



QUESTIONNAIRE

Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the MSI, 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 XXXX under reports.

PART A

VULNERABILITY REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE BUILDING IN SIDS

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

Vulnerability reduction and resilience building are critical issues that must be addressed by SIDS. Briefly elaborate on any resilience building interventions or strategies (proactive or preventative) that have been or are being implemented at national or regional levels that aim specifically at improving resilience in SIDS. Please include financial resources expended in this regard, if available **(750 words)**.

France has launched several initiatives that aim at reducing vulnerability and strengthening the resilience of beneficiary countries (mainly or solely SIDS).

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- Adapt'Action: AFD has launched Adapt'Action to support countries seeking technical assistance for the institutional, methodological and operational implementation of their commitments in relation to adaptation to climate change. With 30M€ over a four-year period (financed by AFD and international climate finance), Adapt'Action has leveraged over 580M€ in support of 15 countries with a priority focus on climate vulnerable countries, including Small Island developing States (SIDS). The second phase of the programme (2022- 2025) has been launched during COP26 and endowed with additional resources amounting to 15M€.
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- CREWS (Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems): France launched the CREWS multi-donor initiative at COP21 in 2015. It supports LDCs and SIDS in developing projects that helps implement risk informed early warning systems, to save lives, goods and livelihood of the most vulnerable people. The Pacific Regional Project (US\$7,5M), the South-West Indian Ocean project (US\$4M) and the Caribbean Regional Project (US\$5,5M), currently under implementation, primarily benefit SIDS. These projects provide (among other things) multi-hazard assessment, capacity

building for hydro-meteorological agencies and training at community level with a renewed emphasis on gender. France committed to double its annual contribution, starting in 2023 with 8M€ per year.

- The joint Pacific Initiative on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Resilience (KIWA initiative): Agence française de développement (AFD), the European Union, New Zealand and Australia (later joined by Canada) have announced the launch of Kiwa in March 2020. The Kiwa Initiative, currently endowed with 57M€, is the first cooperation between France (26M€), the European Union (19,9M€), Australia (2MAUD), New Zealand (5MNZD) and Canada (10MCAD). The Initiative is managed by Agence française de développement (AFD). The objective of the initiative, which covers 19 SIDS and Overseas Territories, is to organize an international coalition to mobilize greater financial resources to accelerate and simplify the funding of adaptation and biodiversity protection in the Pacific area.
- RESSCUE project (2014-2019): €13M mobilized over the course of 5 years to enhance resilience against climate change related hazards and preserve fragile ecosystems. The project benefited among others to Fiji and Vanuatu and was mainly funded by AFD and the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM).

France's official development assistance policy in support of SIDS is also implemented by its operators, notably the Agence française de développement (AFD). In 2019, AFD adopted a **new strategy to strengthen regional integration in Overseas France** and provide a comprehensive response to cross-border issues: **the Three Oceans strategy**. With this new approach, AFD supports cooperation projects shared with neighbouring countries in Overseas France, **in three geographical basins: the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific**.

The aim is to take better account of the common challenges facing these territories. €1.3 billion has been earmarked for 2021 (French overseas departments and territories and third countries). In the neighbouring countries of the overseas territories, funding will amount to €244m in 2021. On March 8, 2023, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the AFD signed a memorandum of understanding for the first time to improve cooperation on priority issues, including the preservation of natural capital (climate change, biodiversity and circular economy).

2. Enhanced and Tailored Development Cooperation for SIDS

Improved, tailored development co-operation approaches, calibrated to the specific needs, capacity constraints, and economic challenges facing SIDS are necessary if SIDS are to effectively recover from the COVID Pandemic. Briefly elaborate on any planned or ongoing strategies/approaches to improve and deliver on more tailored development support to SIDS. What are the expected results from these interventions in the targeted countries. Please include indications of resource allocations if available (**850 words**)

PART B

IDENTIFYING POLICY PRORITIES IN SIDS FOR THE NEW AGENDA

The SAMOA Pathway contains a number of action areas which require policy formulation, programmes or projects to implemented at national, sub regional and/or regional levels. While SIDS have made a fair amount of progress with actioning these over the last decade, a number of gaps remain. As the international community prepares for the 4th International Conference on SIDS, what are the key priority policies, programes and projects that are needed to further advance the SIDS development agenda and why? (750 words)

The following priorities are essential for the long-term sustainable development of SIDS and should therefore be given due consideration by SIDS and their development partners, especially in the perspective of the 4th International Conference on SIDS and of the new agenda to be adopted there:

- Solving existing macroeconomic imbalances, in particular through economic diversification and responsible and sound borrowing and lending practices
- Developing quality, sustainable green and resilient infrastructure.
- Developing resilience through adequate climate-adaptation strategies
- Enhancing disaster risk reduction, with a particular focus on early warning systems and the CREWS initiative
- Building a sustainable blue economy that ensures that oceans remain healthy, productive and resilient (need to focus on fisheries, sustainable tourism, use of marine resources).
- Preserving ocean health and marine biodiversity, building on relevant UN-processes (among others COP 15 and UN Ocean conference).
- Addressing marine pollution in all its forms.
- Streamlining a gender perspective in all the dimensions of SIDS' sustainable development strategies.