

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)**

Yes, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) has a SIDS Strategy. The Agency's strategy is incorporated in the SIDS Lighthouses initiative (SIDS LHI), a framework, co-ordinated and facilitated by IRENA, for action to support SIDS in the transformation from a predominantly fossil-based to a renewables-based and resilient energy system. The SIDS LHI addresses all elements of the energy transition, including policy and market frameworks, technology options and capacity building. The SIDS LHI brings together 36 SIDS and 27 development partners, including developed countries, regional and international organisations, private companies, research institutes and non-profit organisations.

Through the SIDS LHI partners have gained access to a knowledge and information sharing platform, policy, regulatory and technical advisory services, capacity building, grid stability analyses, and support for access to affordable finance.²

SIDS LHI was launched at the United Nations Climate Summit in 2014 Its initial targets for 2020 were met and exceeded three years ahead of schedule. New priority areas and target for the second phase of the initiative (LHI 2.0) were identified and endorsed by SIDS LHI partners in a high-level

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 For latest overview of progress under SIDS LHI see: https://islands.irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Sids/IRENA_SIDS_Brochure_2020.ashx

meeting held at the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 2018.

Priority areas include:

- Support SIDS in reviewing and implementing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), extending technical assistance and capacity building where needed;
- Expand from assessment and planning to implementing effective, innovative solutions, with continued technical and regulatory advisory services to help SIDS overcome the unique challenges they face;
- Promote all renewable sources, including geothermal and ocean energy, and step up work to integrate solar PV and wind power;
- Support the development of bankable projects, fostering access to finance and closer co-operation with the private sector;
- Strengthen institutional and human capacity development in all segments of the renewable energy value chain;
- Expand focus beyond power generation to include transportation and other end-use sectors;
- Leverage synergies between renewables and energy efficiency;
- Reinforce links between renewables and non-energy sectors - including agriculture, food, health and water - to foster broad socio-economic development, as well as raising awareness about job creation, gender equality and women's empowerment through renewable energy development;
- Link renewable energy uptake to climate resilience and more effective disaster recovery;
- Enhance collection and dissemination of data and statistics, supporting informed decision-making and effective monitoring;
- Reinforce and expand partner engagement, leveraging synergies with existing SIDS initiatives and other IRENA co-ordinated platforms, such as the Global Geothermal Alliance, the International Off-Grid Renewable Energy Conference and the Coalition for Action; and
- Boost renewable power deployment, aiming for a target of five gigawatts (GW) of installed capacity in SIDS by 2023.

As the LHI coordinator, IRENA regularly brings together leaders from SIDS, development partners and key stakeholders to strategize and discuss the progress of the LHI activities, enhance dialogue and facilitate collaboration among partners.

On 10 January 2020, during the IRENA Assembly, IRENA organised the High-Level Meeting on Accelerating the Energy Transformation in SIDS through Renewable Energy. The meeting was attended by Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the UN General Assembly, Deputy Prime Ministers and Ministers responsible for the energy, renewable energy and climate change sectors in 12 SIDS, and Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, the High Representative of the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS). Other SIDS that were in attendance

were represented at the technical level. Development partners that attended included: Denmark, European Union, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, United Arab Emirates, Pacific Community, Pacific Power Association, International Solar Alliance, and others.

The meeting reflected that despite progress in the market uptake and implementation of funding for renewable energy in SIDS, some critical barriers persist, including grid stability, affordable technology, such as storage, knowledge and technology transfer at affordable costs, and transportation between islands, among others. In this context, SIDS and partners underscored the urgent need to enhance NDC ambitions and consider the socio-economic implications as well as synergies between energy, climate, and other sustainable development goals. Participants stressed the importance of intensifying capacity building and strengthening technical training and institutional developments specific to the vulnerability and unique challenges faced by SIDS. Continuous support in project facilitation was also mentioned as a key point for future co-operation.

Activities undertaken under LHI are financed through voluntary contributions from IRENA Member States.

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		(80%)	
Disaster Risk Reduction			
Oceans and seas			
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			
Means of implementation		(20%)	
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)**

As an original partner of the SAMOA Pathway, IRENA has a key role to play in its realisation. The IRENA Work Programme 2020-2021 notes that *'special effort will be devoted to support Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in line with the global effort to leave no one behind'*. Further, it states that:

'...IRENA's future work with SIDS will prioritise the development and implementation of NDCs. This will include proactive engagement with partners to channel resources to key areas, taking into consideration development objectives outlined in the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway. With support from development partners, the Agency will also continue to provide direct assistance to SIDS in the AIS, Caribbean, and Pacific regions on issues such as island energy roadmaps, grid integration, end-use sectors (such as transport), nexus, climate resilience and project support and facilitation'.

Relatedly, paragraph 49 of the SAMOA Pathway A/RES/69/15 specifically refers to IRENA:

"We urge the international community, including regional and international development banks, bilateral donors, the United Nations system, the International Renewable Energy Agency and other relevant stakeholders to continue to provide adequate support, including in the areas of capacity-building and technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms, for the development and implementation of national, regional and interregional energy policies, plans and strategies to address

the special vulnerabilities of small island developing States. We welcome the Global Renewable Energy Islands Network of the International Renewable Energy Agency, which helps small island developing States by pooling knowledge and sharing best practices.”

Furthermore, paragraph 24 of the Mid-Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway High Level Political Declaration A/RES/74/3, which was endorsed by Heads of State and Government, Ministers and High Representatives on 27 September 2019, states:

“We stress the importance of access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for small island developing States. We welcome all initiatives, such as IRENA and SIDS DOCK, to support small island developing states to fully exploit their renewable energy potential, improve energy efficiency and reduce dependence on imported sources of energy, noting the role of appropriate energy sources and technologies in the energy mix, and call for further work and enhanced support.”

In response to SIDS’ call for action, IRENA - through the SIDS LHI - provides a framework for action for SIDS and partners to move away from a project by project approach and transform SIDS’ energy systems through a coordinated, holistic and sustainable approach, considering medium and long-term requirements and impacts focusing on new priority areas and targets:

- Support SIDS in reviewing and implementing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), extending technical assistance and capacity building where needed;
- Expand from assessment and planning to implementing effective, innovative solutions, with continued technical and regulatory advisory services to help SIDS overcome the unique challenges they face;
- Promote all renewable sources, including geothermal and ocean energy, and step up work to integrate solar PV and wind power;
- Support the development of bankable projects, fostering access to finance and closer co-operation with the private sector;
- Strengthen institutional and human capacity development in all segments of the renewable energy value chain;
- Expand focus beyond power generation to include transportation and other end-use sectors;
- Leverage synergies between renewables and energy efficiency;
- Reinforce links between renewables and non-energy sectors - including agriculture, food, health and water - to foster broad socio-economic development, as well as raising awareness about job creation, gender equality and women’s empowerment through renewable energy development;
- Link renewable energy uptake to climate resilience and more effective disaster recovery;
- Enhance collection and dissemination of data and statistics, supporting informed decision-making and effective monitoring;

- Reinforce and expand partner engagement, leveraging synergies with existing SIDS initiatives and other IRENA co-ordinated platforms, such as the Global Geothermal Alliance, the International Off-Grid Renewable Energy Conference and the Coalition for Action; and
- Boost renewable power deployment, aiming for a target of five gigawatts (GW) of installed capacity in SIDS by 2023.

The SIDS LHI will also be the framework for the delivery of the Ambitious SIDS Climate Action Summit Package, which was launched by IRENA, the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), the Republic of Palau, and the UN-OHRLLS during the UN Secretary General’s Climate Summit in September 2019. The Package aims to deliver:

- Ambitious political action to support an aim to achieve as much as 100% renewable energy and energy efficiency targets, in the power sector, by 2030;
- Enhanced and targeted financing and increased access to de-risked financing solutions;
- Accelerated delivery of technical assistance and capacity building activities to support enhanced targets in energy components of NDCs, the development of energy action and assessment plans, enhanced and new sustainable energy policies and regulatory frameworks and streamlined business and economic models; and
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships to contribute to the development of public-private mechanisms.

On 27th September 2019, IRENA, the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), the State of Palau and the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) hosted a high-level breakfast on pathways and partnerships to advance the energy transition in SIDS, on the sidelines of the high-level week of the UN General Assembly. Heads of States, ministers and high-level representatives from SIDS as well as partner countries and organisations discussed actions and collaborative efforts to take forward the pledges made at the Climate Action Summit as well as the S.A.M.O.A Pathway objectives, in light of the high level renewable energy ambition showed by SIDS at the Summit, including an objective to achieve as much as 100% renewable energy and energy efficiency targets, in particular in the power sector by 2030. Discussions stressed the need to ensure that climate action and the NDCs processes take a holistic view that enables leveraging the vast socio-economic benefits of a renewables-based energy transition in SIDS.³

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)

³ For more details, see: <https://www.irena.org/newsroom/articles/2019/Sep/Small-Islands-Delivering-Bold-Solutions-to-Climate-Change-at-High-Level-Event>

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

Gaps and challenges identified in the political outcome will be addressed through several actions, including:

- **Enhanced support for deployment of affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy solutions.** The SIDS LHI is partly funded by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMU) which supports the Agency in the provision of advisory services and technical support to SIDS, as well as pilot activities in form of policy advice, expert dialogue, study tours, workshops, analysis and assessments as well as business and investment facilitation.
- **Improved delivery and access to appropriate and scaled-up financing through partnership with the Climate Investment Platform (CIP) Initiative.** Announced at the UN Secretary General's Climate Action Summit in September 2019, the CIP has been setup by IRENA, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All), in co-operation with the Green Climate Fund (GCF), to mobilise investments for energy transition, thereby supporting the implementation of NDCs; (see response to question four for further details).
- **Support for enhancement and implementation of energy components of NDCs.** Following requests submitted by SIDS, particularly through NDC Partnership's Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP) and UNDP's Climate Promise, which vows to support the enhancement of NDCs of at least 100 countries, inclusive of a few SIDS, to revise and submit enhanced climate pledges under the Paris Agreement.
- **Strengthened collaboration with partners including OHRLLS.** UN-OHRLLS and IRENA cooperation is aimed at advancing renewable energy in the most vulnerable countries. The MoU signed between OHRLLS and IRENA in September 2019 facilitates the collaboration on activities to support LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS to build renewables-based energy systems, close the energy access gaps experienced by these groups of countries and harness the socio-economic and environmental benefits of renewable energy.

Furthermore, IRENA addresses gaps and challenges through consultations with LHI partners at political and technical levels. Performance indicators and impact measures of the SIDS LHI priority areas are currently being developed to gauge their progress of implementation at the national, regional and global levels.

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**)

IRENA collects renewable energy data and statistics at national, sub-regional, regional and global levels relating to SIDS. Further, IRENA supports SIDS to strengthen their institutional capacity in renewable energy data and statistics collection and analysis through direct training⁵, supports SIDS set renewable energy targets and contribute to SIDS NDC enhancement.

IRENA has also produced country profiles for all SIDS LHI partners, which are readily available at no charge, online.⁶ These profiles support exchange of best practice and peer-to-peer exchange and strives to fill existing information gaps to the benefit of the larger energy community, close information gaps and assist SIDS in developing relevant policy frameworks.

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**).

Among other things, in 2019, IRENA supported SIDS' access to affordable finance and development of bankable projects through the **IRENA/ADFD Project Facility**⁷, including capacity building activities, and project facilitation tools as an integral part of deployment support for energy transition on the ground.

The IRENA/ADFD Facility selected of the following five renewable energy projects in SIDS for funding:

- Antigua and Barbuda – Transformation and Resilience Building of the Water Sector: The second phase of a hybrid solar and wind project, submitted by the Department of the Environment of the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment, was selected in the third cycle. The technology and equipment, which will be installed to deliver reliable and affordable energy to more than 5,500 households, has been designed to withstand category five hurricanes.
- Cuba – Solar PV Farms with battery storage in Isla de la Juventud: This investment project responds to the decision of the Cuban State to install 8.4 MWp in 4 photovoltaic solar parks in the municipality of Isla de la Juventud, backed with 2 MW of energy storage. The project

⁵ For example, <https://www.irena.org/events/2019/Oct/Pacific-Islands-Renewable-Energy-Statistics-Training>, or <https://www.irena.org/events/2019/Nov/Caribbean-Renewable-Energy-Statistics-Training>

⁶ Available online: <http://islands.irena.org/RE-Progress/Country-Profiles>

⁷ For more information: <https://www.irena.org/ADFD>

aims to maintain the quality of electric service, promote the increase of infrastructures and the decrease of imports, as well as the generation of new sources of employment and the possibility of greater environmental sustainability.

- Maldives – Waste-to-Energy project in Addu City: This is the second project from Maldives submitted by the Ministry of Environment, which has been selected through the IRENA/ADFD Facility with the project from the first cycle beginning to generate electricity in 2019.

The waste-to-energy facility will aim to reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions through the generation of electricity and water desalination.

- Saint Lucia – Troumassee Solar and Battery Storage project: The primary objective for the solar project is to help Saint Lucia transition to utilise indigenous, renewable energy resources, and to reduce diesel fuel consumption (by over 1.3 million imperial gallons). Additionally, the energy storage component will manage the solar output fluctuations due to cloud coverage to maintain grid stability and further reduce fuel consumption by reducing the amount of diesel spinning reserve requirements. Finally, the solar and battery together would make Saint Lucia's electricity system more resilient by serving as a micro-grid during a post-disaster scenario.
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines – Renewable Energy Transition Project: Development of a transformative solar and storage project on the Grenadine island of Bequia. The project will deliver greater reliability, increased energy security from lower dependency on fossil fuels, significant emissions reductions, added energy resilience that will benefit every Bequia resident, and operational and fuel cost savings that will benefit all Vincentian ratepayers.

In November 2019, the Agency partnered with the Pacific Power Association (PPA), International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) to deliver a capacity building event on the design of bankable power purchase agreements (PPAs) for the Pacific SIDS. The event supported PPAs improvement and enhanced the capacity of power utilities and regulators to design and negotiate bankable contracts, with the final goal of contributing to the effective commitment of private capital to the deployment of renewable energy.

In November 2019, the Agency partnered with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in delivering a training workshop to support the development of bankable bioenergy projects in Cuba. The workshop provided insights on key issues on the best practices for the development of bankable bioenergy projects in Cuba and the Caribbean region and IRENA provides a suite of project facilitation platforms that help local stakeholders to address challenges on the path towards sustainable development with clean and affordable energy. Critical issues

related to the bankability of bioenergy projects were reviewed, with a focus on the technical and financial considerations for the preparation of detailed project proposals.

IRENA has also launched the **Risk Assessment and Mitigation Platform (RAMP)** to map and explain the insurance and guarantee options that exist for renewable energy projects. RAMP provides a categorisation of risks such as resource risks, forex risks, natural disaster as well as credit and political risks. The number of available risk mitigation solutions for each of these categories of risk is also indicated, including for SIDS. Furthermore, RAMP classifies the providers of risk mitigation solutions into categories such as commercial insurers, development banks, export credit agencies, licensed brokers and multilateral insurers; indicating the number of risk mitigation providers per category. The number of providers of risk mitigation solutions per region is also indicated.

Additionally, improved delivery and access to appropriate and scaled-up financing will be facilitated through the **Climate Investment Platform (CIP)**. Working collectively with all interested partners, the CIP aims to mobilise investments at the necessary scale to achieve meaningful progress towards climate objectives. The CIP will initially focus on energy transition, with the goal of accelerating investments in renewable energy and enabling the realisation of ambitious NDCs

IRENA has taken active steps to operationalize the CIP. The platform now has 14 clusters (<http://irena.org/irenaforcip>), designed to facilitate sub-regional activities for analytical, technical and project support (there is one cluster for Caribbean SIDS and another for Pacific SIDS). To forge the necessary partnerships, IRENA initiated a CIP outreach campaign, which yielded positive results. To date, 240 entities registered as CIP partners, comprising government entities, international financial institutions, private investors, multilateral and international organisations. Many partners expressed interest to work across multiple regions and sub-regions. Additionally, 151 requests for support have been received. Together, these provide a critical basis for the organisation of the Investment Forums aimed at creating enabling conditions for renewable investments, and now envisaged for early 2021.

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**).

The CIP will be operationalised through sub-regional investment forums which constitute a key element of IRENA's strategy to increase impact on the ground. They add significant value in enabling investments in renewable energy projects and provide an effective organisational framework for the implementation of CIP through a sub-regional approach.

The Forums have two main aims: to strengthen the ability of decision-makers to produce a strong enabling environment for renewable energy investments; and to help the developers to prepare bankable projects and access finance. Investment forums are being organized for the Caribbean and Pacific sub-regions whilst the SIDS in the AIS regions will be integrated into various African sub-regions. These clusters are designed to facilitate sub-regional activities for analytical, technical and project support. SIDS are also welcomed to engage in one or more clusters when applicable.

In addition, IRENA provides analytical work to SIDS and other Members, including a recent brief "Renewable energy finance: Green bonds".⁸ The brief provides insights on the green bond market as a key link between capital providers and renewable energy projects.

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**)

Under the Climate Promise in collaboration with the UNDP, IRENA is providing support to SIDS in relation to the implementation and enhancement of renewable energy targets in NDCs. Sharing best practices and lessons learned through the SIDS LHI knowledge sharing platform has also enabled IRENA to engage with Caribbean SIDS strengthening climate resilience of the renewable energy sector through capacity building, sharing of best practices and lessons learned, project development with a focus on resilience and sustainability. This will be replicated in the Pacific region in 2020.

⁸ Available online: <https://www.irena.org/publications/2020/Jan/RE-finance-Green-bonds>