

GEF Side Event Concept Note
SAMOA Pathways, October 31, 1-2pm

Title: *“Building on 25+ Years of GEF Support for SIDS: What’s Next?”*

Speakers (and presentation topics):

Moderator: Ms. Fareeha Y. Iqbal, GEF Secretariat

Presenter 1: Ms. Asha Bobb-Semple, GEF Secretariat: The GEF Partnership and SIDS: A Glance at GEF-7

Presenter 2: Ms. Rhonda Robinson, Pacific Community - SPC: Deep dive into the Pacific Ridge to Reef Program

Presenter 3: Ms. Jane Va'afusuaga, Faleseela Environment Society: GEF Programming in SIDS: The Difference to Communities

Summary:

The purpose of the event is to present the success and potential of the GEF Partnership in addressing major environmental challenges for SIDS through integrated programming that has contributed to transformation on the ground through strategic planning, policy measures and pilot investments. The GEF has provided over \$700 million in grant support for national projects in SIDS to date, in areas that include climate change adaptation, biodiversity, international waters, chemicals and waste, sustainable land management, climate change mitigation, and more.

The GEF will offer a brief overview of the programming directions and broad areas of support for its 2018-2022 programming cycle ('GEF-7'). This will be followed by brief presentations from partners who have worked with or benefited from GEF programming; specifically, they will offer perspectives, insights and experience with the GEF-supported 'Pacific Ridge-to-Reef (R2R)' project, an example of integrated regional GEF programming in 14 Pacific SIDS. The R2R Project is an \$88 million GEF grant that seeks to promote the governance and management of land, water, forest, biodiversity and coastal resource management in a manner that can contribute to enhanced livelihoods, reduce poverty and increase resilience. Ms. Rhonda Robinson of SPC will provide an update and offer insights on the effectiveness of the 'integrated programming' approach and south-south learning aspects of the regional program. Her presentation will be followed by Ms. Va'afusuaga from Faleseela Environment Society (FEPS), a UNDP Small Grants Program (SGP) grantee, who will discuss community benefits ensuing from R2R and other GEF partnership initiatives.

Format:

Moderator will introduce the speakers and the event: 5 minutes

Speaker 1 (GEF Secretariat): 20 minutes

Speaker 2 (SPC): 10 minutes

Speaker 3 (UNDP SGP grantee): 10 minutes

Audience Q&A: 15 minutes