Partnerships to accelerate implementation of the SDGs in Small Island Developing States

Emily Hosek, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework

- A key request from the outcome of the 2014 Third International Conference on SIDS - the SAMOA Pathway

- The SIDS Partnership Framework designed to monitor progress of existing partnerships as well as stimulate the launch of new, genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of SIDS

- Guided by a Steering Committee driven by Member States, the framework has ensured that SIDS partnerships have remained high on the UN's agenda, providing a multi-stakeholder platform for reviewing progress made by SIDS partnerships, and for sharing of good practices and lessons learned among all stakeholders on an annual basis
More than 500 SIDS partnerships are currently registered on the SIDS Action Platform

http://www.sids2014.org/
Each registered SIDS partnership is asked to select priority SDGs and targets, timelines, resources, partners, deliverables, beneficiaries

- **(SMART criteria** – Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Resource-driven, Time-bound)
In September 2019, Member States will convene a one-day high-level meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to review progress made in addressing the priorities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

A robust Member States’ driven preparatory process is currently underway, which will feature three regional meetings of SIDS, as well as one interregional meeting for all SIDS.

Under the overall guidance of the Steering Committee on SIDS Partnerships, currently chaired by Belize and Ireland, UN DESA is undertaking a capacity development project to support the work of the SIDS Partnership Framework and the preparatory process related to the SAMOA Pathway mid-term review.

The project is expected to result in a SIDS Partnership Toolbox, which will include an in-depth analysis of existing partnerships, identified best practices and gaps in implementation, and a set of tools for monitoring and evaluating SIDS partnerships at the regional, national, and global level.
SIDS Partnership Dialogues

The project will include a series of capacity development partnership dialogues, which will provide an opportunity to bring together relevant stakeholders from the different SIDS regions to:

- **Assess the status of partnerships for each SIDS region**, identifying best practices and gaps around which new partnerships could be forged to further drive implementation of SAMOA Pathway priority areas and SDGs in SIDS;

- **Raise the capacity of diverse stakeholders** to develop genuine and durable partnerships for SIDS;

- **Strengthen the review and monitoring process** of SIDS partnerships
AIMS Region SIDS Partnership Dialogue

• The first partnership dialogue will be held from **22-23 May 2018 in Port Louis, Mauritius**, as part of the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS) region

• Will focus on best practices and lessons learned in developing SIDS partnerships, as well as identifying development gaps that can be addressed by partnerships

• A concept note and tentative programme are available at: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sids/partnerships2018](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sids/partnerships2018)
Examples of SIDS Partnerships
Pacific plastic pollution: A system for regional grassroots solutions

- By The Sustainable Coastlines Charitable Trust (NGO)
- Working with leaders within Pacific communities, the program focuses on enhancing human capacity through in-country and regional training programs, ensuring that community members and leaders have open access to the best practice tools for reporting on, removing and preventing litter
- Provides ongoing support and training, with a long-term aim of creating employment opportunities around the region for implementing this critical work
- Upcoming deliverables: Design and roll out of litter data collection methodology and educational intervention in Hawaii and Papua New Guinea (October 2018)
By Swimsol GmbH (private sector) commits to seek new partnerships with Small Island Development States in order to advance floating solar energy at sea, which will make clean energy possible for small islands beyond the limitations of land.
Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS Integrated Water Resources Management Project

• The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has funded a large project to support 6 participating Small Island Developing States, 2 in the Atlantic Ocean (Cape Verde and Sao Tome & Principe) and 4 in the Indian Ocean (Comoros, Maldives, Mauritius and Seychelles). The partnership is also supported by UNEP, UNDP, and UNOPS

• Objective to strengthen the commitment and capacity of the participating countries to implement an integrated approach to the management of freshwater resources, with a long-term goal of enhancement of the capacity of the countries to plan and manage their aquatic resources and ecosystems on a sustainable basis

• Deliverables:
  • Develop national indicator and monitoring framework in all 6 countries
  • Policy, legislative, and institutional reforms in all countries
  • Capacity building, learning, knowledge exchange & replication of best practices from pilot projects
Engaging Civil Society in the delivery of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem plus Strategic Action Programme Implementation

- By Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) (Civil society organization)

- CANARI works directly with the full range of stakeholders in the islands of the Caribbean in order to facilitate **avenues for their equitable and effective participation in decisions about the use and management of marine resources**

- Stakeholders include people in rural communities, community based organisations, non-governmental organisations, media, academic institutions, donors and technical assistance organisations, governmental and intergovernmental agencies, and the private sector

- Committed to **developing the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Civil Society Action Programme** (improving the management of shared Living Marine Resources) and corresponding **Small Grants Coordinating Mechanism** aimed at promoting broader participation of, and contributions from civil society organisations and small and micro enterprises to the overall set of actions aimed at achieving the long-term vision for the region (by August 2019)
Global Wastewater Initiative (GW2I)

• The GW2I is a multi-stakeholder platform comprised of UN agencies, international organizations, governments, scientists, the private sector, industries and Major groups and stakeholders to provide the foundations (including information, tools and policy mechanisms) for partnerships to initiate comprehensive, effective and sustained programmes addressing wastewater management

• Carried out through the creation of demonstration projects for sustainable wastewater reuse

• Includes capacity building and training for public and private sector stakeholders at local, regional and national levels

Demonstration Projects:
• Reducing Pollution in the Black Sea- WECF;
• Demonstration of Effective Use of Treated Wastewater in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden- PERSGA;
• Demonstrating Decentralized Wastewater in Tanzania- BORDA, UN-Habitat
Communities of Ocean Action

• To follow-up on the implementation of ocean-related voluntary commitments and partnerships, UN DESA and the UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean, Ambassador Peter Thomson, have launched nine thematic multistakeholder Communities of Ocean Action to spur further action in the area of Goal 14, and to maintain momentum until the next Ocean Conference, anticipated to be held in 2020.

• Each Community of Ocean Action is coordinated by a set of designated focal points drawn from representatives from the UN system and civil society, including UN Environment, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Office of Legal Affairs (OLA), International Maritime Organization, Ocean Conservancy, Global Environment Facility (GEF), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), among other entities and organizations.
Communities of Ocean Action

The nine multi-stakeholder Communities of Ocean Action are:

1. Mangroves
2. Coral reefs
3. Ocean acidification
4. Marine and coastal ecosystems management
5. Sustainable fisheries
6. Marine pollution
7. Sustainable blue economy
8. Scientific knowledge, research capacity development and transfer of marine technology

All stakeholders committed to Ocean Action for advancing Sustainable Development Goal 14 are welcome to join the Communities of Ocean Actions by registering a voluntary commitment or partnerships.

Full list of Voluntary Commitments, Communities of Ocean Action, designated focal points, and Voluntary Commitment registration form can be found at https://oceanconference.un.org/
Recommendations

- Review of Partnerships for Small Island Developing States – advance copy just released!

- Gap Analysis identifies major areas which require attention if the priorities of the SAMOA pathway are to be better realized:

  1. More projects related to **youth and community empowerment** (strong in the Pacific region, can be emulated in other regions)

  2. The need to **increase the engagement of the private sector in many partnerships**, as this is currently lacking

  3. The **environmental costs of unsustainable tourism management**, and the need to address this issue through partnerships

  4. The importance of **documentation and developing baselines to enable improved monitoring and support for policy decisions**
Thank you!

For Further Information Please Contact: Mr. Ola Goransson | Division for Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs | goranssono@un.org