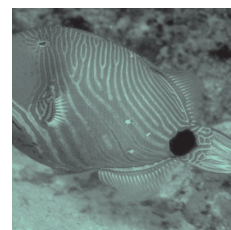
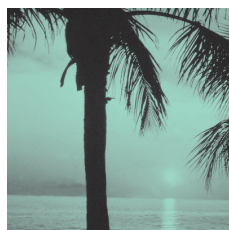


# Environmental Sustainability in Small Island Developing States

UNDP's contribution through its GEF programme



International Meeting for the 10-year Review  
of the Barbados Programme of Action for the  
Sustainable Development of

**SIDS**



## message

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is committed to helping meet the environmental and developmental challenges faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS). These challenges can be addressed through a programme of capacity development that will not only assist SIDS protect their fragile natural resource base, but also assist them meet their broader development needs. Within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), UNDP is working to assist SIDS address their multiple priorities through our five key programme areas: democratic governance; poverty reduction; crisis prevention and recovery; energy and environment; and HIV/AIDS.

Small islands often face distinctive development challenges, not least due to relatively limited resources and capacities. This is where UNDP can make a difference. Through our capacity development services, UNDP can help SIDS in their efforts to more effectively manage their resources within a sustainable development context. For example, UNDP's capacity development work includes strengthening a more effective networking of countries to foster dissemination of improved knowledge and experiences to meet shared environmental and developmental goals.

During the past decade, UNDP's Global Environment Facility (GEF) programme has been a particularly important mechanism for delivering environmental and development services to SIDS. Through national and regional projects, UNDP is pleased to continue supporting the efforts of SIDS as they set out to achieve the goals of the Barbados Plan of Action. I wish the Conference all success in its deliberations.

**Mark Malloch Brown**  
Administrator, UNDP

## introduction

Although global warming, sea-level rise, freshwater supplies, coastal zone management and biodiversity conservation are among the leading global environmental and developmental concerns worldwide, they are of particular importance to Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Due to their constrained institutional capacities and resources, and unique geographic context, SIDS are often not adequately prepared to meet the challenges of competing demands for environmental protection and development priorities, especially in adapting to climate change and land degradation, among other critical areas.

UNDP is committed to meeting these priorities of SIDS, reinforced by the Millennium Development Goals, in particular MDG-7, which targets environmental sustainability by the year 2015. This goal can only be achieved by building partnerships towards the implementation of the Barbados Plan of Action. Towards this end, we have already developed and implemented a broad range of projects of more than US\$120 million of GEF allocations, which have catalyzed collaboration among new partner organizations and agencies to work in SIDS.

Many of our non-SIDS projects provide valuable lessons learned as well as identify important opportunities. Our recently published Lessons for the Future series highlight a number of these in the four main themes of biodiversity conservation, climate change, international waters, and land degradation. This publication presents a small subset of UNDP's GEF programme activities that help SIDS meet their priorities towards the implementation of the Barbados Plan of Action.

**Frank Pinto**  
Executive Coordinator, UNDP/GEF

# The **environmental challenges** of Small Island Developing States

UNDP recognizes that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face numerous barriers to meeting their priority of sustainable economic development while at the same time ensuring environmental conservation. These barriers are largely a reflection of countries' natural qualities such as their remoteness, limited natural resources and vulnerability, coupled with their constraints in developing their transportation, communication and economic sectors.

UNDP's approach to assisting SIDS is directed towards the develop-

among SIDS, so as to enhance the long-term sustainability of conservation and developmental efforts. The December 2004 tidal waves (tsunamis) that devastated SIDS and coastal areas in Southeast Asia highlight this need, given the lack of fully networked early warning systems that would likely have saved thousands of lives.

In the ten years since the adoption of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA), UNDP has played a key role in meeting the challenges faced by small islands, with important successes that bear mention-

managed adaptively and for the lessons learned to be fully taken into account in the conceptualization, design and implementation of future interventions.

Overall, UNDP's interventions in SIDS serve to help countries improve their governance structures and institutions through the strengthened public administration, financial management, legal and regulatory frameworks, as well as incorporation of SIDS' cultural heritage. For example, UNDP has undertaken a number of large-scale projects, such as the

**Coral reefs provide an estimated US\$400 billion worth of goods and services, such as fisheries and protection of coastal areas from waves and storms.**

Source: Global warming killing oceans' life centres, Lobe 2004

ment of their human and institutional capacities within a policy framework that reflects the complex interactions among the vital social and economic sectors, grounded in political realities of the country and the wider region. These capacities include the development of a strong network of collaboration and coordination

ing. The focus of UNDP's GEF interventions has largely been in strengthening the institutional and human capacities of SIDS to meet these challenges. Through its GEF programme, UNDP has institutionalized a relatively sophisticated process of monitoring and evaluation, with checks and balances that require interventions to be

Strategic Action Programme for the Pacific SIDS that catalyzed regional planning and management efforts.

Notwithstanding the achievements derived from UNDP's support to SIDS through its GEF programme, there is still room for improvement as building synergies and linkages

among national and regional programme remain a challenge. Policy and institutional frameworks governing environmental management vary greatly among the SIDS. Independent evaluations of UNDP/GEF projects in SIDS suggest that regional legal frameworks

The past ten years of UNDP's experiences through the GEF programme suggest that perhaps the best way to meet the particular challenges faced by SIDS is to focus interventions at the sub-national or even local level. While international donors generally tend

## US\$120 million: GEF allocations to SIDS-specific projects managed by UNDP, 1997-2004.

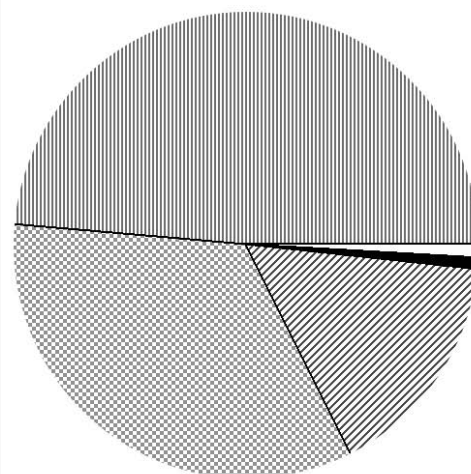
Source: Operational Report on GEF Programmes, GEF, June 2004

have not been extensively utilized largely because regional institutions remain unsure as to how to improve coordination with national level institutions.

Despite the clear linkages between economic development and environmental protection, budgetary and management constraints often limit the ability to develop and implement fully integrated planning frameworks. While the GEF has made available relatively large sums of funding to global environmental priorities, much work remains to mainstream environmental considerations into the other socio-economic priorities that are political realities.

to favour regional-level interventions so as to maximize economies of scale, lessons learned indicate that the SIDS often face a problem of accessing large scale funding due to inadequate capacities at the national level. The information contained in this publication is but the tip of the iceberg in terms of the support that UNDP and its GEF programme provides to SIDS and their own national efforts to achieve the goals outlined in the BPoA.

### Percentage of UNDP-managed GEF allocations to SIDS, 1997-2004



- ▣ Biodiversity - 34.6%
- ▣ Climate Change - 25.4%
- ▣ International Waters - 36.8%
- Multi-focal - 1.7%
- POPs - 1.5%



## Conserving Biodiversity

The fragile nature and population pressures of Small Island Developing States present many challenges for the conservation of biological diversity. Towards building small islands' capacities to manage biodiversity and resource management, UNDP's South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme has produced valuable lessons learned, particularly in engaging local com-

projects, e.g., Maldives and Papua New Guinea, as both a strategy for conservation and sustainable development. Not only can ecotourism generate revenues for biodiversity conservation, but it also generates income for local stakeholders and creates incentives that help reduce the threats to biodiversity. A key lesson learned from UNDP's experience in these types of projects is that

Financial innovations have also been an important lesson learned and contribution of UNDP's work in SIDS. Through the Conservation of globally significant forest ecosystems in Suriname's Guyana Shield bio-region project, GEF investments through UNDP resulted in a US\$7.9 million endowment that provides a

**Ecotourism has allowed Dominica to take advantage of its biodiversity and landscape, achieving the highest annual increase in visitor expenditures between 1989 and 1993.**

Source: *Ecotourism: its potential role in forest resource conservation in the Commonwealth of Dominica, West Indies*, Hypolite et al. 2002

munities and resource users in conservation; demonstrating practical methods of community-based conservation; and the training of Conservation Area Support Officers, critical to community-based conservation. Other important lessons learned from this project include the need for investments in community-based conservation to be more flexible and adaptive on a timely basis in order for results to be sustainable.

UNDP has also worked with SIDS through a number of ecotourism

tourism ventures do not necessarily attract tourists and may cause serious negative socio-cultural and environmental impacts. For this reason, UNDP's guidance is for biodiversity projects to undertake pre-feasibility studies that include an assessment of the linkage between biodiversity conservation and ecotourism development, the level of interest, need and commitment of communities in ecotourism, an economic assessment of ecotourism, and environmental impact assessment arising from ecotourism development.

reliable source of funding for biodiversity conservation.

Strengthening the participation of communities has also been an important part of UNDP/GEF's efforts towards biodiversity conservation. The Island Biodiversity and Participatory Conservation in the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros project is a US\$2.3 million UNDP/GEF investment that has catalyzed collaboration among 10 village communities to establish the Mohéli Marine Park, a goal towards which



the villagers had been working since 1995. As a result of these efforts, Mohéli has seen a doubling of revenues for local fisherfolk, protection

including 71,000 hectares in Alexander von Humboldt National Park, which contains some of the world's highest level of endemism.

eradication), but also from the invaluable lost ecological services. UNDP has undertaken a number of efforts in small islands to control alien

## Hundreds of billions are spent annually to control invasive species that degrade pristine ecosystems and damage valuable recreational and commercial fisheries.

Source: Hitchhiking species a threat

of 45 green turtle breeding beaches, and a halt to destructive reef fishing practices.

Cuba is another SIDS benefiting from a grant from GEF (US\$2 million) through UNDP, directed towards the strengthening of capacities of protected area managers and government institutions for biodiversity conservation. For example, park staff has received training in protected

Alien invasive species rank high on the list of priorities, second only to habitat loss as a threat to global biodiversity. Invasive species have wreaked havoc for centuries on local ecosystems that do not have the built-in resilience necessary to preserve their natural pristine biodiversity qualities. Small islands are particularly sensitive to such threats due to the relatively small size of ecosystem habitats and nearby

invasive species, both for their removal as well as developing local capacities to undertake long-term management programmes. For example, the US\$200,000 "Restoration of Highly Degraded and Threatened Native Forests in Mauritius" project piloted such efforts. Among the lessons learned from this early GEF project were the need for continuous efforts to remove alien invasive species and the creation of

## The joint UNDP/World Bank Integrated Ecosystem Management project in the Seychelles will seek to demonstrate how the human use of ecosystem goods and services can be sustainably managed while at the same time maintain natural ecosystem functions.

area management, the use of global positioning system technology, and financial management. As a result, 233,000 hectares of critical land are on a more secure footing,

development, e.g., agriculture and animal husbandry. The costs associated with alien invasive species results not only from their management costs (prevention, control, and

a series of large conservation management areas that would exclude most alien species and better mimic natural species interactions.

## Mitigating and adapting to Climatic Changes

Climate change is perhaps the single biggest threat to SIDS, arising from small islands' vulnerability to rising sea levels and more frequent and intensive storms. The recent tsunamis that devastated several SIDS in Southeast Asia serve to remind us of this vulnerability. Scientists from around the world have concluded that dramatic changes to the world's climate are largely due to humans, brought on by the release of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane from the burning of fossil

SIDS have every reason for concern as increasing global temperatures result in sea level rise and the destruction of protective coral reefs. Even a few centimeters rise in sea level will be disastrous for islands like the Maldives and the Marshall Islands where highest elevation is between two and three metres.

To address this concern, GEF funding through UNDP's Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme (PICCAP) is an impor-

national expertise and local capacity must be a priority in order to sustain implementation of needed programmes effectively over the long-term.

For SIDS, adapting to the impacts of climate change is as critical as mitigation efforts in meeting their sustainable development needs. Although scientific uncertainty remains about the full impacts of climate change, the threat is real and action is urgently needed. Hence, UNDP is currently support-

**Scientists predict that coral reef death due to human activities will be a regular event over the next 50 years.**

Source: Status of coral reefs of the world, Wilkinson 2004

fuels, the unsustainable destruction of carbon-rich forests, as well as the use of heat-trapping aerosols.

Even under the best case scenario with the worldwide introduction of clean technologies, the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates that carbon dioxide emissions will continue to increase over the next 50 years before they begin to decrease or at best stabilize. For this reason,

tant contribution to the implementation of the BPoA. This project identifies options for SIDS to mitigate against climate change impacts, assess vulnerability to future climate change and sea level rise, and adaptation strategies to climate change. While this project has been an important first step in meeting SIDS' challenges in addressing the threats posed from climate change, the key lesson learned was that strengthening

ing a portfolio of adaptation projects that focus on agriculture, health and the environment, water resources, and the management of climate-related risks. These include the current implementation of National Adaptation Programmes of Action in 29 countries to address the urgent needs of least developed countries in adapting to the adverse impact of climate change. Of these 29, eight are SIDS.



Meeting their energy needs is also a heavy burden to SIDS, the cost of which is the main cause for many of their balance of payments problems. To meet this challenge, UNDP's GEF programme is assisting SIDS through a number of demonstration projects, including two regional projects in the Caribbean and the Pacific that focus on, among others, cre-

undertaken in China, among other efforts, which produced energy-efficient refrigerators with the use of ozone-depleting substances. The project introduced 20,000 new-model refrigerators in Cuba and an estimated 430,000 more are expected to be produced over the next 15 years. Small island electrification is an especially complex problem in SIDS. UNDP

## Global sea levels have risen 10 to 20 centimetres during the last 100 years due to melting ice masses and ocean expansion.

Source: *Small Island States Threatened by Sea Level Rise*, Vital Signs 2003, pp. 84-85

ating an enabling environment for renewable energy development and demonstrating innovative financing mechanisms for renewable energy products and projects.

recently demonstrated in Samoa the need to fully understand the linkages among social, technical, environmental and energy sectors

## Indications are that the Pacific El Niño is impacting agriculture in Fiji, with wells drying up and rivers running low.

Source: *Fiji Sun*, 21 November 2004

Important lessons can be learned from non-SIDS experience. In Cuba, UNDP recently completed a project that built upon the efforts

as the basis of making decisions about which technology to use.





# d Managing and protecting shared International Waters

The vastness of the planet's oceans dominates the characteristics and challenges faced by Small Island Developing States. The international nature of these waters promoted the decline of fisheries, largely through over-harvesting. Other concerns such as untreated sewage and industrial discharges are shared by SIDS, and UNDP's interventions serve to assist SIDS share experiences and lessons learned.

able use of shared water resources in SIDS. One of the most significant impacts of UNDP's GEF programme for SIDS has been the capacity building efforts directed towards the adoption and ratification in June 2004 of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific, the first regional treaty based on the 1994 UN Fish Stocks Agreement.

Water resource management and water quality are critical issues to nearly all SIDS throughout the world. Studies indicate that among the leading constraints for effective water resource management are the inadequacy of water and wastewater strategies and inadequate inter-sectoral legislative, institutional and financial capacities to deal with extreme or chronic events

**An estimated 10,000 to 15,000 plant and animal species are transported around the world in ships' ballast water every seven days.**

Source: The global consequences of not managing ballast water, Carlton 1999

The Western Pacific large marine ecosystem covers 38.5 million square kilometres and is home to 14 SIDS. The region hosts the most extensive and biologically diverse reefs in the world, the deepest ocean trenches, deep-sea minerals, the world's largest tuna fishery, and an array of globally threatened species such as sea turtles, whales and dugongs. Most of the region's islands are entirely coastline, with limited freshwater supplies but a rich variety of ecosystems including mangroves, seagrass beds, estuarine lagoons and coral reefs.

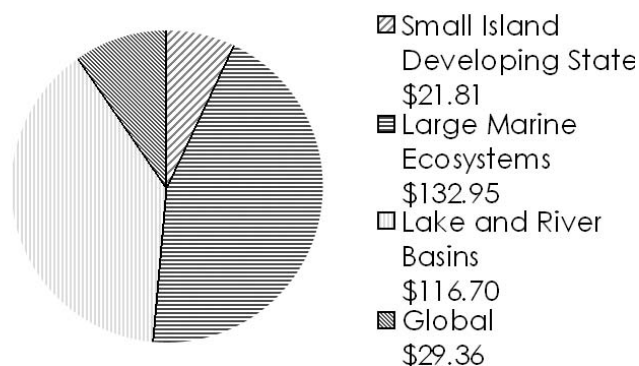
UNDP has undertaken a number of GEF International Waters interventions critical to the rehabilitation and sustain-

The UNDP Pacific SIDS International Waters Programme also resulted in the active participation of Pacific SIDS to develop a Strategic Action Programme, which is currently under implementation through individual and joint country projects. Under this programme, a seven-year effort began in 2000, focusing on strengthening the information, monitoring, enforcement and other requirements associated with the management of the region's tuna resources, as well as strengthening the institutional capacities underlying the unsustainable management of coastal resources, degradation of freshwater resources, and poor waste management.

that threaten the resources (e.g. flooding, drought, saltwater intrusion).

One of the leading constraints of SIDS to meet challenges is the fact that the primary economic sectors are often a combination of tourism, agriculture, and/or fisheries, the management of which requires an integrated approach. Towards meeting these needs, UNDP's GEF portfolio includes a number of projects that address these concerns, some with lessons learned and others in the early stages of development. For example, the recently approved Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management (IWCAM) in the Small Island Developing States of

## UNDP/GEF International Waters allocation by aquatic ecosystem type (US\$ million, 9/1991 - 6/2004)



the Caribbean will be jointly implemented by UNDP and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The focus of this project is to demonstrate best practices of integrated watershed and marine ecosystem-based management. UNDP is also working with the UNEP to develop an Integrated Water Resources and Wastewater Management project for the six African and Indian Ocean SIDS.

All SIDS face the problem of untreated wastewater that discharge directly into coastal areas, polluting nearby swimming beaches. While the high concentrations of heavy metals and other pollutants contaminate local areas, ocean currents can transport these pollutants over broader areas, including to other SIDS. To address this problem, an early UNDP project with GEF financing in Cuba helped develop and implement an investment programme to rehabilitate the heavily polluted Havana Bay. One of the successes of this project is that it has facilitated a wide exchange of experiences with Cuban specialists and international experts on technologies for the removal of nutrients and the reuse of sludge.

Due to their bioaccumulative nature, persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are especially problematic for SIDS, limited by their relatively small agricultural land and relative dependence in the primary sector. As a first step to addressing POPs, UNDP has allocated US\$3 million of GEF funding to seven SIDS to strengthen their capacities to meet obligations under the Stockholm Convention on POPs, including initial preparation of a POPs National Implementation Plan (NIP), and broader issues of chemical safety and management.

The dependence on the oceans for international trade has resulted in the introduction of economically debilitating species into otherwise natural ecosystems through ship ballast water. Indeed, this is the main vector for the transfer of aquatic (fresh and marine) invasive species, to both the coastal and riverine waters of SIDS. The Global Ballast Water Management project is a joint effort between UNDP and the International Maritime Organization, supported with GEF financing that has been widely credited with playing a major role in facilitating the completion and adoption of International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships Ballast Water

and Sediments in February 2004. SIDS are moving forward to build upon the lessons learned from past efforts in setting up regional task forces and putting in place regional action plans. The IW:LEARN is a joint effort among UNDP, UNEP, and the World Bank, implemented by UNDP. This project benefits from GEF financing, aimed at strengthening not only national capacities to address international waters concerns, but to strengthen the global community of practitioners and policy-makers. This project resulted in the International Waters Resource Centre, which is a clearing house of valuable information on all GEF international waters efforts, including those implemented by UNDP. This mechanism facilitates the work of SIDS policy-makers and practitioners to share lessons learned, best practices and experiences generated by the full portfolio of GEF international waters projects. Among the many lessons learned was the importance of partnerships to harness the comparative advantages necessary to address the complex challenges, including maintaining momentum on global initiatives and ensuring the effective collection, dissemination and application of existing and emergent knowledge.



# Halting Land Degradation

Land degradation is particularly serious for SIDS, affecting the health, stability and function of their fragile ecosystems.

Deforestation, expansion of unsustainable agriculture, over-use of riparian areas and overgrazing, high rates of erosion leading to coastal sedimentation and degradation of coastal resources such as coral reefs, and urbanization and tourism development are all compounded in SIDS as a result of

land use planning is driven by sectoral policies rather than addressing trade-offs between sectors, and the numerous development frameworks do not adequately take land degradation issues into account. In particular, land degradation is not adequately mainstreamed into national development planning. These barriers are compounded by the insufficiency of capacities to strengthen the information base; develop and

of Sustainable Land Management project (more commonly known as the LDC-SIDS land degradation portfolio project), the goal of which is to contribute to the mitigation of land degradation, through capacity development and mainstreaming of sustainable land management (SLM). With GEF funding of US\$29 million and an additional leveraged US\$29 million, the Portfolio Project is an innovative approach to fast track GEF

**25,000 million tones: Amount of soil lost annually as a result of water erosion alone.**

Source: *Our Land Our Future, Rome and Nairobi*, FAO and UNEP

competing pressures of a growing population, limited natural resources, as well as challenging institutional capacities.

The critical barriers to sustainable land management for SIDS lie in economic growth policies that often contradict long-term environmental concerns, such as tourism development on the coast. Development plans also tend to maximize sectoral benefits, often at the cost of other sectors, such as mono-culture. Furthermore,

access innovations and new tools; develop and maintain expertise; transcend sectoral divisions, overlapping mandates and inadequate funding; reconcile conflicting policies; and overcome legal and cultural constraints regarding land tenure.

To meet these challenges, faced by both SIDS and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), UNDP has developed the LDC and SIDS Targeted Portfolio Approach for Capacity Development and Mainstreaming

funds for those LDCs (16) and SIDS (33) countries that have ratified the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) but not yet completed National Action Plans (NAP) to access GEF funding.

Each LDC-SIDS country project will strengthen the enabling environment for sustainable land management while ensuring broad-based political and participatory support for the process, in three key areas; namely domestic capacity development (national

and local level); mainstreaming NAP/SLM into national development strategies and policies; and investment planning and resource mobilization for implementation of SLM.

Cuba is one of six countries that UNDP is piloting a programmatic approach to integrated land and soil conservation. With GEF funding, the Strengthening the Cuban Integrated Land and Soil Conservation Programme is a ten-year project currently under preparation that seeks to strengthen the implementation of the

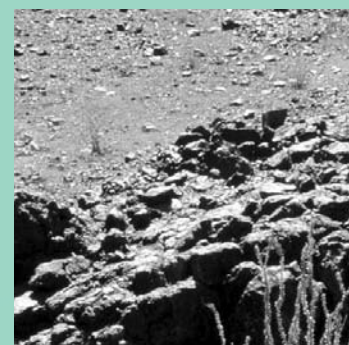
financing, with leveraged US\$40 million of co-financing. The NPCDD is a comprehensive document that would provide programmatic guidance for implementation of the Country Programme Partnership. This Partnership in turn has been conceived to directly implement this guidance and provide an overall framework for the implementation of projects assisted through various GEF agencies in a coordinated, synergic and logical manner.

The Cape Verde project, Integrated Participatory Ecosystem

## SIDS stand to benefit from US\$48 million investment to combat land degradation

National Plan to Combat Desertification and Drought (NPCDD). The intended results of these efforts are reduced land degradation and promotion of ecosystem integrity, as well as increased food security, reduced poverty and environmental sustainability. This programme goes before the GEF Council for approval in June 2005, with a request for US\$10 million of GEF

Management in and around Protected Areas, is a US\$9.64 million project, with US\$3.94 million of GEF financing under implementation by UNDP. This project is currently making headway in the reversal of land and water degradation in and around six critical ecosystems, and is effectively involving local stakeholders in the design and implementation of conservation plans, resource management activities, and the development





## Developing institutional and human capacities

With incremental funding from GEF, UNDP has assisted many SIDS in the strengthening of the institutional and human capacities, which are very important given the relatively low numbers of critical mass in terms of expertise and competing institutional demands over multiple sectors. One of the first steps in strengthening national capacities has been the development of a National Biodiversity and Action Plan, which for SIDS is largely a process of developing integrated resource management policies. Through biodiversity conservation projects, UNDP's GEF programme has channeled important investments for SIDS to implement such integrated resource management policies. For example, the Belize Coastal Zone management project helped develop a coastal zone management agency that now guides and monitors the management of coastal resources, including globally significant coral reef ecosystems.

In January 2000, UNDP and the GEF Secretariat launched the Capacity Development Initiative

(CDI) to focus attention on strengthening the capacities of developing countries to address global environmental issues. By September 2000, UNDP and GEF had commissioned a report that assessed SIDS' country capacity development needs and priorities. As a follow-up to this assessment, the GEF has embarked on a new programme of capacity development that focuses on cross-cutting global environmental themes. The National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) is a programme aimed at helping developing countries and economies in transition to self-assess their national capacity for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). These MEAs include the Framework Convention for Climate Change (FCCC), Convention for Biodiversity (CBD), and Convention to Combat Land Degradation (CCD). The NCSA is unique in that it promotes synergy among the three MEAs, and is particularly important to SIDS given the confluence of threats and capacity needs in the areas of biodiversity, climate change and desertification. Through the

self-assessments, countries identify gaps in capacity and then come up with their own solutions to fill these gaps. The NCSA represents the first important step in national efforts to develop capacity for implementing the MEAs. Of the 117 NCSA projects that UNDP is developing and/or implementing, 29 are SIDS.

Though not specifically a capacity development initiative, the GEF National Dialogue Initiative serves to strengthen country ownership and involvement in GEF co-financed activities through a multiple stakeholder dialogue process. This new Initiative is an important collaboration among UNDP, UNEP the World Bank and the GEF Secretariat, implemented by UNDP. The GEF National Dialogue Initiative builds upon the recommendations from the GEF Country Dialogue Workshops, of which SIDS were early beneficiaries. Discussions are presently underway with the GEF Secretariat to support SIDS requesting countries through this new multiple stakeholder GEF dialogue process.



Beginning in 2001, UNDP's GEF programme collaborated with the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs towards the strengthening of SIDSNet. This project has made a significant contribution to the improvement in the collection, organization and dissemination of information on good practices to address biodiversity conservation, climate change responses and international water management among the 43 members of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). In particular, SIDSNet highlights the use of information technology in integrated ecosystem management and in sustainable development endeavors of relevance to the Earth Summit conventions. SIDSNet has also been recognized for playing an important role in facilitating information exchange towards the substantive preparations for the International Meeting on the ten-year review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Small Island Developing States.

## Building capacity in Mauritius

Most of the useable land in Mauritius has already been put to productive use, and the amount of land remaining for development is sparse.

Recognizing their specific vulnerability to land degradation and high priority to sustainable land management, UNDP's Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management project will help strengthen local and national policy-making and planning capacities. This project will also study the ecological health of public and private forests, providing incentives for sustainable management of privately held land.

Total financing for this project is US\$1.2 million, of which US\$600,000 is financed by GEF.







# GEF Small Grants Programme

The GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) is a GEF corporate programme that began in 1993 and is implemented by UNDP on behalf of all GEF implementing agencies. Through its grants, the SGP makes an important contribution in increasing the capacity of local communities to conserve biodiver-

restore the environment while generating sustainable livelihoods.

Countries participate in the SGP through either national, sub-regional, or regional modalities. SGP national programme participants include Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Jamaica,

SGP is seeking to fast-track the participation of all SIDS into the programme. The SGP's sub-regional modality was developed for the much smaller SIDS to deal with the challenge of high operational costs. This modality involves the establishment of a sub-regional office with a Coordinator and a

**With a grant of US\$ 30,279, the SGP Solar Water Desalination in Coastal Villages project in Mauritius demonstrated an option for SIDS to better access drinking water.**

sity, adapt and mitigate effects of climate change, protect international waters against transboundary threats to their ecosystems, eliminate or reduce the use of persistent organic pollutants (POPs), and prevent land degradation, through a variety of bottom-up approaches. Grants of up to US\$ 50,000 are provided directly to

Mauritius, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Suriname, and Trinidad & Tobago. The Barbados and Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) is a regional modality of the SGP, and includes Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and St. Lucia. SGP's

Programme Assistant, and supported by a Sub-Regional Steering Committee (SRSC). The role of this steering committee is to look for opportunities for collaboration at the sub-regional level, such as international waters projects, inter-island exchanges of expertise, and joint training, the activities of which can be supported by the SGP.

**A SGP grant of \$20,500 in the Dominican Republic was very successful in strengthening the institutional infrastructure necessary for introducing solar energy to many other parts of the island.**

communities and non-governmental organizations in developing countries, supporting efforts of local people to conserve and

sub-regional programme includes the Pacific islands of the Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, and Palau.

Each island state, however, has a National Focal Group, coordinated by a National Focal Person (NFP). All projects proposed to the SGP would be reviewed and approved

by the NFP, thereby providing for country decision-making and ownership of the programme within a sub-regional modality.

Programming is underway to extend the Pacific sub-regional modality to the other very small islands states in the Pacific and other regions. With this modality, other smaller SIDS can immediately be brought into the SGP. Other

SIDS not currently in the SGP but which are large enough to have a sizeable grants portfolio may have their own country programme.

The SGP is actively programming all SIDS to be in the programme by 2008.

**SGP has emphasized "participation and democracy, synergy through partnerships, gender and indigenous peoples, geographical distribution, replication and sustainability. SGP has also sought to have an impact on national environmental policies and donor agendas by increasing public awareness of global environmental issues and communicating lessons learnt, including best practices from its community-based experience. ... In many countries, SGP has become the permanent face or even de facto ambassador of the GEF"**

**Third Independent Evaluation of the SGP 1999-2002, April 2003**





## Promoting Strategic Partnerships and Synergies

UNDP's extensive experience and presence around the world present an excellent opportunity for building partnerships to contribute to the implementation of the BPoA. However, these partnerships can only be strategic if they produce the desired results, are cost-effective, maximize positive synergies, limit the unintended and unforeseen consequences, and are insti-

protection, while at the same time addressing sustainable development priorities.

In addition to UNDP's global environmental work, the World Bank and United Nations Environment Programme are important implementing agencies and partners in assisting SIDS meet their environmental and sustainable develop-

ment projects should not be forgotten, as they play a critical role in creating synergies among other countries in the region that share similar concerns. Regional development banks have been important partners to UNDP in providing significant co-financing to GEF allocations as well as their comparative experience in meet-

**\$262 million: Total GEF and co-financing to SIDS-specific projects managed by UNDP, 1997-2004.**

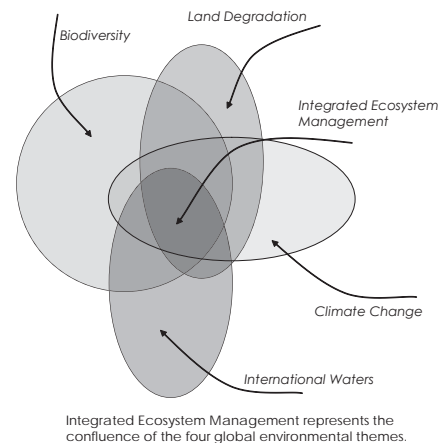
Source: Operational Report on GEF Programmes, GEF, June 2004

tutionally sustainable. From the very beginning of their work, the UNDP has stepped up to assist SIDS implement the Barbados Plan of Action. In addition to the important work of UNDP's Capacity 2015, Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Volunteers (UNV), and Special Unit/Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (SU/TCDC), among others, UNDP's Global Environment Facility (GEF) division provides capacity development services directed to meeting the challenges of global environmental

ment priorities. Indeed, many of the activities undertaken by UNDP are joint efforts with one or both of these agencies, the partnership of which serves to draw upon the particular services each provides. The US\$120 million of GEF funds allocated to SIDS-specific projects managed by UNDP have leveraged US\$142 million in additional funds. This does not include those resources invested in regional projects that include SIDS and non-SIDS projects, such as Building Wider Public and Private Constituencies for the GEF in Latin America and the Caribbean. These types of col-

laborative projects should not be forgotten, as they play a critical role in creating synergies among other countries in the region that share similar concerns.

Beyond these partnerships, other strategic partnerships are encouraged, as with international governmental and non-governmental organizations, private sector, domestic non-governmental organizations, and academia, notwithstanding the critical partnership with the public sector. These partnerships not only serve to build upon their comparative and collective experience and expertise, but as a way to leverage additional resources and to build upon



the existing institutional structures already in place. While partnerships at the national level have been strengthened and catalyzed through UNDP's GEF interventions,

of Action, as well as the Millennium Development Goals and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, UNDP's GEF division recently signed an agreement with

demonstrated the critical need for integrated ecosystem management. The GEF's multi-focal Integrated Ecosystem Management Operational

An example of a possible UNDP partnership is with the Institut de l'Energie et de l'Environnement de la Francophonie (IEPF) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for the implementation of NCSA projects in French-speaking countries and in Southeast Asia respectively.

global partnerships are mostly under development and have not as yet resulted in on-the-ground results. For example, UNDP is paying close attention to developing partnerships through a number of new projects that focus on greening industry; improving technical support to projects; specialized thematic areas such as ecotourism, cleaner production, land degradation, and financial management; market transformation for energy efficiency products; and on-grid renewable energy.

Furthermore, in support of SIDS' commitment to the Barbados Plan

the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission to develop an innovative programme on Sustainable Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). In particular, this programme aims to support Pacific SIDS in implementing the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management, which sets out to improve the assessment and monitoring of water resources, reduce water pollution, improve access to technologies, strengthen institutional arrangements, and leverage additional financial resources. Finally, the early lessons learned from GEF interventions in SIDS

Programme is therefore an important window through which SIDS are able to address the challenge of developing comprehensive frameworks to manage their environment across multiple sectors and social, economic and political boundaries. Projects under this operational programme are expressly intended to foster positive synergies while minimizing negative ones among the focal areas of biodiversity, climate change, international waters, and land degradation. This approach also facilitates the design and implementation of interventions that meet the goals of complementary MEAs.

Antigua and Barbuda's Implementation of a Sustainable Island Resource Management Mechanism is an example of an Integrated Ecosystem Management project, which seeks to incorporate integrated ecosystem management objectives, principles, techniques and practices into government policies for land and marine development.

**For more information, please visit UNDP at:**

UNDP/GEF:

[www.undp.org/gef](http://www.undp.org/gef)

GEF National Dialogue Initiative:

[www.undp.org/gef/dialogue](http://www.undp.org/gef/dialogue)

GEF Small Grants Programme:

[sgp.undp.org](http://sgp.undp.org)

UNDP and GEF Capacity Development Initiative:

[www.gefweb.org/documents/enabling\\_activity\\_projects/cdi/cdi.html](http://www.gefweb.org/documents/enabling_activity_projects/cdi/cdi.html)

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