

QUESTIONNAIRE

Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the MSI, BPOA for the Sustainable Development of SIDS

Please note that strict word limits have been established for each question. The Secretariat is unable to consider any information beyond these established word limits. In this regard, you are requested to report only on new, updated or on the *most critical/noteworthy* information. Information conveyed in previous surveys will also not be considered. Previous surveys can be accessed at <https://sidsnetwork.org/> under reports.

1. Legal/Policy/Institutional Arrangements for SIDS and/or the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway¹

Does your entity/organization/government have a SIDS Strategy? If not, are there any plans to establish one, including with the appropriate resources for implementation. (1000 words)

With a decision on 13 December 2019, the Government of Flanders (a region of Belgium) agreed to (continue to) support particular ocean-related projects of the IOC-UNESCO where SIDS are priority beneficiaries. We wish to highlight two of them:

- The Ocean Teacher Global Academy (www.oceanteacher.org): When selecting participants to attend (OTGA) training courses applicants from underrepresented MS (such as SIDS) are given priority (part of the OTGA Guidelines). This project is renewed in 2020 (OTGA-2) with a grant of approx. USD 980 000 (not exclusively for SIDS; for a 36-month period starting in 2020) – see below;
- A new project was initiated by IOC-UNESCO, Pacific Islands Marine Bio-invasions Alert Network (**PacMAN**; for a 36-month period starting in 2020), on the basis of the notion that invasive alien species pose a threat to sustainable development and undermine the efforts of small island developing States to protect biodiversity and livelihoods, preserve and maintain ocean resources and ecosystem resiliency, enhance food security and adapt to climate change. – see below.

¹ This question seeks to examine the extent to which each respondent mainstreamed SIDS and the Samoa Pathway into co-operation frameworks, programmes and activities, national development plans etc, to ensure effective follow-up and implementation at regional and national levels in SIDS.

2. Financial Arrangements

Please give an indication of the budget allocated to SIDS SAMOA Pathway programme areas in your government/organization/entity, if applicable, for the period Jan. 2019 to Jan. 2020 or the fiscal cycle that best fits this period. If the priority areas cannot squarely fit this chart, please report as closely as you can.

Priorities	Investment (USD)	Budget Allocation	FY/ Cycle/ Period
Sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth			
Climate Change			
Sustainable Energy			
Disaster Risk Reduction			
Oceans and seas		PacMAN: 850 000 USD (+ as yet unquantified part of OTGA-2 funding also SIDS-related)	For project of 36 months starting mid-2020.
Food Security and Nutrition			
Water and Sanitation			
Sustainable Transportation			
Sustainable Consumption and Production			
Chemical and Waste management			
Health and NCDs			
Gender equality			
Social development			
Biodiversity		See Oceans and seas	
Means of implementation			
Etc.			
Total			

3. Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and Support to SIDS over the remaining life of the SAMOA Pathway

Based on the call for action and other priority areas contained in on A/Res/73/4, please provide an indication of your entity's/organization's/government's proposed focus in the remaining life of the SAMOA Pathway. What outcomes are you seeking to achieve? (1500 words)

OTGA-1 - Between 2018 – 2019, no less than 36 participants (learners) from SIDS were invited (i.e. supported to attend) OTGA training courses, including participants from the following countries:

- Cabo Verde 1
- Comoros 2
- Cuba 4
- Dominican Republic 9
- Fiji 3
- Jamaica 1
- Maldives 1
- Mauritius 5
- Sao Tome and Principe 1
- Seychelles 2
- Singapore 4
- Timor-Leste 2
- Tonga 1
- Trinidad and Tobago 1

Note: it is only possible to provide an numbers overview because the actual expenditure data are held de-centrally by the Regional Training Centres providing the actual courses.

OTGA-2: During the implementation of the new phase of OTGA (2020 - 2022) the IOC-UNESCO hopes to implement at least a Regional (or Specialised) Training Centre (RTC/STC) in one of the SIDS (likely the Pacific SIDS), so that oceans-related capacity development can be delivered from within a SIDS region. The project builds on the experience and the legacy of its predecessor and includes new initiatives and challenges now in place, for example, the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. New, ready to deliver course topics will be made available online. The network of Regional Training Centres will be joined by Specialized Training Centres that can deliver very specific training topics. Training topics will also include tools that can help Member States achieving the SDGs as well as emerging topics such as Ocean Acidification and Blue Carbon, inter alia. OTGA-2 will foster collaborations beyond UNESCO/IOC to position itself as the training platform for ocean-related topics within the UN and beyond.

The Project will further develop the current OTGA model using the following key

objectives/activities:

- Develop a portfolio of packaged courses (related to the needs of IOC and other partners)
- Deliver courses online and/or blended learning, on demand
- Review the existing network of Regional Training Centres and explore opportunities to designate Specialized Training Centres (topic focused) and new Regional Training Centres in underrepresented areas, including languages.
- Focus on training needs stemming from the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs: the skills we need to achieve sustainable development
- Facilitate capacity development within the framework of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development
- Use the Digital Revolution as a tool for Capacity Development
- Further develop and implement quality procedures and maintain ISO 29990 certification as a learning services provider to ensure the highest quality of training is delivered by OTGA

Coordination Office

IOC/IODE Secretariat, UNESCO-IOC Project Office for IODE, Ostend, Belgium

Implementing Partners

Besides several international organizations delivering CD relevant training related to ocean sciences, an IOC Circular Letter has been published on 28 February 2020 inviting IOC-UNESCO Member States to apply for hosting RTCs/STCs

PacMAN: based on the project plans, PacMAN is a 3-year (2020-2022) project, funded by the Government of Flanders through the Flanders UNESCO Trust Fund (FUST) for the support of UNESCO's activities in the field of Science, and co-funded by the Richard Lounsbury Foundation.

PacMAN will increase the technical and scientific capacity in marine invasive species early warning and early detection using international standards and best practices and applying novel technologies (DNA metabarcoding), and will provide information to implement national and international policies with the aim to reduce and prevent the introduction of new invasive species into the marine environment. Main activities of the PacMAN project include:

- A national marine invasive species monitoring plan
- Stakeholder forum
- Training courses for scientists and managers
- Species risk assessments
- Monthly in-situ monitoring surveys
- Cyber infrastructure, bioinformatics pipeline and sequence reference databases

Coordination Office

OBIS Secretariat, UNESCO-IOC Project Office for IODE, Ostend, Belgium

The project will also benefit from in-kind contributions from Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) and from LifeWatch ERIC and others.

What specific actions, if any will your entity/organization/government take to address any of the gaps and challenges identified in the political outcome (paras 15 ~29), section on “Call for Action” in the document A/RES/74/3²? **(1500 words)**

The PacMAN project can be linked to §§ 26-27 of A/RES/74/3.

Data and statistics remain a significant challenge for SIDS. It hinders the ability of SIDS to report on key international commitments. Most SIDS are currently able to report on less than 50% of the SDG indicators. Please give an indication of any proposed targeted action at national or sub regional levels, to address this area in SIDS **(1000 words)**

4. Financing for Sustainable Development in SIDS

Access to low cost development financing is a longstanding concern and priority for SIDS. Please indicate any plans or approaches which your entity/organization/government may have to support or enhance SIDS access to concessional finance, including the broadening partnerships, to address capacity constraints and enhance SIDS ability to mobilise, manage and spend financial resources from a wider array of sources **(1500 words)**.

Please elaborate on any specific plans or programmes at national and or sub regional levels to support SIDS to explore approaches and financial instruments that can help SIDS maximise resources for sustainable development from a broader array of resources, in particular through innovative financial instruments such as green bonds, blue bonds, and blending arrangements **(1500 words)**.

5. Climate Change and Disaster Risk Resilience

Please elaborate on any specific or planned programmes which your entity/organization/government intends to engage to support SIDS to build climate resilience, including building back better in the aftermath of disasters? **(1000 words)**

² The document can be accessed at <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/3>