

QUESTIONNAIRE

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

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

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.

The GEF does not have an institution-wide SIDS strategy. However, given that many SIDS have fragile environments and are uniquely affected by global change, they often receive special consideration in GEF Focal Area (FA) Strategies. Over more than 25 years the GEF has supported projects in critical areas for SIDS such as biodiversity protection, resilience to climate change and other shocks, increased energy access through renewable energy and energy efficiency, halting and reversing land degradation, cooperation on international waters, and improved chemicals management. By October 2018, the GEF had provided more than US\$578 million in country allocated finance across all focal areas¹. GEF finance has leveraged several times that amount in additional resources for sustainable development.

Please see below information on how SIDS are being considered in each GEF FA for the GEF-7 period, i.e., 2018-2022.

Focal Area	Strategic consideration for SIDS in GEF-7
Biodiversity	The Biodiversity Strategy for GEF-7 places a special emphasis on invasive alien species on islands. GEF support can help with protected area management and mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations in productive sectors (including fisheries and tourism).
Chemicals & Waste	There are several opportunities for SIDS to access GEF resources in GEF-7 to manage and reduce harmful chemicals and waste. In addition to access to resources for enabling activities under the Stockholm Convention and Minamata Convention, as part of the GEF7 strategy, under a specific program of the Chemicals and Waste Focal Area, SIDS can access funding to implement sustainable, low and non-chemical development in their territories through regional and

¹ GEF (2018), 'Small Island Developing States and the GEF: Building Lasting Partnerships', available at: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/publications/GEF%20and%20SIDS%20October%202018_r2.pdf

	<p>national approaches. This program will seek to address the sound management of chemicals and waste through strengthening the capacity of sub-national, national, and regional institutions and strengthening the enabling policy and regulatory framework in these countries. The program will provide support to the development of public-private partnerships specifically adapted to the circumstances of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and SIDS to enable the sound management of chemicals and waste. SIDS can also access the funding for other applicable programs in the Chemicals and Waste Focal Area.</p>
<p>Climate Change Adaptation</p>	<p>The nine SIDS that are also LDCs can each access up to US\$10 million in grant resources of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) toward reducing vulnerability to climate change and meeting their national adaptation priorities.</p> <p>SIDS receive priority for accessing grant resources under the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), targeted at innovative and integrated adaptation action and policy.</p> <p>For both the LDCF and the SCCF, the GEF endeavours to ensure that support is complimentary and synergistic to any support being provided by other adaptation funding avenues for a country.</p>
<p>Climate Change Mitigation</p>	<p>The GEF-7 period coincides with a key phase in the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The GEF-7 Climate Change Focal Area Strategy aims to support developing countries to make transformational shifts towards low emission and climate-resilient development pathways.</p> <p>Under the programming objective to <i>promote innovation and technology transfer for sustainable energy breakthroughs</i>, there are four key entry points which can support SIDS in their transition to sustainable energy systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • De-centralized renewable power with energy storage; • Electric drive technologies and electric mobility • Accelerating energy efficiency adoption; and • Cleantech innovation. <p>In addition, the GEF continues to support SIDS to <i>foster</i></p>

	<i>enabling conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies</i> through support for the preparation of reports to the UNFCCC and the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) under Paris Agreement.
International Waters	There are multiple opportunities for SIDS to access GEF7 resources to address to support transboundary cooperation in shared marine and freshwater ecosystems. GEF-7 presents a unique opportunity to assist countries, through regional investments, in addressing a suite of stressors such as overfishing, land-based sources of pollution, loss and damage of key coastal and marine ecosystems towards strengthening Blue Economy opportunities. This is to be achieved through three areas of strategic action: 1) sustaining healthy coastal and marine ecosystems; 2) catalyzing sustainable fisheries management; and, 3) addressing pollution reduction in marine environments.
Land Degradation	SIDS that are eligible for GEF funding are encouraged to develop integrated projects by accessing multiple focal area funding windows. This increases the likelihood of delivering environmental benefits across different areas such as land, climate and biodiversity. SIDS are also encouraged to utilize their Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets as a basis for, or to guide the development of, their land degradation related projects. If not, ensuring that there is some alignment the LDN targets is an alternative. A key resource that can be used in this regard is the Checklist for Land Degradation Neutrality Transformative Projects and Programmes.

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.

During the period June 2019 to December 2019, the GEF Council has approved new funding as shown in the table below, towards SAMOA Pathway priority areas.

New Funding Approvals for the Period June 2019 – December 2019

No	Priorities	Investment (US\$ million)	Comment
1	Sustainable Energy	1.4	Amount corresponds to the participation of Comoros in the GEF-7 Africa Mini-grids Program.
2	Adaptation to Climate Change (much of this investment aligns with the SAMOA Pathway priority of Disaster Risk Reduction)	29.0	
3	International waters (includes Fisheries) (much of this investment aligns with the SAMOA Pathway priority of Oceans and Seas)	17.0	This budget line is combined of two regional investments, one focused on Tuna fisheries in the Pacific and another one focused on fisheries supply chains and blue economy plans for some of the Caribbean states.
4	Sustainable Land Management (much of this investment aligns with the SAMOA Pathway priority of Food Security and Nutrition)	19.9	
5	Water and Sanitation		Note: The total investment for Climate Change Adaptation includes a US\$17.5 million program in climate resilient urban water and sanitation for four Pacific SIDS.
6	Sustainable Transportation	12.3	Amount corresponds to the participation of five SIDS ² in the first phase of the Global Programme to Support Countries with the Shift to Electric Mobility plus one project in Mauritius.
7	Sustainable Consumption and Production		Collectively, the GEF FAs support reduction of the global footprint from production and consumption – food loss and waste, management of chemicals and

² Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, Maldives, Seychelles and St. Lucia.

			waste; and sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources. Thus a specific dollar amount is not entered.
8	Chemical and Waste management	71.9	
9	Biodiversity	30.4	
10	Set-aside “incentive” resources towards integrated, holistic programming	7.5	
11	Enabling Activities towards Convention obligations	15.6³	
	Total	205	

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)

- *Biodiversity:* Continue to support countries in the sustainable management of their natural resources to ensure sustainable development of their populations, such as long-term management of fisheries that protects biodiversity and livelihoods.
- *Chemicals and Waste:* Continue to support a transition to low chemicals development pathway in SIDS by working to reform legislation, policy, Customs regulations and other key areas in relation to the use of harmful chemicals and waste, so that SIDS have the capacity to effectively prevent the build-up of toxic materials and substances in the environment.
- *Climate Change Adaptation:* Continue to support measures in line with country priorities that will reduce vulnerability of people, and the systems they rely on, to climate change, including increased variability. Emphasis will be on building resilience in a systematic and integrated manner, and to especially support LDCs, SIDS and innovation, including through private sector engagement.
- *Climate Change Mitigation:* Continue to support countries to make transformational shifts towards low emission and climate-resilient development pathways in line with the

³ Towards Enabling Activities (NCs, BURs, TNAs) and CBIT in SIDS in 2019.

Paris Agreement, and based on the GEF's complementary role in climate finance by harnessing synergies across the different focal areas in line with an integrated approach and by driving innovation and supporting technology transfer to catalyze additional finance.

- *International Waters*: Continue to support SIDS nations towards addressing transboundary issues. Specifically, it is anticipated that investments will continue supporting transformational processes that will assist SIDS regions towards addressing issues such as overfishing, IUU, land-based sources of marine pollution, IWRM, loss and damage of key coastal and marine ecosystems.
- *Land Degradation*: Contributes to arresting and reversing current global trends in land degradation, specifically desertification and deforestation in line with guidelines provided by the UNCCD. The investments focus on production landscapes where agricultural and rangeland management practices underpin the livelihoods of poor rural farmers and pastoralists. A specific emphasis has been placed in GEF-7 on sustainable management of drylands in semi-arid and sub-humid zones addressing, among other issues, drought-prone ecosystems and populations. For this cycle, the LD focal area has two main objectives: (i) to support on the ground implementation of Sustainable Land Management to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), and (ii) to create an enabling environment to support voluntary LDN targets.

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/74/3⁴? (1500 words)

- *Gender Equality (15)*

The GEF Policy on Gender Equality⁵, approved by the GEF Council in 2017, recognizes that men and women use natural resources differently and that environmental conditions have different impacts on men and women. In line with the Policy, the GEF has shifting from a “do no harm” approach to gender mainstreaming focused on safeguards toward one focused on, when possible, doing good – finding opportunities to address gender gaps and support the empowerment of women. The Policy introduced more robust standards in the design, implementation and evaluation of GEF activities – for instance, requiring that early concept notes include a preliminary investigation into the gender dimensions of a project, and requiring more detailed analysis and collection and use of gender-disaggregated data as the project progresses toward approval and monitoring. An analysis in December 2019, by the Secretariat, of GEF-7 programs and projects suggests that the Secretariat’s activities, guided by the GEF Gender Implementation Strategy⁶, are

⁴ The document can be accessed at <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/3>

⁵ SD/PL/02 (http://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/Gender_Equality_Policy.pdf)

⁶ GEF/C.54/06 (https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/.../EN_GEF.C.54.06_Gender_Strategy_0.pdf)

contributing to the effective operationalization of the Policy. The findings confirm that projects are considering gender and include plans to carry out gender responsive measures as part of their respective project development, implementation and monitoring activities. It further showed that 87% of projects explicitly stated that they expect to develop sex disaggregated and gender sensitive indicators; and that 93 % of projects are tagged to contribute to closing gender gaps and promoting gender equality and women's in areas such as improving women's access and control over to natural resources, women's participation in natural resource decision-making at different levels, as well as supporting women's economic opportunities. The analysis also suggests a positive trend in terms of GEF projects actively reaching out to women's organizations and gender focal points of relevant national ministries, nongovernment organizations and civil society.

- *Social Inclusion* (16)

In November 2017, the GEF Council approved an updated Policy on Stakeholder Engagement, which applies to all GEF-financed activities. The Policy establishes core principles and mandatory requirements for stakeholder engagement in GEF governance and operations, with a view to ensuring transparency, participation and inclusion. In line with this, all GEF projects must provide a stakeholder engagement plan or equivalent documentation, including a description of Stakeholders who have been and will be engaged in the project and any consultations conducted during project development.

The Small Grants Programme of the GEF (GEF SGP) is a funding window that provides grants to civil society and community-based organizations in currently 35 SIDS around the world. The Programme supports local actions that promote sustainable development while contributing to global environmental benefits. SGP is active in all the SIDS regions: the Pacific; the Caribbean; and the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas. For over 25 years, through these grants and targeted capacity development and knowledge sharing, the SGP has supported the integration of marginalized groups in environment and development initiatives, including women, indigenous peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities. In addition, for the past five years, the GEF SGP has provided support for CSO-Government dialogues to bring the voices of communities and CSOs into national and international fora for sustainable development. The CSO-government dialogues were also designed to build consensus and strengthen cooperation, partnerships and networking between CSOs including from academia, private sector and media for tasks expected under the SAMOA Pathway.

- *Promoting peaceful and safe communities on their paths toward sustainable development. (17)*

In addition to the Policy on Stakeholder Engagement, the GEF has recently strengthened its Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards. This Policy is helping to ensure that all GEF projects address environmental and social risks and impacts. At the project level, these requirements include conducting environmental and social impact assessments, consulting with affected communities and stakeholders about potential project impacts, and ensuring that there is no discrimination toward project-affected individuals or communities including Indigenous Peoples, minority groups, and those disadvantaged or vulnerable, especially where adverse impacts may arise. The GEF's small grants, -- targeted to support primarily poor and vulnerable local communities and civil society organizations--, are selected by a multi-sectoral National Steering Committee (NSC) which ensures a country-driven approach to GEF SGP implementation and allows for civil society leadership. This approach supports the building of consensus and peaceful resolution of differences, including in post- conflict countries, where the program has supported the work of communities and CSOs. The SGP's focus on the improvement of livelihoods is predicated on the belief that the sustainable management of land, biodiversity, and other ecosystem resources directly affects the generation of global environmental benefits that contribute to the wellbeing and safety of local communities.

- *Assisting SIDS to further explore and take advantage of innovative financial instruments and mechanisms. (20)*

The GEF ISLANDS program will be working to develop an incubation and acceleration hub for SIDS-appropriate technologies, materials, etc. that reduce the use and release of harmful chemicals and waste. The design of the hub is being done by the Inter-American Bank for the Caribbean SIDS to pilot the approach with the expectation of being able to replicate in the other SIDS regions.

- *Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and innovative energy efficient technology. (24)* The GEF supports innovation and technology transfer at key early and middle stages of development, focusing on the demonstration and early deployment of innovative technologies to deliver sustainable energy solutions that control, reduce or prevent GHG emissions. Grid modernization and integration of energy storage are critically needed to facilitate the rapid growth of renewable energy in a cost-effective manner. The GEF will support countries that have identified power sector transformation through mini-grids, energy storage, and new business models. Despite the availability of energy efficiency technology and proven approaches, the adoption and uptake of energy efficiency policies, measures, and technologies has not reached its full potential. The GEF supports energy efficiency accelerators to promote global best practices, foster harmonization of

testing and performance standards, and provide technical assistance to countries needing targeted engagement. These accelerators identify critical barriers to adoption of energy efficiency and pilot approaches that can be further scaled by other institutions, including the private sector.

- *Sustainable and improved transportation (25)* The transport sector is currently responsible for about one quarter of all energy-related CO₂ emissions. In many countries, transport represents one of the largest contributors to national greenhouse gases emissions (GHG), often only second to electricity generation. In addition, the transport sector is also a leading contributor to black carbon, a major source of local air pollution and other fine pollutants dangerous to human health. A global transition to low- and zero emission mobility is essential to meet goals of the Paris Agreement; however, several challenges hinder the rapid uptake of electric mobility. The GEF will continue to support the introduction of electric mobility in developing countries by de-risking investments in electric vehicles through demonstration projects that strengthen country experience and facilitate accelerated learning, while supporting measures for policy and investment support.
- *Disaster risk reduction (26)* Through its climate change adaptation program, which seeks to build resilience to climatic and climate-induced hazards, such as coastal storms, storm surge, floods, droughts, landslides, etc., the GEF will continue to provide support for disaster risk reduction in SIDS. This takes the form of multi-hazard assessments that include climate change scenarios, improved weather observations, hazard early warning systems, integrated climate-resilient coastal zone management, and technical trainings and capacity building. It also includes physical gray and green infrastructure measures to build resilience in the face of disasters, and support for alternate and diversified livelihoods. Other GEF focal areas also play a key role in reducing disaster risk, such as by providing support to reduce coastal degradation, reduce land degradation on hillslopes, enhance cooperation for transboundary monitoring systems and planning, etc. The GEF ISLANDS program also seeks to build capacity to plan for and manage disaster related waste from hurricanes, typhoons and other natural disasters that result in disaster waste.
- *Diverse approaches to addressing the adverse effects of climate change:* In supporting country-driven adaptation projects and programs, the support provided by the LDCF and SCCF is by definition diverse, focused on priorities identified in national adaptation and development strategies. This includes investment, policy and capacity building support to create or enhance climate resilience across sectors that include: agriculture, fisheries, food security and community livelihoods; water and sanitation; coastal resilience; urban resilience; climate-resilient natural resources management; disaster risk reduction and

climate information services; health; energy and more. The projects commonly include elements to enhance community understanding of climate risk and adaptation, as well as at the local and national government levels, so that climate change adaptation can be better mainstreamed in development planning.

- *Improved data collection and high-quality statistical analysis for better planning, monitoring and evaluation.* (28) Through regular project funding as well as set-aside resources for strategic global projects, all the GEF focal areas assist with the development and piloting of mechanisms and tools for data collection, planning, and monitoring and evaluation to enable countries to meet their goals and requirements related to the various international Conventions the GEF serves. ‘

The Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) launched in GEF-6 with continued resources in GEF-7 and future replenishment cycles supports projects that build institutional and technical capacity to meet the enhanced transparency requirements in the Paris Agreement. The CBIT aims: to strengthen national institutions for transparency-related activities in line with national priorities; to provide relevant tools, training and assistance for meeting the provisions stipulated in Article 13 of the Agreement; and to assist in the improvement of transparency over time. The CBIT Programming Directions stipulated that “proposals [would] be prioritized for those countries that are in most need of capacity-building assistance for transparency-related activities, in particular [SIDS and LDCs].” Already, 11 SIDS are being supported in their efforts to enhance transparency and the GEF stands ready to continue to provide this support.

The next phase of the GEF investment “GEF IW:LEARN 5: Supporting Portfolio Coordination Within and Beyond the International Waters Focal Area, particularly in Small Island Developing States, Through Knowledge Sharing, Information Management, Partnership Building and Programmatic Guidance Services” is including a set of discrete funding for supporting intra and inter-regional coordination and knowledge management across focal areas in small island developing states to improve portfolio performance.

- *Assisting SIDS to gain access to modern, reliable and environmentally sound technologies:* SIDS may access set-aside⁷ resources to identify climate technology priorities through Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs) under the UNFCCC. A TNA supports national sustainable development, builds national capacity and facilitates the implementation of prioritized climate technologies. The TNA Phase IV global project

⁷ I.e., outside of their country allocations under the System of Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR).

spanning 11 SIDS⁸ was approved by the GEF Council in June 2019, with each county accessing US\$0.29 million. This project aims to provide participating countries with targeted financial and technical support to prepare new or updated and improved TNAs, including Technology Action Plans (TAPs), for prioritized technologies that reduce GHG emissions and support adaptation to climate change. Technology transfer in a broader sense is encapsulated in both the framework objectives of the CCM and CCA focal area strategies.

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)

To address data availability and quality challenges in SIDS, the GEF is working with implementing agencies to design projects that are based on evidence, support existing data systems and strengthen the use of data.

The GEF's mission is aligned with the SDGs in providing financing to generate global environment benefits in countries, as articulated in a note titled, *The GEF and the Sustainable Development Goals*⁹. While SDG Goals 13, 14, and 15—on climate action, life below water, and life on land—capture the GEF's core mission, other inter-related goals also fall within the GEF's programming priorities. For example, GEF financing for sustainable intensification of agriculture contributes to achieving Goal 2 on ending hunger; financing energy transformation contributes to Goal 7 on access to energy; financing for sustainable cities contributes to Goal 11 on human settlements; and investing in sustainable commodity supply chains and circular economy contributes to Goal 8 on sustainable production and consumption.

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).

Over the GEF-7 period (2018-2022), GEF is allocating over US\$233 million for SIDS in national

⁸ Bahamas, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Maldives, Niue, Solomon Islands, St. Kitts and Nevis, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Kiribati.

⁹ Available at: <https://assembly.thegef.org/publications/gef-and-sustainable-development-goals>

grant allocations¹⁰ to address pressing challenges in biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and sustainable land management. In addition, US\$90 million in grants is available for LDC SIDS¹¹ towards climate change adaptation projects, and a further US\$96 million in grant finance towards chemicals and waste management. On top of this, project and programs may be presented to the GEF International Waters focal area. In addition, set-aside grant resources are available towards specific integrated or innovative programs and projects.

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).

A few examples from the GEF investment portfolio of active projects offer insight on different approaches that have been piloted by the GEF.

The GEF was pivotal in financing the Blue Bonds in Seychelles, where proceeds from the bond support expansion of marine protected areas, improved governance of priority fisheries and the development of the Seychelles' blue economy. Another interesting example is from the Caribbean regional fund for wastewater management, where GEF funds were blended with private sector bank financing, towards supporting an integrated and innovative approach to reducing the negative environmental and human health impacts of untreated wastewater discharges.

The GEF supported the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, along with the Micronesia Conservation Trust and several national trust funds, which created an innovative model for providing funding to communities and others in need of small grants to protect nature, which is the basis of much of the tourism and other livelihoods in SIDS. These trust funds and their grant mechanisms have become quick responders to distribute needed money after disaster in Antigua and Barbuda and the Bahamas. The funds have also attracted resources from the private sector from a grocery chain to tourism enhancement funds.

5. Climate Change and Disaster Risk Resilience

Please elaborate on any specific or planned programmes which your

¹⁰ For the focal areas of biodiversity, climate change mitigation, and land degradation, each country receives an allocation every four years based on its ability to contribute to addressing these issues. Most SIDS have full flexibility in using those resources within those areas in line with the GEF strategy.

¹¹ Each LDC SIDS may access up to \$10 million in grant resources from the LDCF in GEF-7.

entity/organization/government intends to engage to support SIDS to build climate resilience, including building back better in the aftermath of disasters? (1000 words)

The GEF receives and approves proposals for global, regional and country programs and projects on a bi-annual basis. Rather than being planned programs, these are concepts submitted by countries and partners, in line with national priorities and needs. The US\$29 million approved since July 2018 towards climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction projects in SIDS span resilient coastal fisheries and ecosystems, climate-resilient urban infrastructure, and sustainable land management and food security. The support focuses on building community level resilience through resilient assets and livelihoods, improving access to water and sanitation, enhancing integrated, cross-sectoral planning, mainstreaming climate resilience in development, building capacity for adaptation, and improved climate information and early warning systems. In addition to this, two project concepts for SIDS are being developed for approval under the GEF Adaptation Challenge Program, in the areas of resilient community fisheries and coral reefs. Both are innovative concepts that seek to engage the insurance industry to build resilience to climate change impacts, for both communities and businesses.

The GEF has made \$10 million available for each LDC SIDS in GEF-7 through the LDCF. Efforts were made to ensure that Vanuatu, which will graduate from LDC status later this year, could fully access the amount, which it had, by December 2019. The GEF has prioritized SIDS for access to the SCCF, which does not have country allocations.

The GEF regularly engages with country counterparts to ensure programming remains relevant and complementary to other initiatives in the country.