the Micronesia Challenge, the Coral Triangle Initiative, the Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) Network, and a number of national efforts to increase marine protection and put in place marine spatial planning.

Partnerships relating to efforts to protect terrestrial biodiversity were less prominent, but there were some examples of partnerships relating to both forest and watershed management and restoration. For example, the PacSIDS Ridge to Reef Programme Partnership includes an integrated approach to land, water and forest management (see case study below), and the Pacific Mangrove Initiative includes mangrove management in the context of livelihoods and climate change. Other examples include national commitments to restore mangroves and other wetland ecosystems. Some Pacific countries participated in global blue carbon partnerships, which often relate to restoration of mangroves and other wetlands. There were also several commitments relating to sustainable agriculture.

PacSIDS Ridge to Reef Programme Partnership

The goal of the Pacific Islands National Priorities Multi-Priority area 'Ridge-to-Reef' (R2R) program is to maintain and enhance Pacific Island countries' ecosystem goods and services (provisioning, regulating, supporting and cultural) through integrated approaches to land, water, forest,

biodiversity and coastal resource management that contribute to poverty reduction, sustainable livelihoods and climate resilience.

The Pacific Islands R2R program has been designed by the Pacific Island countries to strategically use their GEF STAR allocations to meet both their national priorities and adhere to relevant GEF priority area objectives, outcomes, indicators and outputs.

Given the close inter-connections between land, water and coastal systems in PacSIDS, the planning and management of freshwater use, sanitation, wastewater treatment and pollution control, sustainable land use and forestry practices, balancing coastal livelihoods and biodiversity conservation, hazard risk reduction, and climate variability and change is best achieved through integrated and coordinated efforts.

GEF funding is directly focused on developing demonstration sites with the latest, but small-scale, technology that will be appropriate for Pacific island communities by promoting the use of appropriate technology, traditional knowledge and practices and strengthen linkages with nationally available expertise and through the development of key knowledge tools in the form of synthesis reports on: (i) climate variability in coastal systems; (ii) hazards and coastal area planning; (iii) 'blue forests' and livelihoods; (iv) spatial planning in coastal fisheries; (v) water security and wastewater management; and (vi) land and marine tenure and use designation, including implications for coastal and marine spatial planning.

These will be disseminated online and supporting multi-media products will be developed and syndicated regionally to stimulate national and regional level uptake and use in policy-making and planning. To further support the uptake of regionally accumulated scientific knowledge in policy-making and planning, the project will facilitate exchanges between government and the scientific community via meetings of the Regional Steering Committee and national Inter-Ministry Committees. Linkages will also be established with the community leaders and local government round-table meetings to support broad dissemination of regionally consolidated knowledge and science at the community level.

More information at https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=7315

https://www.pacific-r2r.org/

Figure 16 PacSIDS Ridge to Reef Programme Partnership

Climate change and disaster risk reduction were also areas with a large number of partnerships. Over 80 partnerships included components of climate change adaptation and mitigation, climate change and health, building resilience of coastal communities and ecosystems, climate change and gender, and using traditional knowledge in climate adaptation. Some examples of partnerships included Community Disaster & Climate Risk Management Programme, Indigenous Approaches to Disaster Risk Reduction, Pacific Partnerships to Strengthen Gender, Climate Change Responses and Sustainable Development (PPGCCSD), Promoting South-South Cooperation through Climate Change Education in Asia-Pacific Small Island Developing States, and Pacific Tsunami Risk Management Project.

There were no partnerships specifically on sustainable consumption and production, although a number of partnerships address sustainable fisheries and agriculture, as well as reducing plastic pollution in the sea. In addition, at least one Pacific SIDS is part of the global Sustainable Consumption and Production for SIDS Initiative.

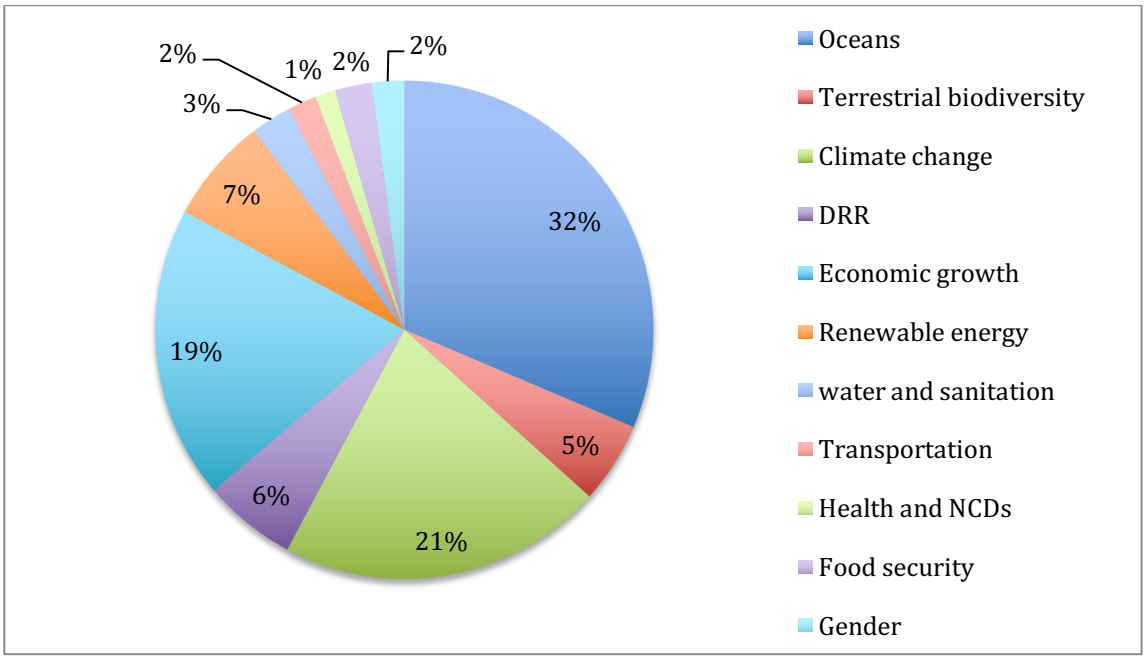

Figure 17 Percentage of Pacific partnerships addressing Samoa Pathway priority areas. While most areas are addressed, oceans, climate change, and sustainable economic growth have most partnerships.

Measuring impacts of partnerships

Consistent data on the impacts of partnerships on their beneficiaries and on sustainable development as a whole is lacking. However, it is possible to point to individual partnerships, which have measured their impacts, and which demonstrate the potential of the partnership approach to advance sustainable development, providing economic, social and environmental benefits.

The Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) Network, which started in Fiji and expanded to other parts of the Pacific and beyond, demonstrates direct benefits to sustainable development of villages. In a broader sense, it, along with the Micronesia Challenge (which inspired the Caribbean Challenge and the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge), demonstrates the ability of Pacific home-grown approaches to be scaled up, both nationally and globally.

Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) Network

Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA's) are protected areas that are largely or wholly managed by coastal communities and/or land-owning groups, with the support of government and partner representatives. The communities impose restrictions on areas such as 'no-take zones' and on certain equipment, practices, species or sizes of catches. These zones or restrictions allow resource and habitat recovery in over exploited areas, enabling a return to more sustainable harvest of marine resources for the community.

First recognized in Fiji, LMMA's are being replicated across coastal communities world-wide. More than 420 Indo-Pacific sites in the LMMA network involve around 600 villages and LMMAs cover more than 12,000 km^2 in 15 Pacific Island States. LMMAs are now in Madagascar and Indian Ocean. The LMMA Network is a global initiative founded in 2000 to advance LMMA practices around the world. It consists of communities, dedicated practitioners and government officials all focused on community-based marine resource management projects, providing capacity building, awareness and monitoring support. The Network is about sharing ideas and experiences to improve the performance of LMMAs while empowering greater numbers of communities to manage their marine resources in a sustainable way.

Villages have seen direct benefits in increased fisheries catches. For example, by imposing a closed, "*tabu*" area around a mangrove island, Sawa villagers found that the numbers of the mangrove lobster *Thalassina anomala* increased by roughly 250 percent annually, with a spillover effect of roughly 120 percent outside the *tabu* area.

A successful LMMA is, in effect, an alternative income source. The increase in fishery resources not only improves nutrition but also raises household income from market sales. Marine resources, on average, make up more than 50 percent of the household income for these villages, and raise these households far above the median income level of F$4000 a year in Fiji.

More information at: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=7987

http://www.glispa.org/glispa-bright-spots/129-locally-managed-marine-areas

Village by village: recovering Fiji's coastal fisheries: http://www.glispa.org/images/Papers/FijiCaseStudy.pdf

Figure 18 Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) Network

A partnership relating to women's economic empowerment (see box below) also demonstrates tangible impacts. By providing opportunities for marginalized women to access finance and incorporating their economic potential into the wider economy, the partnership has had positive impacts both on the beneficiaries, and on sustainable development as a whole.

Women's Economic Empowerment Driving Sustainable Development in SIDS – demonstrating impacts on beneficiaries

The partnership began with the Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea) Safe City for Women and Girls Programme. This programme is part of a global initiative aimed at making public spaces safe for women and girls. In Papua New Guinea (PNG) the programme focuses on urban marketplaces, the most populated public spaces in the capital city, where women and girls often experience intense and varied forms of discrimination, particularly gender-based violence. The Safe City programme aims at making markets safe, clean and inclusive.

Since its launch, the programme has had major achievements including helping market vendors open special mobile phone accessible bank accounts with Nationwide Micro-bank, which allow bank their daily earnings, reducing the risk of robbery and assault. In Gerehu market, changes to security contracts and the refurbishment of the toilet block, including separation of male and female toilets, installation of running water and heightened visibility for those entering the facilities, has led to women and girls feeling safer and less vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence. Additionally,

UN Women has used better practices and lessons learned from the Safe City programme to develop a regional initiative in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu called the Markets for Change (M4C).

Since its establishment M4C has resulted in more than 150 Solomon Island market vendors opening bank accounts, most for the first time. This is a signifcant step in expanding marginalised women's access to finance and incorporating their economic potential into the wider economy. In Fiji, the M4C programme partnership resulted in the construction of 42 new market stalls and construction of a fence around the market infrastructure in Sigatoka. This provided market vendors with protection from weather conditions and has increased security for over 700 market vendors, who were previously vulnerable to theft. Additionally, installation of water storage tanks in Tavua, Fiji, along with improvements to drainage systems, has helped to provide vendors with water reserves and sanitation facilities for use during flooding and regular water disruptions.

In the Pacific region between 75 and 90% of market vendors are women. UN Women's strategy for women's economic empowerment, has a specific focus on market women, and recognises that economic growth in SIDS is often uneven and particularly vulnerable to disaster-related shocks. There are also insufficient formal sector job opportunities to absorb the emergent labour marketer. The partnership, represented in these two programmes, demonstrates how government, the private sector and international community can work together to address these issues and improve the lives of women and their families in SIDS.

More information available at: http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/?p=7369

Figure 19 Women's Economic Empowerment Driving Sustainable Development in SIDS

Integration of priority areas and spillover effects

Many of the Pacific partnerships undertake integrated management of activities in different sectors in a sustainable way. The several blue and green economy partnerships integrate economic development, social inclusion and environmental protection, while providing for innovation, capacity development and employment opportunities. Similarly, partnerships related to marine spatial planning integrate environmental conservation with economic activities of several ocean sectors.

There are examples of partnerships that integrate a particularly large number of Samoa Pathway priority areas, demonstrating connections between areas such as climate resilience, renewable energy, food security, nutrition, and environmental protection. Hawaii's Aloha+ Challenge addresses six interconnected goals relevant to both the Samoa Pathway and the SDGs.

Aloha+ Challenge: A Culture of Sustainability – He Nohona ʻAeʻoia

The Aloha+ Challenge is a joint commitment by Hawai'I's six elected Chief Executives to 2030 targets for six interconnected goals: clean energy, local food production, natural resource management, waste reduction, smart growth, climate resilience, green jobs creation and education.

The specific aims of the challenge are:

1. Clean Energy: 70 percent clean energy – 40 percent from renewables and 30 percent from efficiency.

2. Local Food: At least double local food production – 20 to 30 percent of food consumed is grown locally.
3. Natural Resource Management: Reverse the trend of natural resource loss *mauka* to *makai* by increasing freshwater security, watershed protection, community-based marine management, invasive species control and native species restoration.
4. Waste Reduction: Reduce the solid waste stream prior to disposal by 70 percent through source reduction, recycling, bioconversion, and landfill diversion methods.
5. Smart Sustainable Communities: Increase livability and resilience in the built environment through planning and implementation at state and county levels.
6. Green Workforce & Education: Increase local green jobs and education to implement these targets.

The partnership currently uses dynamic multi-sector teams with representatives from islands across the state to share expertise while planning and implementing priority projects. It is working on the design of a statewide sustainability action network to expand engagement and facilitate collaborative action learning in the future.

More information at https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=8026

http://www.glispa.org/glispa-bright-spots/30-thematic-bright-spots/building-resilient-sustainable-island-communities/145-aloha-challenge

Figure 20 Aloha+ Challenge

Sustainable tourism cuts across all the priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway and it was proposed at the SIDS Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Pacific that integrated implementation could be addressed through a sustainable tourism lens[22]. Sustainable tourism will require a healthy environment, climate resilience, disaster risk management, cultural diversity, and social inclusion, while bringing with it economic benefits and employment. A policy framework and best practice guidelines for a resilient and sustainable tourism sector in the Pacific is being developed through a regional partnership with South Pacific Tourism Organization, SPREP and other partners.

Finally, most of the Pacific partnerships incorporate some degree of capacity development, thus contributing to enhanced human and institutional capacity relating to sustainable development.

Potential gaps

The existing partnerships are broadly aligned with regional priorities on oceans, with climate change and economic development also well represented. On oceans, partnerships in technology transfer for surveillance and monitoring of EEZs are needed to ensure proper

[22] Report of the Pacific Preparatory Meeting for the Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway. Tonga, 19-21 June 2018

implementation, including as it relates to illegal fishing and piracy[23].

There is less focus on topics such as poverty, equality, peace and human rights. Sustainable consumption and production, water and sanitation (particularly WASH facilities), and sustainable transportation may also require further attention. The region is still poorly connected, particularly in regards to remote islands, and there is a need to increase the cost-effectiveness and sustainability of transport, and reduce the carbon emissions of the transportation sector.

On poverty, the SIDS Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Pacific noted that across the region one in four people lives below the poverty line, with children being disproportionately vulnerable. Social protection only covers a certain part of the population, and urbanization and migration have come with weakened community ties, leaving an increasing part of the population without adequate protection[24].

Technology remains an area of priority in the region, particularly in driving progress in sustainable development.

In the area of social development and inclusion, significant development challenges remain in the region. On gender equality and empowering women and girls, a growing level of awareness is observed in the region, and is reflected in the many partnerships addressing gender equality. However, challenges remain in a number of areas, including as it relates to the participation of women in parliament; and the high prevalence of violence against women[25]. Other marginalized groups include people with disabilities.

With regard to underrepresented partners, there is a need for meaningful private sector engagement and for building business networks and coalitions. In the Pacific, the private sector tends to consist mostly of small and medium-sized enterprises rather than large private sector bodies, and the private sector has promoted social inclusion through women in leadership positions, and by being a provider of jobs for people with disabilities. Going forward, there is a need to strengthen national private sector bodies, data and statistics; undertake collaborations with universities to articulate private sector research needs; and engage with non-traditional investment, such as impact investment.

Civil society has been a strong partner in the Pacific, particularly in terms of engaging with communities, and both civil society and universities have made a significant contribution to sustainable development in the region. Further engagement with these partners will be required going forward.

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[23] Report of the Pacific Preparatory Meeting for the Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway. Tonga, 19-21 June 2018

[24] Ibid.

[25] Ibid.

Challenges

The SIDS Regional Partnership Dialogue for the Pacific (20-21 June 2018, Tonga) noted a number of challenges to partnerships. They include resources and funding; ensuring that the right people with the right expertise are involved in each partnership; and following through so that commitments filter to communities. Challenges also include practical working arrangements and scheduling issues, particularly where there are multiple partners from different entities and islands.

Lack of financing, human resources/turnover of staff, changes in organisational priorities are also common partnership challenges.

In addition, there is a need to better understand what makes an impactful partnership, including capacity for developing such partnerships, and to improve the information flow relating to partnerships between the national, regional and global levels.

Lessons learned and best practices

The SIDS Regional Partnership Dialogue for the Pacific identified lessons learned from partnerships in the region as follows:

- **Success of partnerships depends on national ownership, mutual trust, transparency and accountability** – in other words open and honest relationships. Without ownership by all partners, a partnership is not sustainable.
- **Successful partnerships have a clear mandate and focused objectives**. Funding also needs to be clarified and tailored to meet the objectives and will need to be long-term and sustained.
- **Inclusion and innovation need to be part of a successful partnership**, and partnerships need to ensure that no one is left behind.
- **A good system of governance is important for partnership success**, as is a strong sense of ownership of the project by partners and member countries. Support from the highest political levels, mainstreaming partnership work to that of government departments, and basing work on science and quantitative goals are also important.
- **Universities are important development partners** and play a critical role in promoting local wisdom and producing new knowledge to address regional challenges.

There are also many lessons to be learned from those partnerships that have been completed, and that have had a chance to reflect on their experiences. For example, in reference to the Pacific Adaptation for Climate Change (PACC) Project, which has now closed, it was noted that there was a still need to maintain access to the extensive number of studies, documentation and publications that were collected. This is likely the case with many closed projects, which can offer important information and lessons learned. In addition, while this project was successful, its implementation was limited to a few sites. Thus, there is a general need to expand successful pilot projects and develop full projects for implementation.

The Vanuatu NGO Climate Change Adaptation Program, which ran between 2012 and 2014, also offered a number of lessons on the methodology of partnerships working with communities and with multiple partners. These lessons are summarized in the box below.

Lessons learned from the Vanuatu NGO Climate Change Adaptation Program

The Vanuatu NGO Climate Change Adaptation Program (2012-2014), funded by the Australian Government, was implemented by a consortium of six organisations: Save the Children, CARE International in Vanuatu, Vanuatu Red Cross Society, Vanuatu Rural Development Training Centres Association, SPC/GIZ and coordinated by Oxfam. The program's goal was to increase the resilience of women, men and young people in Vanuatu to the impacts of climate change. The program worked with communities in nine islands across four provinces. It took a broad view on of resilience as the ability of women, men and children to realise their rights and improve their wellbeing despite shocks, stresses and uncertainty. Community members were supported to increase their understanding of climate variability and change, and plan and implement activities to strengthen DRR, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), Natural Resource Management (NRM), agriculture, nutrition, traditional knowledge, women's leadership and education. This program also established the Vanuatu Climate Adaptation Network (VCAN), which facilitates the sharing of lessons and good practice approaches among over 20 civil society organisations and with the Government of Vanuatu.

In adopting the central concept of "resilience" as a framework for action, the partnership was able to accommodate the different operating processes of its partners. While all consortium agencies have different approaches to resilience programming, the framework provides coherence in working towards a common definition of impact. This approach has increased the program's focus on community participation, voice and access to information, which helps communities to become more resilient.

The final report of the partnership outlined nine areas that need to be prioritized when replicating this model in different sectors or in different countries:

1. Building inclusive, meaningful partnerships
2. Working with communities and engaging the most vulnerable
3. Promoting civil society input to government policy making
4. Bridging the gap between levels: community, national, regional, global
5. Allocating resources for a co-ordination hub
6. Strengthening the role of leadership, champions and relationships
7. Developing accountability and an innovative cycle of learning
8. Sharing information and knowledge
9. Promoting sustainability, results and value for money

More information at: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=8029

Lessons from the Vanuatu NGO Climate Change Adaptation Program: https://www.oxfam.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/lessons-from-the-vanuatu-ngo-climate-change-adaptation-program-web.pdf

Figure 21 Lessons learned from Vanuatu Climate Adaptation Program

Caribbean

Background to the region

The Caribbean is home to many Small Island Developing States, which include Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Bahamas, Cuba, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Saint Kitts

and Nevis and Suriname. In addition, the SIDS in the region include the dependent territories of Bermuda, Sint Maarten, Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Martinique, Turks and Caicos Islands, Aruba, Cayman Islands, Curacao, Guadeloupe, Montserrat, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands. Like other SIDS, countries in the region share many common development challenges, including geographic and economic isolation, limited resources, environmental fragility, high costs of transportation and energy, and vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters.

In its resolution 71/224, the General Assembly recognized that the Caribbean Sea was an area with unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystems and that, when compared with all other marine ecosystems, was surrounded by the largest number of countries in the world, many of which rely heavily on the marine environment for economic growth and sustainable development.

The Caribbean SIDS have made some progress in meeting their sustainable development priorities, but continue to face major challenges that include the lack of economies of scale in production, high vulnerability to environmental stresses, acute exposure to external shocks, excessive reliance on external financial inflows and on few export and import markets, limited transport and communications, reduced scope for economic diversification and limited human resources, compounded by high levels of migration of skilled individuals, and high unemployment of youth and women. This has resulted in stalled progress in some areas and reversal of development gains in others[26].

There are many regional organizations in the Caribbean facilitating collaboration between governments in their areas of competence. These organizations, which are well represented in regional partnerships, include the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, (ECLAC), the UNEP Caribbean Environmental Programme (CEP), the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission of the FAO, Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCC), Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration, Latin American and Caribbean Economic System, Central American Integration System (SICA), Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Segregated Portfolio Company (CCRIF SPC), and many others.

Status and trends of partnerships

Number of partnerships at 2014 SIDS Conference	Current number of partnerships	Number of completed partnerships	Active partnerships	Number reporting

[26] San Pedro Declaration. Caribbean SIDS Regional Preparatory Meeting, San Pedro, Belize, 7-9 August 2018

42	178	37	141	70 (50%)

The in-depth review noted 178 national and regional partnerships within the Caribbean. In addition, the countries in the Caribbean region participated in an additional 146 global and inter-regional partnerships. Out of the 178 national and regional partnerships, 75 were registered in the SIDS Action Platform, and include both Samoa Pathway partnerships and commitments made in response to the UN Ocean Conference. The remaining 103 partnerships included in this analysis were sourced from a Samoa Pathway Mid-term review undertaken by ECLAC [27], which increased considerably the available information on partnerships in the Caribbean. Out of the 146 global partnerships that have Caribbean participation, 143 were registered in the SIDS Action Platform, with the remaining ones sourced from the ECLAC review.

There has been a rising trend in partnerships since the 2014 SIDS Conference, where 42 Caribbean partnerships were registered. As with other regions, the UN Ocean Conference provided a boost in ocean-related partnerships.

Most of the partnerships included in this review are regional partnerships that include several, and often all, Caribbean countries. Out of the 178 partnerships that pertained to Caribbean countries, 125 were regional, while 53 were national. Most of the national partnerships were government-led, and governments led 24% of the partnerships overall. Regional organizations led the majority, or 8% of the partnerships. This demonstrates strong regional collaboration across many different Samoa Pathway priority areas. Most partnerships also include partners from outside the region in the form of United Nations agencies (21% of the partnerships), donor agencies and countries, and universities or other organizations providing technical expertise on specific issues. NGO and civil society led 7% of the partnerships, while the private sector led 3%. All countries and territories in the Caribbean region participated in partnerships, although the participation rate of some dependent territories was relatively lower.

[27] Dubrie, A. and Thorne, E. (2018) Caribbean regional report on the mid-term review of SIDS accelerated modalities of action. ECLAC Studies and Perspectives Series

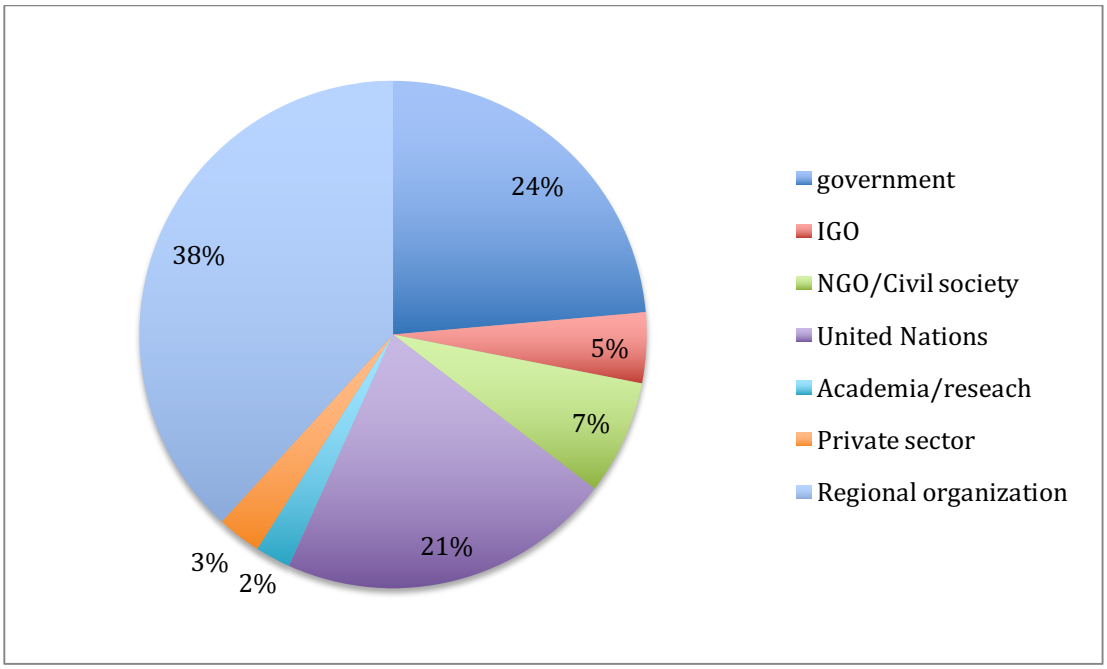

Figure 22 Entities leading partnerships in the Caribbean region. Partnerships by regional organizations and governments dominate. There are also many United Nations – led partnerships.

Out of the 178 national and regional partnerships, 37 have either been registered as completed or have completion dates that have now been passed. Progress reports have been submitted by roughly half, or 70, of the 141 still ongoing partnerships registered on the SIDS Action Platform, indicating that reporting needs to be strengthened.

The registered partnerships are heterogeneous in nature, and range from large regional projects relating to climate change adaption and mitigation, sustainable energy and marine and coastal management to initiatives relating to advancing social and livelihoods causes on specific SIDS and developing national policy and legislation. On the other end of the scale are partnerships that have as their outputs single events such as a participatory art exhibit or a film screening. Thus further work needs to be done to categorize partnerships.

How SAMOA Pathway priority areas are addressed through partnerships

Transforming economies and societies for sustained inclusive and equitable growth - *Relevant SAMOA Pathway priority areas include: economic growth, trade, sustainable energy, sustainable transportation, water and sanitation, food security and nutrition, NCDs, social development, gender*

The majority of Caribbean partnerships address at least two, and sometimes multiple, SAMOA Pathway priority areas, indicating that consideration is given to integration between related topics.

All of the SAMOA Pathway priority areas relating to "transforming economies and societies for sustained, inclusive and equitable growth" have been addressed through partnerships, but in an uneven way. Priority areas such as economic growth, sustainable energy and social development have a large number of partnerships registered. Out of these, economic growth

was a component of at least 50 partnerships, which included the development of national green and blue economies, sustainable tourism and fisheries, fostering private investment in nations around the Caribbean, rural economic development, and improving capacity in public finance. For example, the "Resource Efficient Low Carbon and Circular Industrial Partnership Platform for Catalysing Eco-Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Barbados" (RECIPPEE-Barbados), aims to build the island's green economy through development of sustainable industries (see box below).

Resource Efficient Low Carbon and Circular Industrial Partnership Platform for Catalysing Eco-Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Barbados" (RECIPPEE-Barbados)

Announced in Samoa in 2014, the partnership between the Government of Barbados and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) aimed to build the island's green economy through development of sustainable industries. Entitled the "Resource Efficient Low Carbon and Circular Industrial Partnership Platform for Catalysing Eco-Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Barbados", (RECIPPEE-Barbados)" this partnership has given rise to the 2018-approved GEF "Strategic platform to promote sustainable energy technology innovation, industrial development and entrepreneurship in Barbados" to the amount of US$14.67M. This initiative is also closely aligned with Barbados' new development priorities in the areas of youth entrepreneurship, business and export development, innovation, and education for development.

From Dubrie, A. and Thorne, E. (2018) Caribbean regional report on the mid-term review of SIDS accelerated modalities of action. ECLAC Studies and Perspectives Series

Figure 23 Resource Efficient Low Carbon and Circular Industrial Partnership Platform for Catalysing Eco-Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Barbados

Sustainable energy was also a component of at least 39 partnerships, and centered on energy efficiency and development of clean and renewable energy technologies. Many of these partnerships were Caribbean-wide. Some examples of partnerships around sustainable energy include the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE), the UAE-Caribbean Renewable Energy Fund, the Sustainable Energy Facility for the Eastern Caribbean, and the Caribbean Energy Statistics Capacity Enhancement Project.

At last 31 partnerships focused on social development, including programs for youth, protection of the rights of children, strengthening civil society, protection of traditional knowledge and cultural heritage, and a variety of educational initiatives. Examples on programs on youth included the "Improving youth employability in the Dominican Republic" partnership, which sought to strengthen young people´s skills for entrepreneurship and provide vocational training and capacity of youth to find employment after leaving school. Another example is the Anguilla Youth Parliament, which aims to provide for youth participation in democratic processes. In the Eastern Caribbean, the OECS Youth Empowered Society (OECS YES) provides for youth empowerment around several different themes. Only one partnership was found to directly addresses poverty, though aspects of poverty are incorporated in partnerships focusing on employment and economic and social development. An example of poverty-related partnership is the Caribbean Cooperation Forum, a collaboration between UN-Habitat and ECLAC, which includes a component focusing on participatory slum upgrading.

Food security and nutrition were part of at least 35 partnerships, most of which were focused on fisheries, but with agricultural health part of at least 5 partnerships. Some partnerships relating to food security, nutrition and agriculture include the IAEA partnerships in Caribbean agriculture, which include collaborations in nuclear agriculture; a partnership to strengthen the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) in food health and safety; the FAO Hunger Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative; partnerships between donor governments, CARICOM, Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), and other organizations on development of specific agriculture sectors, such as cocoa; and a partnership between UN Women and FAO to replace crops destroyed by hurricane Maria by providing seeds, seedlings and tools for women farmers to expedite the return of their plots to production.

Health was a component of at least 12 partnerships, including the Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP), and a UNFPA collaboration on sexual and reproductive health policies for integrating adolescent mothers into the formal school system. However, while there is work being undertaken through national policies and by the CARICOM Secretariat and PAHO/WHO on non-communicable diseases (NCDs), there were no partnerships found that focused specifically on this topic.

Sustainable transportation was addressed through several partnerships that related to maritime transport and related infrastructure. They included the ACS initiative on Improved Interconnectivity for Trade Facilitation and Short Distance Maritime Transport in the Caribbean, UNCTAD's initiative on Climate change impacts on coastal transport infrastructure in the Caribbean, and a national public-private partnership in Aruba to improve toad connections with container ports called the Green Corridor Project. Improving public transit and improving access for cyclists and pedestrians is also a part of the Green Corridor Project. There were no partnerships found on other forms of transportation, and no regional partnerships promoting public transit, although ICAO undertakes some work in the region on improving fuel efficiency in aviation.

Trade was another area with relatively fewer partnerships, although the "Made in the Caribbean Project" of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (completed in 2016), Haiti's Better Work initiative focusing on the apparel industry, and the CEDA and World Bank partnership on supporting the Caribbean Investment Facilitation Project provide some examples.

Partnerships relating to the management of water resources and watersheds include UNESCO's partnership with Instituto Nacional de Recursos Hidráulicos in the Dominican Republic to establish a Centre for the Sustainable Management of Water Resources in the Caribbean Island States, and to transfer scientific and technical knowledge on this topic. In addition, partnerships in this area include the GEF-funded projects titled "Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean SIDS (IWEco)" and "Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management in SIDS (IWCAM)"; as well as the Caribbean Rainwater Toolbox (a collaboration between Council for Caribbean Science and Technology, the Global Water Partnership, and others); and the Caribbean Regional Framework for Investment in Water Security and Climate Resilient Development. Few Caribbean partnerships relate specifically on wastewater and sanitation, although Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater management (CReW) is one exception (see box in section on impacts).

In addition, 13 partnerships incorporated gender considerations, and two partnerships, the Caribbean Institute for Women in Leadership and Belize's Women in Politics Project, focused on enhancing women's leadership skills. CARIFORUM also works collaboratively on prevention on gender violence.

Building a sustainable and resilient Caribbean: confronting climate change and other environmental related stressors - *Relevant SAMOA Pathway priority areas include: climate change, oceans and seas, waste management, biodiversity, sustainable consumption and production, disaster risk reduction*

All of the SAMOA Pathway priority areas relating to "building a sustainable and resilient Caribbean: confronting climate change and other environmental related stressors" were addressed through partnerships. Out of these, partnerships related to oceans and seas dominated, in part due to commitments registered in response to the UN Ocean Conference. Over 55 partnerships included oceans and seas, with many focusing on sustainable fisheries, establishment of marine protected areas, coastal and ocean management, marine spatial planning, blue economies, coral reef conservation, and collection of scientific data. Some examples from a broad array of ocean partnerships include the Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project, the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, the Caribbean Coral Reef Early Warning System Network, the Caribbean Observing Network for Ocean Acidification, the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ SAP), the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations, the Caribbean Fisheries Co-management Project, and various blue economy/blue growth initiatives in Grenada, Barbados and other countries.

Climate change was another area with a large number of registered partnerships. At least 45 partnerships focused on aspects of climate change adaptation and mitigation, climate finance, cross-regional learning, climate information, data services, and estimating the social and economic impacts of climate change. Some examples include the Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership (see box below), the Climate Resilient Islands Partnership, Caribbean Climate-Smart Coalition, and various projects and partnerships organized by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCC).

The Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership

The Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership (J-CCCP) is designed to strengthen the capacity of countries in the Caribbean to invest in climate change mitigation and adaptation technologies, as prioritised in their Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). These technologies will help reduce the dependence on fossil fuel imports, setting the region on a low-emission development path; as well as improve the region's ability to respond to climate risks and opportunities in the long-run, through resilient development approaches that go beyond disaster response to extreme events.

The partnership brings together policy makers, experts and representatives of communities to encourage policy innovation for climate technology incubation and diffusion. By doing so, the Partnership aims to ensure that barriers to the implementation of climate-resilient technologies are addressed and overcome in a participatory and efficient manner. As a result, concrete mitigation and adaption will be implemented on the ground, in line with the countries' long-term strategies. Building upon and supported by the NAMAs and NAPs, the Partnership also supports the incubation of climate technology into targeted public sectors, private industries, and community groups and

enterprises so that green, low-emission climate-resilient technologies can be tested, refined, adopted, and sustained as practical measures to enhance national, sub-national and community level resilience.

More information is available at http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/?p=12369

Figure 24 The Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership

A number of climate change projects also incorporated oceans, renewable energy and disaster risk reduction as priority areas. In particular, many of the at least 25 partnerships on disaster risk reduction covered aspects of climate change, although hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis and other natural disasters were also addressed. Some examples of disaster risk reduction partnerships included the Caribbean Risk Management Initiative, the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Financing Facility (CCRIF), and the ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Programme on the Strengthening Capacity in Post Disaster Needs Assessment for the Caribbean. In addition there were partnerships between the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) to increase preparedness and response for nuclear or radiological emergencies, and on strengthening CDEMA in the technical areas of earthquakes and tsunamis through partnerships with National Disaster Offices and research centers from outside of the region. Sharing experience between sectors, enhancing the knowledge base, and financing risk and disaster recovery were also covered.

While biodiversity in general was well covered, particularly in regards to marine biodiversity, fewer partnerships focused solely on land-based biodiversity, indicating less focus on the upstream part of whole-island management systems. Sustainable land management and forestry had some national level partnerships in Guyana, Suriname and Dominican Republic, while on a regional level, a strategic alliance between FAO and CANARI aimed at developing a regional strategy on forests and climate change. Integrating land, water and ecosystem management, expansion of protected areas, watershed management, and the collection of environmental data also featured as components of partnerships. Examples of these types of partnership are the Caribbean Biological Corridor initiative between Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic; and IWECO - Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States.

Sustainable consumption and production was expressly part of 5 partnerships, though it could be argued that this number is somewhat larger due to the many registered fisheries-related partnerships.

Although 10 partnerships addressed waste management in some form, there was relatively little focus on topics such as recycling, hazardous wastes and wastewater. Management of plastic waste featured in several recent partnerships, potentially indicating new focus on this topic.

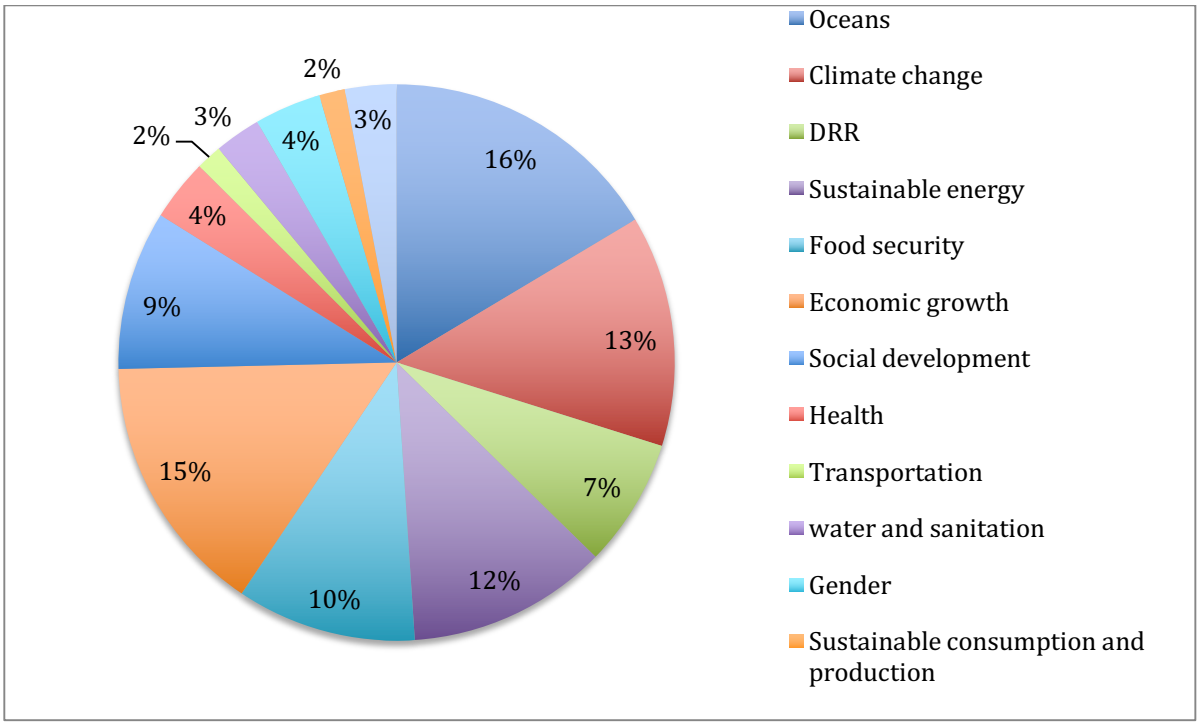

Figure 25 Percentage of Caribbean partnerships addressing Samoa Pathway priority areas. While most areas are addressed, oceans, economic development, climate change and sustainable energy have the most partnerships.

Measuring impacts of partnerships

While there is not enough available data to measure the collective impacts of these partnerships on sustainable development in the Caribbean, individual initiatives have had measurable impacts on beneficiaries, have enhanced environmental protection, and put in place new policies and activities.

Most partnerships included in this review also provide some degree of capacity building and, in some cases, technology transfer. Thus, their impacts may include long-lasting skill-building on the individual level, as well as strengthening institutions in the region.

For example, two funds, the Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) have provided tangible benefits on the ground. While the CReW is a regional fund, the CEPF is a global fund that operates in the Caribbean, providing grants to civil society to protect critical ecosystems. The two case studies below describe impacts from projects undertaken by these funds.

Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management (CReW)

The GEF CReW Project has made significant headway in progressing wastewater management in the region. Launched in 2011 and completed in 2017, it aimed at (i) providing sustainable financing for the wastewater sector; (ii) supporting policy and legislative reforms; and (iii) fostering regional dialogue and knowledge exchange (UN-DESA, 2018). Several significant achievements were accomplished during its implementation including the establishment of 3 pilot financing mechanisms for wastewater management in Belize, Guyana, and Jamaica; the development of

national action plans, regulations and policies in participating countries; and the delivery of wastewater management training programmes to more than 600 persons across the region. Based on the widespread success of this project, UNEP CEP is currently in development of a GEF CReW+ Project Proposal for further funding consideration by the GEF.

From Dubrie, A. and Thorne, E. (2018) Caribbean regional report on the mid-term review of SIDS accelerated modalities of action. ECLAC Studies and Perspectives Series

Figure 26 Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a global programme that provides grants to civil society to protect critical ecosystems. CEPF's first investment in the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot between October 2010 and July 2016 responded to these threats and produced a broad range of conservation results in eight countries and at the regional level focused on terrestrial biodiversity. Specific priorities for funding and targeted results were identified in the CEPF Caribbean Islands Ecosystem Profile and the final evaluation recognised the significant results that had been achieved. The CEPF implemented a US$6.9 million investment in eight Caribbean SIDS and at the regional level through 77 grants to 68 CSOs, with 78% of the funds going to local and regional Caribbean CSOs. The CEPF is currently finalising the design and programming of a second phase of investment.

With this focused support, the CSOs were able to achieve significant results for conservation and livelihoods. Demonstrable improvements in management were achieved in 25 Key Biodiversity Areas covering a total of 593,967 hectares, as guided by management and operational plans. Eight new protected areas were created covering 111,496 hectares in The Bahamas, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, including terrestrial and marine national parks, municipal reserves and a private protected area. The Dominican Republic's first private protected area was declared, and the procedures required to implement the existing legal framework for the declaration of private protected areas were developed and disseminated.

Under the CEPF, climate change adaptation was integrated in protected area planning and implementation actions for the first time in Jamaica and the Dominican Republic. A climate change risk assessment was prepared for the Portland Bight and Hellshire Hills sub-area management plans in Jamaica. Similarly, a climate change adaptation action plan and strategy was included in the management plan for Dominican Republic's La Humeadora National Park. CSOs in the Dominican Republic also developed a capacity building action plan to access climate finance in order to conserve critical ecosystems in the context of climate change.

From Dubrie, A. and Thorne, E. (2018) Caribbean regional report on the mid-term review of SIDS accelerated modalities of action. ECLAC Studies and Perspectives Series

Figure 27 Critical Econsystem Partnership Fund

In regards to ecosystem management, the Caribbean Challenge (CCI) has been able to demonstrate tangible results in the protection of marine environments in several countries around the Caribbean.

Caribbean Challenge (CCI)

The participating CCI countries have already designated 50 new protected areas. The Bahamas established three marine protected areas, including the largest one in the region. The Dominican Republic established 30 new protected areas, surpassing their goal of conserving at least 20% of nearshore and coastal environments, and Jamaica too has set up eight no-take marine zones.

Two marine zoning plans are completed (for the Dominican Republic's Samana Bay and for St. Kitts and Nevis' entire Exclusive Economic Zone) to support establishment of protected areas and to improve management.

The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund is currently supported by the German Development Bank, Global Environment Facility, and The Nature Conservancy. It will disburse funding to participating nations to support protected area management beginning as early as 2014.

The Inaugural Caribbean Summit of Business and Political Leaders took place in May 2013 on Necker Island, at the home of Sir Richard Branson, Founder of The Virgin Group. The Summit brought together 15 governments, 17 corporations and several partner organizations. Individual governments made specific conservation commitments and corporations and partners pledged to support marine and coastal conservation in the Caribbean.

More information is available at http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/?p=2320

Figure 28 Caribbean Challenge

Integration of priority areas and spillover effects

With most partnerships in the Caribbean addressing multiple Samoa Pathway priority areas, integration is part of many partnerships. This is particularly the case with partnerships seeking to advance green and blue economies in the Caribbean, which incorporate the work of several sectors (often sustainable tourism, fisheries, renewable ocean energy, blue carbon etc.). These partnerships generally incorporate the spillover effects of building capacity for innovation and providing skilled employment in ocean sectors. Many also seek to provide employment and training for women and youth.

In addition, many climate change-related partnerships also incorporate issues related to renewable energy, environmental sustainability, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and marine transportation. Partnerships relating to food security and nutrition may also consider climate change, agriculture and fisheries. Such clustering of Samoa Pathway priority areas demonstrates the high degree of connectivity between those areas, and by extension in the partnerships that seek to implement them.

The case study below, the Grenada Sustainable Farmers' Night Market Network, demonstrates how a relatively simple activity, such as a night market, can provide spillover effects in many different areas.

Grenada Sustainable Farmers' Night Market Network

This partnership that promotes sustainability has been on-going since 2003. It went into dormancy for some time but has been revived in 2014 and has been expanded with new partners. The principal goal is to assist participating rural business, organizations and groups, with ways and means to earn

income and increase wealth (assets) through expanding overall sustainability in and for Grenada. We believe we can be part of the global movement to increase the national economic pie while reducing poverty, destruction and ignorance and enhancing the environment. Grenada is small enough (110,000 persons and 344 square miles and 8 small islands) that we think this can be achieved in the not too distant future. In hosting the monthly Night Market, so far, the network of rural economic and social actors, draws a few hundred persons who seek out a novel, fun, interactive event, at which they encounter new ideas, products and persons focused on Grenada's sustainable development. In practical terms, many seek out healthy and traditional foods, fruits, plants, cultural items and artifacts and information.

Extracted from http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/?p=7420

Figure 29 Grenada Sustainable Farmer's Night Market Network

Potential gaps

In reviewing the partnerships in this study, there were several Samoa Pathway priority areas that seem under-represented. These areas include **non-communicable diseases (NCDs), poverty, terrestrial biodiversity, trade, wastewater and sanitation, and sustainable transportation, particularly beyond shipping.** It is possible that these issues are being addressed through means other than partnerships, including national-level policies and regulations. However, it may be worthwhile to consider whether their further inclusion in regional partnerships would help their implementation.

Participants at the SIDS Regional Partnership Dialogue for the Caribbean also brought up other gap areas. These included the following:

- **Sourcing development finance for SIDS**, which is an area that has not seen previous partnerships. One possible approach could be to engage in partnerships with the insurance industry, which could also be a way to mobilize innovative financing for the region for sustainable development. In addition, SIDS are highly dependent on fossil fuels, and the use of electric vehicles and development of Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) would reduce the amount of petroleum that needs to be imported.
- **Development of an integrated regional emergency response**, including in relation to pests and animal diseases. Diseases and pests move quickly and there is a need for a regional action plan in this regard. In addition, there is a need to ensure the safety of the food supply in an emergency situation.
- **Building resilient health systems,** including physical and mental well-being is important for the achievement of the SAMOA Pathway. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs – cancer, heart attack, stroke, physical inactivity) are more significant than communicable diseases in the Caribbean. Climate change is also a significant threat to human health, and something that SIDS are vulnerable to.
- **Fostering innovation in the maritime domain,** and maximizing socio-economic benefits of open science and open data towards developing blue economies are important for SIDS. In addition, and fostering small and medium enterprise relating to ocean innovation can help develop ocean economies.

In regards to participation, there was strong participation by regional agencies and organizations in partnerships, as well as by governments. Civil society, the private sector and

academia were less prominent, and their inclusion in partnerships may require further consideration.

Challenges

While the partnership descriptions did not include much information about challenges, this topic was discussed at the SIDS Regional Partnership Dialogue for the Caribbean, held in San Pedro, Belize, on 6 August 2018.

This workshop identified financing as one major challenge for partnerships. Partnerships often require internal resource mobilization on the part of Governments. This could be a challenge for governments where there is limited fiscal space for investment in sustainable development. In such cases priorities have to be carefully defined as to where limited resources are to be spent. Some innovative solutions for financing involved the creation of the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund as part of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative. Each country participating in the Caribbean Challenge is encouraged to create its own trust fund (National Conservation Trust Fund), and will additionally be able to access funding from the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund. Other partnerships have involved the private sector, chambers of commerce, as well as received funding from UNDP, GEF, donor countries and other funding entities.

The workshop also noted other challenges, which included overlap and duplication between partnerships and projects, lack of trust between partners, difficulties in engaging with the private sector, and capacity challenges.

On capacity, it was noted that there are limited monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess progress. Access to information, managing data, and knowledge transfer are issues both within the region and nationally.

Also on capacity, it was noted that there is a need to define what is meant by durable and genuine partnerships, and to develop an ability to measure, monitor and evaluate them. In this regard, it was noted that there is a need for more rigorous evidence-based criteria for how to establish partnerships, and more concrete baselines for measuring progress. Some challenges in this regard for the Caribbean include:

- The lack of baseline data for partnerships
- Lack of appropriate data for monitoring and evaluation, which does not allow for measuring impact of partnerships
- SMART criteria in partnerships
- Evidence-based criteria for evaluating partnerships

Lessons learned and best practices

The SIDS Regional Partnership Dialogue for the Caribbean also brought up several best practices on developing partnerships, which include the following:

- **A genuine and durable partnership requires buy-in from all partners. All partners will need to agree on a common goals and objectives**, and understand what the partnership is trying to achieve. This is sometimes difficult, particularly in

the beginning, as partners may not fully understand each other. It is important to get an agreement, such as a MoU or declaration, down on paper, so that everyone understands and agrees on partnership objectives. A regular collaborative review of progress will also help keep the partnership on track towards its goals and objectives.

- **Trust is a critical ingredient of a successful partnership**, and needs to be fostered and built through joint action and shared responsibilities.
- **Successful partnerships are often highly participatory**. They will involve government entities and work across ministries and with civil servants to build political will and leadership. They will also engage other partners, including academia, civil society, private sector, women and youth.
- **Partnerships will have to be durable and be able to withstand shock**. They should find a way to be consistent, and remain a priority even when the government changes.
- **Effective partnerships have shared benefits and commitments, as well as a sense of ownership by all partners**. Collaboration is essential for partnerships. While there is already capacity in Caribbean SIDS, strengthening that capacity is important, and international partnerships can provide for this. In international partnership there needs to be a focus on issues that are most critical for the country, rather than donor priorities.
- There is a need to strengthen the review and monitoring of partnerships. **Monitoring and evaluating of partnerships should be mandatory**, and should be built into partnerships from the outset. In this way the cost of monitoring becomes part of project costs. A serious challenge to monitoring and evaluating partnerships in the Caribbean is the lack of baseline data as well as indicators. Capacity strengthening may be needed both for collecting and using evidence-based data.
- **Partnerships must be inclusive of all stakeholders,** and an effort must be made to include marginalized groups. They should be based on a common understanding of objectives, collaboration, trust and accountability. Successful partnerships bring together all stakeholders from the very beginning, ensuring ownership in the process. In order to have buy-in from communities, NGOs and civil society need to be involved. Partnerships must work and cooperate with government and government entities. Successful partnerships should be replicated, so as not to reinvent the wheel.

The Human Development Index and potential future directions for SIDS partnerships

UNDP has calculated the 2017 Human Development Index (HDI) for 36 out of 38 SIDS countries[28]. The results of these calculations may help in determining priority areas for new SIDS partnerships. The HDI was created to emphasize that people and their capabilities should be the ultimate criteria for assessing the development of a country, not economic growth alone. The HDI is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of

[28] The HDI was not calculated for Nauru and Tuvalu as data were not available for 2 or more necessary indicators.

human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and having a decent standard of living[29].

The average HDI value for the SIDS (without Singapore)[30] is 0.684 and is above the average HDI for developing countries (0.681), but below the world average of 0.728.

Between 1990 and 2017, the SIDS registered the increase in HDI value over 18 percent, which is equivalent to an average annual growth of 0.63%. Looking at individual SIDS, Papua New Guinea achieved the fastest growth – growing at an average annual rate of 1.34%, followed by Sao Tome and Principe (0.98%) and then Mauritius (0.91%). The lowest growth was observed in Belize (0.35%).

Table 3 2017 Human Development Index and its components. Note: SIDS are presented without Singapore.

	Small Island Developing States	World	Developing countries	Minimum in the SIDS		Maximum in the SIDS	
Human Development Index	0.684	0.728	0.681	0.455 (HDI rank = 177)	Guinea-Bissau	0.846 (HDI rank = 43)	Bahrain
Life Expectancy (years)	71.2	72.2	70.7	57.8	Guinea-Bissau	79.9	Cuba
Expected Years of Schooling (years)	11.9	12.7	12.2	9.3	Haiti	16.9	Grenada
Mean Years of Schooling (years)	8.2	8.4	7.3	3.0	Guinea-Bissau	12.3	Palau
GNI per capita (2011 PPP $)	8,614	15,295	10,055	1,399	Comoros	41,580	Bahrain

[29] http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi

[30] Value of Singapore's HDI is 0.932.

Inequality

Losses in HDI when inequality is taken into account (the Inequality-adjusted HDI, or IHDI) are higher for SIDS (an average loss of 24.8 percent) than the world average loss (20.0 percent) and the average loss for developing countries (22.0 percent). The income component is where the loss due to inequality is the highest (34.9 percent) followed by inequality in education (20.8 percent) and in life expectancy at birth (17.4 percent).

The relatively high IHDI indicates that there may be a need to further develop partnerships that address aspects of inequality, including ensuring that no one is left behind. Such partnerships might need to address income inequality and poverty, education, health and life expectancy. Marginalized groups and people will also need to be included. There are currently relatively few partnerships addressing aspects of inequality.

Gender

The Gender Development Index (GDI) is a measure of gender disparities in human development achievements. On average the GDI value of SIDS is 0.948 compared to a world average of 0.941 and the average for developing countries of 0.917. It means that the female HDI value is, on average, only 94.8% of the HDI for males. The differences in values are greatest for estimated income per capita, which is 2.1 times higher for men ($11,487) than for women ($5,598).

The Gender Inequality Index (GII) reflects loss to potential achievements due to inequality between women and men in three aspects of human development — (i) the freedom to control own life, autonomy of the body, and the right to have and determine health-related choices; (ii) the right to have and to expand the sense of self-worth and the ability to influence the direction of social change towards a just social and economic order, and (iii) to have equal access to opportunities and resources. The average GII value for the SIDS is 0.458. The average for developing countries is 0.468 and the global average is 0.441. Because the GII is an inequality measure, the higher value indicates the higher inequality.

In terms of components, what appears to be driving the GII value is the relatively low labour force participation rate for females (53.7%) compared to labour force participation rate for men (73.0%), a difference of over 19 percentage points.

Thus it seems that gender inequality could best be addressed in partnerships through focusing efforts on women's participation in the labour force, and in achieving income equality.

Poverty

The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is a composite measure designed to capture overlapping deprivations that people suffer at the same time. It builds on recent advances in theory and offers a valuable complement to traditional money metric measures of poverty. The MPI has been calculated for 16 out of 37 SIDS, covering 56.5 million population or 68.3 percent of the total population of SIDS (82.8 million).

The results show that many households in SIDS countries are vulnerable to multidimensional poverty, meaning that they are not multidimensionally poor but are on the brink of poverty. In Vanuatu, based on the 2007 MICS, 32.3 percent of the population is vulnerable to poverty and about 38.8 percent is multidimensionally poor. In Timor-Leste, based on the 2016 DHS, about 46 percent of population is multidimensionally poor and an additional 26 percent are vulnerable to poverty.

Deprivations in standard of living tend to contribute more to multidimensional deprivation (46.0 percent) of SIDS than deprivations in other two dimensions, health (23.9 percent) and education (30.1).

There are currently few SIDS partnerships that address multiple dimensions of poverty. Tackling poverty is a complex undertaking, requiring a wide range of community partners collaborating towards a common goal. While economic growth will help alleviate poverty, it does not necessarily benefit all people equally. Thus, inequality and poverty are closely linked. Sustained investments in human capital, such as education and health, and food and nutrition security will contribute to poverty reduction. Pro-poor growth strategies may include agriculture, small-scale fisheries, rural development, market development and trade. **Thus, for countries with a high MPI indexes, there may be a need for partnerships engaging communities in addressing multiple aspects of poverty, in particular with a view to raising the standard of living.**

Environmental sustainability

In assessing a selection of 10 indicators relating to environmental sustainability, SIDS were placed in the middle third in 4 indicators and in the bottom third in 2 indicators (CO_2 emissions per unit of GDP and mortality rate due to unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene services.)

These results highlight the importance of further work and partnerships on water, wastewater, and sanitation, including through WASH facilities. Further work on transitioning towards energy efficiency and renewable energy also remain priorities.

A summary of regional experiences in implementing partnerships

There are many similarities in the regional experiences with partnerships thus far. All regions have seen a growing trend in partnerships since the 2014 SIDS Conference. For all regions, partnerships in certain Samoa Pathway priority areas are under-represented. When taken together with the 2017 Human Development Index for SIDS calculated by UNDP, they highlight potential areas for new partnerships. These areas include:

- **Aspects of social and economic development, in particular addressing inequality and ensuring that no one is left behind**. Such partnerships may include actions relating to income inequality, poverty, education, and health, and provide for the inclusion of marginalized groups.

- **Multiple dimensions of poverty**, particularly in countries and areas with a high number of poor and vulnerable households. These partnerships may require sustained investments in human capital, such as education and health, and food and nutrition security, and may include agriculture, small-scale fisheries, rural development, market development, trade and other activities.
- **Sustainable transportation**, particularly in terms of low-carbon, low cost options for communities on remote islands.
- **Water, wastewater and sanitation** in many areas where these services are still inadequate.
- **Health and NCDs**, particularly in assisting countries implement their NCD-related activities.
- **Gender considerations,** particularly in regards to income equality, women's participation in the workforce, and women's leadership**.**
- **Integrated ecosystem management focusing on whole islands,** particularly on terrestrial and watershed areas, and their connection to the sea, as well as human livelihoods.
- **Sustainable consumption and production**, including addressing this topic holistically in the context of small islands.
- **Sourcing development finance for SIDS**, which is an area that has not seen previous partnerships. One proposal was to engage in partnerships with the insurance industry to mobilize innovative financing.

In addition, each region put forward a number of specific gap areas, which broadly overlap with the general gaps presented above. However, the combination of the present review and the regional partnership dialogues and preparatory workshops also articulated additional and more specific issues that may require further attention.

Region	**Identified gap areas**
AIMS/AIS	- Sustainable, equitable and inclusive economic growth, health and NCDs, and gender equality and women's empowerment - Climate change resilience and disaster risk reduction - Fresh water, waste management, WASH - Reducing dependence on imported fuels and expensive transport - Involving more women and youth in decision-making processes • - Innovation and the transfer of technology
Pacific	- Poverty, social protections, equality, sustainable consumption and production, water and sanitation, sustainable transportation - Technology transfer for surveillance and monitoring of EEZs, including as it relates to illegal fishing and piracy - Technology as a driver of sustainable development - Participation of women in parliament - - Youth, marginalized groups, including people with disabilities
Caribbean	- NCDs, terrestrial biodiversity, trade, wastewater and sanitation, trade, and sustainable transportation - Building resilient health systems, including physical and mental well-being

	- Development of an integrated regional emergency response including in relation to pests and animal diseases - - Fostering innovation in the maritime domain, and maximizing socio-economic benefits of open science and open data towards developing blue economies

Under-represented partners included actors other than national governments and regional and UN organizations. The private sector, civil society, local governments and academia/research institutions were involved in relatively fewer partnerships overall.

Partnerships in all regions have a poor rate of progress reporting to the SIDS Action Platform. The lack of reporting impedes assessment of the impact of partnerships on their beneficiaries and on sustainable development in SIDS overall. Suggestions for improving reporting include involvement of regional focal points in the reporting process; improved communication channels between the national and regional levels, and regional and global levels; a greater degree of dialogue between partnership leads regionally and globally; and using existing mechanisms and structures for reporting to multiple entities.

A relatively large number of partnerships have either already been completed, or will come to an end soon. These partnerships have valuable experience and lessons learned to offer, as well as proposals for future work. Successful partnerships that have been completed might be extended or scaled up if future funding becomes available. Thus it is important to ensure that completed projects are evaluated, that their lessons learned are collected and made available, and that any suggestions for future work are recorded. These materials should be incorporated into the SIDS Action Platform; as completed projects are archived.

It is also evident from the diverse nature of partnerships, projects and events registered in the SIDS Action Platform, that there is a need to better understand, and define, what is meant by a durable and genuine partnership, including developing criteria or norms towards this end. Many regions also expressed a desire for capacity building on partnerships development, and on what consists a durable and genuine partnership. This could be achieved through developing learning materials based on best practices, case studies, and lessons learned from existing durable and genuine partnerships.

All of the regional partnership dialogues highlighted the importance of partnerships as a means for supporting sustainable development of SIDS, and as part of a new and more meaningful development paradigm for SIDS. Common partnership challenges across the three regions included sustainable financing; capacity (human and institutional); an enabling environment dictated by the national social and political context; enabling conditions for the participation of all stakeholders in partnerships; ensuring that the right people with the right expertise are involved in each partnership; lack of trust between partners; and weak institutional, legal and governance structures.

All regions agreed that successful partnerships depend on ownership, mutual trust, respect, transparency and accountability.

The importance of the following were also acknowledged: (i) a clear, agreed-upon mandate with focused science-based goals and objectives; (ii) a robust governance structure; (iii) strong leadership; (iv) a high degree of participation with shared commitments and benefits;

(v) a review and monitoring process; (vi) sustainable funding; (vii) partnership champions; (viii) the ability to withstand shock; and (ix) support from the highest political levels.

All regional workshops also agreed that partnerships must be inclusive of all stakeholders, and an effort must be made to include marginalized groups so as to leave no one behind. Successful partnerships bring together all stakeholders from the very beginning, ensuring ownership in the process.

Partnerships need to be accountable to their beneficiaries and maintain dialogue with all partners, including communities, throughout the lifetime of the partnership. In order to have buy-in from communities, NGOs and civil society need to be involved.

The involvement of academia can improve the scientific (including social science) basis of partnerships, as well as their design and monitoring. Partnerships must also work and cooperate with government and government entities. There is also a need to enhance the involvement of the private sector in all regions, including through the use of evidence-based information and data.