



4TH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
**Small Island
Developing States**
27-30 MAY, 2024
ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

SIDS4 Conference Side Event

Amplifying Science in and from SIDS: Exploring the Role of Regional Scientific Cooperation

May 29, 2024. 16:00 – 17:30. Room 3

**Organized by: International Science Council, Stockholm
Environment Institute, Research Office of the University of
the South Pacific, University of the West Indies Five Islands
Campus, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.**

Background on the event

Science remains largely driven by the Global North, but with accelerating technological advances, effective mobilization of science and building capabilities through cooperation are crucial. Regional cooperation and networks are vital to address the unique challenges of Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and to amplify their scientific voice internationally. This panel session explored the interdisciplinary nature of regional scientific networks and their role in providing evidence-informed advice to decision-makers. Emphasizing inclusivity, the discussion highlighted involving scholars from the Global South to generate actionable solutions and address inequalities in scientific access.

The session focused on strategies for SIDS scientific organizations to connect with regional and international science and policy communities, overcoming challenges like political interference and funding constraints. Engaging young scientists and fostering growth through international networks were key themes. Perspectives from both academic and policy sectors underscored the importance of accessing

multidisciplinary and independent scientific advice from local experts in SIDS. The panelists discussed leveraging regional networks, involving international organizations, and engaging in science diplomacy to support sustainable development. They concluded by advocating for integrated collaboration among the scientific community, public and private sectors, and civil society, aligned with the International Science Council's [SIDS Liaison Committee Declaration](#).

Key issues discussed

- Key pillars for resilience, innovation, and prosperity: capacity-building in SIDS / economic diversification and resilience / strengthening science advice
- Importance of science education initiatives and institutional capacities
- Integration of Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge (IKLK) with modern science
- Importance of economic diversification for SIDS
- Leveraging natural endowments for scientific and technological development
- Bridging the gap between science and policy in SIDS

Key recommendations for action

- Committing to prioritizing science and technology as key drivers of innovation, resilience, and inclusive growth in SIDS.
- Resolving the mismatch between what donors want to fund and what SIDS may see as their priorities, undermining capacity development in SIDS.
- Providing capacity-building workshops and training programs to SIDS researchers, facilitating networking opportunities between SIDS researchers and potential funders through conferences, seminars, and virtual platforms.
- Enhancing the visibility of SIDS scientists and indigenous and local knowledge holders to funders through the establishment of platforms or networks to showcase research expertise and achievements from SIDS.
- Urging governments, multilateral agencies, and philanthropic organizations to allocate resources and funding towards supporting SIDS' scientific research priorities, while also establishing continuous mechanisms to ensure sustained support, moving beyond one-off events like SIDS4.
- Calling upon the international community to increase support for scientific research, capacity-building initiatives, and technology transfer in SIDS.
- Promoting partnerships and knowledge-sharing networks to build local scientific expertise and to facilitate collaboration among SIDS, high-income countries, and international organizations, enhancing SIDS' presence in global discussions and decision-making processes.