

# **QUESTIONNAIRE**

## **Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway for the Sustainable Development of SIDS**

Please note that strict word limits have been established for each question. In this regard, you are requested to report only on new or updated information. Previous surveys can be accessed at <https://sidsnetwork.org/> under reports.

### **1. Legal/Policy/Institutional Arrangements for SIDS and/or the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway<sup>1</sup>**

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. **(500 words)**

The GEF does not have an institution-wide SIDS strategy; 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).

<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Strategic consideration for SIDS in GEF-7</b>
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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

	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	<p>The nine SIDS that are also LDCs<sup>2</sup> can each access up to US\$10 million in grant resources of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) toward reducing vulnerability to climate change and meeting their national adaptation priorities.</p> <p>SIDS receive priority for accessing grant resources under the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), targeted at innovative and integrated adaptation action and policy.</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"> <li>• De-centralized renewable power with energy storage;</li> <li>• Electric drive technologies and electric mobility</li> <li>• Accelerating energy efficiency adoption; and</li> <li>• Cleantech innovation.</li> </ul> <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	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

<sup>2</sup> As of April 2021, there are eight LDC SIDS. Prior to its graduation from LDC status on December 4, 2020, Vanuatu accessed the maximum amount of \$10 million for the period 2018-2022 from the Least Developed Countries Fund, which supports adaptation to climate change.

	<p>ecosystems; 2) catalyzing sustainable fisheries management; and, 3) addressing pollution reduction in marine environments.</p> <p><i>The Pacific I2I Regional Project: Ocean Health for Ocean Wealth - The Voyage to a Blue Economy for the Blue Pacific Continent</i> will support Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu to preserve and safeguard the health of ocean ecosystems while catalyzing the development and growth of sustainable blue economies through a regional and national sustainable blue economy plans to inform priority setting and investment planning.<sup>3</sup></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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>ii) Creating an enabling environment to support LDN implementation.</li> </ul> <p>SIDS are also eligible to access resources to support their reporting commitments under the UNCCD.</p>

## 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. 2020 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.***

Please see table below.

<sup>3</sup> This project will be included in the Work Program to be presented at the 60<sup>th</sup> GEF Council Meeting in June 2021

Priorities	Investment (USD)	Budget Allocation	FY/ Cycle/ Period
Sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth	-	-	-
Climate Change	\$5,296,077	CBIT and Enabling Activities (GEF TF)	Jan-Dec 2020
Sustainable Energy	-	-	-
Disaster Risk Reduction	\$6,303,253	LDCF, SCCF	Jan-Dec 2020
Oceans and Seas	\$21,345,250	International Waters (GEF TF), and SCCF	Jan-Dec 2020
Food Security and Nutrition	\$12,710,000	Biodiversity and Land Degradation STAR (GEF TF)	Jan-Dec 2020
Water and Sanitation	\$5,096,746	LDCF	Jan-Dec 2020
Sustainable Transportation	-	-	-
Sustainable Consumption and Production	\$7,884,000	International Waters and Chemicals & Waste (GEF TF)	Jan-Dec 2020
Chemical and Waste management	\$750,075	Chemicals & Waste (GEF TF)	Jan-Dec 2020
Health and NCDs	-	-	-
Gender Equality	-	-	-
Social Development	-	-	-
Biodiversity	\$57,050,958	Biodiversity STAR and Enabling Activity (GEF TF)	Jan-Dec 2020
Means of Implementation	-	-	-
Other	\$6,615,960	SGP (Biodiversity, Land	Jan-Dec 2020

		Degradation, Climate Change STAR, GEF TF)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$123,052,319</b>		Jan-Dec 2020

### 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. (500 words)***

The COVID-19 pandemic has its roots in environmental degradation. Recognizing the urgency of the moment, including governments and businesses who were and still are engaging in economic recovery plans, the GEF Secretariat outlined at its June 2020 Council Meeting, a set of 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.<sup>4</sup>

The actions relevant to SIDS countries included: i) *Increased focus on efforts to deal with the wildlife trade and consumption challenges through the [Global Wildlife Program](#)*; ii) *conducting analysis on the future risks linked to emerging infectious diseases along with their root causes, including their connection with deforestation and ecosystem fragmentation*; iii) *Identifying risks in projects and programs that may seriously compromise past gains and future outcomes* iv) *Developing a blueprint on how to deploy ongoing and upcoming projects that can help lay the foundation for a green recovery*. The blueprint also encompassed the GEF program on adaptation funded by the LDCF and SCCF.

Overall, in 2020, the GEF supported at least 16 SIDS with integrating COVID-19 risks and opportunities for green and blue recovery in their GEF financed interventions.

The GEF is currently engaged in a replenishment process for the next implementation phase (GEF-8) of the GEF Trust Fund, from 2022-2026. It is seeking to ensure continued solid support for green, clean and resilient programming in SIDS, for the remaining period of the SAMOA Pathway and beyond. Concurrently, the GEF is developing its Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the period 2022-2026, which will continue to emphasize the need to build resilience

<sup>4</sup> GEF, 2020, [GEF's Response to COVID-19](#), Council Document GEF/C.58/Inf.07

of SIDS to climate and disaster risk.

#### **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 (500 words)***

Support to countries for reducing risks and building resilience is a major consideration for the GEF as it drafts its potential framework for the GEF's 8<sup>th</sup> Replenishment Cycle<sup>5</sup>. For SIDS in particular, the GEF's focus on promoting systems change thinking and integrated solutions, to guide its strategy for the upcoming 8th Replenishment cycle, provides an opportunity to explore sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and other stressors and shocks. 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.

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<sup>5</sup> A draft version of the Strategic Positioning and Programming Directions for GEF-8 is available at: <https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/GEF%208%20Strategic%20Positioning%20and%20Programming%20Directions-Rev01.pdf>  
GEF/R.8/02/Rev.01