

QUESTIONNAIRE

Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway for the Sustainable Development of SIDS

RESPONSES FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

1. Legal/Policy/Institutional Arrangements for SIDS and/or the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway¹

Does your entity/organization/government have a SIDS Strategy? If not, are there any plans to establish one, including with the appropriate resources for implementation.

The critical role of Small island States in conserving and sustainably using biodiversity, and their special vulnerabilities to biodiversity loss, has long been recognized under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). In fact, the text of the Convention itself specifically acknowledges, in its Preamble, the "...special conditions of the least developed countries and small island States."

In 2006, in [decision VIII/1](#), the Conference of the Parties to the CBD adopted a programme of work on island biodiversity as a set of actions addressing issues and problems that are specific to islands. It set out 50 island-specific priority actions within 11 goals, organized under seven focal areas:

- 1 - Protect the components of biodiversity
- 2 - Promote sustainable use
- 3 - Address threats to biodiversity
- 4 - Maintain goods and services from biodiversity to support human well-being
- 5 - Protect traditional knowledge and practices
- 6 - Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources
- 7 - Ensure provision of adequate resources

At the request of the CBD Conference of the Parties, the CBD Secretariat works to assist Parties to implement the programme of work on island biodiversity, in collaboration with other Governments, international organizations and other relevant bodies. In particular, the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) has been one of the mechanisms to implement the island biodiversity POW as per [decision IX/21](#).

The programme of work on island biodiversity was reviewed by the CBD Conference of the Parties in 2012, when the COP *inter alia*, urged Parties, and invited other Governments, financial institutions and other relevant organizations to strengthen the implementation of the programme of work on island biodiversity and to build on successful island approaches; called on Parties to continue to focus international attention and action on six priorities that affect livelihood and

¹ This question seeks to examine the extent to which each respondent mainstreamed SIDS and the Samoa Pathway into co-operation frameworks, programmes and activities, national development plans etc, to ensure effective follow-up and implementation at regional and national levels in SIDS.

island economies: the prevention, eradication and control of invasive alien species; climate-change adaptation and mitigation activities; establishment and management of marine protected areas; capacity-building; access to, and fair and equitable sharing of, the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, and poverty alleviation (<https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-11/cop-11-dec-15-en.pdf>).

In that decision, the COP, *inter alia*, urged Parties, and invited other Governments, financial institutions and other relevant organizations to strengthen the implementation of the programme of work on island biodiversity and to build on successful island approaches; called on Parties to continue to focus international attention and action on six priorities that affect livelihood and island economies: the prevention, eradication and control of invasive alien species; climate-change adaptation and mitigation activities; establishment and management of marine protected areas; capacity-building; access to, and fair and equitable sharing of, the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, and poverty alleviation.

2. Financial Arrangements

Please give an indication of the budget allocated to the SAMOA Pathway programme areas in your government/organization/entity, if applicable, for the period Jan. - Dec. 2021 or the fiscal cycle that best fits this period. If the priority areas cannot squarely fit this chart, please report as closely as you can.

As the programme of work on island biodiversity is meant to be implemented by all Parties and relevant stakeholders, a full accounting of the budget allocated to the implementation of the programme of work would entail a robust assessment of the budget allocation among Parties and relevant organizations, which is not available.

3. Enhanced Support for a resilient Post COVID 19 Recovery in SIDS

*Overcoming the economic fallout of the pandemic and regaining growth momentum in SIDS will require a **robust, practical, tailored and impactful** solutions not only to keep SIDS afloat but also for the successful implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda. Please elaborate on any proposed resilience building interventions/programmes for implementation in SIDS that are to be pursued over the remaining period of the SAMOA Pathway.*

The fifth edition of the [Global Biodiversity Outlook](#) highlighted the links between biodiversity and human health, and outlined the case for a “biodiversity-inclusive One Health Transition”. “One Health” has been broadly defined by the World Health Organization as “an approach to designing and implementing programmes, policies, legislation and research in which multiple sectors communicate and work together to achieve better public health outcomes” (<http://www.who.int/features/qa/one-health/en/>). Biodiversity is a key environmental determinant

of human health, and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity can benefit human health by maintaining ecosystem services and options for the future.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the importance of the relationship between people and nature. While the relationship between biodiversity and infectious disease is complex, it is clear that the loss and degradation of biodiversity undermines the web of life and increases the risk of disease spillover from wildlife to people. Responses to the current pandemic provide a unique opportunity for transformative change as a global community. The risk of future pandemics could be reduced through a more integrated, cross-sectoral and inclusive One Health approach that builds the health and resilience of people and the planet, both contributing to and benefitting from, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

There are significant strategic opportunities to integrate the full range of biodiversity-health interlinkages in the application of One Health approaches in a more systematic, comprehensive and coordinated manner. Essential principles of a biodiversity-inclusive approach to One Health are that it should: consider all dimensions of health and human well-being; enhance resilience of socio-ecological systems to prioritize prevention; apply the ecosystem approach; be participatory and inclusive; be cross-sectoral, multinational, and transdisciplinary; operate across spatial and temporal scales; and promote social justice and gender equality.

At a special virtual session for SBSTTA and SBI on the theme of “Biodiversity, One Health and the response to COVID-19”, held on 15-16 December 2020, Parties to the Convention considered the interlinkages between biodiversity, health and pandemic risk and how they should be reflected in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Some observers are calling for a specific target on One Health in the post-2020 framework and specific indicators under the currently proposed targets which were of relevance for interlinkages between biodiversity and health.

A recent report by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services advises that “a good starting point could be to include in any recovery efforts the necessary investments in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use to reduce the risk and build human and economic resilience from future pandemics. In order to accomplish this, support for a new post-2020 global biodiversity framework that promotes a transition to One Health, and implementation of an ambitious strategic approach that includes the efficient allocation of funds and resource mobilization would be vital”.

The post-2020 global biodiversity framework is expected to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fifteenth meeting (currently scheduled for October 2021).

4. Financing for Sustainable Development in SIDS

The road to recovery post-COVID-19 will be challenging for SIDS. They will need new strategies and financial instruments to mobilize adequate resources for recovery and reconstruction. Please elaborate on any proposed/planned programmes that will be delivered to reduce risks and build resilience in SIDS, and/or that alleviate the liquidity and debt vulnerability challenges facing SIDS.

As we have reached the 2020 deadline of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity are developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which will contain a new set of global goals and targets for biodiversity. The framework will be submitted for adoption at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (currently scheduled for October 2021), and will set out an ambitious plan to implement broad-based action to bring about a transformation in society's relationship with biodiversity and to ensure that, by 2050, the shared vision of living in harmony with nature and the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other biodiversity-related multilateral agreements, processes and instruments are fulfilled.

Resource mobilization is integral to the effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. In [decision 14/22](#), in 2018, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to establish a panel of experts to support the development of the resource mobilization component of the post-2020 framework. This panel of experts provided its contribution to the draft resource mobilization component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in its third report (CBD/SBI/3/5/Add.3). The contribution comes in two parts:

- i) the setting out of a strategic approach that could serve as a successor to the current strategy for resource mobilization, and
- ii) proposals on how to reflect resource mobilization directly in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in the form of specific targets on resource mobilization.

Both the strategic approach and the proposed targets consist of three interconnected and complementary components:

- (a) reducing or redirecting resources causing harm to biodiversity;
- (b) generating additional resources from all sources; and
- (c) enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of resource use.

The [draft resource mobilization component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#) will be considered at the forthcoming meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, the 3rd meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CBD COP 15).