

A. Policy, Legal, Institutional and Financial Arrangements for Implementation

(Policy and Legislative arrangements)

A1. Is the Focal Point/Unit supported by an enabling policy and/or legal framework? Is yes, please describe. If no, how is the Focal Point/Unit enabled to lead or facilitate the implementation of SAMOA Pathway. How has this affected progress on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in your organization at national and regional levels?

The Environment Secretariat of State (SEA), in its capacity of SIDS Focal Point, with UNDP support has worked closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Communities and the Ministry of Economy and Finance to mainstreaming the SAMOA Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy focal areas, the SDGs 2030 and the African Union Agenda 2063 into the Country Strategic and Operational Plan “Terra Ranka” 2015-2020 and its Vision “Sol Na Yarde” 2015-2025. Through the leadership of the Secretariat of State of International Cooperation and the Secretariat of State of Planning and Regional Integration, belongs to the aforementioned ministries, more than 40 senior cadres from key line ministerial entities capacity has been strengthened to undertake the mainstreaming process, using the Methodology developed for this purpose. Is expected that this exercise will be completed in June 2018, enabling Guinea-Bissau to have a compressive monitoring and evaluation framework for the PEO “Terra Ranka”, including selected national indicators for the SDGs 2030 and African Union Agenda 2063.

Thanks to the above described implementation arrangements and to UNDP, FAO, UNDESA and others Guinea-Bissau’s development partners, some progress can be highlighted at level of resources mobilization, capacity development, and legal framework enhancement in the climate change and biodiversity focal areas. As summarized below, these achievements supports the implementation of SAMOA Pathway:

- Within Climate Change focal area, (a) the Country Profile of Vulnerability and Resilience has been formulated and more than 20 national cadres trained on the methodology for its formulation¹, (b) a potential of 73,631,881.00 USD have been secured from GEF, EU, AfDB and UNDP to strengthen the vulnerable populations resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change, food security and sustainable land management capabilities as well access to renewable energy.
- In the Biodiversity focal area, (a) 5 terrestrial protected areas (2 national parks and three corridors) have been legally established through a government Decree and promulgated by the Presidency of Republic, resulting in the expansion of the National Protected Area System surface from 15 to 26.3% % of the national territory (surpassed Aichi Target 11 under Strategic Goal C) and (b) the country V National Biodiversity Report was produced and validated by key national stakeholders.

¹ Vulnerability-Resilience Country Profile National Workshop Report, February 2017

- In the support of the implementation of the development challenges perceived in the desertification, land degradation and drought, the Government has designed and adopted the (a) National Agricultural Investment Program, (b) the National Policy on Neutrality in Land Degradation in Guinea-Bissau (NDT) and (c) regulation of CITES Convention enforcement as the main instruments to contribute for the attainment of the correspondent SAMOA Pathway focal areas.
- Within the Food and nutritional security focal area, the National Council for Food and Nutrition Security (CONSAN) has been created in compliance with ECOWAS Regulation C/REG.4/05/2008 of 18 May; it will stand as the national food and nutritional security coordination structure, to function as per the draft decree on the specific technical regulations on production, control of quality and certification of plant seeds and plants under review. The National Nutrition Policy was also elaborated and approved.
- In the Sustainable Tourism focal area, the country has prepared a detailed projects documents to support the formulation of the Country New Tourism Strategy and Master Plan and the Hotel Classification System (March, 2018). Concerning the Management of chemicals and wastes, including hazardous waste, the preparation of an inventory of hazardous wastes produced under the Basel Convention is underway; drafted legislation on hazardous wastes and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP's) has been produced; under Minamata Convention, Mercury Inventory report produced and shared; developed the Stockholm Convention Action Plan and implemented the Pilot Project on Biomedical Waste. The capacities of 40 Magistrates, Customs officers and National Guards were strengthened on chemical products management.
- Regarding the Risk and Disaster Reduction, the Council of Ministers has approved regulations of the Basic Law of Civil Protection and the National Platform for Risk Management Disasters framework.
- Other policy documents have also been elaborated, namely Environmental Governance Report, Environmental Impact Assessment Sector Guides and the National Environment and Sustainable Development Policy.

All these actions contributes to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

B. Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and Support to SIDS

B.1. What challenges have you encountered in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, or in supporting SIDS to implement?

The main challenges can be summarized as follows:

- Political instability has been impeding the mobilization of the legislative body to ratify SIDS DOCK, Paris Agreement and DOHA Amendment as well as to develop policy documents in the support of implementation of Samoa Pathway in some critical sectors such as water and sanitation, transport and communications;
- Poor national capacity to produce accurate statistic data, particularly environmental data;

- Communications constraints and/or absence of safe sea transportation means to the Bijagos Archipelago have negatively impacted the attempts to develop comprehensive projects to capture SIDS financing opportunities;
- Absence of baseline indicators in different Samoa Pathway focal areas.

B.2. What solutions or potential solutions have been or can be adopted to address these challenges?

Under the described challenging environment, solutions found were those related to capacity building at central level on SAMOA Pathway mainstreaming into key national policy documents as refereed above and in the development of projects/programmes supportive of the attainment of the Samoa Pathway focal areas keys indicators. In addition, under GEF-UNDP Small Grant Program the most vulnerable populations in the regions, including Bolama Bijagos Archipelago have been supported with grants to develop projects that contributed for the enhancement of their livelihoods and resilience to climate change effects, alleviate the poverty among the households and protected the environment. In the biodiversity area, the mobilization of synergies with EU, French Fund for Environment and MAVA Foundation was prioritized in the support of IBAP's capacity to manage the National Protected Area of Cantanhez and the capitalization of Bioguinea Foundation as mean to ensure the sustainable management of the National Protected Area System.

In the other hand, support was given to translate the Paris Agreement, DOHA Amendment and SIDS DOCK into Portuguese and to prepare the respective dossier for submission to the National Parliament for endorsement when it open as well as to develop a cross cutting capacity development project aiming to strengthening the national capacity to fulfill Rio's Convention, including environmental statistics.

In the near future the solutions will include strengthening individual, institutional and systemic capacity at the national level in all focal areas of the SAMOA Pathway, ensuring provision of technical and technological means to better implement the SAMOA Pathway and increase the availability of financial resources to implement some policies and Action Plans and to operationalize them.

B.3. For the year 2017, please describe any key results achieved as a result of ongoing work being implemented by your organization/Government in the thematic areas of the SAMOA Pathway. What impact, if any, has this had at national and/or regional levels.

See the narrative in section A.1.

C. Partnerships that supports the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway

C.1. Do you have any new and existing partnerships and can provide any inputs on progress made during the year 2017? (please see annex for list of UNDP partnerships)

Yes.

Under the Interregional Initiative on SIDS and the Global SAMOA Pathway, FAO supported the government SIDS Focal Point (Secretariat of State for Environment) to

access the resources from African Solidarity Trust Fund for SIDS African Countries to implement the Project for the Adoption of Efficient and Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices in African SIDS that includes Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Seychelles. This project aims to build on past, existing, and planned projects on productive and climate smart agriculture (CSA) practices, improve climate change mitigation and adaptation and promote sustainable economic agriculture development knowledge networks across these three African SIDS. The Project will address the main area of work on the “Promotion of efficient and climate-smart practices, strategies and policies for food production, sustainable value chains and rural development” as part of the

The Country Vulnerability Resilience Profile, has been developed to be used as an analytical framework for assessing progress in addressing the vulnerabilities of Guinea-Bissau in the context of the Barbados Programme of Action and its implementation through the Mauritius Strategy.

With UNISDR, the country received the support to set up a database on loss & damage linked to natural hazards and disasters with training of 30 national cadres from public and CSO.

In the energy sector, the project "Promotion of Small and Medium-sized Renewable Energy Technologies Investments in the Guinea Bissau Electricity Sector" financed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Industry of Guinea-Bissau, the ECOWAS Center for Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), the NGO TESE (Association for Development by Technology, Engineering, Health and Education), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Sustainable Energy Initiative (SIDS DOCK) through integrated interventions in the areas of technology demonstration, policy support and human resource training. The project aims to create a favorable environment for investment in renewable energy in Guinea Bissau has been implemented.

As regards the waste area, partnerships with the following subregional entities were noteworthy: ECOWAS (Subregional Project for the Implementation of the Stockholm Convention); UN Environment (Chemical Legislation) and UNIDO (Biomedical Waste Pilot Project) and CRCBS-AF Waste Center of the Stockholm and Bali Convention for Francophone Africa (Training of Magistrates).