

# PARTNERSHIPS FOR SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

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PREPARED BY

THE STEERING COMMITTEE ON PARTNERSHIPS FOR SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES  
IN COLLABORATION WITH UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS





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# FOREWORD

## H.E. MR. AHMED SAREER

### PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AND CO-CHAIR OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE ON PARTNERSHIPS FOR SIDS



It is my distinct honor to introduce this publication about the critical role partnerships play in the sustainable development of the world's Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Cooperation and partnership are, of course, not new concepts at the United Nations — they lie at the heart of all that we do here. But the way partnerships have been leveraged to facilitate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in SIDS does reflect a shift in how we work together and could offer a model for other multilateral development efforts elsewhere.

We have been involved in the sustainable development programme as we know it for over a quarter century at the United Nations. Naturally there have been many successes and setbacks along the way but through it all valuable truisms have been confirmed: the world is stronger when we work together, and genuine and durable partnerships are essential to successful implementation.

This is especially the case for SIDS, which face a set of unique challenges when it comes to sustainable development: such as small size, geographic isolation, and high vulnerability to environmental impacts. The people in my country, the Maldives, know this reality all too well. In a relatively short period of time, just 50 years, and in part because of investments in sustainable economic development, the United Nations General Assembly decided to graduate us out of Least Developed Country status effective 1 January 2008. But the Indian Ocean tsunami swept across the region and slammed onto our shores, on 24 December 2004, killing 82 people and leaving nearly one in ten homeless. The economic cost of the destruction was equivalent to 70 per cent of our GDP. The tragedy set our development back years and the graduation postponed. Thankfully, with the help and cooperation of our regional and global partners we were able to recover, development bounced back and within six years, in January 2011, we managed to graduate from LDC status. Our experience may have been extreme but many SIDS face the possibility of losing development gains overnight, especially because of increasing climate change impacts like powerful storms.

Whether in the face of sudden onset events or the day-to-day implementation of SDGs, we simply can't make the progress needed without close cooperation between donors and recipients. The task is too complex and dynamic to be left to one-size-fits-all approaches. Success requires close cooperation so that both partners understand each other's expectations and constraints and the specific knowledge needed to adjust to local circumstances. In fact, these lessons form the basis of the SAMOA Pathway: the SIDS' roadmap for sustainable development.

However, we know all too well that international priorities frequently change and the focus that can one day be driving us toward our goals can suddenly shift. Constant follow-up, review, to ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments are needed, as well as focused attention to encourage new, genuine and durable partnerships. Thus the need for a SIDS Partnership Framework, which includes a Steering Committee, an annual Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue and a partnerships reporting template.

The Steering Committee was formed to follow-up on sustainable development commitments made, showcase best practices, and identify new challenges to full implementation. The group itself represents a truly global partnership, open to all States Members

of the UN and members of the specialized agencies which includes representatives from islands, and developing and developed nations around the world, as well as the UN System and other stakeholders. I think such an arrangement could serve as an important model for maintaining accountability elsewhere in our work.

Because of our first-hand experience with the vulnerabilities associated with being a SIDS, and given our historic advocacy on behalf of the world's island states for the past 25 years, it is a particular honor for the Maldives to be the first Chair of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS. We have been able to set the foundation stone on which this platform will stand on, and hopefully flourish in the years to come - not only in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, but towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. After all, the well being of the entire international community depends on the successful implementation of SDGs. We have made progress, but there is still a long way to go and years of experience tells us that success will depend on our willingness to work together at every level and form partnerships that reflect our shared goals.

# H.E. MR. SEBASTIANO CARDI

## PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AND CO-CHAIR OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE ON PARTNERSHIPS FOR SIDS



Since we have had the privilege of enjoying fast and reliable communications, we have recognized that, no matter how minute or remote a community, it will be affected in some tangible way by actions undertaken on the other side of the Earth. With this came another fundamental recognition, namely, that since we are all truly interconnected on the planet, there is no community, no nation, nor group of nations that can tackle its own challenges and predicaments alone. The full meaning of the word togetherness has brought us to the definition of the most powerful tool for achieving success in international cooperation: Partnership.

The SIDS are a case in point. Because of their geographical position and characteristics – remoteness; small population sizes spread over very large ocean stretches; difficult access to natural resources; isolation from trade routes; lack of economies of scale – they have contributed minimally to the greatest crises of the past decades and yet are in some cases affected the most, as it is the case with Climate Change.

For the SIDS the concerted effort of the international community is a make or break matter in the attainment of sustainable development. A Global Partnership for tackling the challenges they face offers the best chance of success even more crucially than for the rest of us.

The people of my country, Italy, have long understood the predicament of the Island States. As a peninsula bordered by many seas, Italy has a long shoreline and is surrounded by a constellation of islands, from large to small, all unique, all threatened by the same phenomena of climate change, unhealthy seas and other man-made causes of damage to the environment. Italy shares its seas with many other countries of the Mediterranean basin, and with them it has learned that cooperation and partnership are vital to tackling common challenges and common threats. Italy has put this experience to work in other parts of the world and well before the word “partnership” became so popular among development experts; well before it became the theme for the Third International Conference on SIDS and the SAMOA Pathway. In 2007 Italy established a partnership with the Pacific SIDS, for the purpose of developing renewable energy sources and adopting measures for adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change.

Today the Partnership is four donors and fourteen Pacific SIDS parties strong, has doubled in volume of investments and has significantly broadened the scope of its activities to include pressing priorities identified in the SAMOA Pathway. It has generated countless benefits to vulnerable communities on the ground and has strengthened national confidence, as well as regional cohesion in the international debate on climate change. The Partnership is now widely recognized as a model for development cooperation. Its success is owed greatly to its being, as prescribed by the SAMOA Pathway, based on the principles of national ownership, mutual trust, transparency and accountability. Indeed, the overarching principle governing our operational approach is that the recipient communities are the primary drivers of their own development, thereby acknowledging ownership, from the start, to the beneficiary country and people. All partners put their trust in the ability of the Pacific SIDS to articulate their requirements and priorities and ensure that the limited resources invested in the region are utilized to directly benefit communities on the ground. All parties equally share in the governance of the Partnership, making decisions by consensus, and are informed at all times of investments, activities and results achieved.

Italy is proud of this venture and - convinced of its replicability - has launched a similar initiative in the Caribbean region, while

using its founding principles – ownership, mutual trust, transparency and accountability- also in establishing bilateral partnerships with SIDS of the AIMS region.

Italy has been a longstanding partner of SIDS also in promoting the central role of the Oceans and Seas in safeguarding the planet and the wellbeing of all its people - not only those who live on the sea. For this reason, it has relentlessly fought for a standalone goal on Oceans in the 2030 Agenda.

Consistently, in October 2015 Italy hosted, at Milan Expo, a Ministerial Conference that adopted the “Milan Declaration” on food security and climate change adaptation in SIDS. Prime Minister Renzi eventually met SIDS delegates in Venice to reaffirm that climate change is a threat that concerns us all, and that Italy is ready to share with our friends the lessons learnt and its relevant technological know-how when coping with this challenge.

Eventually, Italy launched the 10X20 initiative, concerning Goal 14 and one specific target: *“by 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information”*, and in March 2016 we hosted in Rome a Scientific Conference – open to the participation of international experts and SIDS representatives – to kick-off this common endeavor. Italy is the first Chair of the 10X20 Steering Committee, which aims at bringing together governments, international organizations, NGOs, foundations and private companies - in short, all stakeholders in marine conservation to advance the cause and find effective resources for the achievement of the target.

For all these reasons, Italy is proud to be the first SIDS partner to be appointed as Co-chair of the Steering Committee on SIDS Partnerships and will spare no effort to ensure that this historic committee not only is a truly global partnership, open to all UN Member States and members of the specialized agencies, but also generates new partnerships of international development cooperation apt at carrying out the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, taking into account the special vulnerabilities of the SIDS.

# MR. WU HONGBO

## UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

This first edition of the Global Publication on Partnerships for SIDS brings together a broad range of partnership initiatives that are advancing sustainable development of Small Island Developing States.

The SAMOA Pathway, the blueprint for achieving sustainable development in SIDS, was adopted two years ago in Samoa, at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States – a conference in which I had the privilege to act as the Conference Secretary-General. Just one year later, world leaders came together and adopted the ground breaking and universal 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets at its core. The 2030 Agenda reaffirms the special challenges SIDS face in pursuit of their sustainable development.

This year, 2016, the international community is taking this common vision for sustainable development of all countries to action. SIDS are in the forefront of this journey.

The overarching theme of the SIDS Conference in 2014, “the sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships”, is two years later in full effect, and the “spirit of Samoa” lives on and guides the approach to achieving sustainable development in SIDS.

In the SAMOA Pathway, member States made a number of specific calls to the United Nations system. Paragraph 101 called for preparation of recommendations for a SIDS Partnership Framework, which were to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for SIDS. Based on recommendations prepared by my department in close consultation with member States and the United Nations system, member States later formally established, through General Assembly resolution 70/202, the SIDS Partnership Framework. The framework consists of: a Steering Committee, the organization of an annual Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue, a partnership reporting template, and the call for organizing national and regional partnership dialogues. Member States and the Secretariat rapidly responded to this new mandate, and the SIDS Partnership Framework has in its first operational year laid a strong foundation for future work for promoting and driving genuine and durable partnerships for Small Island Developing States.

The first annual Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue will be held in September 2016, and will provide an opportunity for bringing together partnerships and many stakeholders from all around the world to launch new partnerships for the sustainable development of SIDS, showcase stories on successful partnerships, identify synergies and challenges, and expand networks and exchange knowledge.

My department remains committed to continue supporting member States in their pursuit of accelerating the implementation of both the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in a coherent and integrated manner - through strong, resilient, innovative, forward-looking and results-oriented partnerships.







# INTRODUCTION

The adoption of Agenda 21 at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro not only inaugurated the contemporary sustainable development programme as we know it; but also marked the beginning of a learning process about how to better deliver lasting and meaningful development support that continues to this day.

Over the years, sometimes in hindsight, we have come to learn that close cooperation provides the cornerstone for successful sustainable development.

We learned, in periods of progress and through setbacks, that the better donors and recipients understand each other's needs, priorities, and constraints, the better they can adapt to the practical realities that is a prerequisite for implementation.

For Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the limitations imposed by their unique geography have in many ways governed access to and the successful completion of sustainable development projects.

And while *"Agenda 21"* notes that SIDS' *"small size, limited resources, geographic dispersion and isolation from markets, place them at a disadvantage economically and prevent economies of scale,"* institutionalizing this lesson has been a learning process unto itself.

For example, even in the early 1990s, it was becoming clear that climate change—and the disproportionate impacts

it was having on SIDS was not merely an environmental challenge, but a sustainable development one as well.

Over time the idea that climate change can't be addressed without sustainable development and sustainable development can't happen unless we address climate change, became something of a mantra for island leaders.

The first meeting focused on the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States was held in Barbados in 1994 and led to the development of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA)—what became a blueprint for guiding sustainable development implementation in SIDS. Among other priorities, it identified emerging challenges, such as climate change and sea level rise that were hindering progress. It also highlighted crosscutting issues that were particularly well suited to be addressed through a partnership model, like capacity building and institutional development.

With the BPOA in hand, SIDS leaders again stressed at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, what had become a recurring theme - the failure to deliver fully on financial commitments for sustainable development stood out as a primary obstacle. By then, scientists were vociferously raising alarms about the risks SIDS faced from climate change, including increased costs of adaptation. The concerns were underscored in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), the next iteration of the blueprint for achieving sustainable development.

But the devastation Grenada experienced from Hurricane Ivan in 2004, a long-lasting and powerful storm that destroyed 90 percent of the nation's homes, proved a major setback to the island's sustainable development trajectory and highlighted just

how fragile such gains can be.

The recovery from Ivan and unfortunately many other disasters to come would underscore the need for greater support and higher levels cooperation in sustainable development efforts. These topics featured prominently at the next major sustainable development conference for Small Island Developing States held in 2005, at the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius. Again, the outcome identified limited financial resources, especially a marked decline in development assistance, as impediments to progress in islands around the world. Leaders called for tightening cooperation to identify obstacles to implementation.

The world convened in Rio de Janeiro again in 2012, two decades after the groundbreaking Earth Summit, to chart a new path for sustainable development—based on new challenges and lessons learnt.

One of the meeting's major outcomes was a commitment to a new level of cooperation by SIDS and partners on climate change research and ocean monitoring programmes. Rio+20 also called for convening the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

The following three years saw a shift in the way countries talked about sustainable development at the preparatory meetings ahead of the SIDS conference. Island leaders spoke of the need to work closely with partners to identify common barriers and for the inclusion of local knowledge into project designs and implementation plan.

In fact, *"the sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships"* was selected as the overarching theme for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States – known also as the SIDS conference – which was held in Apia, Samoa, from 1-4 September in 2014. The conference produced the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities Of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, a vision for achieving sustainable development in SIDS. The outcome was based on years of experience, on-the-ground knowledge, and the conviction that strong partnerships lie at the heart of successful sustainable development.

The inter-governmental negotiations over the SAMOA Pathway occurred in parallel with the then ongoing negotiations over the Sustainable Development Goals. This led to a close integration of the priority areas of Small Island Developing States into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development framework – a framework which will guide development efforts globally for the coming 15 years.

One of the lessons learnt in sustainable development is that focus on the task at hand can frequently shift in the complex and dynamic world we live in. To ensure that SIDS development work stays at the top of the international agenda, as a direct follow-up to the SAMOA Pathway, the General Assembly decided in 2015 to establish the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Partnership Framework, the first of its kind in following up and monitoring voluntary multi-stakeholder partnership agreements.

The SIDS Partnerships Framework consists of a Steering Committee, open to all States Members of the UN and its specialized agencies, to support the follow-up and review of existing partnerships and encourage new ones, an annual action-oriented, results-focused Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue to provide opportunities for reviewing progress made by existing partnerships, including to review progress from regional and national dialogues, to be a place for sharing good practices, lessons learned and challenges and solutions from SIDS Partnerships. Finally, the SIDS Partnership Framework also includes the development of a standardized partnership reporting template and process of SIDS partnerships – again, the first of its kind in the UN system.

It has been two years since the adoption of the SAMOA Pathway. Many partnerships have shown considerable impact on the communities they serve, proving that genuine, durable partnerships can, and do, work. This publication serves as testament to the remarkable work that has taken place, and is ongoing, in SIDS, through partnerships. And through this publication, it is hoped that the momentum for progress that began in Samoa is maintained, and the promise of sustainable development for generations to come is delivered for our common prosperity.



# REVIEWING SIDS PARTNERSHIPS IN ADVANCING THE SAMOA PATHWAY

It has now been two years since the conclusion of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, its groundbreaking outcome document the SAMOA Pathway, and the announcement of over 300 partnerships devoted to the sustainable development of SIDS and the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. What has worked and what has not worked, for these partnerships?

The below chapter “A closer look” is devoted to reviewing a number of selected SIDS partnerships, with input from the partnership focal points. Focal points have been asked to provide a short introduction of the partnership, to explain which SAMOA Pathway priority areas and SDGs and associated targets the partnership is focusing on, and how their work is positively affecting the most vulnerable groups and beneficiaries in Small Island Developing States.

Additionally, as mandated by the SIDS Partnership Framework, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), has developed and launched, in close collaboration with the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS, a standardized reporting template for all partnerships that are registered with the SIDS Action Platform ([www.sids2014.org](http://www.sids2014.org)). All focal points have been asked to share updates of their partnerships through this established template once a year until their partnership is completed. A summary of all reports that were received by the 1 July 2016 deadline, is included in the below chapter “*Progress updates 2015/2016*”.



## A CLOSER LOOK

### ATLANTIC AND INDIAN OCEAN SIDS - INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

Two oceans, six countries, three distinct languages: it may seem like the nations of Cabo Verde, Comoros, Maldives, Mauritius, São Tomé and Príncipe and Seychelles have little in common, but as Small Island Developing States (SIDS), they face very similar challenges when it comes to the management of waste and water resources. The countries differ profoundly in size and level of economic development, but all six share problems relating to the scarcity and contamination of freshwater supplies; over-exploitation and poor management of groundwater resources; increasing pressure on agricultural production; and rapidly disappearing biodiversity. To a lesser or greater degree, the countries also face serious difficulties with providing clean drinking water and waste management facilities to their people.

In response to these challenges, the Global Environment Facility has funded a full-sized project that recognizes and addresses the urgent need for comprehensive Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and improved Water Use Efficiency (WUE) in the SIDS of the Atlantic and Indian oceans. It is implemented by two United Nations agencies, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) is the executing agency for respective components.

One of the key components of the IWRM AIO SIDS project is the implementation of an IWRM demonstration project in each of the countries. The demonstration projects are designed to provide real, on-the-ground solutions to common water problems and illustrate the tangible benefits of adopting an IWRM approach at local, national and regional levels. Other components include: the development of National and Regional IWRM and WUE Indicator Frameworks in all countries to track the implementation of IWRM at national level based on the collection of gender disaggregated data and indicator feedback; IWRM Policy, Legislative, and Institutional Reform to support change and re-alignment, including appropriate financing mechanisms and building further political will to endorse IWRM policies and plans; support and empower communities and stakeholders to exchange lessons learnt, knowledge, experiences and best practices.

A regional steering committee is in charge of the overall decisions related to the project. It gathers national project focal points from all six countries, representatives of the UN agencies involved and members of the regional Project Coordination Unit. Each country also has a national steering committee in charge of the project at national level. It gathers organizations from several different sectors with an interest in water management. The national project focal points can be intermediaries between the national and the regional steering committee.

### WAY FORWARD

The demonstration project has been implemented and have generated several successes at local level. In some island states, the demonstration projects took a catchment management approach, with activities focused on surface water flow and quality assessment; stakeholder capacity building and partnership development; and improved wastewater and solid





waste management.

In Comoros, the local community of Mutsamudu now has an active committee in charge of watershed management plan; in this framework cleanup activities as well as reforestation and anti-erosion measure have been taken. The 30,000 people from Mutsamudu benefit from a cleaner environment thanks to the waste management system that was put in place (17,742 kilos of waste are removed everyday from the city) and a decline in conflict about water resources was noticed throughout the project implementation.

In Sao Tome and Príncipe, the people of the city of Neves have taken action to protect the River Provaz. A river basin committee and watershed management plan was put in place. In other countries a strong emphasis was put on the protection of groundwater resources against pollution and seawater intrusion, with activities structured around integrated approaches addressing, water demand, wastewater and land use management.

The government of Cabo Verde decided to upgrade a wastewater treatment plant in Tarrafal and connect 500 additional households to the sewerage system in order to increase the reuse of treated wastewater in agriculture and improve sanitation. The livelihood of dozens of farmers who have been trained to handle wastewater for irrigation is expected to improve.

In Mauritius, the government successfully put in place a groundwater monitoring system in the Northern Aquifer, a vital source of fresh water for the country. The 11,000 people of Grand Baie will eventually benefit from better water quality thanks to informed decision making. Additional household connections to the sewerage system will also help increase the wastewater reuse for irrigation.

In La Digue, one of the most popular tourism destination in Seychelles, improved waste management, rainwater harvesting, wetland protection and water use efficiency measures have led to reduce pressure on the island groundwater resource.

Maldives launched a brand new integrated water supply system, coupling desalination and rainwater harvesting, that provides clean fresh water to all 2000 inhabitants of Alif Alif Thodoo island and reduces the pressure on the water lens.

Hundred of thousands of people across the six islands have been targeted in awareness raising activities on IWRM, water use efficiency and the importance of water for small islands, especially with regards to the threats posed by climate change.

The 6 countries are now looking at replicating and up scaling activities at national level. Mauritius is exploring opportunities to extend the monitoring and GIS system developed for the

Northern Aquifer to all the other aquifers of the countries, this will help inform policies at national level. Maldives has secured USD 23.6 million from the Green Climate Fund to scale up the integrated water supply system launched in of Alif Alif Thoddoo into a low-cost delivery system that will provide clean freshwater to vulnerable households (150,000 people) on 49 outer islands during the dry season. Cabo Verde, in collaboration with UNEP and FAO is looking at replicating the wastewater reuse initiative currently implemented in Tarrafal to several other locations in an effort to boost agriculture, reduce wastewater discharge in the sea and improve sanitation. Seychelles is looking at developing a copyright free water harvesting blue print and promote it in the entire country.

Convinced by the good examples provided at local level, all beneficiary countries have committed to promote IWRM in institutional frameworks and water policies by the end of the project in 2017. In parallel to this, they will also develop indicators to monitor the impact of the reforms on freshwater and coastal resources. In order to support on going efforts and to provide an avenue for these different countries to exchange on the similar challenges they are taking up, several capacity

building initiatives and training of trainers will be organized at regional level.

In the long run, this project will enhance the capacity of the six small islands to plan and manage their aquatic resources and ecosystems on a sustainable basis for the future generations to come.

It therefore feeds into several of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 6 on water and sanitation, Goal 13 on climate action, Goal 14 on life below water and Goal 15 on life on land. Because IWRM promotes participatory approaches, as well as women's empowerment in water resources management the project also supports Goal 5 on gender equity and Goal 17 on partnerships. Last but not least the IWRM AIO SIDS project directly responds to the paragraph 64 of the SAMOA Pathway on water and sanitation.



## GLOBAL ISLAND PARTNERSHIP (GLISPA)

### A COMMON VISION FOR COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Led by the Presidents of Palau and Seychelles as well as the Prime Minister of Grenada, the Global Island Partnership assists islands in addressing one of the world's greatest challenges — to conserve and sustainably utilize invaluable island natural resources that support people, cultures and livelihoods in their island homes around the world.

The Partnership provides a global platform that enables all islands, regardless of size or political status, to work together to develop solutions to common problems and to take high-level commitments and integrated actions to build resilient and sustainable island communities and drive implementation on the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2016, the Partnership celebrates ten years of collective impact toward its mission through supporting more than 30 countries to launch or strengthen major sustainable island commitments, such as the *Aloha+ Challenge* and *Micronesia Challenge*, as well as engaging high-level leaders to catalyze US\$145 million for island action. GLISPA showcases these island commitments as bright spots on the international stage to inspire new leadership and encourage investment to scale and replicate impactful initiatives.

GLISPA is recognized as a mechanism for advancing the conservation of island biodiversity [Decision IX/21](#), CBD COP9 (2008) and [Decision XI/15](#), CBD COP11 (2012) further invites Parties to engage with GLISPA as an effective partner to support conservation of island biodiversity; as a best practice partnership by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, 2010); as a success factor in preparations for the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

### HOW THE PARTNERSHIP WORKS

The Global Island Partnership is a backbone organization to promote collective impact on implementation for islands resilience and the SDGs. The Partnership is guided by a Steering Committee made up of members and supporters of the partnership set a common vision, goals and priorities through the



2030 Strategy. The Steering Committee meets annually face to face and via web conferencing throughout the year to align joint activities, monitor progress and incubate new collective initiatives that cannot be tackled by any singular country or organization operating alone. Chaired by Palau's Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Hersey Kyota, the Steering Committee is a passionate network of island economies, NGOs, philanthropists and agencies focused on inspiring leadership and catalyzing commitments to develop integrated solutions.

Each Steering Committee member contributes USD 5,000 annually to support a sustainable partnership capable of delivering on the [2030 Strategy](#). Members are recognized as leaders and supporters of island action and join a trusted network of high-level leaders and advisors working together to leverage the convening power of the Partnership to make change. The Executive Committee, a subgroup of the Steering Committee, provides oversight on governance and sustainability matters and a two-person coordination team assists in maintain momentum on strategy implementation. The Partnership also benefits from advisors, participants and fellows who contribute to strategy implementation activities, events and working groups.

In 2015, the Steering Committee put in place a refreshed 2030 Strategy to promote action to build resilient and sustainable island communities by:

- Inspiring leadership and catalyzing commitments to address critical island issues
- Accelerating implementation of sustainable island commitments such as the Aloha+, Micronesia and Caribbean Challenges
- Ensuring a sustainable partnership to achieve 2030 Strategy

The 2030 Strategy put in place clear and measurable targets including to launch one new high-level and visionary sustainable island commitment each year as well as lead a high-impact demonstration activity or event per year in priority areas that contribute to accelerated implementation of sustainable island commitments. The Partnership tracks progress toward its goals and priorities through an open data Impact Dashboard (<https://impact.glispa.org>) to enhance decision-making, accountability and acceleration implementation.

## SCALING ISLAND MODELS TO ACHIEVE THE SDGS

Against the backdrop of the Paris Agreement, the recently adopted SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway, implementation of sus-

tainable development at a local level is critical to achieving the international community's shared global agenda. The Partnership is mobilizing two complimentary high-impact initiatives to *scale island models* that are inspiring local leadership in implementation of the SDGs, as well as an approach to reframe risk and resilience by supporting island leaders and private sector partners to catalyze innovative investments in integrated infrastructure and natural resources management through an *Island Resilience Challenge*.

Hawai'i's statewide sustainability commitment, the *Aloha+ Challenge*, is being recognized as a locally and culturally appropriate model for implementation of SDGs. The *Aloha+ Challenge* model, supported by Hawai'i Green Growth, includes a joint leadership commitment with a set of high-level statewide goals, an open-data tracking mechanism, shared policy and action agenda, and most critically, a public-private partnership that serves as the backbone organization for this collaborative work.

Inspired by earlier island commitments such as the Micronesia Challenge, Hawai'i Green Growth and the *Aloha+ Challenge* are innovative models to catalyze action on environmental, economic and social pillars of sustainable development and can be scaled and adapted by cities, states and countries globally to locally deliver in a culturally appropriate way on the SDGs.

The Global Island Partnership and Hawai'i Green Growth will



*Islands are leading innovative solutions for the necessity of our people's and country's survival. Strong partnerships are critical to making these solutions a reality. I call on you to join our Global Island Partnership to work together to build resilient and sustainable island communities.*



## **H.E. Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., President of Palau and Leader of the Global Island Partnership**

work with island countries to build capacity for public-private partnerships and local SDG implementation leveraging the *Aloha+ Challenge/Hawai'i Green Growth* model to: Identify, support and strengthen local collaborative public-private partnerships that can serve as the backbone organization focused on system-level change; Initiate the framework to implement SDGs locally, which includes a longer-term process to set high-level goals, develop shared measures to be tracked on an online platform, and develop a project pipeline to achieve 2030 goals; Launch a peer-learning network to support island backbone organizations, commitments and high-level goal development.

### **CATALYZING INNOVATIVE INVESTMENT TO REDUCE VULNERABILITY, THE ISLAND RESILIENCE CHALLENGE**

The scaling up of island models includes a project pipeline development process – the Island Resilience Challenge. The Island Resilience Challenge is built around addressing the need for islands to have inter-connected and multi-sector solutions. For instance, poor water quality can cause health problems, discourage tourism, and contribute to the decline of coral reefs. Disappearing reefs harm fisheries and also impact tourism. Improving water quality requires investments in energy-intensive infrastructure (like water treatment plants). But energy in the islands is expensive, because it typically is produced by importing fossil fuels. Current development approaches tend to be “siloes,” though, and treat each of these problems in isolation.

Despite these challenges, there is opportunity for innovation. Islands are the laboratories to test integrated market-based solutions that can be scaled and replicated to address global

challenges. Thus, 2016 offers a unique opportunity to reframe risk and resilience by supporting island leaders and private sector partners to catalyze innovative investments in integrated infrastructure and natural resources management through an Island Resilience Challenge. The Challenge will incentivize groups and individuals to come together to solve problems across disciplines by:

- Using a prize challenge and sourcing model to identify a set of issue areas on ten islands and support them to leverage public resources to catalyze investment in resilient infrastructure.
- Creating new locally-appropriate community investment vehicles that will serve as models for islands and coastal regions around the world.
- Building a pipeline of sustainable development projects that can be financed through sources such as the Green Climate Fund.
- Developing an Island Resilience Network of finalists and semi-finalists to create a larger, more scalable pipeline of island resilience projects for long-term investment (this would complement the new Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub).

In the first phase, the Island Resilience Challenge will use well-established and successful methods (such as the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities Challenge and the U.S. State Department's Pathways to Prosperity Innovation Challenge) for running a global tiered prize that can engage island communities, highlight solutions and generate significant attention to the specific threats facing islands. This Initiative was announced by Palau as an element of the United Nations Secretary General's 'A2R - Anticipate Absorb Reshape' Initiative during the Lima Paris Action Agenda at COP21. It was also announced

during a high level event in the margins of COP 21 focused on islands hosted by Seychelles and Aruba and as a commitment at the [challenge.gov](#) five year anniversary celebrated by the White House in Washington D.C.

## GET INVOLVED

We invite you to consider how you might best engage in the partnership. The Partnership is a collaborative and inclusive partnership open to any entity committed to promoting action to build resilient and sustainable island communities. Our 2016 GLISPA Members include: Association of Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTA), British Virgin Islands, County of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Green Growth, Indian Ocean Commission, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Italian Development Cooperation, Micronesia Conservation Trust, Palau, Rare, Republic of China on Taiwan, Seychelles, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Silver Mountain Solutions, The Nature Conservancy, UNDP Small Grants Programme implemented by the GEF, and the Waitt Foundation and Waitt Institute. Financial support is received by the European Commission and US Department of State.

Interested entities are encouraged to contact the Coordination Team at [jessica.robbins@glispa.org](mailto:jessica.robbins@glispa.org).



# ICT4SIDS

The ICT4SIDS Partnership was formed during the Samoa Conference in 2014, between Small Islands and Developing States (SIDS), UN organizations (Infopoverty and UN-OHRLLS), academic institutions (Harrisburg University and Oklahoma University), and startup industries (e.g., NGE Solutions). The partnership has since then grown to include companies such as IBM, and NGOs such as Communities in Care (CIC). Our objective is to use ICT for rapid adoption of the Samoa Pathway and UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Samoa Pathway document highlights the importance of Capacity Building in Section 109 and clearly specifies the role of ICT in Para h (Section 109): *“To establish national and regional information and communications technology (ICT) platforms and information dissemination hubs in small island developing States to facilitate information exchange and cooperation, building on existing information and communication platforms, as appropriate.”*

The objective of ICT4SIDS Partnership is to use these collaborating ICT hubs at rural, regional and national levels for health, education, public safety, public welfare, and other vital sectors. These hubs also support the SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) related services at all levels.

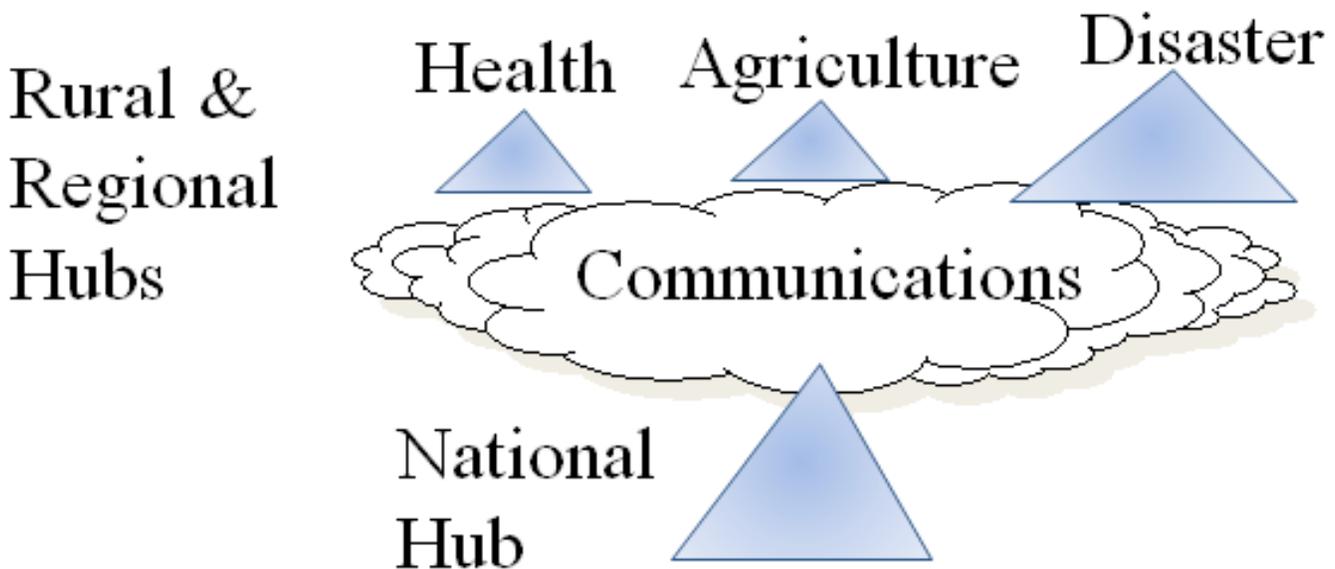
The following Figure shows a conceptual view where several rural and regional hubs that support health and human services are interconnected to a larger National hub that consolidates and disseminates vital information to other users. The hubs may be combined into highly effective community centers for

remote villages and may be physical (e.g., rented rooms in a school) or completely virtual (e.g., portals located somewhere in the “Cloud”). Examples of ICT hubs are eSeva Centers in India that allow rural populations to pay bills and buy bus tickets, Telemedicine centers in Africa, and Community Centers for adult education by Faith-based organizations.

## PROGRESS MADE SINCE THE SAMOA CONFERENCE AND MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

The Partnership has grown significantly from only 3 partners (Harrisburg University, Oklahoma University, and Infopoverty/OCCAM) to over 12. Specifically, we have:

- Established a strong working relationship with OHRLLS’ SIDS Sub-programme. Due to this relationship, we held 6 working sessions with representatives from 11 SIDS in 2015 and 2016.
- Established strong working relationships with 11 SIDS (Antigua, Bahamas, Jamaica, Grenada, Maldives, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu). The Ambassadors to UN and their staff from these islands attended the workshops.
- Expanded private partnership to include large private organizations such as IBM. As a result of this partnership, IBM has donated a large scale machine that is currently housing the Central ICT Hubs to support the ICT Hubs in SIDS for Health, Education, Public Safety and Public Welfare.



- Expanded partnership to include World Class Organizations such as the World Hypertension League (WHL) and Colleagues in Care (CIC). WHL and CIC are at the core of the World Hypertension Telemedicine Center that is housed at the IBM Machine on Harrisburg University Campus. This Center is already working with Haiti. Hypertension is the largest Non Communicable Disease (NCD) that is highlighted in the SAMOA Pathway as well as SDGs (Goal3).
- Established a very strong partnership with Harrisburg University of Science and Technology (HU) for capacity building and ICT technical support. The IBM machine is housed at the HU campus and will support capacity building programs in ICT for SIDS.

- *Phase3:* The results of the feasibility study are published in a Donor Portal for attracting funding sources and a final hub is created in collaboration with local experts.

The objective of this computer aided methodology is to do more (provide more services to more customers) with less (less time, money and trained staff). Specifically, this methodology can save \$50,000 to \$70,000 per Hub, plus time (almost a year) and significantly reduce retries, errors and failures. These improvements reduce ICT risk, and therefore can attract greater participation by the private sector, which is key to accelerating the rate of value for SIDS organizations and individuals.

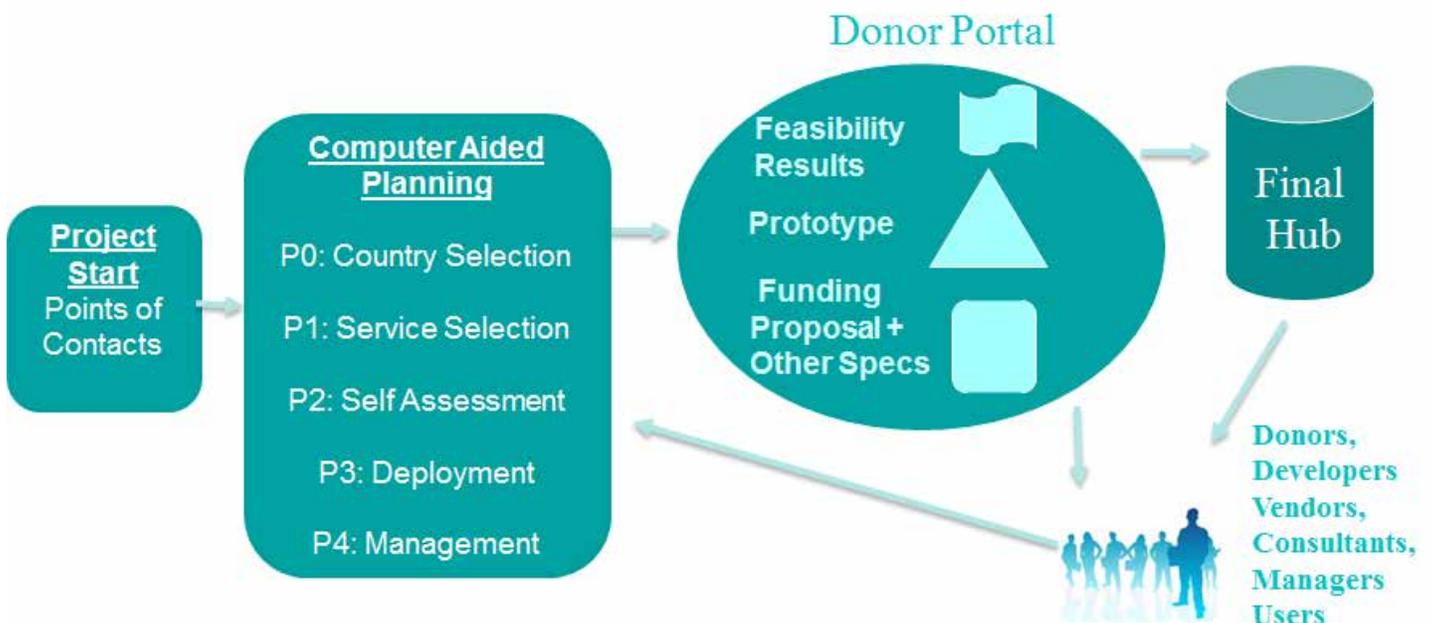
## CHALLENGES FACED AND APPROACHES ADOPTED TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES

As stated previously, we are concentrating on large number of collaborating ICT Hubs for Rapid Adoption of SAMOA Pathway and UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. However, implementation of this vision of large number of interacting ICT Hubs is a non-trivial task with very high failure rates -- up to 80% in developing countries. To address these challenges, we used the following computer aided methodology, displayed in the Figure.

- *Phase0:* A Hub vision is proposed
- *Phase1:* A Pilot Project is initiated by a SIDS and a Point of Contact (POC) is appointed.
- *Phase2:* A computer aided planning tool conducts an extensive feasibility within a day and produces a funding proposal and a working prototype of the selected Hub(s).

## LESSONS LEARNED

- Implementation of World Hypertension Telemedicine Hub, currently, focusing on Haiti addresses a very urgent need for SIDS and can be replicated beyond Haiti.
- Computer aided Pilot Projects are essential for rapid deployment of large number of collaborating ICT Hubs needed to support SDGs and SAMOA Pathway
- The first three phases (Phase0 -Phase2 of the computer aided planning methodology) are a complete success with very promising and repeatable results (high value with low cost). In addition, the knowledge gained is fed back into the tool for future use
- Phase3 needs some work. In particular, choice of Point of Contact (POC) and Funding are the key challenges that are being addressed at present.
- The computer aided planning tool called SPACE (Strategic Planning, Architectures, Controls and Education) is a very effective capacity building aid for SIDS because it allows hands-on planning experiments.



## NEXT STEPS BASED ON LESSONS LEARNED

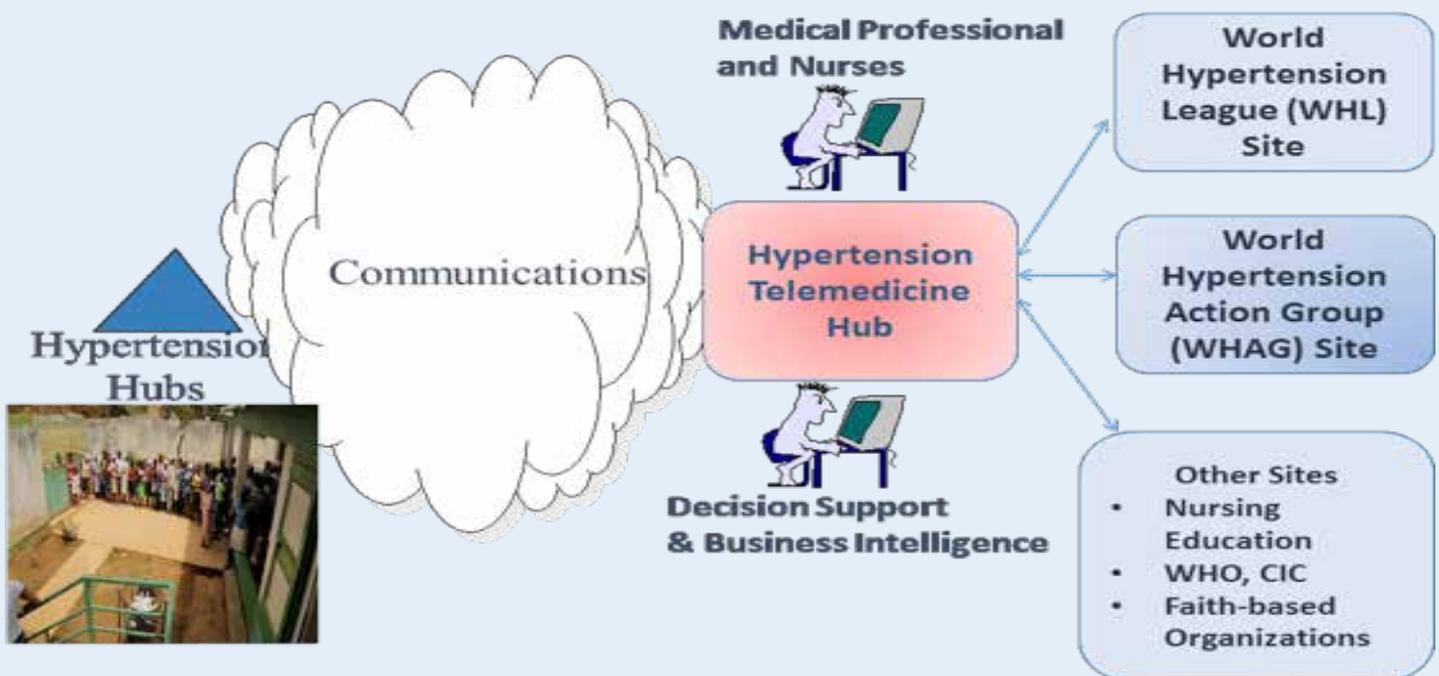
- The World Hypertension Telemedicine Hub will be replicated to many SIDS, first focusing on 10 SIDS that are already working with us (see Exhibit1 for details of a sample Hub).
- The next major World Class Hub will focus on Disaster Recovery& Management (DRM) by using Sahana Open Source software. SPACE is currently being extended to support Sahana
- Reduce failure rates doing thorough but very quick phases 0, 1, 2 by using computer aided planning. However, we get stuck in phase3 due to POC, capacity building and funding issues.
- Focus on Phase3 issues by using the following approaches: First, encourage young entrepreneurs from SIDS to become POCs and help them start their own businesses. Second, connect the small existing hubs that are successful with larger more successful hubs by using ICT. Third, use our successes and insights to develop solid funding proposals.
- Keep refining SPACE based on lessons being learned and use SPACE extensively for SIDS capacity building.

## EXHIBIT 1: EXAMPLE OF A HYPERTENSION TELEMEDICINE HUB

The World Hypertension Telemedicine Hub, currently, focusing on Haiti addresses a very urgent need for SIDS and can be replicated beyond Haiti. The configuration shown in the Figure shows a set of Telemedicine Clinics (Clients) that may be located at rural, regional, and national levels to serve the remotely located patients.. The Hypertension Hub houses hypertension specialists, doctors, nurses and other healthcare providers who diagnose and advise the patients.

In addition, several analysts may use decision support and business intelligence tools for visualization of the patient data stored on the Center Database. The Center may also provide educational, training and consultancy tools for nurses and patients.

The major advantage of this Hypertension Telemedicine configurations is that a very large number of patients located in rural and remote areas in poor countries can be helped by world class specialists.



## ICT4SIDS PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

- The ICT4SIDS Partnership was formed during the Samoa Conference in 2014 between (SIDS), UN organization (OHRLLS), academic institutions, and startup industries.
- The Partnership has grown significantly from only 3 partners to over 12 – it now includes IBM, a healthcare NGO and 10 SIDS countries.
- Our objective is to accelerate the Samoa Pathway and UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through ICT. Specifically, we want to use collaborating ICT hubs at rural, regional and national levels for health, education, public safety, public welfare, and other vital sectors.
- These hubs also support the SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) related services at rural, regional and national levels.
- Our main challenge is that implementation of the vision of large number of interacting ICT Hubs is a non-trivial task with failure rates up to 80% in developing countries.
- To address these challenges, we are using a computer aided methodology that completes a feasibility study and produces a funding proposal plus a working prototype of the selected Hub(s) within a day.
- Our biggest achievements are high impact projects such as the Hypertension Hub in Haiti and significant reduction of failure rates and implementation times by using computer aided planning approaches.
- The best lessons and practices we have learned are based on using agile methodologies and not to look for quick victories – complex tasks need investment of time and energy.
- Our short range targets, in 2016, are expansion of the World Hypertension Hub with Haiti to two more islands, a DRM (Disaster Recovery Management) Hub for at least one island, and capacity building training for hub masters.
- Our long range targets, in 2017, are to expand the Hypertension Hub to 10+ islands, the DRM Hubs to 5 islands, and offer extensive capacity building training for hub masters.
- We have presented our results at the UN Infopoverty World Conferences and at the OHRLLS Aruba P3a Conference. We have also published several white papers, educational materials and demonstrations (for details, see our Website [www.ict4sids.com](http://www.ict4sids.com)).



## PACIFIC OCEAN ALLIANCE

In 2009, Pacific Island Leaders called for the development of a Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape drawing on the overarching regional policy instruments, for the Ocean (the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy, PIROP), and for regional cooperation and integration (the Pacific Plan – replaced since 2014 by the Framework for Pacific Regionalism - FPR). Together, PIROP and its companion document *Our Sea of Islands, Our Livelihoods, Our Oceania* - the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape (FPO), outline a vision for a secure future for Pacific Island Countries and Territories, based on sustainable development, management and conservation of our Ocean. Successful implementation relies on strong leadership, regional cooperation and integrated decision making across the breadth of ocean-related interests.

Amongst other things, the FPO calls for the establishment of a mechanism to facilitate:

- effective policy coordination and implementation;
- regional cooperation for the high seas;
- support for national ocean governance and policy processes when required, including support and streamlining to achieve national commitments to international agreements; and
- the fostering of inter-regional cooperation.

To this end, the Pacific Ocean Alliance (POA) was launched by Charter at a dedicated side event at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, September 2014. The event was convened by the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner in partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and Conservation International and facilitated conversations on a range of ocean-related topics. The President of the Republic of Palau, Prime Minister of Tuvalu, and senior representatives from United Nations agencies, the World Bank, regional organizations, non-government organizations and community organizations contributed to discussions.

The POA is facilitated by the Pacific Ocean Commissioner and is an open-ended and voluntary information-sharing and co-ordination partnership between stakeholders with an interest in the sustainable development, management and conservation of the Pacific Ocean and its resources. The POA provides – through a combination of virtual platforms and face-to-face meetings – a space and common ground to bring together a group of stakeholders, such as national government agencies, regional organizations, private sector, academia and research organizations, and civil society, to work together in a coordinated way on ocean issues.

The POA also provides an inclusive platform for coordination of



*The Pacific Ocean Alliance has proven early to be a strong and powerful gathering to work for improved ocean health and human wellbeing. Together the Pacific Oceanscape's Alliance and Commissioner provide united effort and voice for our ocean.*



## **Ms. Sue Tai, Conservation International**

implementation and reporting against SDG14 and the Oceans and Seas priorities of the SAMOA Pathway.

The POA is not a decision-making body, however, it may develop non-binding recommendations that relevant governments and/or POA partners may choose to progress and/or implement. The POA will not replicate the work of other organizations, but rather will provide a mechanism for inclusive consultation in the development of policy and technical advice, and implementation strategies for the region as it relates to the sustainable development, management and conservation of the Ocean.

The first meeting of the POA, coordinated by the Office, was held 25-27 May 2015 in Lami, Fiji. This meeting focused on the issue of Pacific interests in areas beyond national jurisdiction. There were over 120 registered participants, including national representatives, UN Mission delegates, regional/international inter-governmental organizations, international/regional non-government organizations, private sector, civil society and academics. The meeting was successful in drawing together stakeholders that do not usually engage, nor have an existing platform to engage on these regional cross-cutting issues. The purpose of the meeting was to share information and start a regional dialogue on high seas issues in the context of upcoming UN negotiations on biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ).

The first working group of technical experts of the POA was held on 28 May 2015 at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat with a focus on the elements of the negotiating package for BBNJ. These discussions were further refined into a technical paper that was used by Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) in preparing for the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee on BBNJ.

The POA is currently reviewing the implementation of the region's Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape. As part of this

work, analysis of all the ocean commitments, including SDG14 and the SAMOA Pathway Ocean and Seas priorities, is being undertaken with a view to prioritizing those that are considered to have most significance for the region. It is anticipated this work will further inform regional implementation and reporting strategies for SDG14 and the SAMOA Pathway Oceans and Seas priorities. This will involve inclusive consultation with POA partners to assist Pacific SIDS with this complex analysis and implementation requirements.

The POA enables SIDS, and in particular our Smaller Island States, to maximize access to technical expertise and development assistance, and to coordinate efforts in pursuit of sustainable development, management and conservation of our ocean and its resources. By coordinating discussions through a central platform, it reduces the risk of duplication and allows for more inclusive and comprehensive discussions on issues to ensure all perspectives are considered in decision-making.



## SANDWATCH

The global “Sandwatch” project, initiated in 1999 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), is the result of close collaboration with various stakeholders. Partners involved include the Sandwatch Foundation, the University of Puerto Rico, NGOs, schools (some of which are part of the UNESCO Associated School Network - ASPnet), teachers, curriculum developers, students, coastal communities, numerous local governments and ministries in more than 30 countries, half of which are SIDS, as well as sponsors, most notably the government of Denmark, Japan and Malaysia.

Coasts and beaches are highly dynamic environments of critical importance to the economic, socio-cultural and ecological integrity of SIDS. These environments are subject to an increasing rate of change due to urbanisation and expanding coastal development, as well as climate change and climate variability. These changes are often adversely impacting not only the lifestyles and livelihoods of inhabitants in coastal towns and villages, but also local and national economies of islands that are mostly resource-based and tourism dependent.

Taking into account these challenging situations, Sandwatch provides a platform for people (youth and adults alike) from coastal communities to monitor and conserve their environment for climate change adaptation. Active communication, education, awareness raising and community development are important components of this project.

For more than 15 years, children, youth and adults work to-

gether to scientifically monitor, design and implement practical activities and projects to address particular issues facing their beach environment and build resilience to climate change.

The Sandwatch approach consists in Monitoring, Analyzing, Sharing information, and Taking action (MAST). For example, students take seawater quality measurements at a local beach, analyze their data in the classroom, share the (open access) information with their community, and take action if pollution level is alarming. Sandwatch is currently practiced in schools and at a larger community-level in more than 30 countries worldwide.

A comprehensive toolbox that is composed of a coastal monitoring manual (in English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, and soon in Chinese), training videos and a website portal to global database and regional networks has helped achieving successful results in pilot Sandwatch projects. This prompted the decision to scale-up this flagship project in response to rapidly growing demand from SIDS world-wide. Their high vulnerability in the face of global climate change has urged them to raise awareness amongst their citizens (particularly the youth) about the emerging threat to their livelihoods, natural and cultural heritage and in some cases, to their very existence. But beyond education, SIDS citizens also seek the opportunity to act, to contribute to global understanding of the changes that are underway and to counter act where possible to minimize negative impacts. The success of Sandwatch, thus, can be linked to effective combination of learning and (re)acting at the same time.



*We try to empower each community to live with their beach, to care for their beach and to take ownership of their beach. It is like an emotional relationship –you learn to fall in love with your beach – and we motivate the students from this viewpoint. At the beginning it was more a case of students going to the beach to have fun – this is what young people like to do at the beach. But gradually after working with Sandwatch they understand the need to care for the beach and to look after it.*



## Ms. María Mercedes Brito-Feliz, Secretary General, Dominican Republic National Commission for UNESCO

The 20-year review of the Barbados Programme of Action (Samoa, September 2014) and particularly its overarching theme on *“The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships”*, provided the basis to expand Sandwatch practices in a partnership across schools in SIDS, and across SIDS regions, as a dynamic and positive message of increased understanding, action and hope. The proposed partnership entitled **SANDWATCH - a Global Observatory of Changing Environments in SIDS based on citizen science**, was proposed to build on this existing successful collaboration between many stakeholders in the domain of coastal monitoring and conservation.

### FOCUS ON SAMOA PATHWAY PRIORITY AREAS AND SDGS/TARGETS

Coastal communities, especially in SIDS, are facing considerable challenges in their efforts to implement global development strategies such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In some SIDS countries, even determining the baseline (towards which the progress towards SDGs will be assessed) is problematic due to lack of data. Sandwatch activities are aimed towards contributing to filling the data gaps by building a robust dataset, especially for SDG 13. The priority is given to most vulnerable coastal communities that are facing the impact of climate change induced natural disasters whose intensity and frequency are increasing. The Sandwatch project encourag-

es dialogue, partnership and South-South cooperation, all of which are important tools to ensure the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs. The project is also very relevant to respond to the outcomes of UNFCCC COP 21 and the Paris Agreement (mainly articles 7, 11 and 12).

The results of Sandwatch activities feed into the Global Sandwatch database which is a platform for data collection and sharing on coastal changes over time. Through the project, the principles of sustainable development are being integrated into national policies, most notably into the education curricula.

In Sandwatch project, major emphasis is put on enhancing community resilience and policy planning by engaging all relevant stakeholders such as experts, scientists, policy-makers, NGOs etc. This broad framework allows Sandwatch to address the SAMOA Pathway priorities mainly on the following areas:

- Climate change;
- Social Development (*“Education”* and *“Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities”*);
- Means of implementation, including partnerships (*“Capacity-building”*).

With its multidisciplinary approach, Sandwatch contributes also in some extent to other priorities such as *“Oceans and Seas”*; *“Disaster Risk Reduction”* and *“Biodiversity”*.

The project combines several approaches to ensure the achievement of the objectives. Those approaches include (i) multi-stakeholder involvement; (ii) participatory process; (iii) the use of local expertise; (iv) development and replication of best practices through the MAST (monitor, analyze, share and take action) approach; and (v) knowledge-sharing through south-south cooperation. The project also promotes a gender balanced participation in every stage of the implementation process.

## BENEFITS FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS IN SIDS

SIDS Children and youth, both at school and at the community level, are the key target group for expanding climate change awareness through hands-on learning. In addition, the project involves local experts from government, NGOs, national and regional teaching training institutions, tertiary colleges and relevant community members. These stakeholders are integral to provide guidance, advice and evaluation during the implementation process at the national level. Local governments help UNESCO to give close facilitation to schools and communities, as they have a better understanding of their communities, local environment, and other factors which need to be considered in implementing the project. Local NGOs, experts and academic institutions are involved to increase the capacity of participants.

Moreover, the students and communities work together with the local government in finding solutions to the environmental problems facing the beach, and at the same time, to conserve the coastal ecosystems. Engaging both stakeholders and beneficiaries on the project maximizes the knowledge, skills, and resources within a community. This also ensures that the beneficiaries' needs are taken into account in a more sustainable way.

As an interdisciplinary collaborative effort, the project includes key capacity-building activities such as regional training workshops to introduce Sandwatch monitoring to new schools in participating SIDS, and into new SIDS across the AIMS, Caribbean and Pacific regions. It also provides the opportunity to introduce information on climate change and climatic variability into education programs and curricula in SIDS. Furthermore, students and teachers are trained to enter their coastal monitoring data directly into the Global Sandwatch Database. This allows sharing of data and analyzing trends by comparing location specific time series. These trained 'Sandwatchers' continue to train other SIDS activists to form a growing body of trainers who can also respond to requests to introduce Sandwatch in other SIDS countries. An important work component includes further teacher and student training to maximize the rigor of



collected data, and scientific assessments of the strengths and limits of data sets collected by students in training.

In the context of the growing popularity of citizen science, through the tools provided by Sandwatch, SIDS youth and adults, at a community level, from around the world are actively and increasingly contributing their observations to a global data set that enhances scientific understandings of environmental variability and trends from local to global scales. Through mobilization of community-based monitoring, local actors are thus empowered to take actions that respond to adverse changes to their coastal homes, while reinforcing scientific observation of climate change impacts in SIDS.

Recent achievements include:

- Participants investigate past changes and future climate changescenariosattheirlocalbeachlocation,asafollow-up to their participation at the four regional workshops organized by UNESCO in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific regions.
- The Sandwatch practitioners (both in schools and in community groups), including from Cabo Verde, Cook Islands, Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Trinidad and Tobago, started entering monitoring data in the Sandwatch database to assess climate change and other impacts on their beaches, after having benefitted from trainings, the latest being organized by UNESCO in collaboration with the Sandwatch Foundation in the Dominican Republic (May and November 2015), and in collaboration with the Cabo Verde National Commission in Guinea-Bissau (December 2015).

## SIDS LIGHTHOUSES INITIATIVE

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have been early supporters of renewable energy technologies to reduce the burden of high energy costs through economically viable and promising solutions to their energy challenges. At the global level, SIDS have provided strong political leadership in promoting renewable energy as a key element of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and a major contribution to efforts on climate change.

In September 2014, the Third International Conference on SIDS in Apia, Samoa, adopted the outcome document “SAMOA Pathway” which contains a strong focus on renewable energy and requests a strategy for deployment of all sources of renewable energy, development of energy roadmaps, and access to mechanisms to increase capital flows for implementation of sustainable energy projects. The SAMOA Pathway also urges all stakeholders to join forces in supporting SIDS in development and implementation of their national, regional and interregional sustainable energy plans and strategies.

Consistent with this message and the SAMOA Pathway, the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative was launched at the United Nations Secretary General’s Climate Summit in September 2014. Facilitated by IRENA, the Lighthouses is a joint effort of SIDS, development institutions and other partners to advance renewable energy deployment in island settings. It is a framework for action aimed at maximizing the use of indigenous, clean and plentiful renewable energy in a structured, holistic approach that takes into account medium and long-term requirements and impacts, and ensures that the requisite institutional and human capacity is in place.

The LHI objectives are also fully aligned with SDG 7 on Energy. Growing evidence shows that renewable energy (SDG 7.2) has a positive ripple effect throughout society, simultaneously advancing economic, social and environmental goals. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on energy in SIDS will not only transform their energy systems and reduce their dependency on fossil fuels, but will also help them meet other SDGs such as for health, poverty alleviation, water and gender. Access to reliable, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable modern energy services can have a multiplier development impact as energy is needed to meet nearly all of the development goals. For example, off-grid renewable energy solutions, including standalone and mini-grid systems, are now among the most economic options to expand access to many rural and remote areas. Off-grid solutions are also being de-



ployed for productive uses, such as solar-powered irrigation on farms, thus increasing yields and incomes, reducing vulnerability to erratic rainfalls and hardship especially among women.

During 2015, the LHI gained great momentum and important progress has been registered in the first half of 2016, with increase in the number of partners (51 SIDS and territories and 19 stakeholders) and progress across all objectives, from the development of energy plans, roadmaps and support mechanisms (including training and capacity workshops in different regions), to the assessment of needs and resources (quick scans, renewable readiness assessments and grid stability studies) and the facilitation of financing (six islands projects selected for funding from IRENA/ADFD Project Facility and development of project developers and financiers matchmaking tools).

51 small islands states and territories are part of the initiative:

Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Bonaire, British Virgin Islands, Cape Verde, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curacao, Comoros, Cook Islands, Falkland Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Fiji, French Southern and Antarctic Lands, Greenland, Grenada, Guyana, Kiribati, Republic of Maldives, Republic of the Marshall



Islands, Mauritius, Montserrat, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Pitcairn, Saba, Saint-Barthelemy, Saint Helena, Ascension Tristan da Cunha Islands, St. Lucia, Saint Maarten, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Eustatius, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna.

As well as 19 Stakeholders:

- European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Indian Ocean Commission, IRENA, Association of the Overseas Countries and Territories of the European Union, UNDP, World Bank, ENEL, Clean Energy Solutions Center, Clinton Climate Initiative, Rocky Mountain Institute - Carbon War Room, SE4ALL

By 2020, the initiative aims to have:

- Mobilized USD 500 million
- Deployed 100 MW of new solar PV
- Deployed 20 MW of new wind power
- Deployed significant quantities of small hydropower and geothermal and a number of marine technology projects

The initiative is focused on activities, facilitated through partnerships, in the areas of i) improving planning for energy transition, ii) enhancing capacity and knowledge, and iii) strengthening effective project identification, structuring and implementation. Examples of progress in these areas include:

## IMPROVING PLANNING FOR ENERGY TRANSITION:

Renewable Readiness Assessments have been developed for seven SIDS and quick scans have been completed for 41 island partners. In addition, IRENA completed a road mapping baseline report for Pacific SIDS. Grid Stability Studies have been completed for six SIDS and a framework and methodological guide for undertaking grid stability studies is in preparation.

## ENHANCED CAPACITY AND KNOWLEDGE:

During 2015, a series of workshops were held in coordination with governments and utilities of SIDS and LHI partners, covering renewable energy technologies, policy and regulatory aspects and financing models. Capacity building activities continue in 2016 with a number of technical webinars and workshops in partnership with regional organizations including the Caribbean Electric Utilities Services Corporation (CARILEC), in the framework of the recently established Caribbean Renewable Energy Community (CAREC) platform and Pacific Power Association (PPA). These workshops aim to enhance technical knowledge exchange and learning activities for utility executives, engineers and power system operators of islands in the Caribbean, AIMS, and Pacific regions to integrate higher shares of variable renewable energy into the grid.

*For island states, climate action is a matter of survival.*

*By marshalling resources and providing a platform for knowledge sharing, the Lighthouse Initiative will speed the uptake of renewable energy on islands around the world, underscoring that SIDS are leading on climate change by example.*



## **Prime Minister Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi, Samoa**

*IRENA and ADFD are helping the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda to realize a transformative wind and solar project for energy and desalination of water, addressing mitigation and adaptation, and is an effective model for replication.*

## **Ambassador Conrod Hunte, Antigua and Barbuda**

### **EFFECTIVE PROJECT IDENTIFICATION, STRUCTURING AND IMPLEMENTATION:**

To enable the scale up of renewable energy and energy efficiency investments, IRENA has developed a tool called the Sustainable Energy Marketplace. It is a virtual marketplace that brings together project owners, governments, financiers, and service and technology providers. Since the launch of the Caribbean portal at COP21, 16 projects have been registered representing combined a capacity of 368 MW and an investment volume of close to \$1 billion. In addition, to date, six island projects have been selected for funding provided through a joint facility between IRENA and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) for a total budget of USD 66 million ([www.irena.org/adfd](http://www.irena.org/adfd)). There are several different technologies, project sizes and countries represented amongst these six projects. They range from a 2 MW waste-to-energy project, put forward by the Ministry of Environment and Energy in the Maldives that incorporates desali-

nation plants to a public utility-driven 10 MW solar PV plant in Cuba. And more recently we see the Antigua and Barbuda's 4 MW wind and solar project to transform the water sector and reduce emissions put forward by the Ministry of Health and the Environment in the active pipeline.

IRENA acts as a hub for the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative to provide advice and support to small island states as needed, and facilitate targeted engagement of stakeholders and mobilization of funding. Working arrangements, budget, focus areas of support, and progress are discussed and assessed on a regular basis in the margins of IRENA's semi-annual Council meetings and annual Assembly meeting.



## PROGRESS UPDATES 2015/2016

The list below includes the reported status of those partnerships that submitted a progress report by the 1 July 2016 deadline, which includes name of the partnership, its current status, and achievements at a glance for this reporting year. The full description for each progress report, including detailed descriptions of the partnerships, can be found at: <http://www.sids2014.org/partnership/reports/>.

The reporting template consist of the following elements: Reporting year; Status of the partnership; Achievement at a glance; Challenges faced in implementation; Actions for beneficiaries; Status on registered deliverables, New deliverables; and Next steps for the partnership.

## CHALLENGES

Out of all partnership updates that were received, 82% report that they are on track with their planned activities. In addition, three partnerships report that as of this year, their activities are completed. One partnership is reported to be off track. No partnership is reported to have cancelled its activities.

Although most partnerships are on track, the most common described challenge relates to receiving adequate and sustained funding.

Geographic distance and remoteness of small island developing states also pose a significant challenge for SIDS partnerships, which often leads to increased transaction and travel costs, as well limits communication abilities with partners and stakeholders, and limited access to internet in rural areas.

Sociocultural differences and sensitivities, as well language barriers, among small island developing states, and in particular in rural areas, have also in some cases hindered progress, as have certain country specific political risks, such as change in government and political uncertainty after and before national elections.

A successful partnership relies on broad engagement with all sectors of society and its surrounding communities and people. The above mentioned challenges has in some cases hindered this type of engagement, which poses a particular challenge for the continuation of partnerships in Small Island Developing States. This, in turn, makes it particularly difficult to engage the private sector, which is driven by long term financial rewards, rather than limited short term projects.

# PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

The below is a listing of updates received from partnership focal points through the newly established partnership reporting template by the 1 July 2016 deadline. A current list can be found at: <http://www.sids2014.org/partnership/reports/>.

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## A CORPORATE PROGRAMME OF THE GEF IMPLEMENTED BY UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

**#SIDSAction7705 | Status: On track**

The partnership will contribute to the sustainable development of SIDS by addressing three specific objectives: i) improving the adaptive capacity of communities, thereby reducing their vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change risks, ii) providing countries with concrete ground-level experience with local climate change adaptation, and iii) providing clear policy lessons that can be mainstreamed into national processes and up scaled good practices across scale.

The SIDS Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) project has committed 60% of the total resources (\$11.8m) through the implementation of over 135 projects. These community-led projects support communities in adapting to present and future climate change impacts and address development, climate and ecosystem sustainability in an integrated manner. The initiatives' focal areas included Water Resource Management, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Agriculture and Food Security and Land Degradation.

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## ALOHA+ CHALLENGE: A CULTURE OF SUSTAINABILITY – HE NOHONA 'AE'OIA

**#SIDSAction8026 | Status: On track**

The Aloha+ Challenge is a shared statewide leadership commitment to build a more secure, sustainable and resilient future for Hawai'i by achieving six sustainability targets by 2030,

Launched in 2014, the Governor, the four County Mayors, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, State Legislature and over 100 public and private partners launched the Aloha+ Challenge - a statewide commitment to six ambitious 2030 sustainability goals. Hawai'i is already tracking progress with an online open data dashboard on three of six goals to provide accountability, and identifying annual shared policy actions to drive implementation. The Aloha+ Challenge is supported by public-private partnership Hawai'i Green Growth, which serves as the backbone organization for statewide collaboration. The Aloha+ Challenge is Hawai'i's locally appropriate contribution to achieve the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The Aloha+ Challenge, was inspired by the Micronesia Challenge led by Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, island solutions that are being scaled and adapted as locally and culturally appropriate models to build resilience.

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## BICYCLES FOR CAPITALS (BFC)

**#SIDSAction11548 | Status: On track**

The project through partnership will promote the productive use of bicycles to decrease vehicle congestion in the capitals, reduce reliance on fossil fuel in the transport sector, improve and promote healthy lifestyle that will contribute in the reduction of NCDs and empower youths through employment opportunities. This will also contribute to a reduced carbon footprint.

The partnership has had consultations with IUCN on Life cycle project, as well organized a promotional campaign on Cook Islands: 50 days for 50 years-anniversary bicycle campaign to promote clean, green and healthy environment and people.

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## **BRIDGING THE GAP: DRIVING PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GLOBAL ACTION PROGRAMME (GAP) ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ESD)**

**#SIDSAction7768 | Status: On track**

The the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) (GAP), pursues the overall objective to use ESD as a key driver for contributing to the resilience and sustainability of Societies. The Partner Networks of GAP will bring together ESD stakeholders from different world regions to exchange experiences and learn from successful cases in implementing ESD in national education systems. SIDS have been a priority target group of UNESCO's Climate Change Education country programmes in 2012-2015.

The National Council on Climate Change and Clean Development Mechanism and the National Institute of Teachers Training of the Dominican Republic (INAFOCAM) have become Key Partners for the implementation of the Global Action Programme on ESD. UNESCO implemented Climate change education country programmes in Mauritius, Guyana, Cuba, the Philippines, Tuvalu and the Dominican Republic; organized training sessions on "Climate change education inside and outside the classroom" in Cape Verde, the Dominican Republic and Nouvelle Calédonie and provided a 4 days training course on "Comprehensive schools safety" to 45 education planners, education infrastructure planners and curriculum developers from 14 Caribbean countries.

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## **BUILDING CAPACITIES FOR INCREASED PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN INTEGRATED CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

**#SIDSAction7351 | Status: On track**

Building capacities for increased public investment in integrated climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction is an initiative of UNISDR, supported by a variety of partners including the European Commission, Japan, UNDP, World Bank, JICA, among others, working with a number of SIDS across the Caribbean, Indian Ocean and Pacific to systematically account for disaster loss and to develop probabilistic estimations of future risk, with an emphasis in weather and climate change related hazards.

On a national level, the partnership has a better understanding of losses and impact trends from disaster events, which leads to being better able to identify the causal factors (within development processes) that are driving such trends. The partnership has an improved understanding of the importance of prospective approaches and the benefits in the long term of integrating risk reduction within planning and investment, as well is equipped with both empirical and prospective elements to support decision making can better identify the strategy and resources required to manage disasters. On a global level, the partnership has a better understanding of disaster risk trends, which continues to be enhanced. The work of the partnership has informed Member States' deliberations on the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement, which has contributed to the centrality of understanding risk and promoting resilience in sustainable development post-2015.

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## **CLIMATE AND CLEAN AIR COALITION (CCAC)**

**#SIDSAction7396 | Status: On track**

The best opportunity to slow the rate of near-term warming globally and in sensitive regions such as the Arctic is by cutting emissions of short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) – most notably methane, black carbon and some hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

The Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) has 111 Partners, including 50 countries, committed to meaningful action to reduce short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs). Of importance to SIDS, the CCAC is advancing its initiatives to reduce SLCPs in the following sectors: reducing methane and black carbon through municipal solid waste management, reducing black carbon from heavy-duty diesel vehicles and engines, reducing black carbon from domestic cooking and lighting, and promoting HFCs alternative technology and standards.

To date, implementation in SIDS has been focused on the Maldives, who have made a political commitment to take action to reduce SLCPs. The CCAC has supported the promotion of HFC alternative technology and standards by funding a feasibility study on district cooling in Male, Maldives, both through technical support and capacity building, along with a small financial contribution. More broadly, the CCAC is supporting the development of the Maldives' national action plan on reducing SLCPs, which should be ready in 2017.

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## **DIGICEL PACIFIC AND UNISDR PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP: STRENGTHENING BUSINESSES RESILIENCY & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**

**#SIDSAction7567 | Status: Completed**

Digicel Pacific and UNISDR will promote the need and value of business resiliency in the Pacific by jointly engaging the private sector through advocating and showcasing disaster preparedness measures.

Utilizing the strengths of Digicel's business networks and products and the technical expertise of UNISDR, Pacific business awareness of disaster risk reduction and access to recovery products has been increased. Between 2014 and 2016 this has been achieved through two Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Recovery Product awareness workshops (Suva and Nadi, 2014), three DRR Workshops for Small and Medium Enterprises (Suva, Nadi and Apia, 2015 & 2016), two Private Sector representatives trained as trainers to continue DRR Workshops for Small and Medium Enterprises in the Pacific (2016).

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## **ENGAGING PARLIAMENTARIANS AS ADVOCATES WITH CIVIL SOCIETY TO PROGRESS SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR) AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (ICPD) IN THE PACIFIC SIDS**

**#SIDSAction7927 | Status: Completed**

AFPPD in partnership with IPPF and Pacific Parliaments has trialed a post election module in Building Capacity of Pacific Island Parliamentarians to Advocate for ICPD and SRHR in Tonga and Cook Islands Parliaments.

On 29 June 2015, the New Zealand Parliamentarians' Group on Population and Development (NZPPD), in partnership with NZFPA and UNFPA, convened an Open Hearing on engaging boys and men in sexual and reproductive health and rights initiatives at the New Zealand Parliament. The Open Hearing received written submissions and oral presentations on the theme. Parliamentarians from New Zealand and Pacific SIDS, were informed about the extent boys and men are engaged in Sexual Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights (SRH&RR) related activities in Pacific Island Countries SIDS, and what impact such engagement has had, and their roles with respect to encouraging the engagement of men and boys in SRH&RR.

## ENHANCING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION FOR CAPACITY BUILDING IN SCIENCE: TOWARDS ECONOMIC RESILIENCE TO NATURAL SHOCKS IN THE PACIFIC AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

#SIDSAction7795 | Status: **On track**

The Government of Malaysia and the United Nations for Education, Sciences, Culture and Communications Organization (UNESCO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 15th November 2011 under the Malaysia UNESCO Cooperation. The MOU was initiated in 2009 by the Honorable Dato' Sri Haji Mohammad Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia who announced at the 35th General Conference of UNESCO, the establishment of Malaysian Cooperative Trust Fund which will contribute to enhance South-South cooperation for capacity building in education and science for the benefit of the Least Developed Countries, Small Island States in Asia and the Pacific and in support of the Priority Africa agenda of UNESCO. In 2015, research was carried out in five countries on community experiences of loss and damage. A toolkit for assessing loss and damage at the community level was developed and three regional workshops were held on the issue (in Fiji in October 2015, in Tonga in March 2016 and in Samoa in May 2016).

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## EU-ACP ENHANCING THE PACIFIC CULTURAL INDUSTRIES: FIJI, SAMOA AND SOLOMON ISLANDS

#SIDSAction7717 | Status: **On track**

Cultural diversity is important to well-being and development in the Pacific. Cultural industries (goods and services) are an important part of this wealth but in order to thrive in a modern context and contribute to formal economic growth and sustainability, producers require active government and private sector support. The partnership will lead to enhanced Pacific cultural industries in Fiji, Samoa and Solomon Islands, specifically: 1) Structured cultural industries with government and development partner support; 2) Regulatory frameworks for the promotion of the cultural industries in place in Fiji, Samoa and Solomon Islands; and 3) Improved market access for cultural producers.

By March 2016, the Pacific Community (SPC) and partners are more than three-quarters of the way through the project. To date, SPC and partners have made great strides in achieving project goals and outcomes. SPC has worked together with the ministries responsible for culture in Fiji, Samoa and Solomon Islands to create national strategic frameworks for the development and promotion of the cultural industries, strengthen cultural associations, provide entrepreneurship training and market access opportunities, and increase knowledge of intellectual property.

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## GLOBAL CORAL REEF PARTNERSHIP

#SIDSAction7450 | Status: **On track**

In 2014 UNEP and Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (Regional Seas) initiated a Global Coral Reef Partnership to support countries deliver internationally agreed coral reef commitments through ecosystem-based management of coral reefs, as called for in the Global Strategic Directions for the Regional Seas 2013-2016. The overall goal of the partnership is to promote and demonstrate ecosystem-based marine management in coral reef areas, in line with UNEP Governing Council and UNEA decisions, and as a contribution towards international targets such as Sustainable Development Goal 14 and Aichi Target 10. It is the primary vehicle for strengthening implementation of the ICRI Continuing Call to Action through the Regional Seas.

The partnership is fully operational, making considerable progress in all thematic work areas. Tools that support management of

coral reefs for climate resilience have been launched; demonstration initiatives on supporting reef management through private sector partnerships and economic instruments are underway; regional initiatives for coral reef indicators and reporting have been established with the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)/Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN); and governing bodies of several Regional Seas have adopted resolutions on partnership activities and outputs. The Partnership Steering committee held its first meeting in November 2015.

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## GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

**#SIDSAction7411 | Status: Completed**

The Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism is an organizational network of tourism stakeholders of the public and private sectors, non-profits, UN agencies and programmes, international organizations and academic institutions. Partner organizations share the common vision and understanding of the goal of “sustainable tourism” and collaborate internationally, regionally or nationally to transform tourism globally.

Four Annual International Symposia and Conferences of Partners held in Costa Rica, Korea, Germany, Morocco (5th in Namibia); A SIDS consultative meeting on sustainable tourism; 85 partners in 7 regions; 1 sustainable tourism project screening and evaluation tool; 3 regional analysis on sustainable tourism (Asia & Pacific, Caribbean and southern Africa): 6 screened projects, 1 monitored project, 2 research studies, 3 draft regional proposals, 1 global consultant database; 6 Mainstreaming Sustainable Tourism workshops (Albania, Serbia, Brazil, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Cape Verde); Sustainable tourism policy advice to: Barbados, Jordan, Mauritania, Montenegro, Samoa and Bhutan.

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## GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON MARINE LITTER (GPML)

**#SIDSAction7471 | Status: On track**

The core areas of the partnership will focus on three overarching goals: Goal A: Reduced levels and impacts of land-based litter and solid waste introduced into the aquatic environment;- Goal B: Reduced levels and impact of sea-based sources of marine debris including solid waste, lost cargo, ALDFG, and abandoned vessels introduced into the aquatic environment;- Goal C. Reduced levels and impacts of (accumulated) marine debris on shorelines, aquatic habitats, and biodiversity.

Members webinars were initiated in 2015 to facilitate collaboration and information sharing within the GPML. The Secretariat provides updates and partners are invited to make short presentations on their work. The webinars are recorded and made available online to allow partners in different time zones to view the presentations.

Knowledge generation involving partners: partners were invited to contribute case studies and expertise for e.g. the first Massive Open Online Course on Marine Litter (6,500 registered participants), many also contributed expertise to the development of the study “Marine plastic debris and micro plastics – Global lessons and research to inspire action and guide policy change” launched in May 2016.

Regional nodes of the partnership have so far been established in the Wider Caribbean Region and the Northwest Pacific. This is an opportunity to better meet regional and national needs and identify priority areas for intervention – new nodes will be in Pacific and in Mediterranean.

A waste minimization demonstration project was supported in Samoa to demonstrate best practice measures for effective waste management and minimization of marine debris. The project was implemented in partnership with the Government of Samoa, SPREP and the GPML in collaboration with e.g. private sector. A spin off project was since established in the Solomon Islands utilizing litter booms to monitor riverine input.

## GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT (UNDER GPA)

#SIDSAction7426 | Status: **On track**

The Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM) is recognized to be a major multi-stakeholder support mechanism of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) in addressing the challenge of nutrient excess or deficits and the potential negative impacts on the marine and terrestrial ecosystems. The mandate to address particularly marine pollution and creation of hypoxic zones associated with nutrient runoff was affirmed by countries at the 2012 Inter-Governmental Review of the GPA under the Manila Declaration. Based on this mandate, the GPNM under support from UNEP has mobilized resources from various donors, but most significantly from the GEF to execute the Global Nutrient Cycling Project.

The project, which is global in scope, contributes to the building the knowledge foundations on nitrogen and phosphorus nutrient cycling, the impacts on the environment and the development of a global nutrient management decision-support toolbox. The project has also contributed to development of methodologies for ecosystem assessments at the watershed unit level in India and the Philippines, methodologies that can be replicated elsewhere.

The GPNM is actively supporting the development of regional platforms for nutrient management, having established a platform for the Asia region and one for the Caribbean region. Awareness raising and strategic planning within the regional platforms has enhanced buy-in from countries and consideration of initiatives to address the negative impacts of excess nutrient loading in the marine environment. Of relevance to SIDS, the Caribbean platform has had 2 planning meetings, the most recent held in Trinidad & Tobago in February 2016. The elements of a work plan were articulated in this meeting.

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## GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON WASTE MANAGEMENT (GPWM)

#SIDSAction7462 | Status: **On track**

The GPWM is an open-ended partnership for international agencies, Governments, businesses, academia, local authorities, and nongovernmental organizations. The GPWM supports the development of work plans to facilitate the implementation of integrated waste management at national and local levels to overcome environmental, public health, social and economic problems arising from unsound waste management. The GPWM supports policy dialogues and other activities to exchange experiences and practices, facilitating enhanced awareness raising and capacity building.

Since launching the Global Partnership on Waste management (GPWM) which originally started with the six thematic areas (1: Waste and Climate Change; 2: Waste Agricultural Biomass; 3: Integrated Solid Waste Management; 4: E-waste Management; 5: Marine Litter; and 6: Waste Minimization), two more thematic areas (6: Hazardous Waste Management; and 6: Metal Recycling) were introduced to the GPWM. Next steps include upgrades to the kNOwWaste Platform of UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC, which supports the exchange of information, knowledge, practices and experiences among countries, regions and cities, empowering their capacity to manage waste related matters. On the “kNOwWaste” it will be possible to consult experts and other users that might be facing similar issues or that have may have a solution to propose.

## HERITAGE STRENGTHENING IN THE PACIFIC

**#SIDSAction8062 | Status: Financial issues**

The partnership focuses on strengthening human resources through strategic and innovative capacity building initiatives within and outside of the Pacific region, in order to create a pool of experts and well informed and engaged decision makers to improve capacities for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, particularly the Pacific World Heritage Action Plan.

The partnerships has organized a series of capacity building workshops, such as the Workshop on Revitalisation of Indigenous Architecture and Traditional Building Skills (Samoa, November 2014), the Pacific Training Course on Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage in Small Island Developing States (Vanuatu, October 2015), the Regional Meeting on the Pacific World Heritage Action Plan 2016-2020 (Fiji, December 2015), Pilot Community-based Inventorying of Traditional House Building Skills (Fiji, 2016), the First Canoe Summit (Guam, May 2016).

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## HIV AND STI PREVENTION IN THE CARIBBEAN (UNAIDS AND UNFPA)

**#SIDSAction12324 | Status: On track**

UNFPA in collaboration with key stakeholders, strengthened national and regional capacities to develop, implement and monitor HIV responses that utilize a combination prevention approach to meet the needs of young people and key populations. Regional systems for the delivery of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) have been improved in 6 countries including through the development and implementation of Comprehensive Condom Programming (CCP), a sexual and reproductive health (SRH) training methodology for social work and public health students; peer education model on CSE and Health and Family Life Education (HFLE); training teachers and counsellors in CSE and adolescent sexual and reproductive health services (ASRH), and youth leaders for active participation in advocacy at national level. South-South Cooperation was facilitated for HFLE Master training for Trinidad & Tobago and Guyana by the Ministry of Education, Jamaica.

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## HIV/AIDS PREVENTION – JOINT UNITED NATIONS TEAM ON AIDS (JUNTA)

**#SIDSAction7555 | Status: On track**

UNAIDS is a leader in the global AIDS response, with the unique ability to address HIV from multiple perspectives, and draw on the experience and expertise of its 11 co-sponsors. UNAIDS partners with the UN system, governments, people living with HIV, civil society, the private sector, financing institutions, academia, science, the media and influential public figures. At the country level, UNAIDS promotes coherent action to support an effective national AIDS response. UNAIDS was 'Delivering as One' a decade before the UN reform was piloted, and works to increase coordination and collaboration at all levels

JUNTA has engaged leadership and developed analytical notes for Samoa, Tonga, Solomon Islands and Marshal Islands to reinforce the commitment to the AIDS response and lift travel restrictions.

A Stigma Index Study was recently funded jointly by UNAIDS, UNICEF and Ministry of Health (MOH) in Fiji based on a Stigma Index Protocol and questionnaire that was approved by Fiji Ethical Committee to be implemented by Fiji Network Plus (FJN+).

In the field of prevention, the first steps undertaken were to generate strategic information on key populations and to scale up testing and services.

The capacity of 35 focal points in the Pacific was strengthened and country Global AIDS response progress reporting (GARPR)

reporting was increased from 10 to 12 countries including reporting on indicators for key populations. This was used to produce a regional analysis for the development of a successful Global Fund multi-country proposal of \$6.5 million covering 11 countries and shaping the priorities for the proposal, including size estimations for key populations and a NGO grant programme for HIV prevention in key populations for all 11 countries.

UNFPA, with financial support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand, completed Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) Needs Assessments in 5 Programme countries (Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu). The assessments aimed to establish the reproductive health needs of the countries including adolescents, youths, reproductive-aged women and men. Key findings common to all countries included, policies which needed to be revised, there is a need for a rights-based approach which integrates SRH and HIV policies, there is need for more collaboration among stakeholders and, finally, there is a need to strengthen enabling factors within the health system.

JUNTA has facilitated development of a Concept Note for the Global Fund for 11 countries in the Pacific amounting for \$6.5 million, the majority of the funds covers activities for key affected populations, including data generation, grant programme for NGOs for prevention in key populations and capacity building of NGOs to deliver services.

UNICEF Pacific in cooperation with UNDP are supporting the collection of strategic information and size mapping for key populations in 10 countries of the region which will help provide information on populations at higher risk. The studies will be conducted in three phases, with the final phases scheduled for completion in October 2016.

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## IMPROVING TRANSITIONS FROM SCHOOL TO WORK THROUGH ENGAGING YOUTH IN POLICY DIALOGUE

**#SIDSAction8086 | Status: On track**

The objective of this partnership is to achieve improved youth transitions between education and the world of work through engaging youth in policy dialogue on TVET. Youth constitute a large proportion of the population in SIDS. Whilst youth are a huge asset for sustainable development, too many young people experience difficulties making school-to-work transitions and in meeting their aspirations. Unemployment, low paid work and a lack of job opportunities are major concerns. Youth can also have a negative impact on social cohesion and contribute to concerns about rising crime in SIDS. Sustainable development in SIDS depends to an important extent on how well SIDS take account of and engage with the aspirations of youth. This partnership will strengthen engagement with youth in policy dialogue and formulation processes, in order to shape future skills, improve transitions and to advance sustainable development.

The second Conference on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in the Caribbean (Jamaica, May 2015), strengthened this partnership. National Training Authorities, Ministries of Education, regional organizations, development partners and UNESCO-UNEVOC Centres participated. Saint Lucia's draft National TVET Policy was informed by a TVET Policy Review conducted with UNESCO technical support. The Saint Lucia National Youth Council contributed to this process. Suriname also benefitted from technical assistance. A regional consultation on TVET in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Santiago, Chile, 5-6 May 2016, and included experts from the University of the West Indies and Caribbean Association of National Training Agencies (CANTA).

## MELANESIA'S MILLION MIRACLE PROGRAMME (M3P)

#SIDSAction11540 | Status: **On track**

In the Pacific islands 70% or 7 million people have no access to electricity. Out of this, 1 million people or 14% will have through the M3P. The partnership aims to bring the miracle of electricity to 1 million people in Melanesia by 2020 that is the equivalent of 14% of the Pacific Islands people who still don't have access to electricity. Assist to bridge the existing gap on the access to modern energy services between the urban and rural areas in the three participating countries. Access to the national utility grid in these countries is very low compared to other PICs. Access is as low as 12% in PNG, 14% in the SI, 28% in Vanuatu.

12 Volt off grid solar PV charging station and 200 solar pico lanterns have been installed in targeted rural communities in Papua New Guinea (Koukou and Gorari villages, along Kokoda track, Oro province), Solomon Islands (Taba, Tavula, Tepazaka & Vuru-vachu wards, Choiseul province), Vanuatu (Port Resolution & White Sands, Tanna Island). 3,600 people now have access to solar electricity in rural of PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu (1,200 people or 200 households in targeted communities). 10 solar shops are now successfully established and are all operating well. The solar shops are coordinated by the local women's group in the targeted villages and it operates as a charging station for the solar pico lanterns. These local women's groups are empowered to engage in income generating activities. A total of 147 women were trained on simple book keeping and business operational of the solar shops. A total of 6 key women and 6 male youths were trained as technicians for the solar charging stations and the solar pico lanterns.

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## MIGRATION, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE: EVIDENCE FOR POLICY

#SIDSAction7807 | Status: **On track**

Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy (MECLEP) is a three year international partnership project funded by the EC and managed by the International Organization for Migration with a consortium of 6 partners. The project focuses on 6 case study countries around the world including 4 SIDS countries Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea and Kenya and Viet Nam.

The project has advanced all three of its main components (research, capacity-building, knowledge sharing) and produced the following deliverables in the selected SIDS: 1) National Assessment Reports (reviews of existing evidence and policies on migration, environment and climate change); 2) Household surveys and case study reports in migrant destination areas vulnerable to environmental change (finalized for PNG and Haiti; Dominican Republic in drafting stage; Mauritius survey to begin in June 2016); 3) Training Manual on Migration Environment and Climate Change and Policymaker trainings; 4) National policy consultations.

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## PACIFIC BIOSPHERE RESERVES NETWORK: A TOOL FOR EXCHANGE AND COOPERATION

#SIDSAction7792 | Status: **Off track**

The UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) have adopted years ago an inclusive and holistic approach towards sustainable development, notably through Biosphere Reserves. Biosphere Reserves, living and learning laboratories for sustainable development, are sites established by countries and recognized under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme to promote sustainable development based on local community efforts and sound science. The UNESCO MAB Programme and the UNESCO Apia, Office for the Pacific States have embarked on a fresh initiative to revitalize the Pacific Biosphere Reserve Network (PacMAB).

A new logo and webpage for Pacific Man and Biosphere Network were launched in late 2014. Since then, few activities have been implemented. However, a new focal point should see renewal of activities.

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## PACIFIC FINANCIAL INCLUSION PROGRAMME (PFIP)

**#SIDSAction7348 | Status: On track**

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

Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP) has supported 10 service providers since 2009, which have cumulatively enrolled over 1 million customers in financial services (as of March 2016), surpassing its overall programme objective. In 2015, an additional 172,075 Pacific Islanders were reached with PFIP support, bringing the total number of people reached through PFIP 2 (2014-2018) to 263,859. PFIP 2 has just surpassed its mid-point target, and with continued growth of the current products plus the addition of others in 2016 and 2017, PFIP is well placed to reach the additional 500,000 Pacific Islanders by the end of the programme.

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## PACIFIC HERITAGE HUB

**#SIDSAction7393 | Status: Financial issues**

Pacific Heritage Hub (PHH) was established as a regional facility by and for the Pacific peoples at the University of the South Pacific (USP), intergovernmental regional university in Suva, Fiji, in 2013 at the request of Pacific member states that was endorsed at the 4th Pacific World Heritage Workshop (Apia, 2011). Under its vision Our Pacific island cultural and natural heritage is restored, enriched, cherished, and protected for the present and future generations, PHHs missions are to inspire, guide, and build capacity of Pacific peoples to safeguard their cultural and natural heritage for enhanced sustainable development by advocating for increased recognition of, and support for the unique and diverse cultural and natural heritage of the Pacific, facilitating implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Pacific as mandated by the Pacific World Heritage Action Plan. PHH is a hub for knowledge management and information production, accumulation, sharing and dissemination on and for cultural and natural heritage management in the Pacific, promotes an integrated approach to the cultural and natural dimensions of heritage, facilitate the coordination of capacity building through training and education across the region, and increases awareness of the Pacific islands region, its unique heritage and special needs within the international heritage community and to the global community in tenera.

Capacity of over 100 heritage managers, government officials and other stakeholders involved in heritage management in Pacific SIDS were enhanced through a series of capacity building activities organized with the Pacific Heritage Hub (PHH) support, including, among others, the Pacific Training Course on Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage in Small Island Developing States (Vanuatu, October 2015), the Regional Meeting on the Pacific World Heritage Action Plan 2016-2020 (Fiji, December 2015), the workshops for the preparation of Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) following Tropical Cyclone Winston that struck Fiji in February 2016. Project on professional certificate for mid-career heritage managers developed within the framework of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Declaration of the 3rd Culture Ministers Meeting adopted at the meeting in Guam in May 2016, recommending the remaining states-non-parties in the Pacific to join the World Heritage Convention.

## PACIFIC ISLANDS OCEANIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

#SIDSAction7945 | Status: **On track**

The Partnership will support Pacific SIDS in meeting their obligations to implement and effectively enforce global, regional and sub-regional arrangements for the conservation and management of trans boundary oceanic fisheries thereby increasing sustainable benefits derived from these fisheries

Thirteen countries in the Pacific Region have endorsed the implementation of the project at country level. The project is active at regional, sub regional and national levels. The project is jointly administrated by UNDP and FAO with dual reporting systems. At the regional level key project deliverables have been the successful delivery of the annual management options committee (MOC) meeting in November that feeds into the annual The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) meeting. The 2015 MOC resulted in a total of nine submissions to the WCPFC meeting. On the MCS side, the project supported the annual FFA MCS working group meeting in March which feeds MCS related recommendations into the annual Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC). National program support positions are in place in SPC and key activity deliverables are on target. FFA has agreements in place for aspects of project implementation with the Pacific Community (SPC), The Parties to the Nauru Agreement Office (PNAO) the Te Vaka Moana (TVM) arrangement, WWF and the Pacific Island Tuna Industry Association. The project has facilitated two meetings of the Project Steering Committee and both the FAO and UNDP component annual work plans and budget have been endorsed.

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## PACIFIC RISK RESILIENCE PROGRAMME: A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH TO RISK GOVERNANCE IN THE PACIFIC

#SIDSAction7381 | Status: **On track**

The Pacific Risk Resilience Programme (PRRP) is a large-scale risk governance programme in one of the most vulnerable regions to disasters and climate change in the world. The US\$16.1 million Pacific Risk Reduction Programme (PRRP) is being delivered through a partnership between the Australian Government Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and international NGOs Live and Learn Environmental Education (LLEE) and the Mainstreaming of Rural Development Initiative (MORDI). The Programme is helping to build the national and regional risk governance enabling environment to improve the resilience of Pacific communities. It is being delivered in four Pacific island countries - Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tonga and Fiji.

For development to be sustainable it needs to be risk informed. New partners are now more substantively understanding and addressing the threats of disasters and climate change, by mainstreaming these risks into development at national, sectoral and local levels. These include finance, sectors, private sector, women and social welfare and local government. This has been possible through the strengthening of core 'risk governance' elements (people, mechanisms and processes). This approach is increasingly being recognized in the region as the foundation for addressing the resilient development agenda and is being replicated in other areas within the programme countries.

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## PACIFIC YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP (PYDF PARTNERSHIP)

#SIDSAction7597 | Status: **On track**

The Pacific Youth Development Framework (PYDF) is about how regional organisations, governments, community organisations, and society support young people in the Pacific (22 countries and territories) towards safe and healthy lives and sustainable en-

vironments, as active social and economic participants in their communities. The framework works towards a vision which is, a sustainable Pacific where all young people are safe, respected, empowered and resilient. Four high-level development outcomes for youth have been determined as regional priorities. These are: 1) More young people secure decent employment; 2) Young people's health status is improved; 3) Governance structures empower young people to increase their influence in decision-making; 4) More young people participate in environmental action.

UNFPA support to the Pacific Youth Development Framework in 2015 is under Outcome 2.2 of the framework aimed at improving young people's sexual and reproductive health. UNFPA chairs the UN-Working Group for Youth (UN-WGY) which is a mechanism for coordinating UN support toward the implementation of the PYDF. The main initiative of the Working Group in 2016 is the development of the State of Pacific Youth Report (SOPY), through a collaboration between UNFPA, the Pacific Community (SPC), ILO, UNICEF, UNDP offices in the Pacific and youth stakeholders. UNFPA has also supported the formation of a regional youth think tank which was instrumental in the development of the PYDF. The think tank will play a role in the conceptualization of the SOPY.

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## PARLIAMENTARIANS ADVANCING ANTI-CORRUPTION THROUGH UNCAC

**#SIDSAction11973 | Status: On track**

The partnership commits to strengthen the capacity, engagement, and mechanisms for parliamentary oversight of national Pacific countries' integrity and anti-corruption through the UN Convention Against Corruption, and with integrity to attain national development priorities, with specific reference to the United Nations Global Sustainable Development Goals, and in particular in relation to Sustainable Development Goal 16, which aims to "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels". This places parliaments at the forefront of the SGDs' implementation and monitoring.

Tuvalu Parliament has agreed to signing the UN Convention Against Corruption in late 2015; Niue Legislative Assembly has recommended to Cabinet to sign UNCAC in April 2016; Tonga Parliament's Standing Committee on Anti-Corruption has also recommended Tonga signs UNCAC; Nauru Parliament unanimously endorsed the Leadership Code Committee Report and passed the Act to establish the Code, acknowledging the support of Global Organisation of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) and UN Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UN-PRAC) in Parliament; Kiribati's new Parliament established the Pacific's second Parliamentary Committee on Anti-Corruption; parliamentarians in Fiji established GOPAC Fiji in June 2016 after UN-PRAC, GOPAC and National Democratic Institute (NDI) support for the Fiji Parliament's Code of Conduct Bill workshop.

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## REGIONAL SEAS PROGRAMME

**#SIDSAction7399 | Status: On track**

The Regional Seas Programme aims to address the accelerating degradation of the world's oceans and coastal areas through the sustainable management and use of the marine and coastal environment, by engaging neighboring countries in comprehensive and specific actions to protect their shared marine environment. Today, more than 143 countries participate in 13 Regional Seas programmes, established under the auspices of UNEP: Black Sea, Wider Caribbean, East Asian Seas, Eastern Africa, South Asian Seas, ROPME Sea Area, Mediterranean, North-East Pacific, Northwest Pacific, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, South-East Pacific, Pacific, and Western Africa.

The Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans have formulated the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2017-2020). The Strategic Directions are in line with the SDGs and aim to catalyze shifts towards more integrated, ecosystem-based management pursuant to paragraph 57 of the SAMOA Pathway. The Regional Seas Programme has also been promoting application of Blue Economy approaches in line with paragraph 25. A regional workshop on Blue Economy was organized in the Western Indian Ocean region. The Programme also produced a publication compiling six case studies of practical application of Blue Economy approaches in order to inspire future programmes and projects.

## SUPPORTING COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION IN THE PACIFIC

#SIDSAction7786 | Status: **On track**

The aim of the partnership is to support Ministries of Education and other Institutions to provide quality and comprehensive approaches to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) education at primary and secondary school levels. The program will contribute to the development of future Pacific Island leaders who are sensitized to the issues of SRH and gender equality.

UNFPA supported the University of the South Pacific (USP) to enhance training of teachers who teach in-school subjects containing Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE). The University of the South Pacific (USP) is the premier tertiary institution in the Pacific that serves 22 countries and territories in the region. In the Solomon Islands, UNFPA partnered with the government to train teachers and rollout CSE nationally as an integrated curriculum. In 2015, UNFPA supported South-South collaboration between Vanuatu and Fiji. A team of five representatives of the Ministry of Education and the National Youth Council of Vanuatu travelled to Fiji to share experiences with their counterparts. In Kiribati, UNFPA supported the development and completion of student learning resources for levels 3 and 4.

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## TECHNICAL COOPERATION PACKAGE FOR SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

#SIDSAction11344 | Status: **On track**

Through this initiative, Singapore commits to assist Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in their capacity building efforts. As a small island state, Singapore understands the vulnerabilities and recognizes the unique challenges faced by fellow SIDS. Over the years, the initiative has trained over 8,800 SIDS government officials in diverse areas, such as sustainable development and climate change, public governance and economic development. At the Third International Conference on SIDS in Samoa from 1-4 September 2014, Singapore announced this special three-year technical cooperation package for SIDS.

The initiative has produced one customized course on disaster management for SIDS officials, which was jointly organized with UNDESA (10-12 Nov 2014), announced 15 maritime fellowships for the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore's 4th and 5th "Maritime Public Leaders Programme" (13-18 Oct 2014; 19-24 Oct 2015), as well 50 civil aviation fellowships to attend Singapore Aviation Academy's programmes (from Sep 2014 to Mar 2016). In addition, a total of 713 participants (i.e. excluding those above) have participated in other Singapore Cooperation Programme courses (from Sep 2014 to Mar 2016).

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## THE PACIFIC ENERGY ADVISORY GROUP (PEAG)

#SIDSAction7576 | Status: **On track**

This partnership has demonstrated an effective institutional arrangement as a platform where PSIDS and its developments partners, regional agencies and the private sector come together on an annual basis to share best practices, to foster joint activities and minimize costs and discuss measures to ensure consistency of effort and the avoidance of duplication. Benefits of this partnership to SIDS includes: 1) A workable institutional development for the promotion of sustainable energy for all in SIDS; 2) An effective coordination mechanism that ensures best use of donor resources; and 3) A mechanism for sharing of best practices in the energy sector of SIDS.

The Sixth Meeting of the Pacific Energy Advisory Group (PEAG) was held on 16 -18 November 2015 at the Pacific Community (SPC), Suva, Fiji. The meeting provided an update to the PEAG on the implementation of the decisions of the second Joint Regional Meeting of Energy and Transport Ministers held in April 2014. The partnership demonstrated an effective institutional arrangement

as a platform where PSIDS and its development partners, regional agencies and the private sector come together on an annual basis to share best practices, to foster joint activities and minimize costs and discuss measures to ensure consistency of effort and the avoidance of duplication.

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## UNEP LIVE

**#SIDSAction7684 | Status: On track**

UNEP Live is a common knowledge infrastructure, built on advances in technology, to connect individual efforts with collective intelligence and understanding (within and outside the United Nations) to share authoritative environmental and other data and knowledge.

The initiative, which is a partnership between UNEP, Global, regional and national data providers, has provided support for integrated environmental assessments by making global, regional and national data and knowledge flows widely accessible.

Through its Indicator Reporting Information System (IRIS), it will assist countries in sharing data and transform it into indicators for reporting to multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and the SDGs, as well for its relations. The IRIS has been deployed in Samoa, and has the potential for being used in other countries in the region as well.

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## UNITED NATIONS PACIFIC INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL (UN PIATF)

**#SIDSAction7996 | Status: On track**

The UN PIATF coordinates the activities of the relevant United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies in the Pacific to support the realization of the commitments made by Heads of State and Government in the UN Political Declaration on NCDs, the commitments made by Pacific Ministers of Health in the Honiara and Apia Communiqués and the declaration of a NCD crisis in the Pacific issued by Pacific Island Forum Leaders at their 42nd meeting in Auckland, New Zealand in 2011. The partnership works toward supporting Pacific island countries and areas in achieving the global and Pacific specific voluntary targets for NCD prevention and control by 2025.

As part of the UNPIATF, a cervical cancer task team comprised of WHO, UNFPA, Secretariat of the South Pacific (SPC), Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Asia Development Bank (ADB) was formed to lead a Situation Analysis and Response on cervical cancer in the Pacific. The task team was formed in response to the decision by Forum Leaders in 2015 on the key priorities under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR) process, one of which was Cervical Cancer Screening and Prevention Policy and Programming. A draft report was produced with a focus on the current cervical cancer interventions in each 14 Pacific Island Countries of the Pacific Forum Secretariat (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu). The report explored the cost-benefit analysis of existing cervical cancer interventions and contains policy recommendations. It provides the Pacific Island Leaders of the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat member countries with an insight of the interventions for cervical cancer prevention, treatment and management in each country through the collation of available policies, studies and reports. The report is due to be finalized in June, 2016.



# LOOKING AHEAD

Partnership as means of implementation and as a vehicle for supporting government-led actions in realizing sustainable development has increasingly been recognized through United Nations summits, conferences and outcomes since the turn of the century.

Member states recognized this very clearly in 2014 at The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS Conference) by making the overarching theme of the conference “The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships” .

The concept of partnerships is also reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through its Sustainable Development Goal 17 “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development”, where multi-stakeholder partnerships are recognized as important drivers for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries. Goal 17 also encourages the promotion of effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships.

The realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals will thus require an intensified collaboration between governments, the United Nations System, all sectors of society, and all people, working through innovative partnerships, and channeling the expertise needed for making a difference on the ground.

At the SIDS Conference in 2014, we witnessed the formation and announcement of over 300 partnerships devoted to the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States. More importantly however, was the realization by member States that the Conference should not be the end of this process, but the beginning. This realization was enshrined in the call for the development of a SIDS Partnership Framework, which a year later was formally established by the General Assembly. The establishment of an inter-governmentally driven framework for follow-up and review of multi-stakeholder partnerships is first of its kind at the United Nations, and it self a tribute to multilateralism at its best.

Upon reviewing the work of SIDS partnerships through the present publication, it is clear that there is both much work being done across all regions of SIDS through many innovation partnership arrangements, as well many challenges to overcome. The SIDS Partnership Framework, through its various activities, will continue to provide a global platform for reviewing challenges and lessons learnt of SIDS partnerships, encourage reporting by all stakeholders in order to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for SIDS, promote effective and efficient follow-up to existing partnerships, as well be a springboard for launching new, genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of SIDS.

The decision of making partnerships the overarching theme of the SIDS Conference in 2014, as well the establishment of the SIDS Partnership Framework, has ensured that partnerships for Small Island Developing States – as well partnerships as a concept for driving sustainable development – has remained high on the international development agenda. The SIDS Partnership framework should be seen as a lighthouse when looking at successful models for both engaging various actors in driving sustainable development, as well for reviewing its work, moving towards a more sustainable future in all countries.

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