

GEF IW:LEARN Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Webinar

Online Portfolio Consultation Meeting organized by GEF IW:LEARN & UNEP CAR/RCU

20 November 15:00 EST (Caribbean/Jamaica) | 21:00 CET (Africa, Europe)
08:00 UTC+12/21 November (Pacific)
Online

CONCEPT NOTE

Overview

Small island developing States (SIDS), during the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, were recognized as a special case both for their environment and development noting that they are ecologically fragile and vulnerable.

Noting the special case of SIDS, the fifth phase of GEF IW-LEARN Project incorporated a component specific to SIDS. This component includes a number of sub-components:

- **Twinning and dialogue activities** in support of regional collaboration among SIDS via cooperation among all focal area projects and participating countries;
- Strengthened **web portal and resource catalogue** to facilitate information-sharing and learning across the SIDS project portfolio in support of the SAMOA Pathway areas and beyond;
- **Training courses and other capacity-strengthening guidance** developed on cross-cutting topics of relevance to SIDS;
- **Intra and inter-regional training** delivered in and among SIDS regions through regional partners.

As part of the 10 International Waters Conference, a SIDS Preconference Workshop was convened on 21 September 2024 in Montevideo, Uruguay to amongst other things solicit input on the two-fold assessment in support of the development of the SIDS Hub, a stakeholder-driven assessment of needs, gaps, and priorities of the SIDS GEF IW project community and other focal area projects.

This SIDS Webinar planned for 20/21 November is expected to continue the conversation which commenced in Montevideo in support of the IW-LEARN SIDS subcomponents.

Objectives:

- Present an overview of outcome of the IWC 10 SIDS Pre-Conference Workshop
- Commence planning for the two regional SIDS workshops to be undertaken in 2025
- Agree on the priority capacity and training needs to be administered during the Caribbean and Pacific regional workshops

Proposed Agenda:

Time	Item	Contributor
Introduction		
5 mins	Welcome and Presentation of Objectives	IW:LEARN
5 mins	Introductory Poll	
Part 1 – Reflections from the IWC 10 SIDS Preconference Workshop		
7 mins + 10 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview of the IWC 10 SIDS Preconference Workshop Report - Reflections from the SIDS workshop 	UNEP Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit (UNEP CAR/RCU) Workshop participants
15 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Findings of consultancy outputs including SIDS knowledge gaps and needs survey administered during the workshop 	IW:LEARN Consultant
7 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction of the Demonstration of a Caribbean Mechanism Toward Establishment of a SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub 	University of the West Indies (UWI) & Cave Hill Campus (Barbados)
Part 2 – Planning for 2025 and Next Steps		
30 mins	Planning of 2025 SIDS intra-regional workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mapping of key activities/events in SIDS regions for 2025 - Agree on focus/priorities of training workshops - Identify potential stakeholders to be invited to the workshops 	IW:LEARN
10 mins	Next Steps and Closure	UNEP