

QUESTIONNAIRE

Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the MSI of the BPOA for the Sustainable Development of SIDS

Please note that strict word limits have been established for each question. The Secretariat is unable to consider any information beyond these established word limits. In this regard, you are requested to report only on new or updated information. Information conveyed in previous surveys will not be considered. Previous surveys can be accessed at <https://sidsnetwork.org/> and <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/small-island-developing-states> under reports.

PART A VULNERABILITY REDUCTION IN SIDS

1. Enhanced Support for a Resilient Post-COVID-19 Recovery in SIDS

Vulnerability is one of the most crucial challenges faced by SIDS. Briefly elaborate on any ex-ante interventions or proactive/preventive strategies that have been or are being implemented at national and/or sub-regional levels that aim specifically at reducing exposure to external shocks and improving resilience in SIDS. Please include information on any financial resources expended in this regard, if available **(750 words)**.

With the ongoing impact of the coronavirus pandemic in 2021, the GEF continued to implement actions to assist recipient countries with COVID response and long-term blue and green recovery. These included steps for the immediate, medium, and longer term to help address the present situation and reduce the probability of new environmental crises emerging in the foreseeable future.¹

The actions relevant to SIDS countries included: i) ongoing focus on efforts to deal with the wildlife trade and consumption challenges through the [Global Wildlife Program](#); ii) identifying risks in projects and programs that may seriously compromise past gains and future outcomes iii) ongoing support to incorporate blue and green recovery mechanisms in upcoming projects and iv) in terms of future support, developing the Healthy Planet Healthy People framework as the underpinning of the GEF 8 replenishment cycle, which explicitly recognizes the dependency of human health and well-being on a healthy environment.

¹ GEF, 2020, [GEF's Response to COVID-19](#), Council Document GEF/C.58/Inf.07

In 2021, the GEF supported at least 14 SIDS with integrating COVID-19 risks and opportunities for green and blue recovery in their GEF financed interventions.

2. Enhanced and Tailored Development Cooperation for SIDS

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the urgent need to ensure that responses to vulnerability must be at the heart of international policy aimed at supporting SIDS, and that better tailored development co-operation approaches, calibrated to the specific needs, capacity constraints, and economic challenges facing SIDS, are necessary. Briefly elaborate on any planned or ongoing strategies/approaches to improve and deliver on more tailored development support to SIDS. Please include indications of resource allocations, if available **(750 words)**

Support to countries for reducing risks and building resilience underpinned GEF's thinking during the initiation of the GEF-8 Replenishment negotiations in 2021. The Healthy Planet Health People Framework that was proposed, sharpens the GEF's focus and promotes systems change thinking. For SIDS in particular, this provides an opportunity to explore lasting solutions to COVID-19 and other such diseases. This would include accelerating transformational change in human systems, be they energy, cities, food, and production and consumption, so that a balance between natural systems and human systems can be restored within planetary boundaries. It would also include new and enhanced ways of mobilizing resources for green and blue recovery.

In addition, throughout the GEF-8 Replenishment negotiations, enhanced attention was provided to SIDS through proposals to i) increase in the minimum threshold for each country financial allocation to US\$8 million, with an overall increase from GEF-7 levels, in the total allocation for SIDS; ii) provide full flexibility to utilize funding across GEF programming areas; iii) develop a dedicated program- Blue and Green Integrated Program for SIDS, looking at valuation of ecosystems and applying nature based solutions in key degraded terrestrial and marine ecosystems which support economic sectors important to SIDS (agriculture, fisheries, tourism, urban); and iv) enhance attention for SIDS to access blended finance opportunities by targeting of micro small and medium size enterprises.

The GEF has also developed a new strategy for the 2022-26 period for the two climate change adaptation funds it manages, the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF). This Strategy raises the per-country access cap for LDCs (including the eight LDC SIDS) to \$20 million under the LDCF (formerly, \$10 million during 2018-22). Also, in a major innovation, dedicated support for climate change adaptation in SIDS will be provided under SCCF window 'SCCF-A'. The second SCCF window, 'SCCF-B', will continue to support adaptation in all developing countries, and have a focus on promoting technology transfer, innovation, and

private sector engagement in adaptation. It will also support regional and global initiatives, including South-South exchange on adaptation.

PART B

QUANTIFYING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY: TRENDS ANALYSIS OF ISSUE AREAS

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 74/217, a monitoring and evaluation framework has been developed for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. The framework is fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The Framework is available at **Attachment A** to this questionnaire.

The objective of the Framework is to quantify the progress made in each of the SIDS regions on implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, in the lead up to the preparations for the 4th international conference on SIDS, scheduled for 2024.

Using the data available in the Global SDG Data Portal (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>) and, where appropriate, from the UN regional commissions, Member States, custodian agencies and other relevant stakeholders are kindly requested to provide a Thematic Area by Thematic Area status update on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, following the monitoring and evaluation Framework referenced above (Attachment A).

PART C

ASSESSING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY: ASSESSMENT OF POLICY PROGRESS

The SAMOA Pathway contains a number of action areas that require policy formulation, programmes or projects to be implemented at national, subregional and/or regional levels. These have been identified as part of the monitoring Framework and are available at **Attachment B** to this questionnaire. By highlighting the changes in the national policies, their results and impact, the proposed analysis could further spotlight any progress in key priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway.

Using the framework referenced at Attachment B, Member States, relevant custodian agencies together with the Resident Coordinators/Offices in SIDS, are kindly requested to provide a brief status update for your country/region, under the overall coordination

of the UN regional commissions, where appropriate.

As a financial mechanism for the MEAs and other environmental agreements, the GEF does not have an institution-wide SIDS strategy; nor do we track country level progress on each SDG thematic area. However, given that many SIDS have fragile environments and are uniquely affected by global change, they often receive special consideration in GEF Focal Area Strategies. Please see below information on how SIDS are being considered in each focal area for the GEF-7 period (2018-2022). Here you will find an overview of the type of support that has been made available to SIDS, which cuts across the SDG thematic areas.

Focal Area	Strategic consideration for SIDS in GEF-7
Biodiversity	The Biodiversity Strategy places a special emphasis on invasive alien species on islands. GEF support can help with protected area management and mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations in productive sectors (including fisheries and tourism).
Chemicals & Waste	In addition to access to resources for enabling activities under the Stockholm Convention and Minamata Convention, as part of the GEF-7 strategy, under a specific program, SIDS can access funding to implement sustainable, low and non-chemical development in their territories through regional and national approaches. This program will seek to address the sound management of chemicals and waste through strengthening capacity of sub-national, national, and regional institutions and strengthening the enabling policy and regulatory framework in these countries. The program will provide support to the development of PPPs specifically adapted to the circumstances of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and SIDS to enable the sound management of chemicals and waste.
Climate Change Adaptation	The eight SIDS that are also LDCs will each have accessed US\$10 million in grant resources of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) by end of GEF-7 toward reducing vulnerability to climate change and meeting their national adaptation priorities. GEF-7 adaptation projects in SIDS have supported food security, climate-resilient agricultural value chains, climate-resilient urban development, coastal livelihoods, disaster risk management, mainstreaming climate resilience in economic development, nature-based solutions for coastal protection, and other areas of priority adaptation action for countries. A

	<p>concept to support a finance hub for the Pacific to support sustainable and resilient blue growth is also likely to be approved in GEF-7. Caribbean SIDS have received SCCF support for regional climate-resilient sustainable land management. Projects being supported by the Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation in the Pacific include micro-insurance for fisherfolk communities and exploration of coral reef insurance.</p> <p>For both the LDCF and the SCCF, the GEF endeavours to ensure that support is complimentary and synergistic to any support being provided by other adaptation funding avenues for a country.</p>
Climate Change Mitigation	<p>The Climate Change Strategy aims to support developing countries, including SIDS, to make transformational shifts towards low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways. It aims to promote innovation and technology transfer for sustainable energy breakthroughs in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • De-centralized renewable power with energy storage; • Electric drive technologies and electric mobility • Accelerating energy efficiency adoption; and • Cleantech innovation. <p>In addition, the GEF continues to support SIDS for the preparation of reports to the UNFCCC and the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) under the Paris Agreement.</p>
International Waters	<p>There are multiple opportunities for SIDS to access resources to support transboundary cooperation in shared marine and freshwater ecosystems through regional investments that address a suite of stressors such as overfishing, land-based sources of pollution, loss and damage of key coastal and marine ecosystems towards strengthening Blue Economy opportunities. This is to be achieved through three areas of strategic action: 1) sustaining healthy coastal and marine ecosystems; 2) catalyzing sustainable fisheries management; and, 3) addressing pollution reduction in marine environments.</p>
Land Degradation	<p>The Land Degradation Strategy aims to address the drivers of land degradation. SIDS are encouraged to utilize their Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets as a basis for, or to guide their land rehabilitation/restoration investments. There are multiple entry points for SIDS to access resources:</p>

	<p>i) supporting on the ground implementation of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) through sustainable land management, forest and landscape restoration, sustainable forest management and integrated landscape management.</p> <p>ii) Creating an enabling environment to support LDN implementation.</p> <p>SIDS are also eligible to access resources to support their reporting commitments under the UNCCD.</p>
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