

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 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. **(500 words)**

The SIDS Lighthouses Initiative (LHI), coordinated by IRENA, has a SIDS strategy which includes a systematic approach to support SIDS energy transition through technical assistance and advisory services in response to the countries' formal requests, regional capacity building initiatives relating to all facets of energy transformation, implementation of NDC requests through the Climate Promise initiative and the Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP). The SIDS LHI also operationalises the Ambitious SIDS Climate Action Summit package and the Initiative for Renewable Island Energy (IRIE) that supports SIDS sustainable development and livelihood through NDC implementation and continues to strengthen collaboration and partnership with AOSIS, SEforALL, SIDS DOCK and other development partners, to facilitate the best approach for delivering and implementing the support, in line with the SIDS LHI priority areas:

- Support SIDS in **reviewing and implementing NDCs**, extending **technical assistance** and **capacity building** where needed to meet climate goals.
- Expand from assessment and planning to **implementing effective, innovative solutions**, with continued **technical and regulatory advisory services** addressing the challenges faced by SIDS.
- Promote **all renewable sources**, including geothermal and ocean energy, and step up work to integrate solar PV and wind power.
- Support the **development of bankable projects**, fostering **access to finance** and closer **co-operation with the private sector**.

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.

- Strengthen institutional and **human capacity development** in all segments of the renewable energy value chain.
- Look beyond power generation and focus also **on transport and other end-use sectors**.
- Leverage **synergies** between **renewables and energy efficiency**.
- Reinforce **links between renewables and non-energy sectors** – including **agriculture, food, health and water** – to foster broad **socio-economic development**, while also raising awareness about **job creation, gender equality and women’s empowerment** through renewable energy development.
- Link renewable energy uptake to **climate resilience and more effective disaster recovery**.
- Enhance the collection and dissemination of **data and statistics**, particularly to ensure informed decision-making and effective monitoring.
- Reinforce and expand **partner engagement**, leveraging synergies with existing SIDS initiatives and other IRENA-facilitated platforms, such as the Global Geothermal Alliance, the International Off-Grid Renewable Energy Conference, and IRENA Coalition for Action.
- Boost **renewable power deployment**, aiming for total installed capacity of 5 GW in SIDS by 2023.

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.

Priorities	Investment (USD)	Budget Allocation	FY/ Cycle/ Period
Sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth			
Climate Change			
Sustainable Energy			
Disaster Risk Reduction			
Oceans and Seas			
Food Security and Nutrition			

Water and Sanitation			
Sustainable Transportation			
Sustainable Consumption and Production			
Chemical and Waste management			
Health and NCDs			
Gender Equality			
Social Development			
Biodiversity			
Means of Implementation			
Other			
Total			

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)**

Building resilience in the context of the climate and the COVID-19 pandemic crises has been a priority for all SIDS LHI activities including NDC implementation support, policy, regulatory and technical advisory services, capacity building for local policy makers, utilities, private sector, financing institutions and all relevant stakeholders, support on grid stability, resource assessment, roadmap analyses as well as on project facilitation, support for access to affordable finance and a knowledge sharing platform to facilitate sharing lessons learned, best practices, knowledge and statistics. These activities aim to stimulate SIDS green recovery through energy transformation and building resilience to future shocks.

Following the successful events held in 2020 and the first quarter of 2021, there are 3-4 high-level events planned for the remainder of 2021 during COP26 and the UN General Assembly.

Moreover, a technical webinar series is planned in 2021 on grid resilience and disaster

recovery through energy transformation in SIDS, as well as a capacity building webinar on the same topic in the AIS and Pacific regions, in addition to other events to be announced throughout the year on project facilitation and access to finance, ocean energy development, energy and gender, etc. These events will help to increase the awareness of SIDS needs and support partnerships that strengthen climate action that will stimulate pandemic recovery.

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**)

To facilitate energy transformation and support the implementation of the Paris Agreement commitments and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, IRENA has operationalised initiatives and activities which seek to address the barriers faced by SIDS related to access to financing and de-risking sustainable energy investments.

1. The Climate Investment Platform

IRENA intends to address the financing needs of SIDS through the Climate Investment Platform (CIP). This is a joint initiative of IRENA and other partners that aims to mobilise investments at the scale necessary to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy and assist countries to make meaningful progress in their climate objectives. The investment Forums are considered a key element of IRENA's strategy to increase impact on the ground and an important activity of the CIP. The forums will focus on two main areas: (i) Proposing ideas and plans to stakeholders, such as multilateral financial institutions, banks, investors, pension funds and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), with IRENA and partners following up to make promising projects and initiatives bankable; (ii) Collecting requests for technical support to help create the conditions necessary to attract private investment and capital. In 2022, the intention is to host Investment Forums in the AIS, Caribbean and Pacific Regions whilst preparatory work will be undertaken in 2021.

On 30 March, 2021, IRENA in collaboration with the High-level Climate Champions, hosted a webinar entitled: Net-zero Investment Lab: Public and Private Collaboration on Accelerating Green Investment to stimulate discussions among private sector, public entities, financial institutions and expert institutions on how to accelerate investments for the energy transformation of SIDS.

2. Capacity building on Power Purchase Agreements

The SIDS Lighthouses initiative has developed a regional capacity building programme to strengthen power utilities and regulators in the design and negotiation of bankable power purchase agreements (PPAs) and contracts.

PPAs are one of the most relevant contracts in the electricity industry and is one of the key components in establishing a robust development of renewable energy projects. They constitute a long-term contract between sellers and buyers of electricity to facilitate investment, specifically by defining each parties' rights, responsibilities, risks and remedies. Establishing bankable PPAs, however, requires high levels of certainty over issues such as connection, guaranteed off-take, predictable long-term revenues and possible curtailment events within an appropriate regulatory framework. Based on the inputs from regional organisations and from partners, it was observed that there is a need for support in developing the capacities of regional stakeholders in the financial aspects of PPAs.

The SID LHI capacity building programme for PPAs commenced in November 2020 in the Pacific region and will be replicated in the AIS and Caribbean regions in 2021, in close collaboration with regional and global partners. It is envisioned that this will lead to the effective commitment of private capital to the deployment of renewable energy projects in SIDS.

3. Capacity building on Climate Investment and Financial Flows in the energy sector

At the national level, support is being provided by IRENA to Seychelles for its NDC enhancement and implementation through the Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP), which is currently being implemented by the NDC Partnership.

This support includes an assessment of investments and financial flows for all climate change activities in the Seychelles related to sectors including energy, environment, agriculture, fisheries and tourism. A capacity building workshop at the national level is also being planned in 2021, to strengthen tracking and reporting of climate financing flows in various sectors as well as to incorporate the financing flows into the national budget exercise. This activity, which will target representatives from Ministries with responsibility for Finance Environment, Energy and Climate Change, also presents a potential opportunity for stakeholders in AIS and Caribbean SIDS to gain insights and experience in this topic.