

## IWC10 Pre-Conference Workshops

### Day 1: Small Islands Developing States (SIDS)

21 September 2024

10:00-17:30 CET, CAF Montevideo

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### About

The pre-conference workshops will provide the opportunity for a hands-on learning and exchange experience targeting GEF International Waters (IW) project managers, thematic specialists and GEF Agency representatives. Four workshops will take place on 21-22 September 2024 at the Development Bank of Latin American and the Caribbean (CAF) in Montevideo, as follows:

#### **Day 1: 21 September 2024:**

- Project Management
- **Small Islands Developing States (SIDS)**

#### **Day 2: 22 September 2024:**

- Sustainable Funding and Financing
- Communication

This document provides more information on the objectives and scope of the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) pre-conference workshop.

## Workshop description

Small island developing States (SIDS), often referred to as large ocean States, due to their small size, large ocean space and remoteness, are vulnerable to biodiversity loss, climate change, and disasters as well as exogenous economic shocks. As such during the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, SIDS were recognized as a special case both for their environment and development noting that they are ecologically fragile and vulnerable.

In 1994, the first global Conference on the Sustainable Development of SIDS took place in Barbados. It provided an opportunity for the global community to focus on the environmental and development challenges faced by SIDS, as well as the solutions required to address them. The outcome document, the Barbados Declaration and Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (BPoA) outlined a number of priority areas which SIDS needed support in to successfully achieve sustainable development.

SIDS cover three geographical areas which include: the Caribbean; the Pacific and the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea. This year, 2024, marks thirty years since the first global SIDS conference was held in Barbados. Since then, three other global conferences have taken place and have been supported by the following programme of actions:

- The Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (MSI) in 2005
- The SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway in 2014
- The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) in 2024

For the last thirty years, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has served as a key partner for SIDS working in all three SIDS regions to provide support to tackle environmental issues, as well as support in protecting important habitats and biodiversity. As part of this workshop, participants will seek to undertake a review of GEF support to SIDS whilst also outlining recommendations on how this support can be strengthened and more aligned to the priorities of the new SIDS Programme of Action – the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) and the new GEF 9 replenishment cycle.

## Objectives

- To strengthen the impact of GEF funded SIDS projects at both the regional and inter-regional level
- To increase knowledge and awareness of the needs of SIDS, in particular the priorities adopted by GEF: The Blue Economy, Integrated Resource Management from Ridge-to-Reef, Protected Areas, and Climate Resilience
- To collectively learn from each other and gain exposure to knowledge within and between the regions linked to GEF objectives
- To solicit input on the two-fold assessment that will inform the development of the SIDS Hub, including a stakeholder-driven assessment of needs, gaps, and priorities of the SIDS GEF IW project community and other focal area projects

## Learning Goals

- Increased awareness of the new SIDS Programme of Action – Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS)
- Better understanding of existing SIDS platforms
- Potential SIDS priorities that could be integrated into the GEF 9 replenishment cycle.

## Target audience

The workshop targets project staff and key stakeholders, including implementing and executing agency staff, government officials and civil society partners working on GEF-funded SIDS projects from the three SIDS regions (Pacific, Caribbean, and Atlantic and Indian Ocean regions).

The pre-conference workshop on SIDS will take place in the Theatre.

## Proposed workshop agenda

Time	Section	Lead / contributors
10:00 - 10.20	<b>Welcome and framing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objectives and structure of the workshop</li> <li>Slido audience survey</li> </ul>	Isabelle Vanderbeck (UNEP)
<b>Part 1</b>	<b>SIDS Global Agenda</b>	
10.20-10.45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From SAMOA Pathway to ABAS Declaration</li> <li>Continued challenges faced by SIDS towards achieving sustainable development</li> <li>Outcomes of the SIDS4 Forum, Antigua Plan of Action</li> </ul>	Laverne Walker (UNEP CAR/RCU)
30 mins	Coffee	
<b>Part 2</b>	<b>Regional processes, projects and challenges</b>	
11:15-12:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of GEF support to date</li> <li>Regional presentations on projects and programmes being implemented which support SIDS</li> </ul>	Asha Singh (Consultant)  Caribbean: Isabelle Vanderbeck and Tanja Lieuw (CBF)  Pacific: Sofiane Mahjoub (Regional Technical Advisor, Water and Oceans, UNDP, Thailand)  AIS: Madeleine Nyiratuza (Regional Technical Advisor for Water, Ocean Governance, Ecosystems and Biodiversity (Africa) UNDP)
12:15-13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Break out groups to discuss moving forward in implementing new and existing priorities and suggested areas of focus.</li> <li>Suggested thematic topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable Blue Economy</li> <li>Blue Carbon</li> <li>Integrated Resource Management from ridge-to-reef</li> <li>Open ocean (BBNJ/Plastics/GloNoise)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	UNDP PROCARIBE+
13.00-14.30	Lunch	
<b>Part 3</b>	<b>Break-out session</b>	

14.30-16.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Knowledge exchange, tools and how to connect and learn from each other (Input to the development of SIDS Hub)</li> <li>ii. Identification of knowledge gaps and needs (Input to training strategy – SIDS component and intra-regional workshops)</li> <li>iii. Connecting IW to other focal areas climate, biodiversity and chemicals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Asha Singh (IW:LEARN SIDS consultant)</li> <li>ii. tbc</li> <li>iii. tbc</li> </ul>
30mins	Coffee	
<b>Part 4</b>	<b>Closing Session</b>	
16:30 - 17:00	Report back from breakout sessions	
17.00-17 :30	SIDS Twinning Programme Wrap up & closing	IW:LEARN Isabelle Vanderbeck (UNEP)