

RISING UP FOR SIDS



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RISING UP FOR SIDS

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are some of the most beautiful places in the world and, at the same time, some of the most vulnerable. They were first identified as a special case for sustainable development nearly three decades ago, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. Today, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs lists 58 SIDS spread across the Pacific, Caribbean, Atlantic, Indian Ocean, and South China Sea (AIS).

Turning challenges into opportunities

SIDs are generally small in population and land area, with fragile ecologies, and face diverse and distinct development trajectories. Many SIDS face common structural and fiscal development challenges including lack of economic diversification, inadequate social protections and inclusion, heavy debt, and overdependency on imported fossil fuels. Further, their small size and geographies make SIDS extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. They experience, intimately and urgently, the consequences of intensified extreme-weather events, and rising sea levels and ocean acidification, exacerbated by the degradation and depletion of their natural capital which has sustained their livelihoods and economies for so long.



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While SIDS are bound together by common development challenges, they possess real potential for innovation and change to turn their most pressing challenges into opportunities. The greatest resource of SIDS are their people. Sustainable development pathways must put people at the centre, in line with the commitments of the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway and 2030 Agenda. SIDS' small sizes allow them to become innovation incubators. SIDS have the potential to become microcosms for new technological solutions or innovative nature-based solutions that may be replicated and scaled up across SIDS and elsewhere. Furthermore, it is important that SIDS are not defined exclusively by their small land area. They represent nearly 20 percent of the world's offshore Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and are thus also 'Large Ocean States'. These opportunities, along with SIDS' collective commitment to transformational change and global action, provide an ideal frame for UNDP to serve as a key development partner.

At the outset of the Decade of Action, UNDP commits to scaling up its support to SIDS, responding to their greatest opportunities for accelerating sustainable development. Accordingly, over the next 10 years, UNDP will expand its support for multipliers that accelerate progress and build on UNDP's comparative advantage and specific expertise: namely, climate action, developing blue economies and

promoting digital transformation, with access to financing as a key enabler. Importantly, this work will manage natural capital in a sustainable manner and promote nature-based solutions – solutions that reflect cultural and societal values in the protection, conservation and enhancement of ecosystems.

UNDP's scaled-up offer for SIDS

At the UN's Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa in 2014, Member States adopted an outcome document called the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A. Pathway). SIDS have clearly articulated their expectations for support from the international community through forums like the 2019 mid-term review of the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway. These requests include:

- Increased access to and advocacy within the international arena
- Integrated and tailored policy advice
- Mainstreamed localization of the SDGs and the closing of SDG gaps
- Identified development best practices and high-quality, disaggregated data collected through technologies; Better statistical analysis and use of data for evidence-based decision making
- Access to innovation and innovative thinking
- Partnerships including with sub-regional organizations, and access to sustainable finance.



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To respond to their urgent needs and ambitious goals, UNDP is committed to scaling up its support for all SIDS. Today, UNDP's support is wide-ranging, with an estimated annual value of US\$300 million supporting SIDS in advancing their national development priorities. UNDP's support is delivered through a strong presence across the Pacific, Caribbean and AIS, through a network of eight Multi-Country Offices (MCOs), as well as stand-alone country offices in Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Cabo Verde, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Maldives, São Tomé and Príncipe, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, and Bahrain.

UNDP, in its mandated role as the support platform of the UN development system, is particularly well-equipped to tackle the many challenges and opportunities that SIDS present. These include climate change, sustainable management of natural capital, economic diversification, developing the blue economy, disaster risk reduction, governance and citizen security, and women's empowerment. However, to better respond to the needs of SIDS, and

especially to the ambitions of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the recent mid-term review of the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway, and the upcoming Decade of Action on the SDGs, UNDP has committed to upgrading its support to SIDS. This support will include strengthening UNDP's programmatic engagement, increasing its ability to respond to urgent and emerging challenges, improving organizational agility and providing tailored, human-centered development.

The upgraded offer is embedded within UNDP's Strategic Plan 2018-2021 and is based on national demand and needs of SIDS. It builds on the organization's multi-sectoral programmatic portfolio, its broad development expertise and experience, and its valuable network of traditional and non-traditional partners.

CLIMATE ACTION

UNDP'S VISION IS TO HELP COUNTRIES PROMOTE DECARBONIZED AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES THROUGH SCALED UP CLIMATE ACTION ACROSS ALL SIDES





PHOTO CREDIT: UNDP MALDIVES AND DJI

Vision

SIDS are on the frontlines of the climate crisis, but they are also at the forefront of climate solutions. At the Secretary General's Climate Summit in September 2019 in New York, the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) put forth the 'SIDS Package', which outlines their priorities in addressing climate change. It highlights their collective determination to achieving net zero emissions by 2050 and includes a set of cross-cutting initiatives and partnerships all of which are SIDS-focused and SIDS-defined. The Package introduces a commitment by SIDS to update their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2020, developing comprehensive plans and strategies for low greenhouse gas emissions in island contexts, energy transformation and improved adaptive capacity.

These are bold commitments. **UNDP's vision is to help SIDS towards these goals by promoting decarbonized and resilient societies through scaled up climate action.** Our support will be based on national development and climate policy priorities, under the overarching objective of meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ambition: What will we do?

UNDP's scaled-up climate action offer consists of three pillars, all key for transformative development impact in SIDS: (1) energy transformation; (2) adaptation and resilience; and (3) nature-based solutions.

To support **energy sector transformation**, UNDP commits to:

- Providing 6 million people out of a total population of 65 million across 24 SIDS with access to clean energy by 2030.
- Assisting the 24 SIDS that have not yet reached universal access to electricity to achieve up to 50 percent improvement.
- Assisting the 25 SIDS with less than 25 percent share of renewable energy in their power mix to achieve at least 25 percent by 2030 and assist those countries that have committed to reaching a 100 percent target (by 2030).

To help SIDS **adapt** to climate change and **build resilience**, UNDP commits to, by 2030:

- Supporting at least 30 SIDS in integrating adaptation into policy, planning, and budgeting across national/subnational/local levels, especially through National Adaptation Plans and NDCs.

- Mobilizing \$500 million in grants to support the implementation of adaptation priorities across at least 30 SIDS in the areas of water resource management/water security, coastal resilience, food security (fisheries and agriculture), resilient livelihoods, and early warning systems and climate information.
- Furthering the harmonization of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies across at least 25 SIDS, supporting governments in incorporating risk reduction and planning for short-, medium- and long-term risks.

To leverage **nature-based solutions** for gains across multiple SDGs, UNDP commits to:

- Helping 20 SIDS to identify, by 2022, nature-based solutions and integrated approaches for climate adaptation and mitigation in line with national development plans.
- Supporting 20 SIDS in replicating, by 2024, best practices in integrated planning, including Ridge-to-Reef initiatives and integrated coastal zone management.
- Supporting 20 SIDS in using spatial data to develop maps of 'essential life support areas' (areas that large swaths of the population depend on for their livelihoods and survival, such as coral reefs and mangrove forests) that can build political will for implementing nature-based solutions.

Underpinning these actions in key thematic areas, UNDP has also made a specific commitment to support all SIDS requesting assistance to submit revised NDCs by the end of 2020 as part of UNDP's Climate Promise. This includes support to raise ambition in those SIDS that have

positioned themselves as champions of bold climate action – working in close concert with, and through, the NDC Partnership.

Acceleration: How will we do it?

To fulfil these commitments, UNDP will leverage its extensive climate and energy portfolio of over \$210 million across 42.

Energy transformation and climate mitigation:

- Increase access to and effective use of grant financing through various sources in order to leverage private sector investment in clean energy at low cost and transform energy sector markets.
- Support government efforts in increasing renewable energy generation (solar, wind, biomass, hydro and geothermal) and energy efficiency technologies through (i) technical assistance; (ii) policy and financial de-risking to scale up clean energy solutions; (iii) technical standards for energy efficiency such as green building codes, energy audits and sustainable transport; (iv) rural electrification through distributed generation and mini-grids; and (v) policy and regulatory support to design and implement clean energy policies and a national roadmap for greenhouse gas reduction.
- Support the monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) of greenhouse gas emissions by developing national and regional training; providing technical support for any component related to transparency; advising and providing strategic guidance on the way forward; and implementing quality control exercises on work done under the transparency framework within The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.



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Climate change adaptation and resilience:

- Support SIDS governments in incorporating risk reduction and planning for short-, medium- and long-term risks.
- Advance 'whole-of-island' and Ridge-to-Reef approaches to development planning and policy-making, working across environment, climate, inclusive growth, and governance teams.
- Provide technical assistance and support to strengthen institutions at the national, regional and local community/island level to enable risk-informed policy, planning and investment decision-making.
- Assist in mobilizing and accessing vertical funds and bilateral resources to implement adaptation and resilience actions focused on safety, security and livelihoods. Private sector innovations, technologies, insurance and finance will be combined with public finance to enhance food and water security, early warning and climate information, and resilient infrastructure.

Nature-based solutions:

- Assist SIDS in integrating nature-based solutions into NDCs and other national policies by providing integrated spatial data support for nature-based food security, water security and livelihoods.
- Support piloting innovative nature-based efforts to scale up and support learning from successes among SIDS. This support will be integrated with the climate change mitigation and adaptation support, ensuring sustainability of these actions and the protection and management of the natural safety net.

For all these actions, UNDP will draw on the local knowledge of its Country Office network to identify strategic and impactful entry points to deliver on its Climate Promise.

BLUE ECONOMY

UNDP'S VISION IS TO PROVIDE
SUPPORT TO TRANSFORM SIDS
BLUE ECONOMIES TOWARDS
PROSPERITY THROUGH AN
INTEGRATED APPROACH ROOTED
IN SUSTAINABLE FINANCE





PHOTO CREDIT: 2016 VLAD SOKHIN, NIUE

Vision

SIDS are small islands, but increasingly refer to themselves as Large Ocean States. They represent 19.1 percent of the world's Exclusive Economic Zones, which are sea zones over which states have special rights regarding their use. Their combined ocean area is 20.7 times that of their land territory. This huge difference between the size of their sovereign territory in the ocean and on land underscores the potential for SIDS to realize greater socio-economic benefits from their sustainable 'blue economies'.

The Blue Economy is defined as the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, jobs and social and financial inclusion, with a focus on **preservation as well as **restoration** of the health of ocean ecosystems.**

Sustainable blue economy opportunities in SIDS cover a broad spectrum of sectors including existing dominant sectors in SIDS in fishing and coastal tourism as well as actual or potential new contributors such as aquaculture, ocean-based energy (waves, tides, wind), offshore oil and gas, sustainable maritime transport, desalination, research and education, and marine genetic resources. Finally, the blue economy can also include non-market economic benefits such as carbon storage, coastal protection, cultural values and biodiversity.

Unlocking the full potential of their blue economies can assist SIDS in achieving not only SDG 14 but having ripple effects on other goals, including SDGs 1 (poverty), 5 (gender), 8 (growth/work).

UNDP's vision is to **provide support to transform SIDS' blue economies to achieve prosperity through an integrated approach rooted in sustainable finance and development.** Towards this end, UNDP is committed to providing SIDS with significant technical, financial and capacity-building assistance.

Ambition: What will we do?

Building upon UNDP's sizeable baseline of blue economy programmes and projects, and based on gaps and needs identified in this portfolio, the ambition of the blue economy pillar consists of three strategic outputs:

- 20 to 30 national SIDS Blue Economy Strategies fully integrated into national development plans and budgets in all three SIDS regions by 2025, with strong elements for safeguarding natural resources and ecosystems.
- 20 to 30 SIDS Blue Economy on-the-ground pilots by 2025, with strong social and sustainability elements.
- US\$30 million or more in new and additional Blue Economy grant finance mobilized by 2025.

Acceleration: How will we do it?

UNDP's plan for accelerating the Blue Economy pillar will be achieved through strategic activities under each of the main three outputs:

National SIDS Blue Economy Strategies

- National Blue Economy Assessments (status, trends, marine resources evaluation, etc.)
- National Blue Economy strategic plans
- Introduction of innovative blue economy financial instruments
- Fostering SIDS governance frameworks more conducive to private sector investment
- Capacity-building (training - blue economy planning, innovative finance, private sector engagement, governance reform, stakeholder engagement, etc.)
- Partnerships between UNDP, SIDS and external academic organizations, NGOs, international NGOs, UN agencies, the private sector and other stakeholders
- SIDS blue economy advocacy, awareness-raising and knowledge products.

On-the-ground pilots

- Live demonstrations, webinars and training sessions on blue economy investments, including both ecosystem restoration and protections that restore lost economic activity[opportunity]
- New and additional public and/or private investments in sectors deemed sustainable.

New grant funding

- US\$30 million or more in new and additional blue economy grants mobilized by 2021. Principal sources include vertical funds and selected bilaterals and philanthropies.



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DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

UNDP'S VISION IS TO SUPPORT SIDS IN NOT ONLY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES OF THE DIGITAL AGE, BUT ALSO MANAGING THE ASSOCIATED CHALLENGES AND OVERCOMING EXISTING CONSTRAINTS WITH ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGIES AND LIMITED CAPACITY





PHOTO CREDIT: IWRM AIO SIDS, CABO VERDE

Vision

SIDS states are at a moment of great, almost revolutionary, promise, where digital technology is concerned. Their small sizes offer the ideal conditions to be innovation incubators, pioneering new technologies that can be tested, replicated and scaled up elsewhere. SIDS can become frontrunners in the use of digital technologies to accelerate sustainable development and mitigate many of the challenges that they face and can be tested, replicated and scaled up elsewhere.

SIDS are working to address challenges in core infrastructure and connectivity that is needed to make this leap. Significant progress on increasing connectivity has put SIDS on track to achieve targets of universality and affordability of internet access by 2020. As of September 2019, mobile broadband coverage covered 85 per cent of population, and over half the SIDS had an internet penetration rate of over 60 per cent.

However, many SIDS continue to struggle when it comes to improving two key issues: digital capacities and inclusive access to digital technologies. This widening digital gap is seen, for instance, in the limited availability of online content in local languages, and inadequate broadband infrastructure and capacity, particularly in rural areas. These challenges need to be systematically addressed.

UNDP recognizes these realities - the need to explore the potential of digital transformation in SIDS alongside the urgency of bridging the persistent digital divide. UNDP is well positioned to support SIDS to realize these digital ambitions. UNDP's vision is to **support SIDS in taking advantage of the opportunities of a digital age, while managing the associated challenges and overcoming existing constraints in access and capacity.**

Ambition: What will we do?

UNDP aims to support SIDS in achieving their digital ambitions by 2030 in the following ways:

1) Support 20 SIDS in developing forward-looking national digital transformation strategies, fully integrated into national development plans and budgets by 2025, following pioneering global practice and international standards, but tailored to the country-specific context.

2) Increase the resilience and inclusion of public institutions and people in SIDS.

- Bolster early warning systems and disaster preparedness programmes in all SIDS by 2030 employing cutting-edge technologies and techniques, thereby reducing future risks of disasters across SIDS in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Digitize public data to enhance resilience and avoid loss of public information caused by weather-related disasters. Digitization will make domestic resource mobilization more efficient and effective and ensure that sustainable development priorities are integrated into the public investment portfolio. This will strengthen the performance of public finance and attract investments. Enhanced monitoring and evaluation efforts through digitization will also, for example, contribute to efforts to mobilize bilateral resources.
- Improve the financial and social inclusion of all SIDS people, across the digital divide, including through digital identification systems and innovative finance solutions.

- Establish enabling legal, policy and regulatory framework for the adoption and scale up of digital technologies for strengthened systems for health and achieving universal health coverage.
- Build the predictive capacity of at least ten SIDS to use satellite and meteorological data to better forecast and manage arboviral outbreaks, principally dengue.

3) Enhance digital ecosystems and strengthen digital capacity in SIDS.

- Build local expertise in the tech sector by expanding local entrepreneurship, financial technologies and other means.
- Improve digital literacy.
- Establish a new UNDP Accelerator Lab in SIDS.

Acceleration: How will we do it?

UNDP's support to digital transformation in the SIDS will be realized through a range of technical, advisory and knowledge building measures.

National digital strategy:

- Provide policy advisory support for digital strategy and regulatory frameworks, ensuring flexible and innovative policy and regulatory approaches that incentivize digital transformation.
- Advise/provide technical assistance for digitizing public services and processes, including facilitating secure and reliable ICT infrastructure, building affordable access to and delivery of high-volume public services, utilizing data to inform decision-making processes and, ultimately, enhancing efficiency and agility and reducing costs.



ERODED
COASTAL ZONE

PHOTO CREDIT: UNDP MALDIVES AND DJI

Resilience and inclusion:

- Promote the use of UNDP’s Household and Building Damage Assessment (HBDA) Toolkit, and build on the experience of the Global Center for Disaster Statistics, for faster and improved recovery, monitoring, policy-making, and disaster preparedness.
- Provide technical support for the use of new technologies including satellite imagery, to strengthen early warning and disaster relief systems as well as systems, capacities, and processes for the continual assessment of structural vulnerabilities.
- Leverage the UN Biodiversity Lab that works closely with national governments to provide every country with the best available spatial data to make informed conservation decisions.
- Utilize the existing UNDP digital roster system of deployable experts (topical and regional) for crisis situations to ensure fast, effective expert deployment in disaster responses.
- Support the development of regulatory and institutional frameworks for digitizing public data and services and adopt digital solutions to improve financial and social inclusion including digital remittance services and digital identification systems.

- Supporting the development of regulatory and institutional framework conducive to adopting digital services including digital health technologies.

Ecosystem and capacity building:

- Encourage growth of local entrepreneurship and financial technology by building regulatory and institutional environments and attracting private sector investment.
- Build knowledge, advocacy and awareness of the benefits of new technologies. This includes increasing digital literacy and building local expertise on digital technologies to prepare SIDS for the future of work.
- Establish a new Accelerator Lab in SIDS focused solely on the digital, which would scout solutions fit for SIDS and be scaled up quickly to other countries through the Lab’s network.

MOBILIZATION

For UNDP, delivering on the scaled-up SIDS offer means enhancing the organization's human capital and footprint in SIDS, building on a range of existing UNDP initiatives such as UNDP's network of Accelerator Labs and the organization's first ever Digital Strategy (2018-2021). It will also mean drawing on all its assets, including UN Volunteers, UN Capital Development Fund, the Multi Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation. Stronger inter-agency linkages will be essential to providing holistic and responsive support to SIDS.

Finance

Access to finance through innovative financing methods and traditional financing sources is a key enabler for many SIDS. UNDP will support SIDS in accessing finance in four areas:

1) Innovative finance including blended finance approaches and risk-mitigating solutions like insurance for protection from disasters ex-ante and enhancing protection for coral reefs and other types of natural capital.

2) Financing for conservation and debt restructuring (in hand with fiscal policy advice) using blue bonds and resilience bonds.

3) Catalysing private sector investment for infrastructure (natural and manmade) through green bonds.

4) Leverage domestic resource mobilization and scarce public investment to find other sources of finance for sustainable development in SIDS

PHOTO CREDIT: UNDP MALDIVES AND DJI





PHOTO CREDIT: ILDIKO HAMOS, ALESSANDRO MEDICI AND TIMEA LUETTE, UNDP VANUATU

In each of these areas, UNDP will do the following, including in partnership with other organizations:

- Conduct feasibility testing, including risk identification and appropriateness of potential financial solutions, assessing the vulnerability of communities along socioeconomic and climate dimensions, marine biological health, identifying legal/regulatory provisions to support work on natural capital sources and exploring local capacity to deploy financial instruments.
- Assess the values of environmental services provided by the blue economy, in order to ascertain whether finance is appropriate.
- Support stakeholder engagement with information on why financial interventions are important and cost effective (i.e., estimate avoided losses), at the community and the government levels (capacity-building, technical assistance)
- Work with stakeholders at the federal, municipal and local level groups to assess their interest in the proposed financing mechanisms
- Assess financial and capacity gaps and how to address them based on the country profile.

Additionally, vertical fund programming is a key channel for implementing, partnering with and advancing direct access support through national and regional entities prominent in the SIDS. UNDP will continue to provide technical and policy-level support at the national, regional and local community/island level. UNDP has decades of experience using funding sources such as the Global Environment Facility and Green Climate Fund to implement projects related to ecosystems and biodiversity, international waters, chemicals and waste, and climate change. New projects will be designed with GEF and GCF resources that allow for integrated approaches at scale as well as crowding in public and private sector financing.



PHOTO CREDIT: ILDIKO HAMOS, ALESSANDRO MEDICI AND TIMEA LUETTE, UNDP VANUATU

Partnerships and Advocacy

Leveraging and scaling up existing partnerships as well as engaging in new partnerships is essential to realizing UNDP's ambitions in SIDS across the three pillars of UNDP's offer. In SIDS, UNDP works with a wide range of UN, international NGO, NGO, bilateral and multilateral, private sector and philanthropic partners. UNDP will also enhance its support to SIDS through continued advocacy for SIDS on the global stage.

Partnerships for Finance

UNDP has dedicated partners to enable the provision of services such as innovative blue financial instruments (including blue bonds and reef insurance instruments) as well as working to support protected marine areas. Alongside mobilizing additional finance for SIDS, UNDP is also working to strengthen the tax revenue authority's tax audit capacities to audit multinational enterprises.

Partnerships for Climate Action

UNDP is currently working closely with the many actors on the ground providing technical and financial assistance to SIDS. They include other UN agencies such as United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Environment Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations Children's Fund and International Renewable Energy Agency.

Much of this support will be done in close coordination with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Regional Collaboration Centers who are active in SIDS regions. The support of regional political groupings such as Caribbean Community, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, International Olympic Committee, SPC, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme is also critical. Collaboration with development partners such as other international finance institutions (World Bank, Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, etc.), bilateral governments with regional interests (e.g., Australia, New Zealand, and China in the Pacific) and Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) are also essential. New partnerships focusing on capacity-building, knowledge sharing and inclusion can be facilitated through UN Volunteer assignments or volunteer fellowships funded by governments, regional actors and academic institutions.

Partnerships for Blue Economy

In addition to SIDS governments at multiple levels, UNDP already works with a wide range of UN, IGO, NGO, bilateral and multilateral, private sector and philanthropic partners in its SIDS work. These include United Nations Environment Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization, IMO, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO

and others; the Pacific CROP agencies (Forum Fisheries Agency, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme), several Caribbean IGOs (Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism, Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission, Caribbean Community, Cartagena Convention, etc.); bilaterals including Canada, Sweden, France, Norway; multi-laterals (Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, World Bank, etc.); NGOs such as International Coral Reef Initiative, The Nature Conservancy, Rare, Ocean Sanctuary Alliance, Cousteau Society; and philanthropic entities such as the Paul Allen Family Foundation. Existing partnerships will continue and nurtured, while new and additional partnerships will be identified to strengthen UNDP's support to SIDS on the blue economy.

Partnerships for Digital Economy

UNDP has a long track record on digital finance, such as the decades-long

successful experience of the Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP) in collaboration with UNCDF that has been developing digital finance solutions. Additionally, UNDP's Global Centre for Technology, Innovation and Sustainable Development based in Singapore has sustainable finance as one of its key priorities and could be leveraged to export its successful financial technology development to assist in the digital transformation of SIDS.

Additionally, UNDP collaborates with technology companies like Microsoft and Engineers Without Borders, the European Space Agency, Copernicus and NASA on geospatial analysis, as well as academic institutions, to develop strategic initiatives, empower local experts and build a local knowledge base across SIDS. UNDP also has access to UNV's Online Volunteering service, which enables practical skills-based support to be provided digitally to SIDS by volunteers globally, at no cost.

