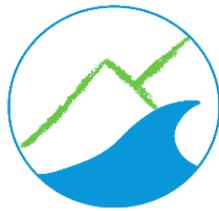


THE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES COALITION FOR NATURE



... Achieving Our Ambition for Nature

SIDS & THE NATURE AGENDA

An International Landmark Framework for Nature will be adopted in December 2022. The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), including all the SIDS, is expected to adopt the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) at its forthcoming 15th meeting (COP 15) under the presidency of China and hosted by Canada. The GBF will contain new goals and targets for biodiversity until 2030 as a steppingstone towards the 2030 Agenda and the 2050 Vision of “Living in Harmony with Nature”.



A Unique Opportunity for Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is particularly significant in SIDS, as they have some of the most diverse and unique ecosystems in the world, and are home to and host rare endemic species. Furthermore, Paragraph 90 of the [Declaration of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action](#), (the S.A.M.O.A Pathway), highlights the intrinsic link between SIDS and biodiversity: “overall, SIDS have extraordinary marine and terrestrial biodiversity that in many cases *is fundamental to their livelihoods and identity.*” At the same time, the threats to biodiversity and the services they provide are disproportionately felt in SIDS due to their unique structural and endogenous vulnerabilities. SIDS feature narrow resource-based economies and fragile island ecosystems (with high level of endemism) making them extremely vulnerable to any external shocks and changes. This is further exacerbated by the global

failure to meet any of the 20 Aichi biodiversity targets over the last Decade. The upcoming GBF is therefore of paramount importance for SIDS’ socio-economic development, which depends highly on biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources. In this context and being on the frontline of multiple crises, SIDS cannot afford to miss this second chance to protect their nature-based assets and increase their environmental resilience.

Means of Implementation. Taking into account the achievements made by the CBD Program of Work on Island Biodiversity, there is a need for greater focus on the specific vulnerabilities, needs and circumstances of SIDS, particularly when it relates to the acute gaps in SIDS’ means of implementation (which are different in magnitude and nature from the gaps faced by Islands in general). This need aligns with the Preamble to the CBD itself explicitly acknowledging the special conditions of SIDS. A 2022 gap assessment report on [Challenges and Constraints in Means of Implementing Biodiversity Objectives in SIDS](#), developed in consultation with CBD National Focal points from all the SIDS regions underlines the strategic importance to focus on means of implementation in SIDS. At a time when ambitious biodiversity targets through 2030 are to be adopted globally, there is therefore a clear need to ensure that SIDS specific biodiversity-related issues and associated means of implementation are strategically considered for the effective and successful implementation of the new GBF in/by SIDS across the 3 regions (Caribbean, AIS, Pacific). The [mid-term review of the SAMOA Pathway](#) in 2019 (in paragraph 30) highlighted the need to “...*facilitate and attract foreign direct investment and financing, and capacity support for SIDS*”.

“Means of implementation” cover a variety of issues (well defined in international frameworks) such as: financial mechanisms; strategies for resource mobilization; technical & scientific cooperation & technology transfer; South-South (‘SIDS-SIDS’) cooperation; whole-of-society and whole-of-government approaches; data, statistics and knowledge management; planning, monitoring, reporting and review process, including alignments and harmonization of reporting processes...

SIDS COALITION FOR NATURE: OBJECTIVE, LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

Objective. In view of the GBF adoption and implementation, several SIDS agreed to form a SIDS Coalition for Nature. The objective of this Coalition is to advocate as ONE for agreed common SIDS priorities and needs, including the needs for greater means of implementing biodiversity objectives in SIDS. This will imply the joint formulation by Coalition members

through their National CBD Focal points of agreed (by consensus) positions and messages that will be delivered and amplified at the highest level possible (Head of States, Ministers, Ambassadors, Country representatives) to be effectively heard in CBD-related processes and in relevant major events. By no means the messaging promoted by the Coalition is intended to be a substitute to the individual country positions that SIDS members of the Coalition wish to express in their own country capacity in addition or in support to the Coalition. The Coalition will only be echoing at the highest level possible what has been commonly agreed by consensus amid Coalition members.

Furthermore, such a Coalition will also be a way to: (i) Underline how SIDS are, globally, home to a large portion of World biodiversity; (ii) Showcase how SIDS have been leading by example and been frontrunners in nature conservation, and; therefore, (iii) Highlight how enhancing SIDS' means of implementation, will be strategic and a priority to save the Planet.

- 19% of coral reefs in the world are in located in SIDS.
- Cape Verde archipelago is one of the world's top ten coral reef biodiversity hotspots.
- SIDS make up a vast share (14%) of the world's coastline.
- The size of Exclusive Economic Zones of Mauritius & Seychelles is bigger than the size of India.
- The size of Saint Lucia marine reserve is the size of Germany.
- Palau National Marine Sanctuary is twice the size of Mexico.
- Seychelles issued the World first sovereign Blue Bond.
- Belize is the first country in the Americas with debt swap for ocean scheme.
- Fiji is amid the first countries to embark into ocean accounting for enhanced data-based decision making.

Co-Leadership, Membership & Secretariat. The Governments of Cabo Verde, Samoa and Seychelles joined forces to initiate and co-lead the SIDS Coalition for Nature. The Coalition is primarily made of SIDS Member States and the SIDS membership of the Coalition is currently expanding with SIDS from the 3 SIDS regions joining. The co-leads represent the Coalition Secretariat and a virtual and lean secretariat support to the co-leads is provided by financial and technical partners (e.g. AOSIS and UNDESA).

Friends of SIDS, Alliances & Synergies. While this SIDS Coalition for Nature is led and formed by SIDS countries only, it will also be open to non-SIDS countries (Friends of SIDS) who can support the coalition by adding their “voice of support” to the messages and positions promoted by the Coalition. As appropriate, the Coalition will also explore synergies with other Coalitions and Alliances advocating for and promoting relevant biodiversity targets for SIDS (e.g. [High Ambition Coalition](#), [Global Ocean Alliance](#), etc...). Finally, and because biodiversity mainstreaming is a key challenge, the SIDS Coalition for Nature will also seek cross-fertilization with other international processes where the conservation of nature-based assets and the promotion of nature-based solutions need to be further highlighted in terms of messaging (e.g. Fourth Conference on SIDS, Mid-term review of the Sendai Framework, SDG Summit, One Island Summit, UN Conferences, etc)

COP15 – THE FIRST MAJOR MILESTONE FOR THE SIDS COALITION FOR NATURE

The first major milestone of the Coalition will be COP15 (December 2022) in Canada. At COP15, the 3 specific objectives of the Coalition will be:

- To **launch** officially and present the Coalition internationally (advocacy objectives, rationale, governance, logo).
- To announce the Coalition's **Call for Action** for enhanced means for implementing ambitious biodiversity objectives in SIDS
- To **request** “the development of a draft **capacity development plan for SIDS** to support the implementation of the global biodiversity framework and to provide this draft for consideration at a future meeting of the Subsidiary Body”¹. Aligned with the Call for Action, such a (follow-up) *plan*, once developed in the course of 2023 in the GBF frame, will be the strategic vehicle to guide partners to enhance technical and financial assistance required for SIDS.

Practically, the SIDS Coalition for Nature will intervene during COP15 High-Level Segment, Cooperation decision segment (agenda item 15), Resources Mobilization decision segment (agenda item 12) and Capacity Building decision segment (agenda item 13). In addition, a dedicated SIDS Coalition side-event is being planned and the date is to be confirmed.

HOW TO SUPPORT THE SIDS COALITION FOR NATURE?

Technical and financial partners -Friends of SIDS- can support the Coalition in **three different but complementary ways**: (i) Adding their “**voice** of support” to the messages formulated by the Coalition; (ii) Supporting the **implementation** of the SIDS Call for Action and the SIDS Capacity Development Plan in 2023+; (iii) Contributing to the lean virtual **secretariat** support for the sustained operation of the Coalition. The first 6 month of operations are already covered by partners.

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¹ This specific language has been officially used and proposed by several SIDS already during pre-COP SBI negotiations in 2021 and 2022.