



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

## **SIDS4 Conference Side Event**

### **[Title of Side Event]**

[Marine Biodiversity and Sustainable Development of Small Islands]

### **[Date, Time, Location]**

[May 28, Beijing time (UTC+8), 15:00-18:00, Virtual]

### **Organized by: [list of organizing partners]**

- China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF)
- Porrima;
- The SUNx Program;
- International Engineering and Technology Institute, IETI;
- Beijing Pioneer Hi-Tech Development Ltd. Co. (BPC);
- Globalization and Development (GAD) Program, Department of Social Sciences, Beijing Normal University - Hong Kong Baptist University United International College (BNU-HKBU UIC);
- Biodiversity and Green Foundation, INC(BAG);
- Beijing Genomics Institution (BGI) ;
- Wuhan Business University, WBU;
- Wenzhou University, WZU;
- World Academy of Sustainable Development, WAOSD;
- Hong Kong Shark Foundation

**Two page maximum**

### **Background on the event (one paragraph)**

This side event focuses on the crucial role of marine biodiversity for the ecosystems and economies of small islands. We explore the threats posed by climate change and pollution, the

unique challenges faced by SIDS in protecting this vital resource, and explore solutions for its sustainable use. Speakers share successful cases and experiences from SIDS in marine biodiversity conservation and discuss innovative approaches to promote the sustainable use of marine biodiversity.

### **Key Issues discussed (5-8 bullet points)**

- Tourism in Small Island Developing States and Balancing Tourism Growth with Biodiversity Protection
- Sustainable development of local economies of Small Islands
- Thriving Through Sustainability: Successful Development Strategies in SIDS
- Sustainable Development Across Micronesia and Beyond
- The Fragility of the Ocean for small island developing states: from Coral Reefs to Deep Sea Mining
- Policy Practice for Marine Ecological Protection and Sustainable Development: A Problem-Driven Approach
- Conservation of Migratory Species; and Global Shark Crisis: Exploring the Crucial Role Sharks Play in Maintaining Marine Biodiversity
- Youth Action for the Ocean

### **Key recommendations for action (5-6 bullet points)**

- To promote ecotourism. Measures can be implemented to regulate tourist activities and minimize their impact on sensitive habitats, and tourism development can be directed towards less vulnerable areas and away from critical conservation zones.
- To prioritize renewable energy sources and invest in solar, wind, and other renewable energy sources to reduce energy costs, enhance energy security, and mitigate the impact of climate change.
- To strengthen community engagement and participation. Encouraging community engagement and participation in decision-making processes can ensure that development projects are tailored to the needs and aspirations of islanders.
- To enhance waste management and recycling efforts. Lacking of the infrastructure and resources for effective waste management lead to environmental degradation. Implementing recycling programs, promoting waste reduction, and establishing proper disposal facilities can help mitigate these issues.
- To promote Biodiversity Conservation in Our Neighborhood (BCON) to preserve ecological integrity and expand biodiversity conservation into neighborhoods; and to advocate Equal Rights of Carbon (ERoC) to ensure climate justice.
- To collaborate and partner with international organizations and strengthening resilience against climate change. Small islands can benefit from collaboration and knowledge sharing

and partnerships can provide access to funding, expertise, and best practices that can accelerate sustainable development efforts.

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