

Private Sector Partnerships in Small Island Developing States

Better Collaboration for Sustainable Ocean Development



Acknowledgements

This report was produced by the World Ocean Council in collaboration with the SIDS Global Business Network (SIDS-GBN) and the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS). Contributors include Flora Stadler (author & researcher) and Imali Manikarachchi (researcher).

With gratitude to the many people who provided their insight for this report.

The findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed herein are those of the authors and other contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials or Member States.

Contents

Acknowledgements	2				
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4				
INTRODUCTION	5				
THE BLUE ECONOMY: WHAT IT MEANS, WHAT IT'S WORTH	7				
SDG 14 - Life Below Water					
The SAMOA Pathway	9				
SIDS Global Business Network & Other UN Partnership Platforms	10				
Partnerships	12				
SIDS Snapshots	14				
AIS	15				
Caribbean	16				
Pacific	18				
	20				
CASE STUDIES	21				
Cross-Regional	21				
Atlantic Indian Ocean South China Sea	23				
Caribbean	28				
Pacific	34				
BUILD BETTER ENGAGEMENT - THE SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIP GOALS					
	40				
GOAL 1: FIND THE FUNDING	41				
GOAL 2: CHANGE MINDS	48				
GOAL 3: BUILD THE FRAMEWORK	56				
GOAL 4: CONNECT	61				
GOAL 5: COMMUNICATE	66				
GOAL 6: GET MARKET INTELLIGENCE	69				
GOAL 7: ASSESS & MITIGATE RISK	72				
GOAL 8: GET STAKEHOLDER BUY-IN	75				
GOAL 9: ACCESS & BUILD LOCAL CAPACITY	79				
GOAL 10: PRODUCE & ACCESS RELIABLE DATA	82				
ENDNOTES	86				

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the opening of the World Leaders Summit of COP26, Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley issued a code red to the world, declaring that the time to help island nations on the front lines of the global climate crisis is now. She urged leaders to close the gaps in mitigation, adaptation and finance, staving off worst-case scenarios in which "loss and damage is measured in lives and livelihoods in our communities."

Minister Motley also said, "Many hands make light work." The need for collective action in small island developing States (SIDS) is at a turning point. Sustainable development in SIDS requires a global commitment to collaboration, bringing together the public and private sectors. This report is a guide for that call to action.

Though culturally and geographically diverse, SIDS are experiencing climate-related threats at a unique scale and intensity. With exclusive economic zones (EEZs) averaging 28 times country land mass,¹ SIDS are also intrinsically tied to the ocean. Their economies are deeply reliant on tourism, fisheries and other blue economy industries.

With deep dives into case studies in the Caribbean, Pacific and AIS (Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean and South China Sea), expert interviews and a cross-sectoral survey, this report explores the private sector's role in the sustainable blue economy of SIDS. It touches on previous guides about measuring, managing and sustaining partnerships, and what a truly sustainable blue economy means. The report then uses the case studies to articulate 10 Sustainable Partnership Goals (SPGs) for building better collaboration with the private sector:

- 1. Find the Funding
- 2. Change Minds
- 3. Build the Framework
- 4. Connect
- 5. Communicate

- 6. Get Market Intelligence
- 7. Assess & Mitigate Risk
- 8. Get Stakeholder Buy-In
- 9. Access & Build Local Capacity
- 10. Produce & Access Reliable Data

Each goal looks at examples of what works, where there are gaps, and best practices for both public and private sector partners. There are also tools and platforms to assist in achieving that work. The guidance is for broad use, with functional examples and actionable first steps to expand private sector engagement in sustainable ocean development.

The time is now to make good on the promises of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (a.k.a. the <u>SAMOA Pathway</u>) and the ambitions of <u>Sustainable Development Goal 14 - Life Below</u> <u>Water</u>. The blue economy creates the enabling environment for this work, and the <u>SIDS Global</u> <u>Business Network</u> supports the private sector collaboration needed to make it possible.

INTRODUCTION

How can small island developing states (SIDS) and the private sector build equitable and accountable partnerships for sustainable ocean development?

This is a long-held question, and the prevailing needs still apply: good governance, measurable data, more funding, less risk. But we are closer to the answer, which starts with dissolving the hard line between private interest and public good.

In a January 2022 article for the World Economic Forum, Signify CEO Eric Rondolat put it like this: "Companies and governments are made of humans, who are driven by human ambitions, human fears, and an innate human preference for the status quo."

The status quo is no longer an option — especially for small island developing States (SIDS), which are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters, and have experienced a disproportionate economic shock from COVID-19. It will take government agencies, corporations, communities and financial institutions working together, contributing their collective resources to meet the challenge. It will take partnership across institutions and sectors to drive change. In other words, relationships between people.

This is a guide for SIDS and the private sector to build better collaboration for sustainable ocean development. So it is, in essence, a relationship guide. It offers insight into what's working, what isn't, and how to do better with these relationships.

The United Nations <u>SIDS Partnership Toolbox</u> (2019) points out that the "private sector has little understanding of instruments such as the SAMOA pathway, and other SIDS policy frameworks and instruments. It is difficult for the private sector to understand the language in these documents." This is followed by a recommendation to "translate the UN-oriented language in policy documents into something that the private sector can understand," with content that is "action-oriented and results-focused."² Or, as Eric Rondolat said in the same WEF article, "To create momentum where it matters, we need to speak a language that is clear to all people: the language of action."

This guide is written in the clear language of action. It offers straightforward explanations of what sustainable ocean development looks like in SIDS, how effective partnerships are formed with the private sector, and the challenges and opportunities for such partnerships. It includes functional examples and actionable steps to improve private sector engagement. It is meant for everyone, including business and investors — whose contributions are critically important and ever-more needed.

While reading, keep in mind this advice from the <u>SDG Partnership Guidebook</u>: "When it comes to partnering, no guidebook or training event can ever be a substitute for the learning that comes from the experience of actually doing it."³ The research and case studies included here offer common sense from those who have done it. Use their experiences as a jumping-off point.



THE BLUE ECONOMY: WHAT IT MEANS, WHAT IT'S WORTH

There is no universally accepted definition of the term *blue economy*, but for the purposes of this report, we will use the definition provided by the World Bank: "The sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of the ocean ecosystem."⁴ A blue economy prioritizes all three pillars of sustainability — environmental, economic, and social.

When talking about sustainable development, it is important to understand the difference between a *blue economy* and an *ocean economy*. According to Nicole Leotaud, Executive Director of the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), "If initiatives are not environmentally sustainable, inclusive and climate resilient, then we should not be calling them *blue economy*." This report maintains that distinction.

The economic impact of the blue economy is as vast and varied as the oceans themselves. A 2015 study by the World Wildlife Fund estimated the global gross marine product (GMP, equivalent to a country's gross domestic product) at US\$2.5 trillion annually, with the overall value of ocean assets estimated at \$24 trillion.⁵ Its sectors cover energy, shipping, transport, fisheries, infrastructure, technology, and tourism, and others. More than 3 billion people worldwide rely on the ocean for their livelihoods, mostly in developing countries.⁶ Approximately 3 billion people eat seafood as a primary source of protein, making it the largest traded food commodity in the world.⁷ The ocean is also a significant global "carbon sink," absorbing at least 25% of CO2 emissions produced by human activities, and possibly more.⁸

Currently, the ocean is home to the world's seventh largest economy. What does that economy look like on its current trajectory? The warmer the oceans become, the more frequent and stronger the storms.⁹ Warming, ocean acidification and deoxygenation (due primarily to human activity) threaten marine life¹⁰ and could destroy up to 90% of reef areas before the end of the century, which are home to at least 25% of marine biodiversity.¹¹ Meanwhile, ocean currents are carrying plastics and other human debris to floating garbage patches of various sizes all over the world.¹² If things continue at their current rate, the ocean could contain more plastics than fish by 2050.¹³

In economic terms, this represents an annual loss of \$2.5 trillion and ~2 billion tons of stored carbon, an incalculable number of ocean species, the livelihoods of 3 billion people, reduced food security for millions more, and a global crisis beyond intervention. In terms of a risk assessment, the risk is existential.

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) International presented a similar economic analysis, with Director General Marco Lambertini saying that "failure to act means further squandering our assets, and running down the economic engine that supports countless people worldwide."⁵ These impacts will hit ecologically fragile countries like SIDS first and most severely. But the loss of this "economic engine" will also hit the private sector. Everyone is a stakeholder in the blue economy. The only thing that will change this trajectory is sustainable development, innovation and investment in ocean ecosystems.

In this sense, the blue economy is also about relationships — the relationships between people, economies and the environment. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) articulated this in its 2014 report, *The Oceans Economy: Opportunities and Challenges for Small Island Developing States*: "The blue economy is about developing a sustainable balance between often competing ecological and economic imperatives."¹⁴

In the context of partnerships for sustainable development, the goal is to treat these not as competing agendas, but complementary ones. The fact is that more than two-thirds of the ocean economy's annual GMP comes from assets that "rely directly on healthy ocean conditions."¹⁵ Both public and private sector interests can agree that without sustainable industry and a culture of conservation, these assets will evaporate.

Here, the mindset shift is about believing in the intrinsic link between ocean conservation and economic value. Put another way, a recent analysis by the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy found that ocean investments yielded returns at least five times greater than their costs.¹⁶

Healthy economies help us to thrive, healthy ecologies help us to survive. A blue economy prioritizes both.

SDG 14 - Life Below Water

One of seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015, <u>Sustainable Development Goal 14 - Life Below Water</u> is a mandate to "conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development." It sets the deliverables for the blue economy in 10 targets:

- 1. Reduce marine pollution
- 2. Sustainably manage & protect marine & coastal ecosystems
- 3. Minimize & address the impacts of ocean acidification
- 4. Regulate harvesting & end overfishing, illegal, unreported & unregulated (IUU) fishing
- 5. Conserve coastal & marine areas
- 6. End subsidies contributing to overfishing & IUU fishing
- 7. Increase economic benefits to SIDS & LDC from sustainable use of marine resources
- 8. Increase scientific knowledge, research capacity & technology transfer for ocean health
- 9. Support small-scale fishers
- 10. Implement and enforce international sea law

Hitting these targets requires a combined effort of policy, investment and innovation¹⁷ — in other words, government, finance, and business. In 2016, the Business & Sustainable Development Commission led by Unilever CEO Paul Polman reported in <u>Better Business, Better World</u> that meeting the SDGs represented a \$12 trillion business opportunity.

Despite this economic opportunity, and even with the projected risk of not meeting these goals, a 2019 study in the *Harvard Business Review* found that the stated SDG commitments of more than

100 sample companies were "merely cosmetic," with "very few companies doing anything new or different to advance the goals."¹⁸ The authors concluded that the broad mandates of the SDGs make it difficult to measure their implementation. The 10 targets of SDG 14, along with their indicators, represent an opportunity to set universal benchmarks and establish measures of accountability for the private sector and other partners. This can drive measurable, deliberate action from business and investment to implement SDG 14.

The SAMOA Pathway

Just as SIDS have their own socioeconomic and environmental challenges, they also have their own priorities for sustainable development. Before the establishment of the SDGs, SIDS leaders committed in 2014 to the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action, a.k.a. the <u>SAMOA Pathway</u>.

The SAMOA Pathway sets a framework for sustainable development specific to small island developing States and forms the basis of the work of the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (<u>UN-OHRLLS</u>).

While there is overlap between it and SDG 14, the priorities of the SAMOA Pathway are SIDS-specific:

- Sustainable, inclusive, equitable economic growth & livelihoods
- Climate change
- Sustainable energy
- Disaster risk reduction
- Food security & nutrition
- Water & sanitation
- Sustainable transportation
- Sustainable consumption & production
- Social development
- Biodiversity
- Invasive alien species

To make positive gains in these areas, the SAMOA Pathway focuses on the following actions:

- Partnerships
- Financing
- Trade
- Capacity building
- Technology
- Data
- Institutional support

Within UN-OHRLLS, <u>SIDS National Focal Points</u> (NFP) assist in coordinating sustainable development efforts at the country level and support knowledge-sharing on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and SDGs in SIDS.

A blue economy, broadly speaking, is the enabling environment that allows for the achievement of these goals and priorities. The case studies included in this report focus on the SDG 14 targets, SAMOA priority areas, and recommended actions of the SAMOA Pathway.

SIDS Global Business Network & Other UN Partnership Platforms

The SAMOA Pathway also acknowledges that: 1. Private sector support is critical to building climate resilience and economic prosperity for SIDS, and 2. Sustainable development requires collaboration between the private sector, public sector and civil society. With this in mind, UN-OHRLLS launched the <u>Small Island Developing States Global Business Network</u> (SIDS-GBN) in 2016. The SIDS-GBN is a platform to support private sector collaboration in SIDS sustainable development, including partnerships among regional organizations and inter-regional business alliances. The network also encourages international business and investment in the economic, environmental and social development of SIDS.

Another outcome of the SAMOA Pathway was the <u>SIDS Partnership Framework</u>, which is guided by the UN General Assembly Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS and meant to monitor the progress of partnerships, understand their outcomes, and support the formation of new collaborations for sustainable development in SIDS.

Related meetings include:

- The <u>SIDS-GBN Forum</u>, a gathering of the SIDS business community, government, regional organizations, IGOs and others dedicated to increased engagement of the private sector in SIDS sustainable development, taking place every two years
- The <u>SIDS National Focal Point Meetings</u> to share regional and national experiences
- The Annual Global Multi-Stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue, held each year to review partnership progress and best practices

Where the SIDS-GBN Fits In

The network offers an online resource for reports and updates, as well as the bi-annual SIDS-GBN Forum, focused on information sharing, networking and the development of new partnerships. Companies, entrepreneurs, and investors engaged in SIDS sustainable development are invited to join the network by <u>completing an application</u>.

Thematic Areas of the SIDS-GBN include:

- Oceans
- Connectivity
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Sustainable Tourism

- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Renewable Energy
- Financing

All of which are relevant to the blue economy.

Other UN-Based Partnership & Business Platforms

- <u>UN Global Compact Network</u> An initiative to drive CEO commitments for sustainability. According to the organization, more than 80% of its 9,500 corporate members have committed to advancing one or more of the SDGs.
- <u>UN Office of Partnerships</u> (UNOP) A platform for building partnerships between the private sector, foundations and other non-State actors.
- <u>UNDESA 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator</u> A collaborative initiative by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), UN Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD), and UNOP aimed at accelerating effective partnerships across all stakeholders in service of the SDGs. UNDESA and OHRLLS are currently developing a capacity-building program for SIDS-GBN, aimed at private sector partnerships in the ocean sector.
- <u>UNDP Accelerator Labs</u> With more than 90 labs covering 115 countries and counting (including some SIDS), the Accelerator Labs support bottom-up innovation that address social and environmental challenges, including experimentation and testing of solutions, and data-driven knowledge sharing with partner countries.
- <u>UN Global Marketplace (UNGM)</u> Online hub connecting companies and individuals with UN procurement staff for business opportunities. The website also includes tender alerts and contract awards.
- <u>UN Development Business</u> A platform that includes procurement information and connects consultants, contractors and suppliers to development projects worldwide.
- <u>SDG Compass</u> Guide to align company strategies with the SDGs and measure efforts to contribute. Developed by the GRI, the UN Global Compact and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).
- <u>UNEP Private Sector Engagement Partnerships Platform</u> Engages business and industry to find opportunities for collaboration on sustainable development.
- <u>UN Office for South-South Cooperation</u> Coordinates and supports South-South cooperation (between developing countries) and triangular cooperation (between multiple developing countries with support from a developed country or multilateral organization) both globally and within the UN system.
- <u>UN Comtrade</u> Trade information resource for policymakers, business and research institutions. Including official annual trade statistics by country and merchandise flows by commodity/partner country. Includes more than 200 reporting countries or areas.

There are many tools and platforms listed throughout this report, and you can find more resources on the <u>SIDS-GBN website</u>.

The blue economy creates the enabling environment to achieve the targets of SDG 14 and the priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway. In turn, the SIDS Global Business Network and related UN platforms encourage and support private sector engagement in that work. The most important mechanism for that engagement is through multi-sector partnerships at the regional, national and local levels.

Partnerships

Partnerships are the central theme of SDG 17, a key action of the SAMOA Pathway, and one of the 5Ps of sustainable development defined by the 2030 Agenda (along with people, planet, prosperity, and peace). This collaboration is critical for sustainable development — especially in SIDS — because it will take our collective resources, expertise and effort to accomplish what is required.

Where the Private Sector Fits In

Each sector plays an important role in sustainable development. Governments provide the policy framework and sometimes funding; academia contributes research and implementation models; civil society keeps efforts focused on communities and other stakeholders, and helps ensure the credibility of collaborations; and the private sector provides innovative solutions, financial support and necessary skills.¹⁹ Additionally, the SIDS private sector can bring contextual knowledge and deep investment in local communities and ecosystems.

Measuring Partnerships

In 2018, the SIDS Partnerships Steering Committee launched the <u>SIDS Partnership Criteria and</u> <u>Norms</u>. This document established the SMART criteria for successful and effective partnerships in SIDS:

SIDS-specific Measurable & monitorable Achievable & accountable Resource-based & results-focused Timeline for implementation & transparency by all parties

These metrics define the outcomes of the partnership — meaning, the characteristics of the project or initiative a partnership is formed around. But it is also important to consider the characteristics of the relationships themselves.

The SAMOA Pathway calls for such partnerships to be "based on mutual collaboration and ownership, trust, alignment, harmonization, respect, results orientation, accountability and transparency," and that for these commitments to work, it takes political will.

A successful partnership is also about a relationship between equals. According to the SDG Partnership Guidebook, this means "all partners have a true seat at the table, a voice in the discussion, an active role in participation, agency in decision-making, a shared sense of acting in good faith, and a shared sense of responsibility for and investment in the outcomes." Because these are relationships that generate tangible outcomes and important impacts — the quality of those relationships matters.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs) offer more flexibility than traditional PPP (Public Private Partnership), with room to adapt creatively.² With MSPs, there are more opportunities for engagement and adaptation. As the case studies here will show, partnerships can be based on data creation and knowledge sharing, implementing innovation, policy development, capacity building, managing resources, or providing a service.

In an informal poll conducted for this report, approximately 53% of respondents indicated they had participated in ocean-related SIDS projects that involved collaboration between private sector and non-private sector institutions. Of those, 77% said the project would not have been possible without private sector engagement.

Managing Partnerships

The SIDS Partnership Toolbox offers a good outline of the basic partnership cycle:

- **Scoping** Exploring who to work with, how interests would align, risks and benefits of partnership. Agree on the mission(s) and goal(s), determine roles and responsibilities, and draft an agreement.
- **Building** Establishing governance for the partnership, a monitoring and evaluation process, an internal/external communications process, financing options, and human resource requirements. Identify the stakeholders and beneficiaries of the partnership.
- Implementing & Maintaining Delivering on commitments, monitoring the process, communicating with each other and the public.
- **Reviewing Progress** Using the established monitoring and evaluation process to assess progress toward agreed goals and impact on beneficiaries. Continue monitoring and adjust as needed.
- **Completion** Deciding whether to close or continue the partnership, whether to expand or scale-up, and what adaptations or changes to implement. Produce and share a final evaluation.

Sustaining Partnerships

Partnerships need their own sustainability. They require operational sustainability to function well and achieve stated goals. The building phase is an opportunity to make the partnership durable, with accountability for all partners built in over the long term. The roles and responsibilities must be clear, the benchmarks realistic and measurable — and all of these elements should be well-

documented and agreed on by all partners. A sustainable partnership is built to survive some amount of change — in administrations, circumstances and even outcomes.

Creating a good enabling environment for collaboration requires a willingness to shift perspective, take some risks, and proceed in good faith. This willingness can determine a partnership's success and durability. What this really means is a willingness to be open to new ideas, which are required for this work. Whether those private-sector innovations, resources and capacities come from an entrepreneur, a large corporation, or a micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME), it takes inclusive support to leverage what is offered.²⁰

SIDS Snapshots

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are a distinct group of island nations and territories sharing similar social, economic and environmental challenges. There are 38 UN member SIDS with a collective population of approximately 65 million people. They are all over the map, both geographically and in terms of culture, economic health, human development, and other indicators. Some are archipelagos spread across long island chains, others are more compact. Their citizens speak approximately 80 official languages.²⁰ Countries like Singapore, Bahrain and Palau enjoy relatively high human development index scores, while countries including Guinea-Bissau, Haiti and Papua New Guinea fall far below the global average score (see tables below). These SIDS also tend to receive the most Official Development Finance, made up of official development assistance (ODA), grants, multilateral lending, and other sources.²¹ Still others, like Singapore, Seychelles and Grenada, have relatively high foreign direct investment (FDI) as a ratio to their GDPs.²²

Although SIDS are culturally and socioeconomically diverse, they share similar challenges: the islands are relatively small and therefore limited in resources and economic bases; many are remote and have limited connectivity and high transportation costs; their fragile ecosystems are more susceptible to the impacts of climate change, extreme weather events, and geological disasters; their narrow economic bases are vulnerable to exogenous shocks such as the tourism collapse driven by COVID-19 (tourism accounts for more than 20% of GDP in two-thirds of SIDS);²³ many are heavily dependent on foreign imports, including petroleum for energy. There are a few oil-producing SIDS (Trinidad and Tobago and Papua New Guinea), but overall this general dependence translates to high energy costs and vulnerability to spikes and disruptions in the oil market.²⁴

UNCTAD also emphasizes the "Island paradox" of SIDS — that their high income per capita belies serious economic and environmental issues.²⁵ In 2019, SIDS' external debt averaged 62% of GDP, more than double the average for all developing countries. Of all groups of developing nations, including least developed countries and landlocked developing countries, SIDS experienced the largest GDP contraction of any group due to COVID-19.²⁶ Some SIDS, including Haiti, Comoros, and Tuvalu, are considered least developed countries (LDCs). However, most are classified as middle-income countries, with a gross national income (GNI) per capita of between USD 1,036 and USD 12,535, according to the World Bank.²⁵

Even with these shared challenges, many SIDS hold a different perspective on what unites them. Their ocean-dependent economies, relatively large exclusive economic zones (or EEZs, averaging 28 times country land mass),¹ and geographic features define them as Large Ocean Developing States. In fact, the concept of a blue economy came from Pacific SIDS during the preparatory process for the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). In response to agenda setting around a sustainable "Green Economy," Pacific SIDS called for the consideration of the value of sustainable ocean development in their nations.

AIS

Country	Income Category	GNI per capita (Millions USD)	GDP (Millions USD)	EEZ (Square km)	Climate Risk Index Score*	Human Development Index Ranking	Ocean Health Index (Out of 100)
AIS							
Bahrain	HIC	33,866.88	38,475	10,225	118.00	42	71
Cape Verde	LMIC	1,699.10	1,704	800,561	118.00	126	77
Comoros	LMIC	1,218.72	1,220	163,752	25.33	156	71
Guinea-Bissau	LIC	1,498.36	1,432	123,725	118.00	175	67
Maldives	UMIC	3,505.94	4,030	923,322	97.33	95	70
Mauritius	UMIC	12,944.96	10,914	1,284,997	105.17	66	69
São Tomé and Príncipe	LMIC	452.07	473	131,397	-	135	75
Seychelles	HIC	1,201.24	1,125	1,336,559	118.00	67	83
Singapore	HIC	312,256.36	339,998	1,067	118.00	11	60
				International Institute for Law			
SOURCES	<u>World</u> Bank, 2020	World Bank, 2020	World Bank, 2020	of the Sea Studies, 2022	Germanwatch, 2021	<u>UNDP, 2020</u>	Ocean Health Index, 2021

*Calculated based on direct impacts of extreme weather events, using available data from the MunichRe NatCatSERVICE. It does not include slow-onset processes (e.g., rising sea level, glacier melt, ocean warming/acidification).

The AIS region includes 9 UN member SIDS in the Atlantic Ocean, the Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf, and the South China Sea. It has 1,533 islands and atolls with a total population of 12.5 million people, 13.8% of whom live less than 5 meters above sea level.²⁷ Natural hazards in this geographically diverse region include typhoons, harmattan winds, droughts, cyclones, volcanos, earthquakes, and tsunamis. The region includes 10% of the world's coral reefs and has declared just 1.3% of its territorial sea areas as Marine Protected Areas (Ibid).

The region is highly dependent on ocean-related activities such as tourism and fisheries, which took a significant hit during the pandemic. However, its geographic dispersion makes coordination efforts a challenge, and the AIS has no official regional coordination organization with all states as members.

At the August 2020 Meeting of SIDS National Focal Points in the AIS Region, debt was a serious concern, especially with setbacks to reducing debt burdens in some countries as a result of COVID-19.²⁸ Government borrowing during the pandemic exacerbated these issues, and for many SIDS in the region, their status as middle-income countries excludes them from debt relief.

Caribbean

Country	Income Category	GNI per capita (Millions USD)	GDP (Millions USD)	EEZ (Square km)	Climate Risk Index Score*	Human Development Index Ranking	Ocean Health Index (Out of 100)
Caribbean							
Antigua and Barbuda	HIC	1,346.23	1,415	110,089	118.00	78	79
Bahamas	HIC	10,252.35	11,250	654,715	6.50	58	77
Barbados	HIC	4,124.74	4,366	186,898	118.00	58	72
Belize	LMIC	1,632.47	1,764	35,351	118	110	73
Cuba	UMIC	97,808.55	103,131	350,751	-	70	68
Dominica	UMIC	523.02	470	28,985	77.67	94	71
Dominican Republic	UMIC	78,787.06	78,845	255,898	118.00	88	66
Grenada	UMIC	1,058.44	1,089	27,426	118.00	74	70
Guyana	UMIC	5,611.81	5,471	137,765	118.00	122	63
Haiti	LMIC	15,002.43	13,418	126,760	58.33	170	59
Jamaica	UMIC	13,818.83	13,812	258,137	118.00	101	71
St. Kitts and Nevis	HIC	1,015.01	927	9,974	118.00	74	72
St. Lucia	UMIC	1,571.07	1,703	15,617	118.00	86	70
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	UMIC	810.79	810	36,302	118.00	97	65
Suriname	UMIC	2,709.68	3,808	127,772	118.00	97	71
Trinidad and Tobago	HIC	21,576.54	21,530	74,199	118.00	67	66

			International			
			Institute for Law			
	World	World Ba	ank, of the Sea	Germanwatch,		Ocean Health
SOURCES	Bank, 2020 World B	ank, 2020 20	<u>.020</u> <u>Studies, 2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>UNDP, 2020</u>	<u>Index, 2021</u>

*Calculated based on direct impacts of extreme weather events, using available data from the MunichRe NatCatSERVICE. It does not include slow-onset processes (e.g., rising sea level, glacier melt, ocean warming/acidification).

The Caribbean includes 29 SIDS (16 of whom are UN member states) in the Caribbean Sea, which share some cultural and geographic characteristics. The region includes 1,611 islands, islets and atolls, with a population of approximately 44.3 million people.²⁷ The tropical and subtropical locations of Caribbean SIDS are susceptible to hurricanes, storms, floods, volcanos, earthquakes, and other natural disasters. The region is home to 5.3% of the world's coral reefs and each SIDS protects, on average, 5.7% of their territorial waters and 6.9% of their terrestrial and marine areas (Ibid).

Economic challenges in Caribbean SIDS include relative isolation, a lack of affordable, sustainable energy sources and a reliance on imported fossil fuels. Like many SIDS, the small islands of the Caribbean struggle with small economic bases and high reliance on external investment and capacity. COVID-19 had an outsized impact on the region, which is heavily dependent on tourism. The Caribbean's intra-regional coordination organization, <u>CARICOM</u>, has advocated for long-term debt relief and debt restructuring in the face of COVID-19's economic impact on the region, warning that without this assistance, a "systemic debt crisis" would hinder efforts for sustainable development.²⁹

Delegates at the July 2020 Meeting of the SIDS National Focal Points in the Caribbean Region shared many of the concerns and recommendations of the AIS meeting, including the need for new criteria to determine development financing, due to the complex economic challenges and climate change risks that cannot be captured in data points like per capita income.³⁰ Meeting delegates also pointed out that COVID-19 highlighted the need for industry diversification throughout the Caribbean to promote economic resilience.

Pacific

Income Category	GNI per capita (Millions USD)	GDP (Millions USD)	EEZ (square km)	Climate Risk Index Score*	Human Development Index Ranking	Ocean Health Index (out of 100)
UMIC	4,386.54	4,376	1,282,978	73.00	93	70
LMIC	353.06	200	3,441,810	118.00	134	-
UMIC	292.15	239	1,990,530	118.00	117	64
LMIC	454.83	408	2,996,419	118.00	136	63
HIC	173.18	118	308,480	-	-	64
HIC	260.26	268	603,978	-	50	69
LMIC	24,324.34	23,592	2,402,288	58.67	155	67
LMIC	802.65	807	127,950	118.00	111	73
LMIC	1,579.46	1,551	1,589,477	118.00	151	65
LMIC	2,629.50	1,821	~75,000*	118.00	141	61
UMIC	549.08	512	659,558	118.00	104	76
UMIC	68.58	49	749,790	118.00	-	74
LMIC	981.06	855	663,251	73.00	140	69
World Bank 2020	World Bank 2020	World Bank, 2020	International Institute for Law of the Sea Studies 2022	Germanwatch,	LINDE 2020	Ocean Health Index, 2021
	Category Cumic Cumic Cum	Category (Millions USD) UMIC 4,386.54 UMIC 4,386.54 LMIC 353.06 UMIC 292.15 LMIC 292.15 LMIC 454.83 HIC 173.18 HIC 260.26 LMIC 24,324.34 LMIC 24,324.34 LMIC 1,579.46 LMIC 1,579.46 LMIC 2,629.50 UMIC 549.08 UMIC 68.58 LMIC 981.06	Income (Millions USD)(Millions (USD)UMIC4,386.544,376UMIC4,386.544,376LMIC353.06200UMIC292.15239UMIC292.15239LMIC454.83408HIC260.26268HIC24,324.3423,592LMIC24,324.3423,592LMIC2,629.501,821LMIC2,629.501,821UMIC549.08512UMIC68.5849LMIC981.06855World Bank,World Bank,	Income CategoryGNI per capita (Millions USD)(Millions (square km)UMIC4.386.544.3761.282.978UMIC4.386.544.3761.282.978LMIC353.062003.441.810UMIC2.922.152.0391.990.530LMIC2.922.152.0391.990.530LMIC4.54.834.0482.996.419HIC1.731.81.0483.038.480HIC2.402.8434.0482.996.419HIC2.4324.343.23.5922.402.888LMIC1.579.463.63.5183.128.9477LMIC1.579.461.5631.579.00*LMIC2.629.501.1623.759.00*UMIC5.49.085.126.59.558UMIC6.85.84.97.49.700LMIC9.81.068.556.63.251WorldMarci Alago Ala	Income IdentitySelect Millions USDEEZ (square M)Climate Risk Midex ScoresUMIC4.386544.43761.282.987.300UMIC4.386544.43761.282.987.300LMIC3.333.002.0203.441.901.18.00UMIC2.292.152.0201.990.501.18.00UMIC2.021.512.020.812.996.401.18.00LMIC4.434.814.0482.996.401.18.00LMIC2.021.522.021.813.03.0403.01.01HIC2.020.262.0286.03.983.01.01LMIC2.4324.342.33.592.402.983.01.80LMIC2.4324.342.31.593.1.58.0473.118.00LMIC2.157.941.158.9473.118.00LMIC3.157.943.1.583.118.00LMIC3.159.943.118.003.118.00LMIC3.159.943.118.003.118.00LMIC3.159.943.118.003.118.00LMIC3.159.943.118.003.118.00LMIC3.159.943.118.003.118.00LMIC3.159.943.118.003.118.00LMIC3.159.943.118.003.118.00LMIC3.159.943.118.003.118.00LMIC3.159.943.118.003.118.00LMIC3.159.943.118.003.118.00LMIC3.159.943.118.003.118.00LMIC3.159.943.118.003.118.00LMIC </td <td>Income categorySNI per capita (Millions USD)GDP (Millions (SDD)EEZ (quare km)Cimate Risk (kex Scose)Development index (Ranking)UMIC4.366.404.4361.262.977.30.009.3UMIC4.363.604.4361.262.987.30.009.3UMIC4.363.606.02.003.441.801.118.001.117UMIC2.02.122.030.401.118.001.117UMIC4.454.834.04.802.996.401.118.001.136UMIC4.133.101.1183.034.806.01.011.116UMIC1.02.022.02.023.63.601.0501.151UMIC2.43.24.812.33.622.40.2485.66.311.151UMIC2.43.24.812.33.622.40.2485.66.311.151LIMIC2.43.24.812.152.911.1511.1511.151LIMIC2.43.24.812.152.911.158.9471.161.001.151LIMIC1.54.911.152.911.158.9471.161.001.161.01LIMIC2.63.910.162.911.162.911.161.911.161.91LIMIC1.54.911.152.911.158.9471.163.001.161.91LIMIC2.63.910.162.911.162.911.161.911.161.91LIMIC1.54.911.159.911.163.911.161.911.161.91LIMIC1.54.911.159.911.163.911.161.911.161.91LIMIC1.54.911.54.911.161.91<t< td=""></t<></td>	Income categorySNI per capita (Millions USD)GDP (Millions (SDD)EEZ (quare km)Cimate Risk (kex Scose)Development index (Ranking)UMIC4.366.404.4361.262.977.30.009.3UMIC4.363.604.4361.262.987.30.009.3UMIC4.363.606.02.003.441.801.118.001.117UMIC2.02.122.030.401.118.001.117UMIC4.454.834.04.802.996.401.118.001.136UMIC4.133.101.1183.034.806.01.011.116UMIC1.02.022.02.023.63.601.0501.151UMIC2.43.24.812.33.622.40.2485.66.311.151UMIC2.43.24.812.33.622.40.2485.66.311.151LIMIC2.43.24.812.152.911.1511.1511.151LIMIC2.43.24.812.152.911.158.9471.161.001.151LIMIC1.54.911.152.911.158.9471.161.001.161.01LIMIC2.63.910.162.911.162.911.161.911.161.91LIMIC1.54.911.152.911.158.9471.163.001.161.91LIMIC2.63.910.162.911.162.911.161.911.161.91LIMIC1.54.911.159.911.163.911.161.911.161.91LIMIC1.54.911.159.911.163.911.161.911.161.91LIMIC1.54.911.54.911.161.91 <t< td=""></t<>

*Calculated based on direct impacts of extreme weather events, using available data from the MunichRe NatCatSERVICE. It does not include slow-onset processes (e.g., rising sea level, glacier melt, ocean warming/acidification).

The Pacific region includes 13 UN member SIDS and a total of 5,019 islands, islets and atolls,²⁷ with a population of approximately 9.9 million.³¹ Their tropical locations are exposed to typhoons, droughts, floods, volcanos, cyclones, earthquakes, tornadoes, and tsunamis. Sea-level rise is a particularly acute issue in the region, with three Pacific SIDS (Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Tuvalu) among the top five for percentage of land less than 5 meters above sea level.³² The region includes 21.4% of the world's coral reefs, with 13.6% of its territorial waters declared Marine Protected Areas (MPA).²⁷

The Pacific is also home to three of the five SIDS-based UNESCO World Heritage Marine and Coastal Sites, including the Phoenix Islands Protected Areas in Kiribati, the Rock Islands Southern Lagoon in Palau, and East Rennell in the Solomon Islands.³³

The <u>Pacific Islands Forum</u> (PIF) is the primary organization for SIDS development in the region, focusing on sustainable development, economic growth and governance — all key elements for successful engagement in sustainable development. Since COVID-19, the organization has seen increased urgency from the private sector for "desperately needed" economic stimulus.³⁴

At the July 2020 Meeting of SIDS National Focal Points in the Pacific, delegates noted that the region's closed borders during COVID-19 helped prevent spread of the pandemic, but at a high cost to national economies due to the loss of tourism and related industries, as well as threats to food security.³⁵

Photo: Asian Development Bank, Tonga, Flickr (Cc By-Nc 2.0)

PACIFICOIN

SOUTHERN LILY

8

9

CASE STUDIES

Collaboration can take many forms — from very structured international public-private partnerships (PPPs) to informal collaborations between a micro-enterprise and local NGO. They can cover a range of agreements and reporting mechanisms. Due to a lack of current, centralized and verified information, it is difficult to conduct a thorough and accurate statistical assessment of multi-stakeholder partnerships that engage the private sector in SIDS. Rather than attempting an incomplete quantitative analysis, this report undertakes a qualitative analysis, examining specific partnerships at the international, regional, and local levels, to pull out patterns in ideas and practices, to learn what elements of the SAMOA Pathway and SDG 14 are being prioritized, and to understand their impacts. Read this analysis as "an indication of status and trends, rather than absolute values," similar to the <u>2019 SIDS Partnership Analysis</u>.

Cross-Regional

The Sustainable Fish Value Chains for SIDS (SVC4SIDS)			
Location/s Cape Verde (2021-25), Barbados (2020-21), Kiribati (2020-25) Partners UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Republic of Korea, Various local MSMEs	 SAMOA Pathway Themes Sustainable, inclusive, equitable economic growth & livelihoods Food security & nutrition Sustainable consumption & production Social Development Biodiversity 		
	 SDG 14 Targets Protect and restore marine & coastal ecosystems Increase the economic benefits from sustainable use of marine resources Increase scientific knowledge, research & technology for ocean health Support small-scale fishers 		

Summary

This partnership is operated under the Korea FAO Sustainable and Innovative Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme (KOFAP) and focuses on improving opportunities for high-value species in SIDS, to enable MSMEs in selected countries to strengthen their market access and support sustainable production and trade in fishery products.

Fisheries play a major role in the economies for many SIDS, some of which contribute as much as 20% of GDP.

The SVC4SIDS program includes:

- Capacity building for fisheries stakeholders around functioning of the value chain and targeted improvement strategies
- Strengthening market access for MSMEs
- Improving management of natural resources for enhanced value chain sustainability
- Facilitating financing and investment access for fishery MSMEs

Program benefits include:

• Enable SIDS micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to strengthen market access

- •
- •
- Capacity building for fisheries stakeholders Improved fish stocks Improved access to finance and investment for local MSMEs Improved food security and nutrition Improved outcomes for women in fisheries •
- •
- •

Atlantic Indian Ocean South China Sea

Wave2O Project

Location/s Cape Verde	 SAMOA Pathway Themes Sustainable Energy
Partners African Development Bank (AfDB), Biosfera, Electra (a water and electric utility company in Cape Verde), iXblue, Government of Cape Verde (including the Fisheries Department), National Maritime Institute of Cape Verde (IMar), Resolute Marine Limited (RML) the Irish subsidiary of Resolute Marine Energy, Inc. (RME), Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA), University of Cape Verde (UniCV), US Department of Energy, Various Supply Chain Partners in Cape Verde	 SDG 14 Targets Increase economic benefits to SIDS & LDC from sustainable use of marine resources Increase scientific knowledge, research capacity & technology transfer for ocean health

Summary

The Wave2O project involves the development of a reverse-osmosis desalination plant powered solely by marine energy. When completed, it will be one of the world's first wave-powered desalination systems. Resolute Marine will build and deploy the wave energy converter (WEC) and reverse osmosis (RO) desalination systems needed to generate clean energy from ocean waves and produce large quantities of clean water.

Cape Verde relies on seawater desalination for ~85 percent of fresh-water demand, but there are frequent water shortages. All of its desalination plants are currently powered by diesel generators. Most of Cape Verde's desalination plants are powered by diesel generators and the high cost of imported diesel makes the average cost of water in Cape Verde one of the highest in Africa and among the highest in the world.

The primary grantmaking institutions for this project are the US Department of Energy and the African Development Bank. The U.S. Department of Energy has been a primary source of technology development funding for RME and the African Development Bank has funded most of the site verification and permitting work for the Cape Verde site where the pilot project will be located.

RME evaluated several countries as potential commercial launch markets and Cape Verde was a good fit because of its political stability and business-friendly environment. RMLpartnered with Biosfera, iXblue, and a local consulting team to identify optimal deployment locations throughout the nine islands of Cape Verde, based on a range of social, environmental and economic factors.

Proposed program benefits include:

- More reliable access to clean drinking water
- Reduced dependence on fossil fuels
- Sharing of scientific knowledge/resources
- Estimated to supply 48,000+ people with clean water
- Estimated to avoid 5,400 metric tons of CO2 per year
- Reduce cost of fresh water by two-thirds

SeyCCAT Blue Grants Fund - Fisheries Projects

Location/s

Seychelles

Partners

Project 1 - Anba Lao - NGO, Praslin Fishers Association (PFA), Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA), SeyCCAT, fisherfolk in Praslin

Project 2 - Artisanal Shark Fishers Association (ASFA), Bel Ombre Fishers Association, Fishing Boat Owners Association (FBOA), The Green Islands Foundation (GIF) - NGO, Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA), SeyCCAT, Local fishing communities

SAMOA Pathway Themes

- Sustainable, inclusive, equitable economic growth & livelihoods
 - Food security & nutrition
 - Sustainable consumption & production
 - Biodiversity

SDG 14 Targets

- Protect & Restore Ecosystems
- End Subsidies Contributing to Overfishing
- Increase The Economic Benefits From Sustainable Use Of Marine Resources
- Increase Scientific Knowledge, Research & Technology For Ocean Health
- Support Small Scale Fishers

Summary

These projects were funded by Seychelles' debt-for-nature swap and the Seychelles Blue Bond, designed to support the expansion of Marine Protected Areas, improved governance of fisheries, and development of a sustainable blue economy in Seychelles. Funding for both projects is provided through the Blue Grants Fund, managed by SeyCCAT.

Fisheries contribute 20% of GDP in Seychelles, representing the 2nd largest contributor to the economy. (ref: https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/SROs/Preliminary%20Analytical%20Report%20-%20Seychelles.pdf) This work builds on previous projects intended to get fishers more involved in fisheries and marine habitat management.

1. Voluntary Rotating Fishing Zone Closures on Praslin

This project involves seasonal closure of the bay of Baie Sainte Anne to trap fishing, to protect fish stock and allow time for stock replenishment and increased fish size, resulting in better catches when the area is re-opened. A Project Management Committee — composed of members from the The Praslin Fishermen Association, the Seychelles Fishing Authority, and Anba Lao — was set up to oversee implementation. The Fishing Authority also provided technical input and guidance. The fisherfolk of Baie Sainte Anne helped collect data during the closing season, in order to measure the impact of the closure. In 2020, results revealed a 6 cm growth in the size of catch following the closure. Preliminary findings showed that only 3 fishers were not compliant to the voluntary closure. The Association planned to make it an annual practice.

2. Impact Assessment of Artisanal Fisheries on Species of Local Concern

This project was initiated by The Green Islands Foundation (GIF), which worked with local groups to understand the impact of artisanal fisheries on species of local concern, and to improve governance, sustainability and value to fishers.

GIF partnered with the Bel Ombre Fishers Association, the Fishing Boat Owners Association (FBOA), the Artisanal Shark Fishers Association (ASFA) and the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) to implement a threatened species survey in 2017. These partnerships continued through the implementation of the project.

GIF conducted the first assessments at landing sites on Mahe, collecting data in collaboration with the fisher's associations. Program benefits include:

- Improved fish stock for local fishers
- Building local knowledge and capacity of sustainable practices
- Improved food security
- Improved biodiversity

Deep Ocean Water Applications (DOWA)

Location/s

Mauritius

Partners

Government of Mauritius, Economic Development Board (EDB), Sotravic Ltd., Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA)

Technical Partners Include:

- CGC Energie (onshore conceptual pipeline design)
- CreOcean (Preliminary studies)
- GIBB Mauritius (Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Jan de Nul (Marine works and offshore bathymetry surveys) - Makai Ocean Engineering Inc. (Feasibility studies, offshore pipeline conceptual designs and onshore thermal pump station)
- PwC (Financial Advisor)
- SGI Engineering (onshore conceptual pipeline design)

SAMOA Pathway Themes

- Climate Change
- Natural Resource Management
- Sustainable Energy

SDG 14 Targets

- Increase economic benefits to SIDS & LDC from sustainable use of marine resources
- Increase scientific knowledge, research capacity & technology transfer for ocean health

Summary

The Deep Ocean Water Application (DOWA) project will use cold sea water to produce air conditioning, known as sea water air conditioning (SWAC). The cold energy stored in deep sea water is used to air-condition major high-rise buildings in the city of Port Louis. Deep cold sea water is pumped ashore to a land-based thermal transfer station. Through a series of heat exchangers, cold potable water is then pumped through an onshore pipeline delivery system to individual buildings to replace existing conventional air conditioning units. The DOWA process has been used successfully in other countries for more than 30 years.

Currently, most buildings in Port Louis are cooled with conventional outdated air conditioners and chillers that require approximately 15 MW of electrical power, powered by fossil fuel-based electricity. This project would supply an estimated 23 MW capacity cooling using about 1.5 MW of electricity to run the new system.

The system can be upgraded to connect new/future buildings as long as they fall within a reasonable distance from the onshore chilled water feeder pipelines, and the project can be replicated elsewhere (SIDS and coastal African countries).

The Project is being implemented by Urban Cooling Ltd, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) owned by Mauritian civil engineering construction company Sotravic Ltd and its Executive Chairman Pierre Billy Ah Sue. The African Development Bank provided \$1 million to cover necessary offshore surveys required for the Environmental Impact Assessment through the Sustainable Energy for Africa Fund (SEFA)

Proposed benefits include:

- Clean, sustainable cooling
- Reduced dependence on fossil fuel imports
- Estimated creation of 40 direct jobs for skilled local engineers and technicians
- Additional jobs in "downstream" applications of deep sea-water
- Estimated avoidance of 51,000 tons of CO2 per year
- Transfer of technology and expertise

Marine Discovery Programme & Petite Anse Reef Restoration Project

Location/s Seychelles	 SAMOA Pathway Themes Social Development Biodiversity
Partners 4 Seasons Resort, WiseOceans, Various Government Entities	 SDG 14 Targets Protect & Restore Ecosystems Conserve coastal & marine areas Increase economic benefits to SIDS & LDC from sustainable use of marine resources Increase scientific knowledge, research capacity & technology transfer for ocean health

Summary

The Marine Discovery Programme and Petite Anse Reef Restoration Project at the 4 Seasons Resort is a reef conservation and education activities program run by WiseOceans. Through the partnership with Four Seasons and additional grant funding, WiseOceans delivers education and capacity building projects across Mahe around the themes of marine ecology, conservation and the blue economy. They provide educational activities for guests and staff, including guided snorkeling. The program was initially funded through a green fund established by the resort specifically for that purpose. Additional sources include the CSR Fund in Seychelles and activity fees for resort guests.

WiseOceans, a marine conservation and education company, created an NGO in Seychelles to run this and similar programs, making use of NGO funding in the country. In March 2015, the resort and WiseOceans began collaboration on the reef restoration project, with a goal to restore 10,000 square meters of limestone reef with coral transplantation. The reef restoration project is used as an educational tool to increase awareness of the importance and threats to reefs, and to initiate behavioral change activities that reduce participants' carbon footprint. The partnership involves an MOU between WiseOceans and 4 Seasons, as well as an MOU with WorldOceans, 4 Seasons, and the Ministry of Environment.

WiseOceans also conducts conservation and monitoring activities at the resort, and provides educational programming at the local and national levels in partnership with the Ministry of Education and other NGOs. The program runs in Seychelles, Mauritius and French Polynesia

- Knowledge sharing
- Ecotourism
- Ecosystem restoration
- Local employment
- Development of conservation culture

Floating Solar Energy

Location/s Maldives	 SAMOA Pathway Themes Sustainable Energy Sustainable consumption & production
Partners Swimsol GmbH, Maldives Government Agencies, Austrian Development Agency, Sofar Ocean, Development Bank of Austria (OeEB), responsAbility	 SDG 14 Targets Increase the economic benefits from sustainable use of marine resources

Summary

Swimsol is an Austrian-Maldivian company that developed a floating solar system for marine environments known as SolarSea. A majority of Swimsol's current Maldives clients are tourism-related companies who have Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) with Swimsol.

Many SIDS rely heavily on imported fossil fuels for energy. This makes electricity very expensive in SIDS, and the resulting CO2 emissions contribute to climate change and ocean acidification. Floating solar offers a clean, renewable energy source that doesn't require the use of SIDS' limited landmass.

With the support of the Austrian Development Agency and the Maldives government, Swimsol developed a model that fully covers the investment cost of the system, drawing on a network of private investors for financing, combined with cofunding from donors and development banks. Swimsol has secured a \$14 million loan from the Swiss sustainable asset manager responsAbility and the Development Bank of Austria (OeEB) to expand the project.

Program benefits include:

- Development of renewable energy source
- Reduced reliance on imported fossil fuel for energy
- Reduced CO2
- More reliable and affordable source of energy

Caribbean

Climate Change Adaptation Program (CCAP) LiDAR Project

Location/s Caribbean Region Partners Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5Cs), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Government of Italy, Governments of Caribbean, Leading Edge Geomatics, Maya Island Air, RIEGL USA, USAID	 SAMOA Pathway Themes Sustainable, inclusive, equitable economic growth & livelihoods Climate Change Disaster Risk Reduction SDG 14 Targets Protect & Restore Ecosystems Increase scientific knowledge, research capacity & technology transfer for ocean health

Summary

The 5Cs launched the Caribbean Airborne LiDAR program to better monitor, predict and respond to the impacts of climate change. SIDS need high-resolution spatial data to adequately plan and respond to disaster risks and climate change. This data can also be used to access climate finance for adaptation initiatives.

The LiDAR sensor, capable of performing both bathymetric and topographic surveys, is mounted in a modified Cessna 206 operated by Maya Island Air, which then collects detailed information of areas identified by CARICOM Member States of client (e.g., sea floor, reefs, mangroves) that can generate products (e.g., contour maps, digital elevation models etc.) for use in flood maps, storm surge models, early warning systems etc. The LiDAR program includes partnerships with Maya Island Air (owns and operates the plane), RIEGL (provided training to LiDAR technicians/operators, pilots, and data analysts), Leading Edge Geomatics (provides QA and quality control of system, as well as airborne platform that can host LiDAR scanner), the government of Italy (provided \$600,000 funding to conduct baselining studies), and USAid (provided ~\$2 million funding to acquire the LiDAR scanner). The USAID grant also provided the information systems, which are located at 5Cs headquarters in Belize, to store and retrieve data collected from the LiDAR surveys. Their funding also paid for pilot training and modifications to the plane, which was purchased by Maya Island Air

The cost to conduct surveys in CARICOM Member States was often prohibitive. Because the system was purchased through a grant, 5Cs can offer services at very competitive rates. Once countries and other private sector clients come onboard, the project will be financially self-sustaining. Pilot surveys have begun in Caribbean countries, and the CDB has provided funding for those pilot surveys done in the 19 borrowing members of the CDB. CDB also provided funding for the Centre to develop a LiDAR marketing strategy to market the Centre's LiDAR services to Member States.

To help make the case for the utility of the project to Caribbean SIDS, 5Cs launched a training course in the use of LiDAR technology, open to all CDB Borrowing Member Countries. More than 300 people participated in the online training. 5Cs is an IGO set up in 2002 by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) with a mandate to coordinate the Caribbean response to climate change.

- Improved disaster planning and response
- Data for climate resilience planning & adaptation funding
- Improved strategic development planning
- Early warning systems for coastal populations
- Risk mitigation
- National & regional capacity building
- Enhanced ability to respond to and plan for physical changes to marine environments

Circulate Capital + IDB Lab Ocean Plastic Management Partnership

Location/s Caribbean Region Partners	 SAMOA Pathway Themes Sustainable, inclusive, equitable economic growth & livelihoods Food security & nutrition Sustainable consumption & production
Circulate Capital, IDB Lab, Various startups	Biodiversity SDG 14 Targets
	 Reduce Marine Pollution Protect & Restore Ecosystems Conserve coastal & marine areas
	 Increase economic benefits to SIDS & LDC from sustainable use of marine resources Increase scientific knowledge, research capacity & technology transfer for ocean health

Summary

This investment project is designed to support innovative solutions to plastic waste in the oceans and waterways of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). The investment from IDB Lab will be combined with a capacity development program for the Caribbean, to help build an investment pipeline with regional ecosystem innovators (e.g., early-stage startups and SMEs promoting a plastic circular economy) and drive institutional investment.

There is a significant amount of plastic waste pollution in the region due to a lack of circular recycling systems, capital, and technical assistance in the sector. The idea of this initiative is to invest capital in companies that develop scalable, systemic solutions to manage waste. Solution providers will get support through strategic partnerships; training to improve communications, marketing, and sales; and skills development, including digitization efforts.

IDB Lab announced a \$4 million investment commitment for the program, along with a \$500,000 technical cooperation grant. Circulate Capital has committed an in-kind contribution of \$500,000. Circulate Capital will manage the investments.

Proposed benefits include:

- Reduce marine pollution
- Development of circular economies
- Reduce threats to marine habitats & biodiversity
- Capacity building for local populations
- Economic development for local/regional business

MPA Management for Marine Sanctuary Arrecifes del Sureste

Location/s

Dominican Republic

Partners

Asociación de Acuáticas, Asociación Deacuáticas, Asociación de Hoteles Altagracia, Asociación de Hoteles Bayahibe, Blue Finance Dominicana, Clúster Turístico Altagracia, Clúster Turístico Bayahibe, Dominican Fisheries, Aquaculture Council (CODOPESCA), Fundación Dominicana des Estudios Marinos (FUNDEMAR), Fundación Grupo la Romana, Fundación Grupo Punta Cana (FGPC), Government of the Dominican Republic, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (Dominican Republic), Mirova-Althelia, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

SAMOA Pathway Themes

- Sustainable, inclusive, equitable economic growth & livelihoods
 - Climate Change
 - Biodiversity

SDG 14 Targets

- Sustainably manage & protect marine & coastal ecosystems
- Conserve coastal & marine areas
- Increase economic benefits to SIDS & LDC from sustainable use of marine resources
- Increase scientific knowledge, research capacity & technology transfer for ocean health

Summary

This partnership establishes a co-management structure for the Marine Protected Area (MPA) of the Arrecifes del Sureste marine sanctuary in the Dominican Republic. The partnership is based on 4 pillars: collaborative, community-based MPA governance; diversified revenues; conservation-focused management with an experienced team; a blend of grants (including performance grants and refundable grants) to cover early capital costs. Blue Finance partnered with government, NGOs, investors, and entrepreneurs on a co-management framework to effectively manage the MPA. The framework consists of public–private partnership agreements between the co-management NGOs and government.

The sanctuary, created in 2009, includes approximately 8,000 km2 of marine park and 100 km of coastline and is one of the largest MPAs in the Caribbean. It provides economic support for approximately 15,000 households. It was considered a "paper park" without real protection due to a lack of capacity and resources within government. There is often a lack of human and financial resources to properly reinforce the protections of MPAs. Blue Finance brought in local partners with a range of necessary experience to form the co-management NGOs. This includes experts in marine conservation, biology, ecology, social sciences, and business (since the MPA must be financially self-sustaining). Blue Finance also assisted in capacity building for the local team.

Initial funding for the project came from a blended finance model that brought together donors, private sector investment, and a mix of grants and loans. The project will be sustained through MPA management leases with tangible revenue models, along with secured blended finance from impact investors and philanthropic sources.

Blue finance is a social enterprise co-managing Marine Protected Areas, protecting marine wildlife in the Caribbean, SE Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa and developing a Blue Economy for local communities in and around the parks. Blue Finance also structures blended finance investment facilities for projects. The company used this partnership structure as a blueprint for similar MPA management partnerships in Belize, Indonesia, The Philippines and Zanzibar. The structure always involves the government and a local sponsor who understands PPP structure.

- Enforce protection of a marine sanctuary
- Improved marine environments and biodiversity
- Development of a financially sound, scalable and collaborative way to properly manage and maintain MPAs
- Promote sharing of knowledge and capacity building of local partners

Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve & MSC Foundation Marine Conservation Centre

Location/s Bahamas Partners Government of Bahamas, MSC Foundation, Private Lenders, Nova Southeastern University, University of Miami, Local and international scientists and researchers	 SAMOA Pathway Themes Social Development Biodiversity SDG 14 Targets Sustainably manage & protect marine & coastal ecosystems Conserve coastal & marine areas Increase economic benefits to SIDS & LDC from sustainable use of marine resources Increase scientific knowledge, research capacity & technology transfer for ocean health
Summary	I

The MSC Ocean Cay Marine Reserve was initiated as an environmentally restored tourist destination, and integrates tourism with conservation and scientific research.

Between 2009-2018, an estimated 14% of coral was lost globally, mostly due to bleaching events, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other research organizations. One goal at the reserve is to restore the reef habitat as a destination and build expertise in replicable models of coral resilience. The project will engage in research, harvesting and propagation of super coral, which is most resistant to climate change, in the surrounding reefs.

MSC Cruises originally restored the island, previously used as an industrial site, as a private destination for the cruise line. The company removed more than 1,500 tons of scrap metal and brought in large amounts of native vegetation to transform the island. The Foundation worked with local experts, including marine ecologists and biologists, who advised the foundation on restoring the island and assisted with the government process.

There is an Environmental Health & Safety Officer on-site who makes monthly reports on avian biodiversity and ensures the turtle management plan is implemented.

Proposed benefits include:

- Marine restoration and conservation
- Improved biodiversity
- Scientific data and knowledge sharing
- Ecotourism

Algas Organics Seaweed Cultivation

Location/s

St. Lucia & Caribbean Region

Partners

Algas Organics, Compete Caribbean, Global Environment Facility, UNDP, IDB, Saint Lucia Fisher Folk Cooperative Society

SAMOA Pathway Themes

- Sustainable, inclusive, equitable economic growth & livelihoods
- Food Security
- Natural Resource Management
- Biodiversity Conservation

SDG 14 Targets

- Sustainably manage & protect marine & coastal ecosystems
- Conserve coastal & marine areas
- Increase economic benefits to SIDS & LDC from sustainable use of marine resources
- Increase Scientific Knowledge, Research And Technology For Ocean Health

Summary

Algas Organics was founded in 2014 to convert invasive sargassum seaweed into fertilizer. The project began in St. Lucia and, in partnership with GEF, IDB and UNDP, expanded throughout the Caribbean and beyond.

Increasing ocean temperatures and fertilizer runoff caused sargassum to bloom aggressively and engulf coastlines in 22 countries within the Caribbean, causing:

- Fish and turtle kills
- Marine and reef ecosystem damage
- Disruption to fisheries and tourism sectors

Through GEF, Algas (who was partnered with a local NGO) received a \$50,000 grant to increase production. Following the initial grant and a company plateau, Algas received a blended finance grant from IDB and Compete Caribbean, which allowed the company to expand into the US. Algas Organics currently collects and processes over 1,000,000 pounds of invasive seaweed annually for export to 10 countries. In partnership with the Government of St. Lucia, the company has also hired and trained 100+ people to be Sargassum harvesters.

- Reduce harm from invasive species
- Provide sustainable, natural fertilizer
- Contribute to local livelihoods and agriculture
- Capacity building & technology transfer

Coral Reef Replanting & School Dive Program

Location/s	
------------	--

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Partners

Serenity Dive Inc., Reef Renewal International, St. Vincent and the Grenadines Conservative Fund, St. Vincent and Grenadines Fisheries Division

SAMOA Pathway Themes

- Biodiversity Conservation
- Sustainable, inclusive, equitable economic growth & livelihoods
- Sustainable consumption & production
- Biodiversity

SDG 14 Targets

- Reduce Marine Pollution
- Protect & Restore Ecosystems
- Conserve coastal & marine areas
- Increase economic benefits to SIDS & LDC from sustainable use of marine resources
- Increase Scientific Knowledge, Research And Technology For Ocean Health

Summary

This reef restoration and education program in St. Vincent trains local students for scuba diving certification, and also provides an opportunity for students to help manage a coral nursery and restore area reefs.

In its first year, the dive education program was funded by local businesses that sponsored students. This gave the program a chance to show success. After learning of setbacks in coral projects at a dive expo, Serenity Dive's owner decided to incorporate a coral nursery into the dive education program.

Serenity Dive then worked with Reef Renewal International to develop a program proposal that would combine the youth dive education program with reef restoration. Serenity Dive used this program proposal to apply for the SVGCF grant, and received ~\$30,000 in 2020 for the project. Now Serenity Dive is forming Reef Renewal SVG, an umbrella program for similar projects nationally.

Serenity Dive works with the Fisheries Division to coordinate coral plantings. The company also requested a duty-free concession for equipment to set up the nursery, which it was granted.

- 800 pieces of coral have been planted
- 20 students have been certified in scuba diving
- Local capacity building and knowledge sharing
- Improved conservation and restoration for local habitats

Pacific

The Moana Taka Partnership		
Location/s Pacific Region	 SAMOA Pathway Themes Sustainable, inclusive, equitable economic growth & livelihoods 	
Partners Fiji Department of Environment, Swire Shipping (formerly China Navigation Company), SPREP, UN Environment	 SDG 14 Targets Reduce marine pollution Conserve coastal & marine areas 	

Summary

The Moana Taka partnership coordinates the free shipment of recyclable waste from Pacific SIDS that are unable to properly dispose of or treat the waste to centralized recycling facilities in developed countries on the Pacific Rim. The partnership originated through an MOU between Swire Shipping (then the China Navigation Company) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in 2018, which allowed Swire Shipping's vessels to transport the containers of recyclable waste from eligible Pacific island ports.

Many Pacific SIDS cannot financially justify building a waste recycling plant just for their island. So the waste would end up in landfills and get blown into the sea during storms. Materials removed include plastics, aluminum cans, waste oil, some types of noncommercial waste (e.g., asbestos, e-waste, chemical waste, low-value household recyclables).

There is a complex system of permits required to transfer the waste between countries, which Swire Shipping works on in partnership with SPREP. This partnership requires clarity about the legal roles and responsibilities of all parties. The company is essentially a free cargo service for the waste, but not owners of the waste. Swire Shipping has an application form for SIDS countries that lays out all of the roles, responsibilities and required documentation.

The partnership has removed waste from five Pacific SIDS, and has also expanded recycling capabilities to liquid waste such as used oils, which can then be recycled back into mechanical lubricants. SPREP and the Fiji Department of Environment are measuring the impact of the program.

The UN Environment Programme is currently conducting a feasibility study for a commercial enterprise that would involve Swire Shipping moving abandoned end-of-life vehicles from various islands to a central recycling plant that would be built for that purpose.

- Reduced plastic pollution
- Improved marine health
- Enhanced EEZ protection

Blockchain Supply Chain Traceability Project

Location/s

Pacific Region

Partners

ConsenSys, Sea Quest Fiji Ltd., TraSeable, World Wildlife Fund, Various Local Businesses

SAMOA Pathway Themes

- Sustainable, inclusive, equitable economic growth & livelihoods
 - Food security & nutrition
- Sustainable consumption & production

SDG 14 Targets

- Regulate harvesting & end overfishing, illegal, unreported & unregulated (IUU) fishing
- Increase economic benefits to SIDS & LDC from sustainable use of marine resources
- Increase scientific knowledge, research capacity & technology transfer for ocean health
- Support small-scale fishers

Summary

Blockchain Supply Chain Traceability Project focused on using blockchain technology to trace tuna catch in Fiji with endto-end traceability. It marked the first use of blockchain technology for the longline fishery. The technology tracks fish from vessel to supermarket, using digital technology in the fresh and frozen tuna sectors of the Western and Central Pacific region to strengthen supply chain management.

Nearly 44% of seafood in supermarkets and restaurants is mislabeled, which damages fisheries. Through the project, the authenticity of fish is identified through tracking with quick response (QR) codes.

Traceability services are also provided through TraSeable's cloud-based platform on a subscription basis. The platform is available for fishers, processors, exporters/importers, end buyers, and regulatory authorities. A new version of the platform, TraSeable Farms, has also launched for the agriculture sector.

The founder, Ken Katafano, currently assists the FAO as a digital value chain expert. He has also worked with intergovernmental agencies like UNESCAP and GIZ.

- Improved income opportunities for local fishers
- Enabling better collaboration in the market
- Supporting sustainable management of fishing stock
- More data and transparency to verify fish products
- Providing technology resources for government and across the supply chain

Location/s

Palau

Partners

Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), Friends of the Palau National Marine Sanctuary, Government of Palau, Host/Havas (marketing agency), The Oak Foundation, Ocean Sanctuary Alliance, Palau Visitors' Authority, PEW Charitable Trusts, local businesses, individuals, and educators

SAMOA Pathway Themes

- Sustainable, inclusive, equitable economic growth & livelihoods
 - Water & sanitation
 - Sustainable consumption & production
 - Social Development

SDG 14 Targets

- Reduce marine pollution
- Sustainably manage & protect marine & coastal ecosystems
- Conserve coastal & marine areas
- Increase economic benefits to SIDS & LDC from sustainable use of marine resources

Summary

The Palau Pledge is a commitment signed by tourists entering Palau, designed to make them aware of the ecological impacts of tourism and to compel them to participate in being stewards of the island. It was a marketing campaign that turned into national policy, as well as a business and education program.

This initiative balanced preserving the economic contribution of tourism while reducing its negative environmental impacts and addressing limited local capacity to do so. Palau saw a huge increase in tourism starting in 2015, but the island had limited resources to manage it. Prior campaigns to make people aware of the ecological impact of tourism, like the Palau Responsible Tourism campaign, hadn't been effective.

Marketing and communications professionals in Palau launched the Palau Legacy Project in 2017 to design a creative solution. They approached government (through Palau's First Lady, Debbie Remengesau) and their efforts evolved into a think tank focused on thoughtful, compelling ways to engage tourists in preserving the island. The campaign aimed to convey a message that wasn't about the what but the underlying why.

Digital agency Host/Havas took on the project pro-bono and developed a campaign that created an emotional connection with tourists as partners in the island's stewardship..

Palau Pledge:

Children of Palau, I take this pledge as your guest, to preserve and protect your beautiful and unique island home. I vow to tread lightly, act kindly, and explore mindfully. I shall not take what is not given. I shall not harm what does not harm me. The only footprints I shall leave are those that will wash away.

In 2017, the Responsible Tourism Education Act turned the pledge into law and included corporate accountability. Havas created a certificate with the pledge for local businesses to display to show their compliance. The Palau Business Pledge also supports local businesses with resources to improve sustainability performance and compliance with laws and regulations.

Additional costs for the campaign were funded through the NGO, Friends of the Palau National Marine Sanctuary, and from Palau, PEW Charitable Trusts, The Oak Foundation, Palau Visitors' Authority, Ocean Sanctuary Alliance, Canada small grants fund and the local private sector. Ongoing funding is allocated via partner organizations' annual budgets.

- Mitigate damage caused by tourism
- Enabling better collaboration with the tourism industry
- Building awareness inside and outside the country of Palau's ecological heritage and challenges
- Engaging local businesses as partners in sustainability practices

Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative

Location/sSPacific RegionPartnersPartnersAsian Development Bank (ADB), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Australia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade - New Zealand, Pacific SIDS governments	 SAMOA Pathway Themes Sustainable, inclusive, equitable economic growth & livelihoods Social development
---	---

Summary

The Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative (PSDI) is a regional technical assistance program launched in 2007. It advises and provides capacity-building to help Pacific SIDS improve their business enabling environment for better private sector-led growth, through a combination of legal and policy development with technology solutions.

Pacific SIDS are geographically dispersed, making coordination and access to major markets a challenge. Many have weak policies, complex legislation, and limited capacity, making risk assessment and investment difficult. The goal is to create simpler, context-appropriate enabling environments for Pacific SIDS and developing countries. Policy work includes identifying and adjusting unnecessary processes, simplifying creation and operation pathways, and ensuring legislation supports business while protecting consumers.

Phase IV includes a proposed online regional technology platform to support company or entity formation, business licensing, foreign investment, credit registers, etc. Taking advantage of an economy of scale, SIDS can share the cost of being on a robust regional platform. The modular functionality of the platform will allow SIDS to scale use up or down for their needs. Mobile applications will also increase access for users without a computer. PSDI supports the technically complex engagement between the governments and the software vendor.

This work has been co-financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Governments of Australia and New Zealand.

Benefits include:

- Improved access to finance
- Business law and regulation reform
- Enhanced competition and consumer protection
- Remove administrative discretion from processes
- Use of technology to improve access, transparency and accountability
- Business frameworks appropriate to the size of Pacific SIDS
- More opportunity for public-private partnerships
- Advancing the economic empowerment of women

Investing in Coral Reefs & the Blue Economy

Location/s Fiji Partners	 SAMOA Pathway Themes Climate change Food security & nutrition Biodiversity
Beqa Adventure Divers (BAD), Blue Finance, Conservation Finance Alliance (CFA), Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR), Government of Fiji, UN Joint SDG Fund (co-financing), Matanataki, UN agencies (Fiji Country Office, UNDP, UNEP), WWF-Pacific, various local collaborators	 SDG 14 Targets Protect and restore marine & coastal ecosystems Conserve coastal & marine areas Increase scientific knowledge, research & technology for ocean health

Summary

The first round of funding approved by the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR) includes a \$10-million program for Fiji (\$4.7 million from the GFCR). A locally managed Technical Assistance Facility will manage a pipeline of reef-positive business models and institute Special Purpose Entities (SPEs) with revenue streams to manage MPAs in Fiji. This work also includes programs to reduce agricultural run-off and improve waste collection to protect coral reefs.

The GFCR includes contributions and engagement from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Government of Germany, BNP Paribas and SYSTEMIQ.

The GFCR joint programme in Fiji was launched in 2021. The blended finance model uses philanthropic and development finance to attract commercial investment, and ultimately to support financially sustainable models of coral reef conservation and sustainable use of reef resources.

The program's goal is to reach \$50 million in investment capital by 2030. Fiji was one of six priority countries chosen, based on recommendations from Conservation Finance Alliance (CFA). The funded activities include support for MPAs and business activities that prioritize reef conservation.

One program example is the Beqa Adventure Divers (BAD), which is being funded to assess the impacts of overfishing and poaching in the Shark Reef Marine Reserve, which has been declared a Marine Protected Area. Their work will also help protect and repopulate marine species in the reserve, and help restore corals and mangroves. Beqa Adventure Divers supports enforcement of the MPA and is a local employer.

The Shark Reef Marine Reserve (SRMR) is a PPP between the Fiji Government and Beqa Adventure Divers (BAD) a private company that specializes in shark conservation, research and ecotourism,

The company intends to build a new Dive and Research Station, that will allow it to better service its customers and to conduct more in-depth data analysis and scientific research. Because the amount needed for this project (~\$500,000), UNCDF will bridge the funding gap by providing a concessional financing package.

Benefits include:

- Increased biodiversity
- Restoration of marine habitat
- Financially viable conservation model

From these case studies, along with expert interviews and additional research, we derive a set of goals for better collaboration in SIDS blue economy. The goals form the necessary enabling environment, each with examples and concrete actions to help move that goal forward.

BUILD BETTER ENGAGEMENT - THE SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIP GOALS

The 10 goals that follow address persistent challenges to effective collaboration between SIDS and the private sector for sustainable development. Each goal includes recommendations for business, government and the SIDS-GBN.

Many of the goals, like their recommended actions, apply beyond the blue economy.

Challenges to Briveto Sector Engagement in Sustainable Ocean

Private Sector: Challenges to Launching Ocean Projects in SIDS	Government: Challenges to Partnering with Private Sector on Ocean Projects in SIDS	Civil Society: Challenges to Partnering with Private Sector on Ocean Projects in SIDS
Securing financing/funding	Securing financing/funding	Securing financing/funding
Contact with appropriate government agencies/officials	Assessing & mitigating risk	Clarity on specific opportunities & needs in a SIDS country
Clarity on specific opportunities & needs in a SIDS country	Contact with viable private sector partners	Clarity on best practices when partnering with private sector
Clarity on best practices when partnering with government, nonprofit, etc.	Clarity on best practices when partnering with business, nonprofit, etc.	Contact with viable private sector partners
Communicating the value of product or service to government or finance institutions	Technical expertise within government	Establishing project goals
Licensing, regulations & guidelines	Procurement, regulations & guidelines	Local capacity building
Assessing & mitigating risk	Local capacity building	Licensing, regulations & guidelines
Local capacity building	Monitoring progress and/or ensuring benchmarks are met	Monitoring progress and/or ensuring benchmarks are met
	Launching Ocean Projects in SIDS Securing financing/funding Contact with appropriate government agencies/officials Clarity on specific opportunities & needs in a SIDS country Clarity on best practices when partnering with government, nonprofit, etc. Communicating the value of product or service to government or finance institutions Licensing, regulations & guidelines Assessing & mitigating risk	Private Sector: Challenges to Launching Ocean Projects in SIDSPartnering with Private Sector on Ocean Projects in SIDSSecuring financing/fundingSecuring financing/fundingContact with appropriate government agencies/officialsSecuring financing/fundingClarity on specific opportunities & needs in a SIDS countryContact with viable private sector partnersClarity on best practices when partnering with government, nonprofit, etc.Clarity on best practices when partnering with business, nonprofit, etc.Communicating the value of product or service to government or finance institutionsTechnical expertise within governmentLicensing, regulations & guidelinesProcurement, regulations & guidelinesAssessing & mitigating riskLocal capacity building

Photo: Asian Development Bank, Marshall Islands, Flickr (Cc By-Nc 2.0)

OSMOFLO

DANGE

CAUS

GOAL 1: FIND THE FUNDING

At the 2019 SIDS-GBN Forum in Oslo, President of Palau Tommy Remengesau Jr. declared partnerships the "key" to sustainable ocean finance. But the declaration came with a warning: "We know that national resources alone will be insufficient to drive the scale of action needed to prepare our countries for climate impacts, but we are still far behind on mobilizing adequate financial flows, and establishing their enabling environments."

In case studies, expert interviews and survey responses, funding ranked as the greatest challenge to private sector engagement in sustainable development. Achieving the SDGs and climate objectives in developing countries costs an estimated \$4 trillion annually, but there's a \$2.5-trillion funding gap in that cost, which worsened during COVID-19.³⁷ This means private sector partners are even more critical to supporting a blue economy in SIDS.

Capital is needed at every stage — from capacity building and policy reform to project funding and insuring blue economy activities. Because many SIDS are unable to access international capital markets due to their high debt levels, lack of creditworthiness or small market size, private business and investment is critical to funding their SDG efforts. Partnerships can help businesses and investors pool resources, open doors to new funding opportunities, reduce risk, and expand programs.

Lessons Learned

Funding Requires Measurable Priorities, Clear Plans & Innovative Financial Tools

At the national level, attracting investment begins with articulating priorities and measurable benchmarks for sustainable development. The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda calls for the development of national strategies for policy, programming and partnerships to achieve clearly stated sustainable development goals.

Seychelles' Blueprint for Blue Economy Investment

Two sustainable fisheries projects in Seychelles — voluntary seasonal fishing zone closures on Praslin and an impact assessment of artisanal fisheries on species of local concern — were supported by the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) Blue Grants Fund. These initiatives, focused on biodiversity and sustainable use of marine resources, match the vision of <u>Seychelles' Blue Economy Roadmap</u> to guide policy and investment in ocean conservation.³⁸ The political will and money that made these projects possible was driven by innovative debt restructuring, strategic planning and blended finance.

1. Restructure Debt

Debt-for-nature swaps offer a creative solution to restructuring SIDS' heavy debt loads, establishing national commitments to environmental conservation and sustainability, and creating

financial flows to fund those efforts. In Seychelles, the government partnered with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), The Nature Conservancy's NatureVest, and SeyCCAT to create the first debt-for-nature swap specifically for ocean conservation in 2015, buying back \$29.6 million of Seychelles' debt at a 5.4 percent discount.³⁹ The repayments were then directed to various blue economy activities, including establishing protected marine parks for climate resilience, fishery management, biodiversity conservation, and ecotourism.⁴⁰

2. Make a Plan for Sustainable Development

A national roadmap for sustainable development helps governments to articulate clear priorities, establish the economic value of natural resources and sustainable development, and set measurable goals. All of this serves to drive policy and budget decisions within a country and to attract development finance from outside. In 2018, the government of Seychelles finalized its Blue Economy Roadmap, establishing a path for investment in sustainable development that was deliberate and results-driven. Such efforts are gaining momentum in the Caribbean, as well. The UN Joint SDG Fund is working with other UN agencies to assist Barbados, Grenada, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines in developing blue economy financing strategies and a framework for SDG investment.

3. Issue a Blue Bond

The Seychelles Roadmap laid the groundwork for the Blue Bonds Plan, describing how funds would be invested. Later in 2018, Seychelles announced the launch of the world's first sovereign Blue Bond, which raised \$15 million from international investors.⁴¹ The bond supports the SeyCCAT Blue Grants Fund, which has issued grants to at least 23 projects to advance sustainable fisheries.⁴²

Best Practices

Private Sector: Size for SIDS

Smaller economies can mean smaller projects, which have been traditionally less attractive for investors who favor a single, large project over several smaller projects with separate transaction costs and requirements. Amrikha Singh, Sustainable Development Program Manager for CARICOM, is familiar with this mismatched thinking when it comes to development finance: "I find often, when I go to these engagements on private sector involvement in the blue economy, people are thinking very big. And they lose sight of the fact that we are small, and our endeavors may be small — but they're viable." Blended finance is changing this picture, and bridge funding models, like the work of <u>UN's Capital Development Fund</u> (UNCDF), can provide right-size funding for projects that can't access private investment or development finance. These smaller grants have the potential to impact locally grown sustainable development initiatives. For instance, SVGCF offers smaller grants that can have a big impact on local sustainability efforts. In 2020, SVGCF provided a ~\$30,000 grant to Serenity Dive, a local dive shop, for an initiative to combine its dive training with a coral reef restoration program. Algas Organics, which began out of a garage in St. Lucia, benefitted from such funding at critical points in its growth. Founder Jonathan Dujon was

able to scale up operations with help from the <u>Global Environment Facility</u> (GEF), which has cumulatively invested more than \$800 million in blended finance projects.⁴³ The GEF grant, though small by investment standards (\$50,000), was pivotal for the company. It funded product research that provided the scientific proof-of-concept Algas needed for further investment opportunities, and allowed operations to move out of the garage and into a factory facility.

Connect to and Support MSMEs

With its relatively small grant, Serenity Dive was able to develop its own coral nursery and reef restoration program, rather than relying on external intervention. This initiative also led dive shop owner Vaughn Martin to found <u>Reef Renewal SVG</u>, an umbrella program for similar projects nationally. For a truly inclusive blue economy, it's important to bridge the funding gap for MSMEs operating in SIDS, many of whom are already engaged in the policies and practices of sustainable development.

"Public private partnerships often take the form of larger investments or larger infrastructure projects. But when we're talking about the MSME private sector, it's so much harder for them to get their foot through the door," explained Nikola Simpson, Head of the Accelerator Lab for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean at UNDP Accelerator Labs. "They're important parts of the private sector, as well." This is where regional and national organizations that are locally active and connected to the business community can be an invaluable resource. Their contextual knowledge and networks can help direct funding to businesses and initiatives operating at a smaller (but arguably more integrated) scale.

Opportunities

Blended Finance

Like Seychelles' Blue Bond, the MPA Co-Management Project developed by Blue Finance relied on blended finance for its initial funding, bringing together donors, private sector investment, and a mix of grants and loans. Once established, the project is designed to be self-sustaining, with management leases relying on revenue models from a mix of user fees and tourism. Blended finance can provide the upfront capital needed to put structures and resources in place — a model that Blue Finance has used as a template for similar MPA co-management structures in other countries.

For untested markets, large-scale development projects that require more upfront capital, and risk-averse private investors, blended finance is an increasingly attractive option. The mix of public, philanthropic, and private funding sources can pool more money while dispersing risk. By some estimates, sustainable development related to SDG 14 has received the least blended finance and impact investment support of all SDGs.^{44,45} But initiatives are on the rise. The Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR), which launched in September 2020, is a prime example of pulling together public and philanthropic funding to catalyze private investment.

Building Pipelines for Investment

Co-financed by the GFCR and the UN Joint SDG Fund, Fiji's joint program for coral reef and blue economy investment brings together \$10 million from philanthropic and development finance to invest in commercially viable coral reef conservation and "reef-positive" livelihoods.⁴⁶ GFCR operates its blended finance almost as a combined incubator and accelerator, providing grants at the incubator stage of a project to fund technical assistance, capacity development, and monitoring efforts, and then investment (managed by Pegasus Capital Advisors) when a project is ready to scale up at the accelerator stage — mobilizing guarantees and concessional loans to de-risk investments. This approach offers a smoother transition from grant fund incubation to investible project, and prioritizes local stakeholders.

Massimiliano Riva, Investment Advisor for the Joint SDG Fund, explained the importance of understanding the investors' perspective when entering untested markets: "If you've never invested in a country like Barbados or Samoa, it's a big deal to invest there. Plus, there are sectors that may not be as well-established to produce revenue streams, and to that you add the lack of transactions. There is definitely risk aversion, but it's justified to some extent." All of the transactions in this program must be commercially viable. According to Mr. Riva, not every good idea for sustainable development is a good commercial investment, and some initiatives should be funded with grants and philanthropy. This need for commercial viability can make it challenging for the Joint SDG Fund program to identify and grow a pipeline of sustainable businesses ready for the investment stage. Fiji's coral reef program aims to meet this challenge and build viable project pipelines at the national level. Similarly, the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund offers an effective model for attracting sustainable funding to national conservation trust funds in the region, channeling support to organizations like the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Conservation Fund (SVGCF).⁴⁷ The need for more incubator-style funding that gets projects ready for broader investment is clear.

Partnerships can Unlock Funding Opportunities

For Algas Organics, funding from GEF was made possible through partnership. Algas partnered with an NGO in order to access funding support from the GEF Small Grants Program. This funding let Algas scale up production and created additional opportunities for finance.

A Multi-Vulnerability Index for Better Access to Development Finance

Many of the struggles to fund truly transformative sustainable development in SIDS come down to a lack of access to development finance. Persistent economic and environmental vulnerabilities, combined with the "Island paradox" of relatively high per-capita incomes that exclude many SIDS from Official Development Assistance (ODA), have helped fuel a decades-long discussion about a suitable Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) for SIDS. If properly implemented, an MVI could guide development financing for disaster risk reduction and solutions to debt service, among other critical economic supports.⁴⁸ In a recent example, researchers and UN SIDS Resident Coordinators collaborated on a 2021 Working Paper with a pilot framework for

tracking SIDS vulnerabilities.⁴⁹ The framework measures the economic, structural development, and environmental vulnerabilities of SIDS, using 18 indicators.⁵⁰ In 2021, the Secretary General's report on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway recommended the development and use of an MVI for SIDS. And that same year, the UN General Assembly requested the President of the General Assembly establish an expert panel to develop an MVI by the end of 2022. This would be crucial to redefining SIDS' eligibility for concessional financing.

First Steps

Government: Partner with Experts

The development of Seychelles' Roadmap required many financial partners, but also deep institutional capacity. The government sought technical assistance from the Commonwealth Secretariat, a voluntary association that provides policy support to members.⁵¹ Similarly, St. Lucia's <u>Country Financing Roadmap for the SDGs</u> involved support from the Sustainable Development Investment Partnership (SDIP) and the World Bank. Organizational partners are critical to filling in capacity gaps for developing plans and policies related to sustainable development.

Private Business: Find the Right Entry Point

Guidance from GEF was key to Algas Organics understanding how to access funding. Financial institutions and funders can be that guide for SIDS MSMEs and startups. An example of this at a slightly larger scale is IDB Lab, the Inter-American Development Bank's innovation laboratory focused on sustainability and inclusive growth, which provided a \$1.5-million loan to Bahamasbased Clean Marine project to establish a waste facility that processes ocean vessel waste. Though some private investors were already onboard, the long-term loan and introductions from IDB gave the project momentum: "We were able to share this opportunity with a fund, the Mirova Sustainable Ocean Fund based out of the UK. After seeing the package that we put together, they committed \$10 million to move it forward," explained Dieter Wittkowski, Consultant and former Lead Investment Officer for IDB Lab. This leveraging process — from the private sector, to semi-public, to Mirova's \$132-million Althelia Sustainable Ocean Fund — brought together a mix of bilateral, multilateral and private investor support. And, as Clean Marine CEO Michael Fitton put it, the IDB had the "the rolodex and the gravitas" to make those introductions. Again, it comes down to making connections. Within SIDS governments, investment promotion agencies can also make these connections between in-country projects and foreign direct investment (FDI). Government agencies like Invest Barbados are always seeking such projects and ideas. "We can actually match the investor from outside with the project lead or idea person from here," said CEO Kaye-Anne Brathwaite. "Instead of you going and knocking on 20 doors, we can point you to those one or two doors that you have to knock on, and make sure that the door is answered."

How SIDS-GBN Can Help

Funding and finance for blue economy development exists. Initiatives large and small are emerging. Networks of public and private investment, multilateral and regional organizations are growing. The question remains: How to connect? Partnerships — between funders and projects, between sustainable development and private finance — are a matter of making connections and communicating where resources can meet needs. Bridging these connections for small island developing States is where the SIDS Global Business Network can have its greatest impact.

- A more systematic approach to connecting impact investors with SIDS and members, including
 - An annual session highlighting funding success stories at every scale, and in every region
 - On-site matchmaking services during events that coordinate side meetings between funding/finance and private sector entities
- Maintain relationships with relevant regional organizations and introduce members to those that best fit their goals/offerings
- Connect members to financial assistance and equity assistance funds, especially for MSMEs that cannot access development finance or handle co-financing requirements
- Virtual capacity building sessions for SIDS on accessing international finance, including examples of successful blue economy investment roadmaps
- Virtual capacity building sessions for members on accessing ocean finance and funding

Ultimately, it will take prioritizing sustainable ocean development, both in policy and in public/private investment, to make these projects possible.

Tools & Resources

- <u>Blue Natural Capital Financing Facility</u> An initiative of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), providing early-stage funding to develop investable projects that conserve and sustainably manage coastal and marine ecosystems. Includes a <u>Blue Natural Capital Positive Impacts Framework</u>.
- The <u>Climate Bonds Initiative</u> Includes sustainable investment criteria for marine energy and water utilities.
- <u>The GEF Small Grants Program</u> Provides grants up to \$50,000 directly to CSOs and community-based organizations for local projects that contribute to the global environment while generating sustainable livelihoods.
- <u>Guidelines for Blue Finance</u> From the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC), offers guidance for financing the blue economy, including selecting projects, management and reporting.
- Ocean Disclosure Project
- <u>Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance</u> (ORRAA) Develops finance products to incentivize private investment in coastal natural capital.

- <u>Poseidon Principles</u> Sets benchmarks for responsible financing for sustainable maritime/shipping sector.
- <u>Principles for Investment in Sustainable Wild-Caught Fisheries</u> Offers investor guidance to advance SDGs in the fisheries sector.
- <u>SDG Investor Platform</u> Online database with information and insights on SDG-aligned investment opportunities, filtered by region, country or sector
- The <u>Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Initiative</u> gathers financial institutions and BE organizations to accelerate the transition to sustainable ocean development and use. It develops guidance for insurers, lenders and investors.
- <u>Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles</u> Part of the UNEP FI's Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Initiative, the first global guiding framework for banks, insurers and investors to finance a sustainable blue economy, promoting SDG 14.
- <u>Sustainable Development Investment Partnership</u> (SDIP) is a global platform of public, private and philanthropic institutions focused on scaling finance for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and bringing more private investment to developing countries.
- <u>SDG impact</u> UNDP initiative to accelerate investment in the SDGs, With in-depth reports on market conditions, investment opportunities, and intelligence on global SDG investment.
- The Criteria Annex in <u>Turning the Tide</u> offers detailed parameters for financial institutions to consider when funding blue economy sectors, based on sustainable practices.
- <u>SIDS DOCK</u> Organization connecting the energy sectors of its member SIDS to finance and technology markets.
- <u>UN's Capital Development Fund</u> (UNCDF) Offers "last mile" finance models that unlock public and private resources, especially at the domestic level, to reduce poverty and support local economic development.

AIS

- African Development Bank Group (AfDB)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Blue Economy Accelerator
- <u>Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Investment Authority</u> (COMESA RIA)
- ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE)
- Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Center (METAC)
- Regional Technical Assistance Center (RTAC) in West Africa

Caribbean

- Blue Action Lab
- Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)
- Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC)
- Invest Caribbean Now

Pacific

- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- <u>Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)</u>
- Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC)
- Pacific Islands Trade and Invest
- Pacific Islands Development Bank (PIDB)

GOAL 2: CHANGE MINDS

Partnerships are an opportunity to combine capacities and leverage resources in ways that aren't possible alone. This is especially important for SIDS, which operate with limited resources and outsized sustainable development challenges. But partnerships require an alignment of priorities. Reaching this alignment gets at a pervasive challenge — shifting institutional cultures and attitudes about the public and private sectors' roles in sustainable development and in collaboration with one another. As Francesco La Camera, then a Director-General in the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea, put it in a 2019 interview with the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA), "We should consider giving serious thought to strategies for overcoming the natural barrier that exists between the private and public discourse."⁵²

Overcoming this barrier requires a shift in thinking about who is responsible for — and who benefits from — sustainable development. Broadly speaking, each sector has its own institutional culture — a shared set of values, beliefs and behavioral norms that define it. That shared culture informs what each sector prioritizes and the ways it chooses to act, or not to act. The private sector must embrace sustainability with as much zeal as government must embrace innovation.

Let's consider what both can do to shift their institutional cultures and align priorities for more effective partnerships.

Lessons Learned

Sustainability Isn't an Add-On Business Opportunity

Achieving the SDGs isn't about a single project or practice — it's a commitment to a new paradigm. In the *Harvard Business Review* study cited above, research found that many companies still engaged in core business activities that contradicted or counteracted their SDG commitments. The study recommended that businesses advance sustainable development directly through the activity of their core business activities, and not as a specialized side project: "Corporate philanthropy and CSR can never deliver the scale of impact that the SDGs require."

Photo: Asian Development Bank, Samoa, Flickr (Cc By-Nc 2.0)

0

Being Innovation-Averse Can Hold Back Solutions

As the gatekeepers of sustainable development in SIDS, it's important for national governments to keep that gate open to viable private sector partners. When scaling up his solution, Algas Organics founder Johanan Dujon found that changing current practices at the national level was challenging. His solution for dealing with sargassum removal in a more sustainable way was a win for the blue economy, but it took time to get government buy-in. "Governments need to stop being innovation-averse," he said. "It should no longer be easier to expand an extractive industry than it is to develop a sustainable one."

There is Room — and Need — for Commercially Viable Solutions

Sustainable development in partnership with business will generally include a commercial benefit. This isn't cause for suspicion or dismissal of new ideas. Private sector innovations can bring efficiencies that government cannot. In its companion guide for the 2030 Partnership Accelerator, the <u>SDG Partnership Guidebook</u>, the Partnering Initiative reminds us that "profit motivation and commercial viability can allow for scalability and hence for hugely increased development impact." The key is to allow commercial interests to co-exist with social and environmental ones.

Best Practices

Private Sector: Work with Regional & Global Organizations to Find the Right Fit

For its Wave2O project, Resolute Marine evaluated several countries as potential commercial launch markets, and decided Cape Verde was a good fit due to its political stability and business-friendly environment. Political will is also a big part of the equation. When looking for the right SIDS partner, seek advice and introductions from organizations like SIDS DOCK (which focuses on renewable energy projects) to understand where there is willingness and capacity for new projects and ideas, which can save time and help ensure an alignment of interests.

Conversely, national and regional business organizations can support a mindshift in private sector priorities and practices. Nicole Leotaud, Executive Director of the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), which also works as an intermediary between stakeholders, suggested that business associations could play a role in more immediate change: "Knowing that policy change will take 5 years, maybe it's a faster pathway to work with business associations to see if they want to do voluntary things or set up initiatives with their members, which could be funded. It's worth exploring."

Government: Make the Business Case for Sustainability

The <u>SDG Partnership Guidebook</u> defines the "sweet spot" for partnerships with the private sector as one "where there is both a clear societal/environmental benefit and a clear business case for engagement." Many of the case studies in this report show obvious economic benefits to sustainable practices. Presenting the right narrative to a private partner about the value of operating more sustainably or supporting sustainable development efforts often involves making a case for its return on investment — framing a project or initiative in terms of projected financial outcomes. "Private sector interest in engaging in environmental management is strong where there is a clear business case (i.e., new business opportunities, increased profits, or protecting their earning potential) as well as environmental or social benefits," explained Ms. Leotaud. While part of this work happens around policy or regulation, in terms of incentive schemes or fines, it is also about making a compelling case for engagement. There is reputational benefit to sustainable development, but it's important to be more systematic and frankly, *loud*, about the financial benefits. Research from Better Business, Better World estimates that achieving the SDGs in just a few economic systems could open up \$12 trillion in business savings and revenue by 2030. The case is there to be made.

Government: Seek & Support Innovation

When it comes to the public sector, it's about cultivating what Nikola Simpson, Head of the Accelerator Lab for Barbados & the Eastern Caribbean at UNDP Accelerator Labs, calls "an innovation mindset," which is a clear partnership gap in sustainable development solutions. "How do we encourage room for learning? And then, how do we connect the people who are willing to take risks?" she said. Established in 2019, the Accelerator Labs support solutions to sustainable development through data-driven testing and knowledge sharing, connecting national partners to successful solutions. Of this work, Ms. Simpson said it's not always about a "big wow," but about big impact. "What we're learning now is that it can be small things that work, and then you test them and scale them," she said.

Johanan Dujon of Algas Organics believes that there's also confusion in government about the difference between a small business and a startup, in that startups are about new, innovative ideas. He thinks the approach to supporting them should be different. It's important for SIDS governments to realize that sustainable development requires novel solutions to emerging or escalating problems. This means innovations in the untested markets of climate mitigation and adaptation. A culture shift in government embraces such innovation. "Anywhere you have limited expenditure or policies to support research and development, you're going to have stagnation," said Mr. Dujon.

Opportunities

Redefine Benefits, Realign Priorities

Part of the private sector culture shift is about redefining value. For their work with the MPA comanagement project in the Dominican Republic, Blue Finance's partner-screening was a central part of the process. It was a matter of finding partners with the right priorities, who would understand that the value of a high-impact project is more about conservation than profit. For the Moana Taka Partnership, there was no real economic benefit to the private sector partner (Swire Shipping), but a synergy of circumstances that allowed the company to make use of an existing resource. For the fisherfolk in Praslin, a seasonal closure can lead to larger and more abundant catches at other times during the year. This more comprehensive view of the long-term value of conserving and protecting natural resources is key to better business practice and priorities.

Partnerships for Culture Shifts

Partnership can sometimes be the catalyst to changing institutional culture. In the WiseOceans Case Study, the partnership led to the creation of a sustainability committee on-site at all partner resorts, to establish sustainability objectives at the property or corporate level. WiseOceans always has a seat at the table in those discussions, and has helped resorts work on incremental changes such as phasing out the use of disposable plastics. "Delivering conservation with a corporate partner can sometimes be challenging where priorities conflict, but often it helps push more innovative thinking on how we deliver our objectives," said WiseOceans Science and Conservation Advisor Georgina Beresford. Find a partner that can help grow that change in mindset from the inside, and be a part of the process.

Policy can Overcome Political Will

National sustainability and conservation initiatives can be great motivators for action. The mandates of the pre-existing MPA in Blue Finance's co-management projects create external pressure that doesn't require political will. The targets for enforcement come from the current policy, and the partnership offers an effective and financially self-sustaining way to enforce them. Building partnerships and solutions around meeting existing national conservation or sustainability targets can be a powerful motivator.

First Steps

Government: Support Innovation Through Policy & Budget Priorities

Dieter Wittkowski, Former Lead Investment Officer with IDB Lab, has seen the contrast between ocean entrepreneurship and government caution in his own work: "The private sector is taking initiative and generating innovation. Government is a different way of operating. It takes time to get it on their plate. And then once they have that, it's finding out what they can do to be supportive of and collaborating with the private sector to make that happen." Modeling an enabling environment for startups is a good way for SIDS governments to set the stage for sustainable innovation. In interviews, entrepreneurs suggested government incentives like tax breaks that encourage the public to invest in innovative companies, or setting aside public funding for national or regional accelerators. Prioritizing funding for innovations in sustainable development can also be part of a national blue economy roadmap (per Goal 1).

Institutional (not Individual) Change

A recent assessment on partnerships in the Maldives indicated that, in many cases, the level of engagement and ownership in a partnership with the private sector is often driven by an individual, and not an institution.⁵³ To make the most of opportunities for private sector collaboration and

innovation, there must be a culture of engagement from the public sector and civil society. Simply put, the will to make this work happen has to exist at the institutional level. One straightforward way to accomplish this is to make sure that knowledge transfer is part of any capacity building. "Personal capacity is built, and rarely institutional capacity," explained June Alleyne, Business Climate Reform Coordinator at Compete Caribbean. "So when you lose that individual, you lose the capacity and you have to start again from scratch. We need to look at building institutional capacity in a more intentional way." This applies both to practical skills and technical knowledge, but also an understanding of and a commitment to what it possible through collaboration. Ms. Alleyne suggested that beyond training and knowledge, it's about systems and behaviors. Individual enthusiasm must be infectious, fostering mechanisms and mentalities that support private sector collaboration.

Private Sector: Prioritize Support for Sustainable Development Goals

Start simply — let the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs be your guide. Decide what specific targets to prioritize at the organizational level. Honestly assess negative impacts to SDGs up and down the value chain, and how practices and policies can improve. As previously recommended, it's about making those core business activities reflect sustainable priorities. But it begins with thinking about what to focus on, and how to support that work. In the long term, communicate and practice the change internally to shift institutional culture, and also externally, to show a path forward for others. The more successful business models that center sustainability, the more mainstream those ideas will become. The guidance in <u>Better Business, Better World</u> is a good place to start, with step-by-step action items at the organizational and leadership level

How SIDS-GBN Can Help

- Frame communications/meeting agendas/reports based on different stakeholder drives:
 - Public sector (e.g., government and IGOs) How a partnership/project advances the SDGs and supports the resource/capacity needs of SIDS; what social/economic benefit it can provide?
 - Private sector (business and finance) How does sustainable development impact operations/profitability over the short and long term; what are the financial/operational benefits to partnerships (including those that may not be immediately obvious); how could local partnerships and sustainable practices improve the ease of doing business in SIDS? Think in terms of ROI (financial and otherwise) to help private sector value participation.
 - Civil society (e.g., NGOs, academic, community stakeholders) What is the social/economic/environmental benefit of private sector engagement for the community; what resource(s) does the private sector bring that are otherwise unavailable?
- Using reports and information already available, develop a membership proposal packet that makes a compelling business case for sustainable develop and explains first steps for aligning business practices with the SDGs. Include a one-page executive summary, focused on numbers and successes, that acts as a pitch.

- Engage with national/regional business and trade organizations to encourage membership
- "Ask-Me-Anything" Sessions Gather private sector, government, and key civil society stakeholders (including research/academia, NGOs, etc.) in smaller virtual groups. No presentations or talking points — attendees come prepared with questions to ask, and to answer questions that are asked of them. The session would be recorded and a few highlights summarized in a document shared via social media and emailed to members.
- Capacity-Building "Pitch" Sessions Invite private sector innovators in both solutions and finance to explain the value of their offering to government and regional organizations. It may lead to partnership opportunities, but it will definitely help build capacity for SIDS governments to understand emerging technology/innovations/financial tools related to sustainable development in a more hands-on way, and help create champions for new ideas within SIDS governments.

Tools & Resources

- <u>AOSIS</u> Intergovernmental organization advocating for SIDS and international environmental policy.
- <u>Better Business</u>, <u>Better World</u> Practical guide for aligning business practices with the SDGs.
- <u>Natural Capital Protocol</u> A decision-making framework for organizations to identify and value their impacts and dependencies on natural capital, and integrate that into decisionmaking.
- <u>Promoting Effective Partnering (PEP)</u> offers a useful FAQ-style list for anyone who is new to partnering for sustainable development. It also offers primers on a range of partnership must-haves, like <u>developing strategic alignment between stakeholders</u> and <u>effective</u> <u>partnership management</u>.
- <u>SDG Compass</u> Guide to align company strategies with the SDGs and measure efforts to contribute. Developed by the GRI, the UN Global Compact and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).
- <u>The Partnering Initiative (TPI)</u> is an organization dedicated to multi-stakeholder partnerships around sustainable development, and offers tools, guides and training on all aspects of partnering for the public sector, private sector, and civil society.
- <u>UN Global Compact Network</u> An initiative to drive CEO commitments for sustainability. According to the organization, more than 80% of its 9,500 corporate members have committed to advancing one or more of the SDGs.



Photo: Asian Development Bank, Solomon Islands, Flickr (Cc By-Nc 2.0)

GOAL 3: BUILD THE FRAMEWORK

Sensible policy frameworks and streamlined processes allow the private sector to operate in SIDS, and well-developed agreements allow them to engage effectively with SIDS governments and other partners. These are the building blocks for collaboration with the private sector on sustainable development. This also requires measurable SDG targets that ensure a project is prioritizing environmental and social benefits along with economic ones, and clear mechanisms for enforcing those targets. With this framework, SIDS can develop authentic partnerships for sustainable development with the private sector.

This can be a challenge for SIDS with limited human resources, bureaucratic processes, and inadequate or outdated policies. The key, then, is to build those capacities and improve the policy and contract frameworks to create more agile and effective engagement with the private sector. This can also be accomplished with the help of expert partners.

Lessons Learned

The Private Sector Needs Clear Rules of Engagement at the National Levels

The right enabling environment starts with clear rules of engagement for the private sector. Launched in 2007, the <u>Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative</u> (PSDI) works to create a better business enabling environment for Pacific SIDS. Terry Reid, an international business law expert under PSDI, emphasized that any law reform process must start with a fundamental understanding of the context where policies will operate. PSDI has taken a deliberate approach to understanding their partner countries, so that the laws they develop fit the context. "What we try to do is step back and say, 'What do we need in this particular environment in terms of rules to get the country where it wants to get to?'" That often is less about creating new layers of laws and more about simplifying and strengthening what is there, to create clarity and remove administrative discretion from the process. "People will follow process and rules if they think that they're actually sensible. If there is process for process' sake, or rules for rules' sake, people won't respect the rules and are more likely to avoid them."

Bureaucracy can Hinder Engagement

Government bottlenecks can be common in SIDS, due to limited coordination between agencies or the constraint of smaller staffs. PSDI helps Pacific SIDS governments to streamline their bureaucracy and bring business processes online, making it easier and more transparent for the private sector to open and operate there. In some cases, Heads of state were required to sign off on any business launched in the country, for example. With those processes modernized and simplified, it is much easier for the private sector to navigate.

Best Practices

Government: Set Rules of Engagement & Get Agreement

For the voluntary fishing zone closures funded through SEYCCAT, the District Council and members of the National Assembly joined an initial workshop to learn more about the project and to agree on a set of rules. These were included in a charter that participating fisherfolk signed. Although this was considered a "symbolic gesture," it set out clear intentions for fisherfolk to abide by.⁵⁴ For the 5C's LiDAR project, the Centre developed an intellectual property policy and code of practice to manage expectations around the LiDAR data being collected for participating countries. Signing the agreement establishes each partner's roles and responsibilities.

Build Better Contracts

Blue Finance partnered with government, NGOs, investors, and entrepreneurs on a comanagement framework to effectively manage the MPA for Marine Sanctuary Arrecifes del Sureste. It consisted of a 50-page agreement with very clear guidelines for each partner's responsibilities, meeting frequency, reporting parameters, and so on. This clarity has been critical to the success of the partnership, and set a blueprint for MPA co-management that has since been replicated in other countries, including Belize.

Build for Accountability, Transparency & Flexibility

The SMART criteria are a solid measure of alignment for partnership, and a good guide for building accountability into an agreement. In the scoping and building phase of partnership management, it's important to build the right governance structure. This is where a successful partnership is built, starting with a foundation of shared goals and measurable benchmarks, laying out roles and responsibilities, and holding it all together with a clear process for monitoring and assessing progress. This is where a partnership can set sustainable development targets that are measurable and evidence-based.¹ Given the challenges of SIDS and the immensity of the tasks, it's also important to be realistic about targets and capacities, and to allow room for flexibility. For the 5C's LiDAR project, Executive Director Dr. Colin Young noted the value of finding private sector partners who were willing to be flexible and to learn as the project progressed. The <u>Small</u> <u>Islands, Genuine Partnerships</u> Annex recommends "robust contingency protocols for exceptional circumstances and events (natural or otherwise)," and accepting that not everything about the partnership may go according to plan.⁵⁵ This goes back to the innovation mindset — allowing some space to learn what works and what doesn't.

Government: Integrate Mechanisms for Enforcement

Meeting the ambitions of the SDGs requires measurable benchmarks based on the targets of each goal.¹⁸ But without enforcement, any goals laid out in an agreement are just aspirational. A contract should include mechanisms to ensure partnership targets are measured and met. This is not only about gauging the effectiveness of the initiative, but about strengthening trust in the partnership. Building accountability into contracts is a small but significant way to push that shift

in institutional culture — to demonstrate the legitimacy of partnerships with the private sector. In the case of the MPA co-management agreement, enforcement of the MPA's protections is built into the contracts and funding of the partnerships. There is an enforcement delegation and most of the rangers are deputized as environment officers, giving them a police function to enforce protection laws and regulations. The agreements also provide funding and equipment for enforcement activity. This enforcement helps ensure accountability in the partnership.

Opportunities

Government: Replicate What Works

Many SIDS have some mechanisms in place for multi-stakeholder projects, such as simple MOUs and other partnering agreements. It's also useful to learn from the governance structures of neighbors. SIDS are increasingly finding opportunities to share knowledge and template successful policy frameworks. For instance, when the Bahamas partnered with the Clean Marine project for managing ocean vessel waste, it needed a more robust MARIPOL (marine pollution) framework in order to implement the project. The government worked with IDB Lab to develop a stronger and more detailed MARIPOL framework. The next step of this process will be to bring together a regional body of policymakers who can learn how to replicate the new framework in their own countries and make it a regional effort. Regional organizations such as the <u>Organization of Eastern Caribbean States</u> (OECS) and initiatives like the <u>Commonwealth Blue Charter</u> are also good at templating effective policies for their members.

Enabling Environments can be Digital

Technology can provide support when there is limited government capacity. Mr. Reid explained the value of a single online platform that helps businesses engage: "It's easy to build in transparency with technology. The more you have online and available to people, the better off you are." With improved policy and less bureaucracy, PSDI then builds access into the enabling environment, through an online platform that lets businesses navigate processes and regulations more easily. "With any reform, the simpler you make it, the easier it is to support it with technology, then the greater the compliance, and therefore sustainability," he said.

First Steps

Government: Bring in Expertise to Develop & Deliver Sound Policy

The Pacific PSDI has the legal and technical expertise to deliver policy frameworks for SIDS, and works with them in a collaborative process that combines each SIDS' individual needs with the PSDI team's law and policy knowledge. This capacity building and policy development ultimately creates an enabling environment for business and also for governments, providing clear legislative and regulatory paths for better engagement with private sector partners.

Coordinate Regionally

Like the OECS Green-Blue Economy Strategy and Action Plan or the Commonwealth Blue Charter, there are regional and interregional efforts to develop sound policy and economic strategies for the ocean economies of SIDS. This work embodies the benefits of partnership — combining resources, knowledge and experiences to develop frameworks that work in many SIDS contexts. "Once you're operating in a blue space, you're looking at multiple stakeholders and multiple disciplines involved. So you need coordination, at least at the government level," said Amrikha Singh, Sustainable Development Program Manager for CARICOM. She suggested the establishment of National Coordinating Committees (NIC) for ocean governance, which already operate in OECS countries.

How SIDS-GBN Can Help

- What Works Report Annual report with in-depth case studies of projects or partnerships that can be scaled to other SIDS, and how
- "How It's Built" Policy Sessions Virtual session focused on examples of government policy reform in each region that has helped create a better business-enabling environment (e.g., Pacific PSDI). Attendees (including SIDS government and the private sector) would learn how these legal frameworks were executed and what they achieved. Ensure the organizations/representatives responsible for creating the frameworks are present to answer questions or to expand their efforts.
- "How It's Built" Partnership Sessions Virtual sessions focused on examples of successful partnerships, based on well-structured contracts (e.g., Blue Finance) or right-sized agreements, involving different combinations of stakeholders and private sector entities of all sizes. Explores how the different agreements functioned.
- "How It's Built" National Plan Sessions Highlight SIDS roadmaps related to the blue economy and sustainable development, (e.g., <u>Seychelles Blue Economy Roadmap</u> and <u>St. Lucia's Country Financing Roadmap for the SDGs</u>), including partners who assisted in developing the documents, their key requirements, budget/investment outcomes, and measurable SDG targets.
- "Step 1" Sessions This annual session should be region-specific, focusing on what government needs to do first to create a better enabling environment for the private sector to engage in sustainable development. This could include: 1. Low-hanging fruit, in terms of simplest policy reforms, or 2. The major first step a SIDS government needs to take to create a better enabling environment. Include members who can speak directly to SIDS governments about their needs and experiences, as well as panelists who've successfully done policy/regulation reform work in SIDS. Each SIDS government attendee should come away with a first-step action item to improve their country's enabling environment.

Tools to Use

• <u>2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator</u> is an online platform to help build effective partnerships, particularly at the national level, that advance the SDGs. It includes a

learning library, training tools, and support for developing policy, strategy, processes, and agreements related to partnerships.

- <u>The Commonwealth</u> An intergovernmental organization that represents several SIDS and assists with capacity and policy issues
- <u>The SIDS Partnership Toolbox</u> builds on consultations made through a series of partnership dialogues for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) that were held in 2018 in support of the SAMOA Pathway High-level Review, made possible through generous funding provided by the government of Italy. It includes a set of policy tools for enhancing capacity around the design of partnerships for SIDS, and for assisting stakeholders in monitoring and review of partnerships.
- <u>The SDG Partnership Guidebook</u> from The Partnering Initiative is a comprehensive and digestible resource on partnering for business, government, and civil society. This offers detailed guidance on the processes and practices for SDG partnerships.
- <u>Designing a Multi-stakeholder Results Framework</u> is an all-in-one resource from the World Bank for building effective, results-based multi-stakeholder partnerships.
- <u>Partnering Agreement Checklist</u> breaks down the questions to ask and elements to include in an effective partnership agreement.
- <u>SIDS Lighthouses</u> An initiative of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), geared toward sustainable energy and energy resilience in SIDS
- The UN and the Private Sector: A Framework for Collaboration
- UN Office for Partnerships (UNOP)

AIS

- <u>Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL)</u>
- <u>ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE)</u> Focused on sustainable energy development in West Africa. ECREEE supports policy development.

Caribbean

Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

Pacific

- Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP)
- Pacific Islands Development Programme (PIDP)

GOAL 4: CONNECT

Partnerships start by making connections — between companies and governments, between regional organizations and solution providers, between people. In interviews and survey responses, finding potential partners was a universal challenge to moving a project forward. Those connections, often made by chance, are what bring together the right private sector partners and the right organizations, investors and government agencies.

It's helpful to have a guide to navigate governments and make introductions. But due to their size, many SIDS operate with limited governments and small departments that may not have the capacity to develop these kinds of relationships.⁵⁵ Making these connections is vitally important — it's the difference between a successful collaboration and a dead end.

"A lot of businesses will say, 'I've got this wonderful private sector solution, but I don't know where to apply it," said Gail Hurley, Director of Advisory for Finance Earth and a former policy specialist in development finance for UNDP. "There needs to be far more conversations had with the development community in countries — those with a local presence who understand the local conditions."

Lessons Learned

Good Things Happen When Problem Owners & Solutions Providers Meet

The Moana Taka Partnership came about entirely by chance. Simon Bennett, Swire Pacific's General Manager of Sustainable Development, attended the third session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-3) in 2017 because he was the only representative from the Singapore Environment Council with a valid yellow fever inoculation. It was the first year the UN had invited business representatives to attend, gathering for discussion with governments and other organizations a day before the conference. Mr. Bennett happened to be in the right room to hear the right discussion with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) about waste pollution, and he had a ready solution in empty shipping containers that passed between islands.

Not Everyone Has the Agency to Get Access

Algas Organics Founder Johanan Dujon understood his own luck in connecting with the IDB and Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP), which provided critical financing support. "I had to be in the right circles to even know they existed," he said. It's important that organizations find ways to reach out to entrepreneurs and solution providers, who are not always aware of what avenues may be open to partnership.

Best Practices

Don't Leave Synergies to Chance

A more deliberate, inclusive approach to inviting business to the table makes for more efficient problem-solving. Creating consistent opportunities to make these connections leaves less room for narrow misses. This was the case for Serenity Dive, when a chat about reef restoration efforts during a dive expo led to a program combining coral restoration and dive education. The key is to create opportunities for engagement between all stakeholders, online and in-person. Rather than waiting for a solution in need of a problem to solve, regional organizations and IGOs should focus efforts on bringing in business and investment, articulating critical issues for a given region, and then finding ways to plug the right resources into those problems.

Use the Friends & Family Approach

The Commonwealth, an intergovernmental organization that represents 54 countries, including 16 SIDS, supports members through initiatives such as the <u>Blue Charter Action Groups</u>, which focus on solving ocean-related problems and achieving the targets of SDG 14. The action groups create opportunities for interaction between SIDS governments and the private sector, based on what Dr. Nick Hardman-Mountford, Head of Oceans & Natural Resources for The Commonwealth, calls a "Friends and Family" approach: The member SIDS governments (the family) are introduced to private sector entities that The Commonwealth believes are potentially viable partners (the friends). "Governments often don't know where to start, and when people who do have a solution come to them, they don't understand how to go about knowing whether they can trust them or not," he explained. "When working through partnerships, we'll typically try to bring a funder together with a delivery partner and the countries, to try and match up the offering, the needs, and the finance." This matchmaking works because The Commonwealth is in touch with private sector actors and attuned to the needs and priorities of its member countries.

Opportunities

Amplify Existing Hubs & Platforms

There is a tendency to build more initiatives and more hubs, independent of efforts already underway. Perhaps another mindset that needs to shift is the impulse to build competing efforts, rather than collaborating on what is out there. Instead of adding more layers of complexity, there is value in joining forces with other organizations and initiatives that are up and running, but need more exposure and more resources. Whenever possible, focus on enlarging existing networks, rather than creating more pathways of connection that run parallel but don't merge.

First Steps

Private Sector: Connect Through Regional & Interregional Organizations

Private sector actors looking to partner should take this sensible piece of advice from the <u>Small</u> <u>Islands, Genuine Partnerships</u> Annex: "Local SIDS partners may not have the means, motivation, or opportunity to engage in international partnership efforts. Connecting with inter-SIDS coordinating bodies can provide these insights." Organizations working at the national, regional or global level can often bridge the gap between government and the private sector, bringing together technical expertise, necessary agencies, and an understanding of a country's specific political and project landscape. They can also act as project champions, advocating to potential partners. For the MPA Co-Management project, Blue Finance has often benefited from working with UNDP local offices to make first contact. But for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) or entrepreneurs whose work may not rise to the level of a UN-accredited project, a local or regional organization can make those important introductions.

How SIDS-GBN Can Help

- Think like an accelerator Provide ACCESS for members and investors ready to participate in SIDS sustainable development — access to each other and to the government agencies, UN agencies/initiatives, and regional organizations that can help them establish partnerships and projects in SIDS.
- Rather than creating more layers of complexity, leverage the considerable resources/platforms that already exist within the UN. SIDS-GBN can bring together and actively offer UN resources that can be of specific use to members. Acting as a connector of tools and initiatives, rather than a creator of them, will allow for more synergy with less duplication and administrative lift. Find ways to elevate the work already being done and incorporate it regularly into SIDS-GBN activities and member relations.
- Representatives from these different initiatives should be present at GBN fora and online sessions; they should be connected to SIDS-GBN members, based on member needs/interests. While links and explanations on the website are informative, these agencies and platforms are tools that are more likely to be used if they're presented in dynamic ways through active discussions and targeted communications. Find opportunities to work with these agencies more and channel members into their initiatives. Plug directly into existing efforts, and show your members which tools they can use and how.
- In discussions and events, ensure all levels of business are represented at the table: multinational corporations willing to leverage their resources, entrepreneurs with novel approaches to big problems, MSMEs with local knowledge and vested interest in local ecosystems. No member gathering should be homogenous. Communication across business sizes and capacities leads to more insights and more complementary collaboration.

- Cross-promotional memberships between WOC and SIDS-GBN, in which WOC members operating in or interested in SIDS sustainable ocean development are channeled to SIDS-GBN via WOC member relations.
- Matchmaking During the SIDS-GBN Forum, offer a few matchmaking services (contracted separately):
 - Connect members to individuals/organizations (from the UN, regional organizations, existing private sector operators) who can help them develop a relationship in a particular SIDS
 - Connect members to potential funding/finance partners
 - Incentivize updates to the SIDS partnership platform through prioritized matchmaking sessions for updated partnerships
- "All-Inclusive UN Resources" Sessions Members-only sessions that introduce them to available resources within the UN system, what they do and how to access them. Panels would be made up of representatives from the various programs and platforms.
- "Problem-Solution" Sessions Governments and conservation-related agencies speak to sustainable development needs/issues at the national level, and business and investment representatives discuss solutions. Prepare ahead of time with a brief survey for governments, asking what issues they would like to present, and then put out a call inviting members to discuss solutions/ideas related to those identified issues at the session.
- Host MSME sessions at the national level to connect business to NGOs and organizations like UNDP, GEF, Green Climate Fund, etc.

Tools to Use

- <u>Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)</u> Assists islands in collaborative solutions for sustainable use of natural resources.
- <u>Local2030 Islands Network</u> Island network focused on advancing SDGs through collaboration and information-sharing.
- <u>UN Development Business</u> A platform that includes procurement information and connects consultants, contractors and suppliers to development projects worldwide.
- <u>UN Office for Partnerships (UNOP)</u> is a partnering platform that brings together the private sector, civil society, and the United Nations to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. The UNOP organizes partnership events and initiatives between the UN and members of the private sector and civil society.
- <u>UNDESA 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator</u> A collaborative initiative by UNDESA, UNOSD and UNOP to accelerate effective partnerships across all stakeholders to implement the SDGs.
- <u>UN Office for South-South Cooperation</u> Coordinates and supports South-South cooperation (between developing countries) and triangular cooperation (between multiple developing countries with support from a developed country or multilateral organization) both globally and within the UN system.
- <u>UNEP Private Sector Engagement Partnerships Platform</u> Engages business and industry to find opportunities for collaboration on sustainable development.

AIS

- Indian Ocean Rim Association
- Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)
- Southern African Development Community (SADC)
- Union of Chambers of Commerce & Industry of the Indian Ocean (UCCIOI)

Caribbean

- <u>Association of Caribbean States (ACS)</u>
- <u>Caribbean Association of Electric Utilities Corporation (CARILEC)</u>
- <u>Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC)</u>
- Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD)
- Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
- Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5C's)
- Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)
- Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO)
- <u>Compete Caribbean</u>
- Eastern Caribbean-Southeast Asia Economic and Cultural Chamber
- UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP)

Pacific

- Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE)
- Pacific Cooperation Foundation
- Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (PIANGO)
- Pacific Islands Development Forum
- Pacific Islands Development Programme (PIDP)
- Pacific Islands Forum
- Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization (PIPSO)
- Pacific Tourism Organisation (PTO)
- Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
- South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

GOAL 5: COMMUNICATE

Connecting to partners starts with effectively communicating problems and solutions; and once a partnership is established, communication helps maintain trust and accountability. But this element is often overlooked or its importance is underestimated. It helps get buy-in from the public; it's how needs get met and successes are shared; it can make a compelling case for funding; it's how policymakers learn from one another.

Good communication often comes down to human resources. Government agencies, small organizations and MSMEs have limited bandwidth and many priorities. Doing the work takes precedence over talking about it. But the act of communicating is part of the work of partnering. It ensures that a project moves forward and all partners remain accountable for progress, or can pivot when needed.

Lessons Learned

Communication Can Inspire Behavior Change

For partners working on the Palau Pledge campaign, the power of communication was the whole point. Host/Havas, the marketing agency that developed the campaign pro-bono, built the message to create a sense of partnership with visitors, inviting them to be environmental stewards of Palau. As project leader Seamus Higgins explained, "Our starting point was that we need to change people's behavior. To do that, we had to make a genuine human connection with them. We had to make sure that whatever we did, every single tourist would be forced to make that connection."⁵⁶ Since its launch, the Palau Pledge has been signed by more than a half-million people, and has expanded to commitments from local business and education programs. This same principle can be applied to helping communities understand the benefit of a new initiative, or to convincing potential SIDS partners of the value of a sustainable development solution.

Visibility Boosts Credibility

Sharing project processes and results can demonstrate value. In order to make partnering with the private sector feel less risky and more viable, it is important to share successes and to continue communicating benchmarks beyond the launch of a project. Once a partnership is complete, make clear and available any targets met and lessons learned. This information is important and often difficult to find. Communicating outcomes is an effective way to invite new connections and potential partners.

Best Practices

Designate Communicators

When assigning roles and responsibilities in a partnership, make sure there is someone who is responsible for communicating successes and benchmarks both to the partners and to the public. For the voluntary fishing zone closure in Seychelles, a member of the Project Management Committee, who is also the administrative assistant for the Praslin Fishers Association (a partner in the project), acts as the committee's secretary, keeping notes on all issues discussed, decisions made and actions taken.

Share, Everywhere

Most of the case studies included in this report have done a good job of sharing information about their projects and related partnerships. Their story is told through local news, related organizations and funders, their own websites, or in other reports. Amplifying that story is powerful. Real-world examples of what's possible are more compelling than a good idea that hasn't been executed. The story can be simple — just an explanation of how a partnership came together and what it has accomplished. Aside from credibility, repeating that story can inspire the culture shift needed to encourage more collaboration for sustainable development.

Opportunities

Marketing Campaigns for Data

At a Science-Policy Interface Roundtable sponsored by the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) in 2021, attendees suggested that research not be relegated only to peer-reviewed science journals, but also provided as "shorter and less technical materials such as policy briefs and infographics."⁵⁷ The goal is to, in a sense, effectively market scientific data so that it is digestible and can reach the eyes of entrepreneurs, policymakers, and other stakeholders who can turn it into solutions. Former SeyCCAT CEO Angelique Pouponneau suggested that SeyCCAT could collaborate with the <u>University of Seychelles' Blue Economy Research Institute</u> to develop these readable and readily available summaries (Ibid).

Find Low-Effort Opportunities to Share Updates

For public-facing communications, focus on what information will have maximum impact. Communication doesn't always require a formal press release. The process could be as simple as creating a publicly digestible version of email updates for partners. Designate where and with whom updates will be shared, and consistently provide them. The partner tasked with communications can template a process that repurposes internal updates for public sharing.

First Steps

Government: Talk to (and Learn From) Other SIDS

Create opportunities for conversation. Make information sharing standard practice at the regional and interregional levels. This kind of communication is critical to capacity building, and to

expanding solutions and partnerships that can work elsewhere. Often, one conversation can convey an incredible amount of expertise that comes from experience. "Communities of practice are really important — engaging in groups that allow you to share experiences with other countries that are in similar situations, and to understand together what the landscape looks like. It's a great starting point for understanding what is out there and how it can help you," explained Dr. Nick Hardman-Mountford, whose work with The Commonwealth includes extensive information sharing and conversation among member countries.

Build Communications Strategies and Commitments into Partnership

Communication is an important way to build accountability into a partnership — between the partners and with the public. Make sure to set basic requirements in the contracting phase of a partnership for what must be shared, when and by whom. Make the timeline for communications coincide with other deliverables, and be realistic about how much time and effort can and should go into communicating.

How SIDS-GBN Can Help

- Position SIDS-GBN as a bridge between the private sector, the UN system, and SIDS governments. Help make relevant information from both sectors accessible and digestible to the business and investment community.
- Systematize updates/information sharing between SIDS-GBN and other relevant UN agencies/offices, including outcome documents from major events and reports. Send email updates related to this activity to members. This can be as simple as a weekly/monthly digest of relevant updates from all related agencies.
- Offer an online members-only space for members to post updates and requests.
- Be clear about what SIDS-GBN does, who it is for, and how members can participate. Make sure that the website and other communication is clear about what membership in SIDS-GBN does/means, and base this language in action and outcomes.
- Develop a brief survey for the member confirmation process. Use this process as an opportunity to collect information from each member about what they want most from SIDS-GBN, what obstacle(s) they've experienced to partnering in SIDS, and one key question they have related to sustainable development. That information can help guide SIDS-GBN programming.
- Have members submit their projects/partnerships for the SIDS-GBN Forum, and choose a few to highlight with a small exhibit space and a "how they did it" panel session dedicated to discussing the formation of related partnerships and the success of the project. This incentivizes member-generated content on partnership success and can be used in the annual What Works Report.
- Annual Orientation Sessions A virtual introduction session for new members to learn about their concerns/contributions, how SIDS-GBN can help, and to introduce them to other members.

Tools to Use

- <u>The SIDS Action Platform</u> An online database of voluntarily registered SIDS partnerships, with project details, goals, and other information. This is a good place to see who's doing what and where.
- <u>Local2030 Islands Network</u> Island network focused on advancing SDGs through collaboration and information-sharing.
- <u>SDG Knowledge Hub</u> Online source for news and commentary related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.
- <u>UN Development Business</u> A platform that includes procurement information.

GOAL 6: GET MARKET INTELLIGENCE

We've established the importance of communication for transparency in projects and accountability in partnerships. But before a partnership is initiated, potential private sector partners need a clear picture of the market in SIDS. This is one of the most important forms of communication for attracting partners and understanding where there is a good fit. Unfortunately, in many case studies, a lack of market information or organized resources for detailed information (e.g., electricity use) is difficult to find.

Lessons Learned

Country Data can Help Determines Fit for Partnership

For the MPA Co-Management Partnerships, Blue Finance leveraged country data such as conservation track records and existing co-management agreements, to understand whether a country would be a good fit for the initiative. This kind of information helps select for partners whose institutional values and capacities align with a given project. It is also a good gauge for willingness to engage on a particular initiative. In interviews, some respondents wished that information on sustainable development projects in SIDS was less dispersed. For many, that kind of intelligence is still gathered through conversation. Getting a clear of market data was critical in deciding.

Best Practices

Government: Share Project Information for Efficient Planning

When SIDS governments communicate their country's development projects both internally and externally, it allows agencies to better coordinate and shows potential private sector partners market opportunities and solution fits. The Deep Ocean Water Application (DOWA) project developed by Urban Cooling Ltd. was impacted by another project in Mauritius. Plans for the Metro Express required some redesign of the DOWA project, due to conflicts between the pipeline routes and railway lines. Private sector partners — and government agencies — benefit from

coordination between large development projects to understand potential issues. For interested international partners, information on existing projects can provide an opportunity to combine efforts or scale-up and support existing initiatives.⁵⁵

Opportunities

Market Data is a "Welcome" Sign

As with many solutions providers coming from outside SIDS, the Wave2O project needed country data to determine where it would be viable. This included water cost and availability, the use of diesel-driven desalination systems, and other factors. With this clear picture, a business can understand the needs of a country and the measurable parameters of the economic, social and environmental benefits they could provide. Making sure this information is available helps SIDS attract the right partners.

How SIDS-GBN Can Help

- "Open Market" Sessions Highlight specific countries or a region, looking at the practical needs and opportunities there. Bring in gateway government agencies for private sector engagement in sustainable development (e.g., Ministry of Finance, Economic Development Agency, etc.) to explain where there is opportunity, political interest, and funding opportunity for a partnership/project.
- "Act Locally" Sessions Bring in UN agencies and community leaders already operating in a given SIDS to help the private sector understand local context, needs, capacity gaps, or opportunities for leveraging existing capacity.

Tools to Use

- <u>SDG Investor Platform</u> Launched by the GISD Alliance to provide private sector investors with access to country level market intelligence, including on-the-ground insights on the local investment landscape, investment opportunities and investor connections"
- <u>SIDS Action Platform</u> is an online database of voluntarily registered SIDS partnerships, with project details, goals, and other information. This is a good place to see who's doing what and where.
- <u>UN Comtrade</u> Provides trade information from more than 200 reporting countries/areas for policy makers, the business community, research institutions, etc. Includes standardized official annual trade statistics and international merchandise flows by commodity.
- <u>UN Development Business</u> A platform that includes procurement information and connects consultants, contractors and suppliers to development projects worldwide.
- <u>UN Global Marketplace (UNGM)</u> Online hub connecting companies and individuals with UN procurement staff for business opportunities. The website also includes tender alerts and contract awards.

Photo: Mark Yokohama, The Bahamas, Flickr (Cc By-Nc 2.0)

GOAL 7: ASSESS & MITIGATE RISK

Reluctance from private business and investment to take on sustainable development in SIDS comes down to risk. Understanding exactly what those risks are, and how to effectively manage them, is key to attracting more private sector engagement in SIDS.

The risk categories laid out in guidance published by the United Nations Environment Program, <u>Turning the Tide</u>, generally apply to SIDS. The SIDS-specific risks include impacts from climate change, operational risks such as geographic isolation and dependence on external resources, market risks like high debt loads, economic volatility and economic homogeneity, and regulatory risks that include challenging bureaucratic frameworks and limited resources. But, as mentioned in *Turning the Tide*, "business as usual" represents its own risks, which are far more detrimental on balance.

Lessons Learned

Solid Data Mitigates Some Perceived Risk

Reliable market data helps investors and solution providers understand market opportunities and find the balance between risk and return. It also helps policymakers prioritize action and understand what partnerships will be most beneficial to pursue. CORVI, or the Climate and Ocean Risk Vulnerability Index, uses more than 3,000 data points to measure economic, financial and political risks related to climate change.⁵⁸ As a decision-making tool, it brings some level of certainty to actions and investments.

Best Practices

Develop Robust Partner Criteria to Ensure a Partnership's Viability

For its MPA Co-Management Partnerships, Blue Finance has fine-tuned the partner search over time, with dozens of screening recommendations (e.g., conservation track record, governance capacities, financial approach, etc.) to find qualified partners, which are then endorsed by the operating government. This process helps to ensure the commitment and capability of each partner, thereby mitigating some risk.

Create an Enabling Environment for Innovation

Sustainable development is about innovation, which often involves the risk of untested markets and technologies. How can SIDS make investment in ocean innovation more appealing? Dieter Wittkowski, a consultant and former Lead Investment Officer for IDB Lab, agrees that private investors need to adjust their risk tolerance. In addition, he recommended finding ways to reduce that risk through blended finance or first-loss products to attract reluctant investors: "That may be something the government could take a role in and say, 'For investments in our countries, we

would be willing to look at first-loss, or helping to protect investors that want to do something in our country."

Opportunities

Simultaneous Solutions to Multiple Vulnerabilities

Dealing with the range of structural challenges and external risks that have made sustainable development so challenging in SIDS requires a comprehensive approach. For example, the Open Society for the Finance for Acting on Climate in the Eastern Caribbean (FACE) project brings together the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), the Open Society Foundations and OECS to pilot a debt-for-climate swap in Antigua and Barbuda. Caribbean islands regularly suffer loss and damages in excess of 5% of GDP due to natural disasters, leading to an endless cycle of debt as they try to recover from compounding destruction. Intended to address the impacts of climate change and COVID-19, the debt-for-climate swap will negotiate \$245 million of the country's debt, reducing the overall debt load, forming commitments to climate resilience, and directing funding into such efforts.⁵⁹ The project, which will also advance efforts to establish an MVI for SIDS, addresses many vulnerability indicators, including high levels of debt, heightened exposure to market volatilities due to limited economic bases and import-reliant economies, and environmental vulnerabilities (e.g., sea-level rise and natural disasters) exacerbated by climate change.

Pilot Programs to Assess Risk & Show Success

A technology or project made to launch at a small scale can be a less financially risky way to show viability and improve ROI before scaling up. Such short-term successes can also be key to getting stakeholder buy-in.⁶⁰ The 5C's LiDAR project has been able to fine-tune efficiencies as it scales up operations. After running the pilot program in some member states, the 5C's gained a better understanding of certain cost impacts (e.g., factors that impact LiDAR performance and data collection)ideal conditions to operate LiDAR) and could explore ways to make participation in the project more cost efficient while delivering high-quality data. "Now we're beginning to understand the risks that can be managed and mitigated to help a private sector partner, while ensuring that we are meeting the expectations from Member States in terms of the quality of deliverables," said Dr. Young. In the case of the LiDAR project, the 5C's program showed proof of concept for SIDS throughout the region, making it a more viable option for other members. A project designed to expand regionally also offers the chance for SIDS to share in the risk and the reward. From Colin revisions: these 'pilot surveys' are intended to demonstrate the capacity of the Sensor as well as to demonstrate to the countries the high-resolution geospatial data collection from airborne LiDAR.

Insurance to Fund Conservation Efforts

Insurance of ocean assets such as reefs, which protect coastlines from storms and erosion, is an increasingly viable option for transferring risk in SIDS while incentivizing climate resilience efforts

and providing support for disaster recovery. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) project, Partnerships for Coral Reef Finance and Insurance in Asia and the Pacific, includes the Solomon Islands, and ADB is also supporting a baseline feasibility assessment for Fiji.⁶¹ Generally speaking, these schemes also come down to collaboration, because they require purchasers, which can include local governments, members of the tourism sector or other local industries and stakeholders dependent on protecting natural assets. It's also up to private insurers, not just government and philanthropic organizations, to take part in this emerging insurance market.

First Steps

A Clear Picture for a Better Plan

The Stimson Center and the Commonwealth Blue Charter program, with support from the UK Blue Planet Fund and ORRAA, is now developing a CORVI Rapid Assessment protocol, which will help participating governments get timely information to guide next-step policy and action to address climate risks and build resilience. methodology, receive the rapid assessment results, and work with Stimson and the Commonwealth Secretariat to better understand available options and next steps to help their coastal cities advance climate-smart policies and build coastal resilience. The first phase of the five-month project will commence in 2021, and the project will conclude by the Spring of 2022. While not as comprehensive as a full CORVI assessment, the 5-month rapid assessments will provide selected SIDS and vulnerable coastal cities with a high-level risk picture, allowing decision makers to more quickly tackle climate risks and build resilience to pressing urban-coastal challenges."⁶²

Re-Frame What Risk Means

Assessing risk is one aspect of partnering, but accepting some risk is also part of the equation. This is also related to that all-important culture shift. Hon. Kirk Humphrey, Minister of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy for Barbados, said as much in a 2021 webinar, *The Science We Need For The Ocean We Want*: "There is a belief that the private sector is much more risk taking and the public sector is a lot more risk averse, but I believe what we're seeing in the blue economy is the reverse... that the private sector has become extremely risk averse and the public sector now must be the one taking the risk. The private sector wants more certainty and more guarantees." He went on to say that there has to be a new understanding of what the balance between production and preservation will be in the ocean space.⁶³

How SIDS-GBN Can Help

- Introduce members to risk-mitigation efforts (e.g., roadmaps, insurance, etc.) country-bycountry.
- Virtual MVI Session Updates on Multidimensional Vulnerability Index and its potential

Tools to Use

- <u>Green Climate Fund Risk Management Framework</u> Defines GCF's approach to managing risk at both the institutional and funding proposal investment level, covering funding, non-financial, investment and compliance risks.
- <u>Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance</u> Multi-sector collaboration to drive investment into coastal natural capital through blended finance.
- <u>Turning the Tide: How to finance a sustainable ocean recovery</u> Comprehensive UNEP guide for financial institutions to assess social and environmental risk factors within the sustainable blue economy and recommend actions based on indicators of social and environmental pressures in these sectors.
- <u>UNEP FI Principles for Sustainable Insurance (PSI)</u> Global insurance industry guide covering a range of sustainability risks.

GOAL 8: GET STAKEHOLDER BUY-IN

Equity and inclusivity are built into the blue economy, SDG 14 and the SAMOA Pathway. Truly sustainable development, then, requires private sector partners to seek out and understand the needs and priorities of relevant communities. SIDS governments and other organizations can help facilitate those exchanges — not only for feedback and buy-in, but to ensure that a private sector partner engages with accountability.

Entering into a partnership is a process of mutual persuasion for all partners — it's about finding an alignment of interests and values. Although they're not listed on a contract, community stakeholders are always a partner in sustainable development, which is characterized by equity. Make sure the benefits for all partners (and the stakeholders they represent) are clear. Consider secondary benefits in a partnership that may not be obvious, but provide real value. This is where the private sector and community stakeholders can find alignment.

Lessons Learned

The Public Is Not a Silent Partner

Stakeholder input is part of any healthy partnership process, and it can determine if a project is successful or shelved. When an individual or organization is invited to offer insights in the planning stages of a project, they are more invested in its outcomes. That input stage is an opportunity for broad community investment. As Resolute Marine CEO Bill Staby explained of the work with the Wave2O project: "We didn't helicopter in and say, 'You should buy our technology,' drop it off and leave. It's about stakeholder outreach activities that build trust and commitment. You have to be attuned to local needs, but also local traditions and fears." For this project, it involved sustained outreach with local community stakeholders like artisanal fisheries. Just as giving the private sector, civil society and multilateral institutions the opportunity to co-create solutions increases

their buy-in and assists in creating that all-important enabling environment,⁶⁴ engaging with people at the national and local levels ensures that there is understanding of a project and its benefits. It is part of building trust, which is required in any partnership.

Local Communities Offer Local Expertise

The process for the Sustainable Fish Value Chains for SIDS project (SVC4SIDS) is highly participatory and includes stakeholders, guided by international experts, helping to formulate upgrading strategies. These include actions and investments by the public and private sector to generate positive economic, social and environmental outcomes.

Personal Investment Leads to Powerful Outcomes

The Palau Pledge is an example of an initiative that involved extensive feedback from national stakeholders. The creative team for the campaign took input from local businesses, educators and children to understand how to articulate the message — preserving Palau's important ecological heritage. The discussions with Palau's children in particular helped guide the language and tone of the pledge. Every tourist (or local business owner) who takes the pledge understands that the most vulnerable local stakeholders, children, are speaking directly to them, with a simple request to be good stewards for their sake. This stakeholder input gave the message its power.

Best Practices

Look for Shared Economic Opportunity

An ideal partnership brings benefits in all three areas of sustainability — environmental, social and economic. Private sector partners can look for ways to help SIDS share in the economic benefit of a solution. With its first floating solar panels in the Maldives, European-based energy company Swimsol has been able to achieve a 3–8% rate of return from its investment through power purchasing agreements with clients such as hotels and utilities. Swimsol is able to offer clients power at 10-50% lower generation cost. This lower cost provides incentive for the deal and creates a viable long-term business model for Swimsol.

Opportunities

Stakeholder Input as Part of Due Diligence for Funding

Relationship-building with the community goes beyond the formal partnership, but it is vital. In some cases, engaging with stakeholders is built into the financial agreement. When MSC developed plans to restore Ocean Cay, a former industrial site to be converted into a tourist destination and marine reserve, their lender required an environmental and social management system be in place. This required MSC to engage with local residents and fishing communities in workshops and dialogues, to understand concerns and communicate the goals of the project.

Low-Impact Options to Build Mutual Benefit

Sometimes, partnerships can grow from a low-impact opportunity to do something useful. In the Moana Taka Partnership, SIDS that can't afford to properly remove or recycle waste are offered a free option for removal, and the recycling plants that sell processed, recycled waste get a free delivery system for the raw materials they need. For Swire, it was an easy opportunity to fulfill a need at no cost to the company. For SIDS, it is an opportunity to manage waste in a more efficient and sustainable way.

First Steps

Earn Stakeholder Trust as Part of the Partnership Process

It is important to have a good relationship with local communities where a project or partnership will have impact. Not only is that buy-in key to durability, but it can also provide insights that may not be immediately obvious to partners. Make stakeholder buy-in an early goal for any initiative, and work with local governments and regional organizations to create opportunities for conversations with local communities.

How SIDS-GBN Can Help

- Ensure there are always community representatives in each discussion/event, whether it's local business owners involved in sustainable development, local NGOs, community advocates, etc.
- Help SIDS-GBN members connect to local organizations where they are interested in operating.

Tools to Use

• <u>Local2030 Islands Network</u> - Island network focused on advancing SDGs through collaboration and information-sharing.

Caribbean

• Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)

Pacific

- Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)
- Pacific Tourism Organisation (PTO)
- Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development

Photo: Tom Petty, World Bank, Vanuatu. Flickr (Cc By-Nc 2.0)

GOAL 9: ACCESS & BUILD LOCAL CAPACITY

Lasting and effective partnerships are rooted in the SIDS they serve. Finding inclusive ways to leverage local knowledge and connections make a partnership more durable. For local communities, it represents an investment in social development. For businesses and investors entering SIDS markets, it means more insight and more buy-in.

SIDS often deal with capacity limitations: at the institutional level, governments may not have the technical capacity needed to execute on sustainable development; and at the individual level, there may be a lack of skills or knowledge to participate in a project. This is where partnerships can be incredibly impactful, helping not only with sustainable development, but capacity development.

Lessons Learned

Capacities can be Taught, Local Investment Cannot

What local stakeholders may lack in resources or technical expertise, they make up for in deep connections to and personal investment in a country. In this case, a local dive shop brought concern for the livelihoods of its staff, personal and economic investment in the local environment, and established relationships with local agencies. The staff was trained in reef restoration, but what they contributed to the project couldn't be taught.

Contextual knowledge makes for effective, informed solutions

The voluntary fisheries closures in Seychelles were based, in part, on recommendations from local fisherfolk to close the bay of Baie Ste Anne to trap fishing during part of the year when traps could be set further out. Leveraging that local understanding makes use of years of data, informally gathered on the job. Fisherfolk also contributed their decades of experience to the assessment of species of local concern, basing the input on their own declining catches. This kind of long-term contextual feedback is a contribution only local stakeholders can make.

Best Practices

Train Locally Whenever Possible

For its dive school and reef nursery, Serenity Dive partnered with Reef Renewal International for training on how to properly set up and run a coral nursery and conduct outplantings. An initial investment in local training (in this case paid for by the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Conservation Fund - SVGCF), rather than relying on an outside organization to come in and run a program, can have a greater impact on a project's staying power, while also bringing critical conservation knowledge and skill into the community.

Connect with Local Universities & Research Institutions

In-country academic and research institutions can offer data, technical expertise, and a deep understanding of the local context of their island state. For Wave2O and the MSC Marine Reserve, local researchers are partners in the project, assisting with data collection that can help to measure the effectiveness and progress of an initiative. These kinds of partnerships between the private sector and academia or research can foster more robust data collection and on-site expertise needed to ensure a project's success. In the Pacific, such partnerships with universities have been cited as making "a significant contribution to sustainable development in the region."⁶⁵

Leverage Local Resources Creatively

Regulatory agencies like Fisheries Departments and government-run programs like national parks may lack the resources for important functions like environmental assessments. But there are opportunities for creative partnerships. For instance, Serenity Dive owner Vaughn Martin suggested that dive shop staff could partner with government agencies to offer boats and divers for needed data collection or other assistance.

Use Existing Systems & Process to Integrate Effectively

For the Palau Pledge campaign, it took local resources to find the right message and the best delivery system. The marketing agency for the campaign leveraged existing administrative infrastructure to ensure that the pledge was seen and understood by all visitors to Palau. Each tourist signs the pledge when going through customs, and the marketing agency developed training documents for immigration authorities and customs personnel. It brought the campaign directly to all visitors, with minimal impact to personnel. It is worthwhile to ask how a partnership can make the most of local human resources who are already best positioned to deliver an impact.

Opportunities

Local Partnerships For a More Efficient, Integrated Project

In Cape Verde, Resolute Marine Limited found several opportunities to leverage in-country collaboration for the Wave2O project. The company hired interns from the University of Cape Verde local universities to work with relevant ministries there, and to help coordinate with local supply chain partners that can produce project components that don't make sense to ship long-distance. The company has also collaborated with the local scientific community to conduct research on the project and co-generate intellectual property. Swimsol's R&D team in Vienna collaborates regularly with the deployment team in the Maldives, and can request deployments or adjustments in a timely manner.

Building Local Capacity Creatively

It's also possible to find creative ways to integrate capacity-building into a partnership. For instance, the 5C's LiDAR project included baseline studies of the LiDAR system, which were run by the Italian government (another partner on the project). When these studies were conducted, it gave the Caribbean LiDAR technician and Maya Air pilot an opportunity to gain experience operating over different terrains and ecosystems.

Training That's Built into the Project

Whether it's small-scale reef restorations or large-scale marine energy projects, it's important to account for the development of technical expertise wherever it may be needed. This includes training, equipment, ongoing quality assurance, and so on. Without partners, a process, and funding to fulfill those needs, the project won't be viable. This is where private sector resources can be very valuable. In the Caribbean, capacity building efforts are also underway for partnerships themselves. As part of the Partnership Accelerator, a Partnership Accelerator Trainers Program is running in the Caribbean, with virtual and in-person training on the development of effective partnerships across sectors.

First Steps

Make Local Capacity Part of a Project's Long-Term Plan

In several case studies, local training and collaboration contributed to the value of the project, and made it more efficient. The Allen Coral Atlas is also a prime example of launching a global initiative and transferring its long-term management to local talent. An initiative involving several partners, including the Coral Reef Alliance, Vulcan Inc., Arizona State University, and the University of Queensland, along with several scientists, NGOs, and private entities, the project produced a global coral reef habitat map to assist decision-making and conservation efforts for regional and national government agencies.⁶⁶ The resource, which includes habitat maps, satellite imagery, and ocean depth data, allows scientists and managers to better manage risks to reefs and conservation efforts. It is already being used in marine national parks and reef restoration, and in its next phase, countries will verify and enhance existing data, while building their ocean observation capacities in-country.

How SIDS-GBN Can Help

- Think like an incubator Build CAPACITY to help business (including innovative startups and local MSMEs) develop the plans/network/R&D they need to participate in SIDS sustainable development; to help investment understand the value/measure of finance for SDGs.
- Connect members to local academic and research institutions.
- Connect members to regional/national organizations to explore capacity building for effective partnerships.
- Connect members to development partners (either in roundtables or individually) to explore attracting development finance for projects of all sizes.

- Channel members into capacity building events/efforts across all relevant UN agencies, and in regional organizations.
- Ensure regional organizations that are developing relationships for SIDS sustainable development and can speak to local issues are at the table.
- Channel members into capacity-building events and efforts across relevant UN agencies
- Think Locally" Sessions These virtual, nation-specific sessions can introduce members to a few key local business/civil society leaders and offer advice on how to find and leverage local partners.

Tools to Use

- <u>The Commonwealth</u> An intergovernmental organization that represents several SIDS and assists with capacity and policy issues.
- <u>Local2030 Islands Network</u> Island network focused on advancing SDGs through collaboration and information-sharing.

AIS

- ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE)
- Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Center (METAC)
- Regional Technical Assistance Center (RTAC) in West Africa

Caribbean

- <u>Caribbean Climate Innovation Centre (CCIC)</u>
- <u>Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC)</u>

Pacific

- Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC)
- Pacific Islands Development Programme (PIDP)
- <u>Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative</u>
- Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development
- South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

GOAL 10: PRODUCE & ACCESS RELIABLE DATA

Measurable data is important to many aspects of sustainable development, including:

- Country-specific market data to help the private sector determine project fit.
- Due diligence for grants and project financing.
- Climate and environmental data for infrastructure planning, disaster risk reduction, etc.
- Updated, accessible information on current development projects in a country.
- Reliable data to attract private sector investment.⁶⁷
- Mapping data for marine spatial planning and management of marine protected areas.

This information helps the private sector make project decisions, drives development funding and national budgets, and helps set project goals and build accountability into partnerships. Perhaps most importantly, it has the potential to measure if projects and initiatives are actually contributing to sustainable development goals in tangible ways.

Data is generated on sustainable ocean development and collaborations in every region. But there must be a more systematic approach to gathering and distributing that information, which can be diffuse or difficult to find. And the need for data continues to grow, with gaps in reliable baselines to measure the impact of efforts or the effectiveness of investments. More collaboration is needed between researchers, SIDS governments and the private sector to be clear about what measures are needed and to make sure they are easily accessible.

Lessons Learned

Better Data Improves Operations & Mitigates Cost

For its floating solar system, Swimsol originally relied on pressure-based devices for wave and tide measurements, which were not ideal for data streaming. The addition of spotters from Sofar Ocean, which can be deployed at any depth and provide robust data on wind and wave conditions, provided more reliable and up-to-date data. This improved data streaming allows for design improvements and the least-possible disruption to the environment.

Best Practices

Build Data Collection into the Project Process

For the impact assessment of artisanal fisheries on species of local concern, the Green Islands Fund set benchmarks, and their staff participated in the collection of species-specific data at selected landing sites on Mahe. The organization took measurements and photographs of species monitored and compiled the data in collaboration with local fishermen's associations.

Save & Share Project Data

Information sharing should be a part of any partnership's communication plan. Once a project is completed, the results and documentation should be available for others to learn from. This information can also provide a clear picture of national priorities for private companies and investors looking to engage. Technology is a powerful tool for storing and sharing such information. A 2019 Thematic report on SIDS and information and communication technologies (ICTs) for the Mid-Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway indicated that "in all the SIDS, there is significant scope for making greater use of digital technologies for sustainable development in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.⁶⁸

Opportunities

Coordinate Research Priorities with Funding

In a 2020 report on Seychelles' proposed Blue Economy Valuation Toolkit, it was recommended that the country establish a national research agenda, prioritizing projects and ensuring that the most critical data needs are met first, based on priorities in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), SeyCCAT grant themes, and other guiding documents.⁶⁹ Deliberate data collection allows for better coordination in research projects and focus for development. SeyCCAT, with funding support from the Blue Nature Alliance, has been working on a national research agenda based on the country's marine spatial plan and marine protected areas.⁵⁷

Data as a Tool of Enforcement

Data is a critical piece of conservation for industries such as fisheries, which need efficient ways to monitor illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing that threatens marine biodiversity. The Blockchain Supply Chain Traceability Project, which brings together private sector technical expertise with fishers and other Fiji-based businesses, uses blockchain technology to generate reliable data across the entire seafood supply chain. Knowing the origins of the product ensures sustainable practices and has a positive impact on livelihoods, the seafood market and the marine environment.⁷⁰

Present Data for Future Planning and Funding

In the 5C's LiDAR project, data gathered from the LiDAR is not only important for development planning and risk mitigation, but it also provides data sets information that can form the necessary climate rationale needed to access adaptation and climate funding for future grants and projects. This secondary benefit offers value to Caribbean countries participating in the program, beyond the basic disaster planning benefits.

First Steps

Private Sector: Connect with Local Universities & Research Institutions

All regions understand the need for scientific data for measuring and monitoring partnerships and sustainable development generally,⁷¹ and, as mentioned previously, academic and research institutions are natural partners to meet those needs. Data has real market value for the private sector. For Algas Organics, collaboration with the University of West Indies and other researchers provided critical R&D to understand how the product worked.

Government: Start with a National Research Agenda

The lack of a clear research agenda at the national or regional level means that research projects may align more with researcher interests than with the policy and development needs of SIDS. It's important for governments to communicate their priorities to scientists, so that funded research can incorporate critically important policy priorities.⁵⁷

How SIDS-GBN Can Help

- "Data Connection" Sessions Gather SIDS academic and research institutions, SIDS governments and the private sector to align research/grant opportunities with development needs and private sector solutions; to connect the private sector to R&D resources that provide proof-of-concept and critical data for funding opportunities.
- Highlight SDG-relevant data being produced in each region, and how it can help business and investment measure SDG outcomes or identify where to deploy funding/solutions
- Highlight and share resources for key development data across regions and countries, and integrate those data sources into meetings and publications to increase awareness and make their usage common practice.

Tools to Use

- International Institute for Sustainable Development
- James Michael Foundation
- OECD Data
- World Bank Open Data

AIS

Bazaruto Center for Scientific Studies

Caribbean

- Blue Economy Research Institute University of Seychelles
- <u>Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute</u>
- Caribbean Maritime Institute Jamaica
- <u>Center for Blue Economy and Innovation at Caribbean Maritime University</u>
- Scientific Research Council
- <u>University of the West Indies</u>

Pacific

- Pacific Islands Research Institute
- <u>Australian Centre for Pacific Islands Research</u>
- Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center
- <u>UHM Center for Pacific Islands Studies</u>
- <u>The Pacific Islands Program Lowy Institute</u>

All of these practices are like a muscle that must be built up over time, through consistent use, until their use is second nature.

ENDNOTES

- 1. UN-OHRLLS (2021). About Small Island Developing States. <u>un.org/ohrlls/content/</u> <u>about-small-island-developing-states</u>.
- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [UNDESA] (2019). Small Island Developing States Toolbox. <u>sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/</u> <u>24009SIDS_Partnership_Toolbox.pdf</u>.
- 3. Stibbe, D. and Prescott, D., The Partnering Initiative (2020). *THE SDG Partnership Guidebook: A practical guide to building high impact multi-stakeholder partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals.* UNDESA. <u>thepartneringinitiative.org/wp-content/</u> <u>uploads/2020/07/SDG-Partnership-Guidebook-1.0.pdf</u>
- 4. World Bank (2017). Infographic. <u>worldbank.org/en/news/infographic/2017/06/06/</u> <u>blue-economy</u>.
- 5. World Wildlife Fund [WWF] (2015). *Reviving the Ocean Economy: The Case for Action.* <u>wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/reviving_ocean_economy_report_hi_res.pdf</u>.
- 6. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (2020). Sustainable Ocean for All : Harnessing the Benefits of Sustainable Ocean Economies for Developing Countries. oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/bede6513-en/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/bede6513-en/
- 7. WWF. Sustainable Seafood. worldwildlife.org/industries/sustainable-seafood.
- 8. Shutler, Dr. Jamie and Watson, Andy (2020). *The oceans are absorbing more carbon than previously thought.* World Economic Forum [WEF] <u>weforum.org/agenda/2020/10/oceans-absorb-carbon-seas-climate-change-environment-water-co2</u>.
- Knutson, Tom (2021). Global Warming and Hurricanes: An Overview of Current Research Results. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association [NOAA]. <u>gfdl.noaa.gov/global-warming-and-hurricanes/#early-gfdl-research-on-global-warmingand-hurricanes</u>.
- 10. Poppick, Laura (2019). The Ocean Is Running Out of Breath, Scientists Warn. Scientific American. <u>scientificamerican.com/article/the-ocean-is-running-out-of-breath-scientists-warn</u>
- 11. Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network [GCRMN] (2020). *Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2020 Executive Summary*. <u>gcrmn.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/</u> Executive-Summary-with-Forewords.pdf
- 12. NOAA (2018). Garbage Patches: How Gyres Take Our Trash Out to Sea. oceanservice.noaa.gov/podcast/mar18/nop14-ocean-garbage-patches.html.
- 13. WEF (2016). The New Plastics Economy: Rethinking the future of plastics. www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_The_New_Plastics_Economy.pdf.
- 14. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development [UNCTAD] (2014). *The Oceans Economy: Opportunities and Challenges for Small Island Developing States.* <u>unctad.org/</u> <u>system/files/official-document/ditcted2014d5_en.pdf</u>
- 15. WWF (2015). *Reviving the Ocean Economy: The Case for Action.* <u>files.worldwildlife.org/wwfcmsprod/files/Publication/file/7b5azirtwq Reviving Ocean Eco</u> <u>nomy REPORT low res.pdf</u>
- Konar, Manaswita and Ding, Helen (2020). A Sustainable Ocean Economy for 2050: Approximating Its Benefits and Costs. High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy. <u>oceanpanel.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/Ocean%20Panel</u> <u>Economic%20Analysis_FINAL.pdf</u>
- 17. UNCTAD (2019). Advancing Sustainable Development Goal 14: Sustainable fish, seafood value chains, trade and climate. <u>unctad.org/system/files/official-document/</u> <u>ditcted2019d3_en.pdf</u>

- 18. Kramer, Mark and Agarwal, Rishi and Srinivas, Aditi (2019). *Business as Usual Will Not Save the Planet*. Harvard Business Review. <u>hbr.org/2019/06/business-as-usual-will-not-save-the-planet</u>.
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization [UNIDO] and the United Nations Global Compact (2014). Engaging the Private Sector in the Post-2015 Agenda. <u>unido.org/sites/default/files/2014-</u> 10/Final Consultation Report Engaging with the Private Sector 0.pdf
- Paul, B.K. (2020). Identifying and Analyzing the Dominant Languages in Small Island Developing States. The Professional Geographer, 72(1). <u>tandfonline.com/doi/abs/</u> 10.1080/00330124.2019.1633367.
- 21. OECD (2021). Financing for SIDS. <u>oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/</u> <u>development-finance-topics/small-island-developing-states.htm</u>.
- 22. UNCTAD (2021). E-handbook of Statistics. hbs.unctad.org/foreign-direct-investment.
- 23. United Nations Environment Programme (2020). Turning the Tide: How to finance a sustainable ocean recovery. <u>medblueconomyplatform.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/</u>2021 turning-the-tide-guidance un-environment-programme.pdf
- 24. Mead, Leila (2021). *Small Islands, Large Oceans: Voices on the Frontlines of Climate Change*. International Institute for Sustainable Development. <u>iisd.org/articles/deep-dive/</u><u>small-islands-large-oceans-voices-frontlines-climate-change</u>
- 25. UNCTAD (2021). The least developed countries in the post-COVID world: Learning from 50 years of experience. <u>unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ldc2021_en.pdf</u>
- 26. OECD (2021). COVID-19 pandemic: Towards a blue recovery in small island developing states. <u>oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/covid-19-pandemic-towards-a-blue-recovery-in-small-island-developing-states-241271b7</u>.
- Zitoun R, Sander SG, Masque P, Perez Pijuan S, Swarzenski PW (2020). Review of the Scientific and Institutional Capacity of Small Island Developing States in Support of a Bottom-up Approach to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal 14 Targets. Oceans. 1(3). doi.org/10.3390/oceans1030009
- 28. UN-OHRLLS (2020). Meeting Summary: Virtual Meeting of National Focal Points (NFPs) of Small Island Developing States AIS Region. <u>un.org/ohrlls/sites/www.un.org.ohrlls/</u><u>files/2020 ais sids nfp virtual meeting summary.pdf</u>.
- 29. Caribbean Community [CARICOM] (2021). Statement of the Caribbean Community General Debate Segment of the 2021 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/28976CARICOM.pdf.
- 30. UN-OHRLLS (2020). *Meeting Summary: Virtual Meeting of National Focal Points (NFPs)* of Small Island Developing States - Caribbean Region. <u>un.org/ohrlls/sites/</u> www.un.org.ohrlls/files/2020_caribbean_sids_nfp_virtual_meeting_summary.pdf.
- 31. United Nations Population Fund [UNPF] (2014). *Population and Development Profiles: Pacific Island Countries*. <u>pacific.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/web_140414</u> UNFPAPopulationandDevelopmentProfiles-PacificSub-RegionExtendedv1LRv2_0.pdf.
- 32. UN-OHRLLS (2020). Small Island Developing States in Numbers: Oceans Edition 2020. un.org/ohrlls/sites/www.un.org.ohrlls/files/sids_in_numbers_oceans_2020.pdf.
- 33. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (2022). *World Heritage List.* <u>whc.unesco.org/en/list/?search=&themes=7</u>.
- 34. Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (2020). 2020 Forum Economic Ministers Meeting. forumsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2020-Forum-Economic-Ministers-Meeting-FEMM-Outcomes.pdf.
- 35. UN-OHRLLS (2020). *Meeting Summary: Virtual Meeting of National Focal Points (NFPs)* of Small Island Developing States - Pacific Region. <u>un.org/ohrlls/sites/www.un.org.ohrlls/</u> <u>files/2020 pacific sids nfp virtual meeting summary.pdf</u>.

- Pew Charitable Trusts (2020). Plastic flow into ocean expected to triple by 2040, action could stem tide more than 80%. Science Daily. <u>sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/</u> 07/200723203945.htm.
- 37. Global Investors for Sustainable Development [GISD] Alliance (2021). Alliance Increasing private finance mobilization: Recommendations for development banks and the global development community. gisdalliance.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/ GISD%20Position%20Paper%20-%20DC%20Recommendations%20Private%20Financ e%20Mobilization_18%20Oct_0.pdf.
- 38. Ocean Action Hub (2020). What has the Seychelles' Sovereign Blue Bond Achieved Since 2018? <u>oceanactionhub.org/what-has-seychelles%E2%80%99-sovereign-blue-bond-achieved-2018</u>.
- 39. The Nature Conservancy (2016). Seychelles Investing for Resiliency: Debt Swap Is First for Climate Adaptation and Impact Investments. <u>cbd.int/doc/meetings/mar/soiom-2016-01/other/soiom-2016-01-seychelles-01-en.pdf</u>.
- 40. Commonwealth Small States Centre of Excellence (2018). *Case Study: Debt-for-Nature Finance Swap.* <u>seyccat.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/SSCOE-Debt-for-Nature-Seychelles-Case-Study-final.pdf</u>.
- 41. The Commonwealth Blue Charter (2021). *Case Study: Innovative Financing Debt for Conservation Swap, Seychelles' Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust and the Blue Bonds Plan, Seychelles.* <u>bluecharter.thecommonwealth.org/innovative-financing-debt-for-conservation-swap-seychelles-conservation-and-climate-adaptation-trust-and-the-blue-bonds-plan-seychelles-on-going.</u>
- 42. Seychelles Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Trade (2020). *Presentation: Debt for Nature Swap and Blue Bond.*
- 43. Hestad, D. (2021). *The Evolution of Private Sector Action in Sustainable Development*. <u>iisd.org/articles/evolution-private-sector-action-sustainable-development</u>.
- 44. Libes, L. and Eldridge, M. (2019). Who, What, Where and How: 440 Investors. investorflow.org. <u>investorflow.org/wp-content/uploads/Investorflow-Report-440-</u> <u>Investors-March-2019.pdf</u>.
- 45. Basile I., J. Dutra, (2019). *Blended Finance Funds and Facilities: 2018 Survey Results.* OECD Development Co-operation Working Papers, No. 59. <u>oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/</u><u>806991a2-en.pdf</u>.
- 46. International Coral Reef Initiative (2021). *The Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR)* approves first round of programming. <u>icriforum.org/gfcr-march2021</u>.
- 47. UNDESA. Case Study: Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI) and Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF). sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/documents/23108Caribbean_Challenge_ Initiative_CCI_and_Caribbean_Biodiversity_Fund_CBF.pdf.
- 48. United Nations General Assembly [UNGA] (2021). Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. <u>undocs.org/en/A/76/211</u>
- 49. United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (2021). The Decade of Action and Small Island Developing States: Measuring and addressing SIDS' vulnerabilities to accelerate SDG progress. resources.unsdsn.org/the-decade-of-action-and-small-island-developing-states
- 50. Marinescu, S. (2021). Smallest footprint, biggest trouble: Inside the push to measure the vulnerability of Small Island Developing States. United Nations Sustainable Development Group. <u>unsdg.un.org/latest/blog/smallest-footprint-biggest-trouble-inside-push-measure-yulnerability-small-island</u>

- 51. The Commonwealth Blue Charter (2021). Case Study: Seychelles Using Marine Spatial Planning to Meet the 30 Per Cent Marine Protected Areas Target. bluecharter.thecommonwealth.org/country/seychelles.
- 52. Global Island Partnership (2020). *GLISPA Interview with Francesco La Camera, Director General for Sustainable Development, Energy and Climate at the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land & Sea.* <u>glispa.org/news/community-highlights/364-glispa-interview-with-francesco-la-camera-director-general-for-sustainable-development-energy-and-climate-at-the-italian-ministry-of-environment-land-sea.</u>
- 53. Ibrahim, A (2021). *The Maldives Partnership Landscape Assessment*. UNDESA. sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/Maldives%20Partnership%20Assessment%20web.pdf.
- 54. SEYCCAT (2018). SEYCCAT Project Proposal: Piloting voluntary fisheries zone closure on Praslin Island. <u>seyccat.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/SeyCCAT-PFA-project-</u> Large-

Grant_www.docx

- 55. Yezza, H. (2021). *Small islands, genuine partnerships*. UNDESA. <u>sdgs.un.org/sites/</u> <u>default/files/2021-07/SIDS%20Partnership%20Guide.pdf</u>
- Medel, I. (2020). The Palau Legacy Pledge: A Case Study of Advertising, Tourism, and the Protection of the Environment. Westminster Papers in Communication and Culture 15(2). <u>doi.org/10.16997/wpcc.380</u>.
- 57. Pouponneau, A. (2021). *The role of SeyCCAT Science and Policy Interface*. SEYCCAT. <u>seyccat.org/the-role-of-seyccat-science-and-policy-interface</u>.
- 58. Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance [ORRAA] (2020). Building resilience in coastal cities the Climate and Ocean Risk Vulnerability Index (CORVI). oceanriskalliance.org/project/building-resilience-in-coastal-cities-the-climate-and-ocean-risk-vulnerability-index-corvi.
- 59. [AOSIS] (2021). Innovative AOSIS-OSF Climate Partnership Aims to Reduce Island Debt. aosis.org/innovative-aosis-osf-climate-partnership-aims-to-reduce-island-debt-2/.
- 60. Heileman, S. and Voordouw, J. (2020). *Project Mid-Term Review of the UN Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility Project*. IWEco. <u>iweco.org/sites/</u> default/files/2021-05/IWEco_MTR_Report_FINAL_Sept2020_v2.pdf.
- 61. Sloan, J. (2021). Coral Reef Insurance an option to promote resilience for Fiji and the Pacific? Ocean Law Bulletin. <u>sas.com.fj/ocean-law-bulletins/coral-reef-insurance-an-innovative-financing-option-for-fiji-to-create-more-protection-for-its-coral-reefs-and-build-resilience-within-its-co-1625649686193</u>
- 62. Yozell, S. (2021). *New CORVI Partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat announced at COP 26.* Together, this partnership will develop and pilot a new CORVI Rapid Assessment protocol to quickly tackle climate risks and build resilience to vulnerable coastal cities. <u>stimson.org/2021/new-corvi-partnership-with-the-</u> <u>commonwealth-secretariat-announced-at-cop-26</u>.
- 63. The Barbados Advocate (2021). *Greater investment needed in the Blue Economy.* <u>barbadosadvocate.com/news/'not-enough'</u>.
- 64. Global Environment Facility [GEF] (2021). Synthesis of Experiences and Emerging Lessons from Addressing Key Cross-Cutting Issues. <u>thegpsc.org/sites/gpsc/files/iaps</u> <u>synthesis_experiences_cross_cutting_issues_2021_06.pdf</u>
- 65. UN (2018). In-depth analysis of Partnerships for Small Island Developing States. sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20883SIDS_partnership_analysis_fo rmatted_final_web.pdf
- 66. Roetzel, L.J. (2021). *The roadmap to saving coral reefs with the innovative Allen Coral Atlas.* One Earth. <u>oneearth.org/the-roadmap-to-saving-coral-reefs-with-the-innovative-</u>

allen-coral-atlas.

- 67. International Renewable Energy Agency [IRENA] (2021). SIDS Lighthouses initiative: Progress and way forward. islands.irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Sids/200121_IRENA_ SIDS_Brochure_2021_2P.ashx
- 68. Minges, M. (2019). Small island developing states (SIDS) and ICTs: Mid-term review of the SAMOA Pathway. International Telecommunication Union [ITU]. <u>itu.int/en/ITU-D/LDCs/Documents/2019/SIDS%26ICTS-Midterm-Review-Samoa-Pathway.pdf</u>
- 69. Laing, S. (2020). *Testing of a Blue Economy Valuation Toolkit Final expanded report.* United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. <u>uneca.org/sites/default/files/SROs/</u> <u>Seychelles%20-%20BE%20Toolkit%20Testing%20Report%202020.pdf</u>
- 70. Whiting, K. (2020). Blockchain could police the fishing industry here's how. WEF. weforum.org/agenda/2020/02/blockchain-tuna-sustainability-fisheries-foodsecurity/#:~:text=Blockchain%20can%20track%20the%20journey,impossible%20to%20 manipulate%20or%20falsify.
- Goransson, O., Vierros, M. and Borrevik, C. (2019). Partnerships for Small Island Developing States. UNDESA. <u>sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/</u> 24591SIDS_Partnerships_May_2019_web.pdf.





un.org/ohrlls