

Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

1. What specific activities or programmes, if any, has your government, organisation or agency implemented or introduced, specifically targeting the vulnerabilities of SIDS? Please cite examples of solutions seeking vulnerability reduction.

Climate Change:

To build resilience to the impacts of climate change in SIDS, FAO initiated preparatory activities in 2016 for a project to assist the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to integrate the agricultural sectors into climate change priorities and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The activities of the project would strengthen national stakeholders in SIDS and provide requisite technical support and capacity development and piloting of innovative adaptation actions. The objectives are to: (i) improve country capacities to use analytical techniques to assess risks, vulnerabilities and impacts of climate change in the agricultural sectors; (ii) improve country capacities to create enabling policy environments to mainstream climate change, resilience food security concerns and undertake climate actions; (iii) contribute to international and regional mechanisms for climate change planning and action and (iv) integrate climate change and resilience planning into FAO technical cooperation projects.

The project comprises two outputs viz., (i) strengthened technical capacities and national processes for innovations in climate change adaptation and mitigation in agricultural sectors and (ii) integrated agricultural sector and food security priorities into national climate change strategies, action plans and NDCs. The project will be implemented in 9 SIDS in two regions (Caribbean SIDS: Grenada, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and The Pacific SIDS: Micronesia, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) for 30 months.

The CC4FISH project (“Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector”) was finalized in 2016. The project covers seven countries of the Eastern Caribbean (Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts & Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago); it is funded by the Special Climate Change Fund and the Climate Change adaptation fund of the GEF (USD 5.4 million). Project activities will start in early 2017 and are expected to end in August 2019. This project will: create better understanding and awareness of climate change vulnerability of the fisheries sector in the Eastern Caribbean; create resilience of fisherfolk, fisherfolk organizations and aquaculturists; and improve governance by mainstreaming climate change adaptation in multilevel fisheries governance in the Eastern Caribbean

Fishery Status

The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF). A questionnaire that collects information on its implementation by all Member states, including SIDS was collected in late 2015–early 2016. Forty-two percent of SIDS responded to the 2016–2016 CCRF questionnaire which assists FAO understand progress against fishery commitments, and country needs for further support.

FAO published the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) in 2016, which is the flagship publication of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department. This document outlines a comprehensive, objective and global view of capture fisheries and aquaculture, including associated policy issues. This publication gives information on capture fisheries and aquaculture production, the status of the fishing fleet and fishery resources, fish utilization and processing, fish trade and commodities as well as consumption. Much of this information is collated to regions, so for example information delivered on Oceania, reflects issues that are important to SIDS.

Fishery Production and Food Security:

National workshop on the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) to combating illegal fishing went into effect in July 2016. The Agreement on Port State Measures will prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing that is estimated to strip between \$10 billion and \$23 billion from the seafood industry. The PSMA agreement (currently 31% adoption rate by SIDS), puts an array of new tools for coordination and action between signatory nations to deny safe haven to fishing vessels operating outside the law.

Biosafety/biosecurity plan for Palau. Technical deliberations tackle regulations on aquatic biosecurity and biofouling management. Thirty participants representing the government (Bureau of Justice: Office of the Attorney General and Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection) Bureau of Agriculture (BOA including the Division of Biosecurity), Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Environmental Quality Protection Board, Ngatpang State; the private sector (BIOTA, Inc., Coral Reef Research Foundation, Palau Aquaculture Cooperative Association, Palau Conservation Society, Environment, Inc.); and the academe (Palau Community College) met in March 2016 to deliberate on the draft regulations on aquatic biosecurity and biofouling management, actions that are intended to protect Palau's young and growing aquaculture sector, as well as its coral reefs and lagoons (<http://www.fao.org/fishery/nems/40926/zh>).

The Sixteenth Session of the FAO Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission was held in Guadeloupe, France, from 20 to 24 June 2016. The Commission adopted five regional fisheries management recommendations respectively on: 1) the regional plan for the management and conservation of Queen Conch, 2) spiny lobster management and conservation, 3) the sub-regional fisheries management plan for flyingfish, 4) the management of deep sea fisheries in the high seas, and 5) the management of shrimp and groundfish resources. The Commission also adopted two resolutions on: 1) sea cucumber fisheries management and aquaculture, and 2) Marine Protected Areas as fisheries management tool in the Caribbean. The Commission agreed to launch a process to establish a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) in the WECAFC area of competence, being the Western Central Atlantic (area 31) and the Northern part of the South West Atlantic (area 41) and to collaborate in fisheries management and conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) of straddling stocks, deep sea fish stocks and highly migratory species that are not under the mandate of ICCAT.

Aquaculture:

Initiated aquaculture planning for projects for a number of the SIDS GFC concept notes (Comoros, Seychelles, Mauritius, Guinea Bissau, Sao Tome, and Cabo Verde), put forward by FAO and partner countries to:

- Promote expansion of safe use of wastewater in agriculture by innovative technologies. Wastewater usage in agriculture is an adaptation mechanism to water scarcity, and may promote cost benefit practices by applying nutrient recovery, for example by integrating with aquaculture.
- Support the development and implementation of climate-smart aquaculture in areas protected by restored mangroves.
- Protect and prevent degradation of coastal zones and mitigation of climate change effects including as well as restoration of fisheries through mangrove replanting/restoration and land reclamation.

Technical and Financial support to SIDS using a Blue Growth approach for aquaculture in the following SIDS: Kiribati, Seychelles, Cabo Verde, St. Lucia, Grenada and Barbados. Much of this work has been focused on small scale producers including women to provide decent work and livelihood opportunities based on best practices and innovative technologies.

FAO supported the formation of the MASA (Micronesia Network for Sustainable Aquaculture) in 2015 and has since worked with them to develop technical proposals to investigate the potential for enterprise-oriented aquaculture in member countries.

Trade, Economic Sustainability and Growth:

The COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade in 2016 expressed strong support for FAO to continue to work in close cooperation with WHO and the various Codex Committees dealing with seafood safety-related issues.

Ciguatera fish poisoning has become an important global food safety issue in recent years, especially in SIDS and work by FAO in 2016 stemmed from the action plan agreed in late 2015 under the IOC-IAEA-FAO-WHO joint strategy on ciguatera. Preparations were made to present the ciguatera concerns of member countries to the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food, planned for 2017. This work on Ciguatera issues in 2016 was collated for presentation to the CCCF in April 2017 and the Codex Committee endorsed the proposed actions presented by FAO.

Joined with the World Bank and the African Development Bank to create the Africa Ocean Resilience Package where SIDS are a sub-component of this package with a total proposed investment of 3.5 billion USD. The package was announced at COP22.

FAO provided Cabo Verde support for implementing their Blue Growth Charter through a funding arrangement. Also supported Cabo Verde to commence accessing middle income grant with the African Development Bank to fund implementation of their Blue Charter. FAO will assist Cabo Verde in developing a Blue Growth

Investment portfolio of bankable projects in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, while other partners will develop bankable projects in the energy and tourism sectors.

FAO further developed a GEF Coastal Fisheries Initiative project in 2016, that includes Cabo Verde as one of the focal point countries.

FAO has a global responsibility to collect fishery capture production information [catches and landings] as well as trade data, which is collected annually from all SIDS countries. To assist SIDS countries identifying catch and traded fish to species level FAO's FishFinder program, <http://www.fao.org/fishery/fishfinder/en> producers training materials. In 2016, FAO produced a number of publications for SIDS and others, including on: deep-sea cartilaginous fishes of the South-eastern Pacific Ocean; Cephalopods of the world; The living marine resources of the Eastern Central Atlantic. Volumes 2, 3 and 4 (that is relevant to AIMS SIDS); Identification guide to common sharks and rays of the Caribbean; and Barbados Sharks and Rays.

Social development, including gender equality:

The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries, in the context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication were discussed in regional workshops in relation to SIDS.

FAO reviewed community-based management approaches in Tonga and Samoa, as part of review to strengthen and enhance 'Special Managed Areas (SMA) programme'. This work in Tonga with the Tongan Ministry of Fisheries (MAF) started in 2016 and will continue until early 2017. The work aligns with the Tonga Fisheries Sector Plan 2016-2024, Goal 1. Sustainable Community fisheries and use of coastal marine ecosystems, Sub-component 1.1: Enhancement of the Special Management Area (SMA) Programme.

Safety at Sea support is a particular need for SIDS. As part of the ever present focus on safety at sea, on World Fisheries Day, 21 November 2016, FAO and the Holy See call for an end to human trafficking and forced labour in the fishing sector (<http://www.fao.org/blogs/blue-growth-blog/on-world-fisheries-day-fao-and-the-holy-see-call-for-an-end-to-human-trafficking-and-forced-labour-in-the-fishing-sector/en/>).

FAO started preparing a video on "voices from fishing communities" based on Tonga, Samoa and Fiji. This is aimed at the Ocean Conference, but also other global conferences including those with a conservation focus.

FAO started to build a collaboration partnership with PacFish (ANCORS/University of Woolongong/WorldFish) on extending devolved management of fisheries to the outer islands of Kiribati.

FAO in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) is preparing a ‘meshing paper’, “Linkages between Pacific Island and Global policies supporting small-scale fisheries priorities and policies on small-scale fisheries”. This report aims to:

- Provide an inventory of international, regional and sub regional instruments relevant to FAO’s SSF Guidelines and the SPC’s New Song for coastal fisheries: Pathways to change and explore the common themes;
- Identify the links between the various instruments, the competitive advantages and roles of SPC and FAO as well as synergies with other agencies and sectors in support of the implementation of regional and national priorities;
- Identify scenarios of national demand and funding/activity opportunities for rolling out implementation/follow up of the New Song.
- Annex mapping of the FAO strategic objectives and SPC work programming objectives (in collaboration with FAO/SPC staff).

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services:

FAO supported global processes on threatened species (CITES CoP in South Africa) and biodiversity (CBD CoP in Mexico), to provide information on behalf of Members on the designation of and appraisal of species for potential threatened species determination, and on the mainstreaming of biodiversity in fisheries.

An Expert Consultation on the Marking of Fishing Gear took place in April 2016 at FAO. The main outcome was Draft Guidelines on Marking of Fishing Gear for consideration for COFI. COFI 32 (2016) endorsed the work and mandated FAO for further development of the Draft Guidelines via Technical Consultation. COFI 32 also encouraged FAO to conduct pilot projects to facilitate the implementation of these guidelines, especially in developing countries like SIDS. The second pilot is dealing the marking of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) and it is global project, with Pacific SIDS as one of the most important focus areas.

Fishery Technology:

The unprecedented hike in food and fuel prices that occurred in 2008/2009 resulted in severe economic, social and political consequences in many developing States, including Caribbean States. Member states of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) need to guard against future economic shocks such as spikes in fuel prices and other inputs and reduce economic risks. Under a letter of agreement with FAO, CRFM conducted studies in 2016 on the economic performance of fishing operations in Barbados, Belize, Suriname, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Colombia, with the cooperation of the fisheries authorities of the respective countries. Among other findings, economic performance analysis showed that fuel is the highest cost item, representing 41-80 percent of running costs.

At Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) level

At the Indian Ocean level the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and FAO are progressing talks to partner for the formulation for the PRESAN (Regional programme for food and nutrition security). This programme aims to alleviate food insecurity and all types of malnutrition in the region (undernutrition, obesity, lack of micronutrients).

At the Pacific Level there is work on building resilience for Pacific SIDS in light of the effect and impact of climate change. In that regard, FAO has worked in partnership with other organizations in the Pacific to support Pacific SIDS in the coordination of actions in the food security sector in response to disasters which are mostly climate related. FAO is the co-lead of the Regional Pacific Food Security Cluster (rPFSC) which has a specific focus on : (i) *Emergency preparedness and response*: Working with country-level actors to ensure pacific communities at risk of food insecurity receive the right assistance, at the right time, in the case of a natural disaster; (ii) *Resilience-building*: Working with country-level actors to ensure that pacific communities reinforce and build their resilience to a changing climate and recurrent natural hazards in the region.

In 2016, the rPFSC was established with the approval by the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) and IASC of the co-leadership between FAO & WFP. A team was established in Suva, Fiji who developed a strategic plan and support to national Pacific country clusters in Coordination, Information Management, Rapid Assessments, Programming and Advocacy in Fiji, Tonga, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu through remote support, simulation exercise and technical fielded missions.

The Pacific SIDS are also part of the FAO Early Warning Early Action (EWEA project, a new initiative which allows FAO to translate available early warning analysis into anticipatory actions. The purpose of EWEA is to allow FAO to act early in order to prevent and/or mitigate the impact of disasters as well as to reduce response costs. The EWEA focuses on consolidating available forecasting information, putting plans in place and establishing funding mechanisms to ensure FAO is able to act when the likelihood of a disaster affecting food security, agriculture and nutrition is high.

2. To what extent has your Government mainstreamed the SAMOA Pathway and/or the SDGs into national development plans and/or programmes? Please indicate any challenges and/or opportunities.

N/A

3. To what extent has your Organisation, integrated the Samoa Pathway and or the SDGs into co-operation frameworks, programmes and activities, to ensure effective follow-up and implementation at regional and national level?

FAO led the implementation of recommendations cited in the Paragraph 61 of S.A.M.O.A Pathway dealing specifically with SIDS. In that sense, a Global Action Programme (GAP) for Food Security and Nutrition in SIDS in under finalisation and will be approved and endorsed by SIDS member countries in 40th Session of FAO General conference in July 2017. AS part of the efforts to

implement the GAP an Interregional Initiative (IRI) on SIDS has been developed at the FAO level with inputs from regional offices.

As for the Pacific is proposed to target “building the evidence base and enabling environment for food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture and Food Systems in the Pacific SIDS”. The GAP has largely informed the development of the FAO Pacific Multi Country Programming Framework for 2018-2022 (CPF) and where the GAP objectives will be implemented regional, national and community level.

Overall, GAP has been widely discussed in different groups and sub-regional groupings across SIDS regions. The final approved version of GAP will be tailored in a more inclusive way and will present a sense of ownership at national level.

The FAO is ready to support countries and work alongside partners in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this regard, from the 2030 Agenda there are 17 SDGs and 169 targets that commit countries into taking action to end world poverty and hunger, and achieve sustainable development by the end of 2030. Issues related to food and agriculture cut across the 17 SDGs. Tied to the principle of ‘leaving no one behind’, and driven by means of partnerships and accountability (as is the SAMOA Pathway), FAO’s broad priorities in the 2030 Agenda are to i) end poverty, hunger and malnutrition, ii) enable sustainable development in agriculture, fisheries and forestry and iii) combat and adapt to climate change. The proposal of FAO as custodian for 21 indicators is testimony to FAO’s strong competencies in monitoring, and to the centrality of food and agriculture to the whole 2030 Agenda.

4. Indicate the extent to which the issues and concerns of SIDS are given due consideration in conferences and processes organized or supported by your organization.

GAP has been spearheaded by FAO with the help of DESA and OHRLLS. At the global level, FAO has conducted a series of consultations where partners and stakeholders contributed with their inputs to ensure that GAP is inclusive as possible and where each partner could contribute to its implementation based on their comparative advantage.

The Atlantic and Indian Ocean’s SIDS (Cabo Verde, Guinea Bissau, Sao Tomé y Príncipe, Comoros, Mauritius, Seychelles, and Maldives) contributed to the GAP through a consultative workshop held in Mauritius. Once again like in other regions, an Interregional Initiative for SIDS’ group will be established and will be the way where these SIDS will contribute to the implementation of the GAP.

GAP has also been presented and discussed for inputs at other SIDS regions.

As for the Pacific SIDS, there will be an opportunity for SIDS specific agenda items to be presented and considered during the upcoming FAO Asia Pacific Regional Conference (APRC) in April 2018 during which the Pacific component of GAP will be presented and specific challenges of Pacific SIDS will be highlighted.

The FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), a subsidiary body of the FAO Council, the only global inter-governmental forum where major international fisheries and aquaculture problems and issues are examined and recommendations addressed to governments, regional fishery bodies, NGOs, fishworkers, FAO and international community, periodically on a world-wide basis, held its thirty-second Session at FAO

HQ in Rome, 11–15 July 2016. The COFI Report outlines specific SIDS issues in para's 32, 46, and 59, among more generic issues that have global fisheries interest.

A Regional Consultation Workshop on Implementing the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, was completed, 12-15 December 2016 in Mauritius.

The FAO COFI - Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, 15th Session took place in Agadir, Morocco, 22–26 February 2016. The COFI FT Sub-Committee provides a forum for consultations on technical and economic aspects of international trade in fish and fishery products including pertinent aspects of production and consumption. The COFI FT examined a number of issues, with the following of special interest to SIDS: catch documentation schemes; food quality and safety-related market access requirements; trade in fisheries services; implementation of the voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries; fish trade and the Convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora; impact of aquaculture supply on trade and consumption.

FAO prepared and delivered presentation on aquaculture blue growth for a workshop in Cabo Verde in 2016. This workshop identified the most appropriate form of aquaculture given the unique conditions of this water scarce country.

FAO and SIDS Countries ran a Blue Growth Side event at COFI in July 2016. The side event was well attended with champions such as Grenada and Cabo Verde sharing progress they have made in making the transition to Blue Growth.

FAO organized a session on food security and blue growth for SIDS at Grenada Blue Solutions Week, as well as facilitated discussions on the Blue Growth Network in the context of SIDS for support for financing the transition to Blue Growth/Blue Economy.

FAO reported at COP22 on the progress of FAO's Blue Growth commitments that include work in SIDS. At the COP FAO along with the World Bank and the African Development Bank announced the Africa Resilience Package to support countries develop their ocean economies in the context of climate change, using a Blue Growth approach

5. In relation to the implementation of the commitments and partnerships announced at the Samoa Conference: <http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/>

- (i) indicate actions undertaken to date and their outcome(s);
- (ii) indicate what partnerships have been contemplated or have been initiated; and,
- (iii) indicate whether additional partnerships have been registered on the SIDS partnership Platform.

At Indian Ocean Commission

Despite their diversity and numerous differences, these African SIDS like other regions' SIDS are all party to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and at the continental level, the African SIDS are signatories to the Malabo Declaration on African Agriculture and CAADP. In response to such commitments,

some of the Indian Ocean SIDS came together to formulate the “Programme Régional de Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle (PRESAN) de l’Océan Indien” or rather the Indian Ocean Regional programme on Food Security and Nutrition, under the auspices of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), and with the financial and technical assistance of FAO. Alignment of actions under the GAP with existing regional processes will be ensured by the IRI.

A search by FAO on the commitment portal brings up many collaborations and commitments (<http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/?menu=1629&str=FAO>). A few are listed below (but no update is given as we are short of time for that level of reporting).

1. FAO and CARICOM

FAO has partnered with CARICOM through Letters of Agreement and joint projects to address a number of issues, including: food and nutrition security, agricultural health and food safety, land and water management systems and disaster risk management. Significant outputs from the collaboration include the formulation of a Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Action Plan for the Caribbean sub-region, the preparation of national food and nutrition security policies and action plans and the establishment of a Food and Nutrition Security Information and Early Warning Systems for the CARICOM sub-region. FAO has also partnered with CARICOM in the implementation of the “Jagdeo Initiative on Agriculture”, a programme aimed at the alleviation of the key binding constraints to agricultural development in the Caribbean sub-region, through the provision of support as Lead Technical Agency for the constraints related to land and water management systems and disaster risk management.

2. FAO and the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

FAO is collaborating with CANARI, in piloting a mentoring programme for forest based communities to help them develop their ideas into successful business models. The training not only improves technical skills in producing a product but also increases the capacity of the group to successfully place their products in the market. Similar initiatives are implemented through complementary partnerships to support honey production in Jamaica, as well as weaving of bamboo baskets and community-based ecotourism initiatives in St Vincent and the Grenadines. The collaboration has resulted in the ongoing evolution of participatory forest governance approaches, including community forestry, to ensure continued benefits to the economy, livelihoods and well-being of Caribbean people.

3. FAO and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

FAO has partnered with SPC through Letters of Agreement to address a number of issues, including: improved capacities on enhanced production technologies, information sharing on trans-boundary pests and diseases and pesticides management, linking to the Rotterdam Convention; and, awareness of the Voluntary guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of national food security. Ongoing partnership between the two agencies in the area of trade facilitation through the regular Round Table Meeting on WTO standards which is led by FAO on a biannual basis.

4. Fisheries Conservation in the Wider Caribbean Region through FAO's Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC)

The general objective of the Commission is to promote the effective conservation, management and development of the living marine resources of the area of competence of the Commission, in accordance with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and address common problems of fisheries management and development faced by members of the Commission. 16 of WECAFC's 35 members are considered Small Island Developing States.

5. Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) for the SIDS: GFCS-SIDS

Launched in 2009, the Global Framework for Climate Services is a global partnership of governments and organizations that produce and use climate information and services. GFCS aims to enable society to manage better the risk and opportunities arising from climate variability and change especially for those who are the most vulnerable to climate related hazards by developing and incorporating science-based climate information into planning, policy and practice.

6. Global Partnership for Oceans

To bring together and mobilize all oceans stakeholders around shared goals. To tackle documented problems of overfishing, pollution, and habitat loss.

7. Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)

The core areas of the partnership will focus on three overarching goals:- Goal A: Reduced levels and impacts of land-based litter and solid waste introduced into the aquatic environment;- Goal B: Reduced levels and impact of sea-based sources of marine debris including solid waste, lost cargo, ALDFG, and abandoned vessels introduced into the aquatic environment;- Goal C. Reduced levels and impacts of (accumulated) marine debris on shorelines, aquatic habitats, and biodiversity. It is anticipated that different stakeholders will form sub-groups to focus on specific issues, e.g. cross-cutting issues. Establishment of additional Partnership Areas would be based on the willingness and availability of lead members for these Areas.

8. Pacific Alliance for Sustainability

The Global Environment Facility Pacific Alliance for Sustainability (GEF-PAS) is a unique response to address the issue of access to GEF funds. Through GEF-PAS, resources are used more effectively in the Region, thereby improving the global and national environments. Access to GEF funds in the Pacific Region has been low compared to other parts of the developing world. The new approach has been acknowledged by Pacific Island leaders as an improvement that will be “nationally driven and help to overcome many of the constraints the Region has faced in the past”. The GEF-PAS has the potential to be an early and substantive demonstration of the benefits of the GEF compact for both developing countries and the global environment. It could also influence the preparation of additional, comprehensive, regionally coordinated, and nationally executed strategic investment programs.