



XXII Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean
Decision 8

Caribbean SIDS Working Group
Report of the 1st Meeting of Task Force
LAC Forum of Environment Ministers

5-6 October 2022
Port of Spain, Trinidad

27.10.22	
Approved for Vincent Sweeney, Head, CSRO 28 October 2022	

Background

UNEP and the LAC Forum of Environment Ministers (hereinafter “The Forum”) have consistently given support to Caribbean SIDS as articulated by regional and international environmental agenda. This is specifically reflected in Decision 4 of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum on “Sustainable Development of SIDS”, followed by Decision 5 of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Forum.

The XXII Meeting of the Forum conducted from 23-24 February 2021 virtually under the Presidency of Barbados, adopted Decision 8 titled The Environmental Dimension of the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The Forum also adopted the Bridgetown Declaration and the COVID-19 Communique.

Decision 8 directed the formulation of a Caribbean SIDS Programme II for implementation of the Environmental Dimension of the SIDS Sustainable Development Agenda in the Caribbean and that it should focus specifically on the COVID-19 Recovery Response in areas such as tourism recovery, sustainable consumption and production and food security through the sustainable use of land and marine resources.

The XXII Meeting of the LAC Forum directed the establishment of a Working Group (WG) to support and guide the development of the Caribbean SIDS Programme pursuant to Decision 8. The first meeting of the WG was convened by the Caribbean Sub-Regional Office on 1st December 2021. The second meeting took place on September 14th 2022, also convened by the Caribbean SRO of UNEP.

It was further agreed to convene a Task Force (TF) of the WG which would go into specific details of planning the SIDS Programme and to report back to the full WG.

Objectives

The primary objective of the First Meeting of the Task Force (TF) was:

1. To discuss elaboration of a SIDS Programme II framework and
2. To identify related thematic priorities within the Programme.

Meeting Chair

The TF meeting was chaired by the SIDS WG Chair, namely the representative of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr Kevin Bhajan of the Ministry of Planning and the Environment. Barbados as the Interim Chair, asked to be relieved of the chairmanship. By consensus, Trinidad and Tobago accepted the position of Chair.

Agenda Item 1. Welcome Remarks

Welcome remarks were delivered by Mr. Vincent Sweeney, Head of the UNEP Caribbean Sub-Regional Office and Mr. Gustavo Manez Gomis, UNEP Deputy Regional Director (a.i)

Agenda item 2. Taking Stock of work to date

2.1 Status of Caribbean SIDS Activities – UNEP Perspective

Mr. Vincent Sweeney presented (link to presentation) on the UNEP's Caribbean SIDS Programme in which he outlined the building blocks of the SIDS Programme namely the SAMOA Pathway, UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2025, the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC Forum) and the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA 5). He also outlined UN processes in the Caribbean such as the Multi-country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF), the (UN-led) national-level Common Country Analyses (CCAs), which are then analysed and consolidated from a regional perspective in the Common Multi-Country Analysis (CMCA).

He showed the close alignment of these thematic/ focal areas of the UN cooperation framework and UNEP Medium Term Strategy's (MTS, 2022-2025) Thematic, Foundational and Enabling Programmes. He provided information on services which UNEP makes available to the Caribbean in the thematic areas of Climate Action, Nature Action and Chemical Pollution Action. He further elaborated UNEP's Foundational sub-programmes: 1. Science-Policy 2. Environmental Governance and Enabling sub-programmes: 1. Finance and Economic Transformations and 2. Digital Transformation.

Within these sub-programmes, he outlined the kinds of services which countries can access and information on specific UNEP projects and activities in which Caribbean countries are engaged.

Discussions on the presentation focused on the need for sustained communication, outreach and awareness-raising on UNEP's work in the Caribbean.

2.2 Status of Caribbean SIDS Activities – Member States' Perspective

Country representatives shared information on on-going projects in their respective countries. Each country gave a brief description but as a follow up, countries were asked to provide to the Secretariat a more comprehensive account in the SIDS National Project Matrix for collation and distribution to all Caribbean Member States.

2.3 Background and Context for Caribbean SIDS Programme and summary of progress of the SIDS Working Group (SIDS WG) to date

The representative of Barbados, Travis Sinckler presented on the evolution of the SIDS Programme (link to presentation) historically which has produced Decision 8. It was noted that Barbados has been a strong advocate of a Caribbean SIDS Programme through the LAC Forum and was instrumental in guiding the adoption of Decision 8 through the XXII Forum (February 2021) during which Barbados held the Presidency.

Decision 4 on the Caribbean SIDS Programme was adopted by the XIV Forum of the Ministers of the Environment of LAC in Panama, 2003. It built on the UNEP Governing Council Decision 22/13 of 2003. Some key elements of Decision 4 called for:

1. The establishment of a Caribbean SIDS Programme with the support of UNEP;
2. Support for the establishment of a Regional Sustainability Fund;
3. Support for Caribbean member States in their efforts to establish the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME);

4. Support for capacity building at regional, sub-regional and national levels that includes institutional strengthening, technology transfer and training to strengthen resilience to vulnerabilities;
5. Support for a well-established, well-defined regional coordination mechanism for further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA);
6. A consultative process be undertaken with Caribbean SIDS involving governments, civil society, and appropriate regional and sub-regional organizations to prepare the elements of a Caribbean SIDS Programme;

Decision 4 outlined a process for the development of a Caribbean SIDS Programme I including a Resource Mobilization Framework. Mr. Sinckler outlined some of the successes and challenges of the Programme. He also outlined opportunities for the Caribbean SIDS Programme II including continued support by the LAC Forum and the need for collaboration between the CARICOM Secretariat and UNEP. It was noted that development of the SIDS Programme II (Decision 8 LAC Forum 2021) must undertake an assessment of the SIDS Programme I (Decision 4 LAC Forum 2003) and build on its achievement but also consider how to address recurring and new challenges.

Agenda item 3. Caribbean SIDS Programmatic Framework

3.1 Review of draft SIDS Programme Framework and thematic priorities.

A Working Paper on the SIDS Programme II Framework was presented by UNEP (link to paper), as Secretariat to the LAC Forum and the SIDS WG. It was circulated to all participants prior to the TF meeting for their feedback. It was noted that the document was not intended to be prescriptive but would be informed by feedback from the TF in the first instance and by the full WG. In developing the Programme, the Paper noted that due consideration be given to the characteristics and vulnerabilities of SIDS and that solutions be developed according to these characteristics. Another key consideration is that the Programme be an integrated one, based on a programmatic and collaborative, rather than siloed approaches. The Paper also noted that the Programme should be nested within issues of sustainable development as articulated in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Paris Agreement. It also proposed that the Programme be based on the thematic principles as articulated in the SAMOA Pathway.

The Framework noted that the Programme's most immediate context is post Covid-19 recovery and the ongoing war in Ukraine that has caused food and fuel shortages and inflation. Other elements for consideration of the Programme development process would involve partnerships and collaboration especially the active engagement of the private sector, civil society and youth, among others. The programme must also integrate gender issues; promote science, research and data collection; facilitate data use and dissemination; develop and apply evidence-based approaches underwritten by standards and protocols. Good quality statistics to facilitate effective policy-, investment- and decision-making; information and knowledge exchange (South-South cooperation) were also deemed necessary.

It noted possible roles for regional organisations such as CARICOM and the OECS which are key to driving regional policy formulation and advocacy at the political level. The document also proposed that there is a critical role for UNEP's Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC) to mobilize funding and technical support.

The Programme should also be transformative and have demonstrated commitment from countries to convince donors and funders that their support and investments will lead to sustainable development and to be a win-win for all sides.

3.2 Discussion of “Programme elements” (sub-programme level) contained in the Working Paper in support of a Programme Framework, including regional priorities, will be facilitated.

Based on the Working Paper, there were extended discussions by participants on the process of arriving at the key regional thematic priorities. This was a facilitated process with inputs by the countries. It was agreed that the 14 themes articulated in the SAMOA Pathway would be used in the discussion to consolidate and articulate priorities. There was a consensus view that the themes of the triple planetary crisis: 1. Climate Change 2. Pollution and 3. Biodiversity Loss were the most efficient way of organising the priorities of the region. Countries were then asked to identify needs and gaps for each of the pillars of the planetary crisis.

From the country interventions on gaps and priority needs the following points were consistently raised and are highlighted as recurring issues. Annex 1 captures more specific inputs from countries.

a. Climate change:

- The transition away from fossil fuel energy must be a ‘just’ transition.
- Promote use of scalable technologies, e.g. district level solutions and cooling systems in the Bahamas was cited as a best practice to demonstrate how capacity can be built and the benefits that accrue to the local community.
- Strengthen communications and public awareness on key themes and solutions.
- Use and apply standards, codes, e.g. for buildings, spatial planning and for use by all stakeholders along the development and construction value chain.
- Need for data systems and centralized repositories, including protocols, digitization, hardware/ software.
- Apply NbS/EbS/integrated approaches from the good learning and lessons within the region including traditional knowledge and practices rather than from external examples.
- Capacity development is needed for new skills development particularly in new and emerging clean/green/digital jobs.
- New and innovative financing solutions are needed, e.g. micro-finance, as well as access to multi-lateral fund resources vs debt financing.

b. Biodiversity

- Countries are paying attention to the CBD COP 15 post-2020 goals and targets and should set their climate ambitions within the regional SIDS context to accomplish high ambitions beyond national jurisdictions.
- Countries need enforcement personnel &/or need to improve their capacity and skills and advocate for greater involvement of indigenous people and local communities (IPLC) to build capacity.

- Caribbean SIDS knowledge and expertise are needed in relation to better access to science, research and scientific reference materials.
- c. Pollution** as articulated in the EU Project on Waste management and the Circular Economy which is being executed by UNEP, the GIZ and AFD.
- Infrastructure needs are significant along the waste management value chain.
 - Data/data analysis technical assistance is needed for policy and decision-making.
 - Partnerships are needed for learning and concerted action with and through e.g. IPLCs, CSOs, NGOs, PPP/private sector.
 - Development of digital content is needed for promoting improved access to, learning and appreciation of indigenous practices and for educating children.
 - Innovative financing sources and increased government subventions are needed, e.g. better fee systems, grant funds, use of extended producer responsibility mechanisms etc.
 - Strengthening and updating of legislation and institutions to address current, new and emerging waste streams and related issues.
 - Technical expertise and integrated approaches needed in waste management generally, but also for sanitary landfilling, hazardous waste handling, use of 5Rs as methods for minimizing waste as priority for waste prevention.

Cross-cutting Issues

It was notable that data, data systems and related standards and protocols were consistently mentioned as a priority for all pillars, along with human capacity needs, and with other priorities related to implementation and progress.

The Programme will need high-level endorsement including by the LAC Forum and other political mechanisms. Other programmes in the Work Plan of the LAC Forum can provide technical and financial support. Caribbean SIDS must look at entry points in relevant programmes in order to access support.

The region should also be opportunistic in seeking support from high level advocates e.g. Mr. Simon Stiehl formerly Minister of Environment of Grenada, who is the new head of the UNFCCC. Caribbean SIDS should be kept on the international agenda so that it could benefit from technical expertise such as from within Latin America.

The meeting was asked to consider the region's priorities and issues that must be addressed as a matter of urgency. A key question that should be answered was what are the benefits of a SIDS Regional Programme.

Even though countries recognized and applauded UNEP's support, it was reiterated that the SIDS II Programme is not intended to be only implemented by UNEP. Countries were very specific that the SIDS II Programme should attract a wide variety of implementation and funding partners within the UN system and among regional donors and development partners.

It was noted that there is also a high degree of convergence of SIDS country priorities around the triple planetary crisis and UNEP's MTS pillars, which provides opportunities for programming and resource mobilization in the near term. It would be important to look at the rationalization of activities/projects in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

Agenda item 4. Next Steps

- I. **A meeting report will be prepared and is important for the follow-on steps:** The report that can serve as a key input to a follow up virtual meeting of the Working Group to be convened on or about 1st December 2022, as agreed by the participants.
- II. **UNEP anticipates that the follow up meeting in December will seek to have countries formally accept the meeting report and agree on consultant TORs:** The next proposed virtual meeting in December is likely to further refine the identified priorities for a consultancy managed by UNEP, that will elaborate the SIDS II programme along with a resource mobilization strategy. The proposed meeting in December will present a needs assessment framework/tool that will elaborate key country needs.

Agenda item 5. Other matters

No other matters were raised for discussions.

Agenda item 6. Closing of the meeting

The meeting closed at 3.30pm, 6 October 2022.

**Annex 1
Caribbean SIDS Project Matrix**

Thematic Area(s)	Intervention area	Lead agency
<p>1 Climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sea level rise - Desertification, land degradation and drought - Health sector resilience <p>Summary of key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Just) Transition away from FF use • Scalable technology use – district level solutions e.g. for cooling • Communications, public awareness • Use, application of standards, codes – buildings, spatial planning – by all stakeholders in the value chain • Data systems, protocols, digitization, hardware/ 	<p>BAH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - data gaps in coastal and ocean data – transmission pathways and resilience planning needs - data digitization needs to support early warning/predictions - Tourism/hotel development: in environmentally sensitive areas – no net loss of critical ecosystems - Needs: central data repository, policy directive and linked to evolving CC policy (2005); systems compatibility needed for inter-operability across sectors - District cooling options – opportunity for South/South exchange based on local examples and the development of Bahamas local expertise, which is based on ocean water, with little electricity to operate pumps but not for AC use. Willingness to share lessons. <p>TTO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data: digitization needs, data system protocols - Existing biodiversity information system at MP&D – as core repository for biodiversity data – needs to be interoperable between ministries e.g. data formats/ protocols. Data mg'mt policy for specific system available – still requires Cabinet approval - TT Knowledge Management system – facilitates data reporting to UNFCCC - Enhanced transparency framework via CBIT project – using discreet project funding to facilitate reporting requirements on Conventions to e.g. build capacity, which needs a more systematic, institutionalized approaches and can inform future interventions. - Weather data – for agriculture – software, equipment, technical expertise needs - Energy efficiency experience based on large project and grant funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IMA - UWI - Meteorological Dept.

**Annex 1
Caribbean SIDS Project Matrix**

Thematic Area(s)	Intervention area	Lead agency
<p>software – centralized repositories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply NbS/EbS/integrated approaches, based on learning and lessons from the region including traditional knowledge, practices • Capacity development – for new skills development, clean/green /digital jobs • Financing solutions e.g. micro-finance, access multi-lateral fund resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - S/S exchange on lessons and experience on EE and data systems protocols from 5Cs, UNEP who are implementing regional initiatives <p>DOM: (Minister Frederick)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaboration across borders - Realignment of processes and procedures across large ocean spaces in terms of policy coherence, best practices; improved coordination across borders; realigned thought processes of policy-making. - Use of science & data to inform policies, decisions, strategies etc. - Mobility of expertise across borders – public service officers, increase confidence on issues, champions at policy levels needed - Integrated approach to planning – whole of Govt, deeper sectoral linkages - Sharpen the messages and business cases for policy-makers; increase participation of Ministers at technical meetings to understand the technical issues. - Use of traditional knowledge: for e.g. housing layout, design, construction, energy use and cooling needs. - Major investments needed to transition from FF to RE – policies should be better communicated to populations on benefits to individuals, communities. Objective to educate, increase citizen buy-in, change behaviours, habits; has to also address population’s basic needs. <p>SVG (Mrs. Findlay)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drought, forest fires and consequent loss of biodiversity; increased heat drives increased use of ACs – energy efficient tech and appliances – appropriate to the location; district cooling systems - Adaptation: use of alternative/off-grid energy sources – battery storage is an issue – particularly for new large hotels (Marriott, Sandals, Holiday Inn) – need to be incentivized - Waste generation from electronic and white goods 	

**Annex 1
Caribbean SIDS Project Matrix**

Thematic Area(s)	Intervention area	Lead agency
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building - Infrastructure (IT - Policy/legal - Institutional strengthening - Public awareness, education - Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weather events causing e.g. floods – early warning systems needed - Building standards for improved resilience - EVs: need to transition government fleets - Business cases need to demonstrate investment returns - Limitations of debt service – for public investment in sector resilience e.g. agriculture, infrastructure - Legislation needed to drive energy efficiency, transition, storage needs etc. <p>SKN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk assessment (environment, social, economic) of vulnerable areas needed – coastal location of residential, commercial areas. Basseterre a coastal capital – highly vulnerable. - Rural communities – fisherfolk – also have vulnerabilities that need to be assessed - Data generation, collection – enabling policies & investment needed for digitization that transcends project timelines - CC effects e.g. severe drought experienced for many years – causes water stress and more frequent, scheduled rationing between communities since pre-COVID times <p>HAI (Mons.FanFan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High population growth and its linkages to land use management and social issues - Capitalizing on ecosystems, protected areas work (terrestrial, marine) to build resilience - Standardized, systematic data management needs – for marine spatial planning, BE development (early stages), economic, social development monitoring 	

**Annex 1
Caribbean SIDS Project Matrix**

Thematic Area(s)	Intervention area	Lead agency
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building - Infrastructure (IT - Policy/legal - Institutional strengthening - Public awareness, education - Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Environmental System Observatory operating since 2008 funded by multi-donors – needs for systematic data, facilitated by regional best practices and networks of support - Communication needs – harnessing mutual understanding and commitment among all stakeholders, public/private sectors - Interest expressed in BAH’s example of local district cooling initiatives - Energy security – use of renewables model in use at household levels (solar panels), industry level, which is a significant source in the country - Biodiversity resources significant in the country and the use of local population to manage the PA is an important mechanism for sustainability. Inclusion of business planning as part of the management plan is a key need. - Use of a local cooperative bank for MSMEs supported from Govt projects <p>BRB (T. Sinckler):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technology, knowledge transfer among SIDS based on above national lessons – needs capacity development in terms of policies, skills, systems, institutions - District cooling needs – from alternative energy sources e.g. ocean energy supported by a research programme - Business support – financing/instruments at the micro-finance levels, including local banks – financial ecosystem development and awareness raising. - Training: needs to be more coordinated, strategic to local needs - Statistical laws – gaps in coverage of natural resources, clean/green jobs etc. - Professional standards – energy, architects, designers that comply with climate, resilience needs in building sector and national housing sector on the demand and supply sides. - Water supply and augmentation <p>BZE:</p>	

**Annex 1
Caribbean SIDS Project Matrix**

Thematic Area(s)	Intervention area	Lead agency
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building - Infrastructure (IT - Policy/legal - Institutional strengthening - Public awareness, education - Other 	
<p>2. Biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desertification, land degradation and drought • Forests • Invasive alien species (link to food security) <p>Key Points:</p>	<p>SVG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ecosystem valuation services – gaps in understanding of the valuation of resources to inform policy-makers e.g. in dollar terms; quantification of losses from disaster events – drives policy-makers to understand and to act. - Assessment of ecosystem health e.g. Fisheries Division in MoAg – exports of fish products e.g. lobster, conch – issues with stock assessment and status; use of NbS to address CC impacts; understanding the underlying causes of biodiversity loss. 	

**Annex 1
Caribbean SIDS Project Matrix**

Thematic Area(s)	Intervention area	Lead agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COP 15 post-2020 goals and targets; C-SIDS own BBNJ ambitions • Enforcement personnel – capacity and skills needed – involvement of IPLC • C-SIDS knowledge and expertise • Science and scientific reference materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education at tertiary and secondary levels. Indigenous peoples and local communities’ involvement is essential for sustaining actions at local levels <p>BAH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human capacity building – protected area management plans – Forestry Unit has 3 officers to enforce existing policies across 700+ islands – and e.g. during hunting seasons for threatened species; lack of capacity to police forests and protected areas. Some exchange with FL-based Fish & Wildlife Services on training - Access and benefit sharing – legislation – hotspots for research. ABS legislation was not popular in the BAH and is under review for implementation requirements but has uncovered a lot of related issues. A fit-for-purpose web portal needed and under review. Shark research results on eBay rather than the benefits accruing to the BAH. ABS legislation liability clauses in relation to protecting intellectual property have resulted in loss of research opportunities and external researchers must now work with local labs and institutional but there are capacity issues. Unintended consequences for operating models of local labs, institutions. - Changes in policies to encourage education and application of tertiary level educated graduates and the need to re-skill, retrain to meet immediate needs to the country – decent work needs. - BAH has done a lot of research of lion fish use and educational campaigns e.g. use in ceviche which has brought significant benefits <p>TTO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developed policies, plans, monitoring protocols for Protected Areas – but also lack enforcement protocols. - Knowledge and experience in policy, plan, protocol development <p>BRB (Minister Forde):</p>	

**Annex 1
Caribbean SIDS Project Matrix**

Thematic Area(s)	Intervention area	Lead agency
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building - Infrastructure (IT) - Policy/legal - Institutional strengthening - Public awareness, education - Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>30 x 30 Vision</i> – EU working to increase M/S to sign on to high ambition action for enhancing global biodiversity – beyond national jurisdictions (BBNJ). - C-SIDS should have their own BBNJ rather than relying on the EU initiative – to foster and encourage regional coalitions for protecting the indigenous resources – biodiversity, intellectual property - Building knowledge capacity locally and from indigenous persons - Lack of satellite technology to monitor biodiversity - Sargassum impacts are significant and generate harmful chemical pollutants e.g. dioxins, POPs. Studies in Eastern Caribbean on this infestation made recommendations for use of sargassum for use in beauty, agriculture products. Outside advisors should be replaced by more local capacity to advise on product development from Sargassum based on assessment and testing of chemical content etc. Promote more indigenous, local knowledge, application and use. - Greater promotion and use of C-SIDS knowledge and expertise on the climate related issues & impacts. - Lion fish hunting – research has demonstrated that the fish migrated further offshore. - Ecosystems restoration – terrestrial and marine – is important for the country for resilience building. Legislation is needed and potentially can attract new services. Link of ecosystems to tourism industry operation is needed – standpoint of intellectual property protections, labelling programmes e.g. social label to deal with social justice, poverty, protecting local communities. <p>BZE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Large terrestrial areas under protection which is increasingly conflicting with agriculture sector operating and the large farming communities. Land management in agriculture and strategy for biological corridors; in the northern part of the country with sugar cane farms – corridors needed to facilitate movement to central and southern areas. 	

**Annex 1
Caribbean SIDS Project Matrix**

Thematic Area(s)	Intervention area	Lead agency
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building - Infrastructure (IT - Policy/legal - Institutional strengthening - Public awareness, education - Other 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land use changes – resulting in degradation and biodiversity loss, changes in faunal movement - Current actions to inventory forest resources and monitoring forest cover changes, carbon stocks, biodiversity and long term trends. - Reviewing restoration needs in critical watersheds, wetland areas – to prioritize for restoration and protection to maintain ecosystem services. - National Biodiversity Office – policy making strengths but further institutional strengthening needed for implementation - Ecosystem valuation - Creating green jobs and partnering with academia and the private sector in building skills and creating green jobs. - Needs in protected areas maintenance, monitoring and ensuring investment returns to communities, country. - Importance of partnerships with academia, NGOs for scientific research, monitoring, data management. Industry development e.g. in fisheries and aquaculture. <p>DOM (Minister Frederick):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to map resources in the marine space, to manage and monitor. Particularly the monitoring of invasive species brought through shipping – need for policy, legislation and capacity. - Terrestrial areas: 80% of intact forests, 20% protected by law – experience in guidance. Very dedicated capable Forestry Department - Traditional knowledge and practice can inform national and regional level exchanges in best practices for management of spatial planning. Strengthening of UWI in knowledge management, exchange and capacity building. <p>HAI:</p>	

**Annex 1
Caribbean SIDS Project Matrix**

Thematic Area(s)	Intervention area	Lead agency
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building - Infrastructure (IT) - Policy/legal - Institutional strengthening - Public awareness, education - Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Publications on species lists need to be updated for use locally – key needs to continue scientific research in the country. - Seed bank science and reference publications – access to same is essential for species monitoring and conservation. Haiti has numerous ecosystems with spotted eels – big asset – under threat from exploitation for the exotic trade to markets e.g. in China - Sargassum has a huge impact and Marine Unit is overwhelmed by requests for support to manage the issue. - Low capacity in coral reef monitoring and management - Destruction of the National Herbarium during the earthquake. <p>SKN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training and specifically in the forest sector is needed. Central Forest Reserve – above 1000m contour is protected and is served by only 3 forestry offices, only 1 of which is trained and certified. PA objective – biodiversity conservation given species richness and diversity – needs a proper inventory of specifically animal species in the PA – using verifiable science-based methods and approaches. GEF early-action grant has prioritized action in this PA. - Invasive species in marine areas – lion fish invasion now being experienced. Affects more popular commercial species e.g. snapper as the lion fish is a voracious predator. 	
<p>3. Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste • Oceans and seas (LBS) – transboundary 	<p>UNEP/VSW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU/AFD/GIZ waste management AP project based on ministerial priorities for interventions have already been identified in pre-project needs assessments and analyses. Additional needs will be included in project. - Disaster waste management – emerging concerns and impact on landfilling <p>BAH:</p>	

**Annex 1
Caribbean SIDS Project Matrix**

Thematic Area(s)	Intervention area	Lead agency
<p>Key summary points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure needs: along the waste management value chain • Data/data analysis for policy and decision-making • Partnerships for learning and concerted action with and through e.g. IPLCs, CSOs, NGOs, PPP/private sector • Development of digital content for promoting improved access to, learning and appreciation of indigenous practices and for children • Innovative financing: fee systems, grant funds, govt subventions, use of extended producer responsibility mechanisms etc. • Strengthening and updating of legislation and institutions to address current, new and emerging waste streams and related issues • Technical expertise and integrated approaches needed in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building - Infrastructure (IT) - Policy/legal - Institutional strengthening - Public awareness, education - Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 sanitary landfills: New Providence, Grand Bahama and Abaco (compromised after Hurricane Dorian) all others are dumpsites. - Medical, municipal wastes disposed - Siting of the landfill has created Land issues and fires in New Providence landfill, even though some improvement has occurred over 5-7 years. - Grand Bahama – frequent stop for chemicals – a major port is being considered in Mayaguana Is, used for fuel servicing by shipping - 6 officers in Environmental Planning and Protection Office responsible for solid waste permitting and landfilling, transboundary movement of chemicals and waste. <p>TTO (K. Gardiner):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infrastructure – absence of sanitary landfill operations in TT; lack of a hazardous waste facility e.g. batteries, waste oil. Chemicals: lack of hazardous cargo examination bay at the port – use that of private operators. - HR: need of inspectors for pesticides and toxic chemicals – only 5 officers service the country - Legal/institutional: gaps and lack of overarching legislation to combat illegal trafficking – punitive measures use international law; transboundary movement. Monitoring capacity – needs equipment at border control points including training of personnel. Export licenses needed to monitor trade of chemicals. - Capacity to develop national legislation for complying with MEAs - Source generators – needs improved capacity for monitoring and management - Source separation – promotes waste comingling – education needed. - Economies of scale – waste quantities generated insufficient for viable management options - Waste management: limits investment for waste infrastructure across waste life cycle; post-consumer waste, e-waste – markets research and support expertise needed. 	

**Annex 1
Caribbean SIDS Project Matrix**

Thematic Area(s)	Intervention area	Lead agency
<p>waste management generally, but also for sanitary landfilling, hazardous waste handling, use of 5Rs as methods for minimizing waste as priority for waste prevention</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building - Infrastructure (IT) - Policy/legal - Institutional strengthening - Public awareness, education - Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upstream waste: manufacturing, product design and life cycle – planning and operations – need for improved capacity - Technology: transfers from international to SIDS level – ownership issues for better leverage. - Science-policy panel – arising from UNEP 5.2 resolution – for chemicals and waste. OEWG session began today and C-SIDS representation and participation, needs to be strengthened. - Shifting paradigms towards life cycle management – influencing manufacturers, designers, producers, policies on e-waste on reuse, recycling, repurposing efforts, alternative uses; educational campaigns; unlocking private sector financing; - Need to emphasise prevention in the waste management hierarchy to minimize waste – vs recycling. - Building capacity on new and emerging chemicals. Mindfulness of new waste streams emerging from new technologies e.g. EVs and batteries and future cycling of battery use <p>BRB (Minister Forde):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chemical wastes – redouble efforts to secure shared lab testing facilities and capacity in the region – key need. - Waste management policy-making: landfills need to be better sited to reduce infiltration of leachate to water supply; to reduce landfill over-capacity consider – waste to energy facilities operating according to circular economy principles, improve value along the life cycle. - Promote 5Rs approaches: use and application in sanitary landfill practices to create green jobs (ratio of 3-5/unit, involve women), support creative industries - Strengthen legislation to enable innovative solutions and best practices. - Packaging of IP knowledge and practices for use in school curricula. - Psychology around waste handling and management needs to be considered in e.g. fashion/culture/care industry via partnerships, education. 	

**Annex 1
Caribbean SIDS Project Matrix**

Thematic Area(s)	Intervention area	Lead agency
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building - Infrastructure (IT - Policy/legal - Institutional strengthening - Public awareness, education - Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Request to UNDP to advise on environmental services certification for environmental workers, that might be considered across C-SIDS – building knowledge base. BZE: - 1 sanitary landfill in operation – needs to be expanded in other parts of the country. Need to improve operations and sustainability. - Management policies are needed for improved landfilling and handling of hazardous wastes. - Limited enforcement – few technical officers – need to partner with CBOs to monitor local areas. - Sustaining public awareness for waste reduction campaigns for inter-generational benefits - Air pollution – capacity for enforcement officers and for implementing monitoring programmes. Data collection and analysis expertise needed. - Medical wastes – collection in main city is challenged by equipment operation (autoclave) – seeking PPPs with waste haulers and expansion in other areas of the country. - Open burning in rural areas due to lack of waste collection systems. - Hazardous waste needs: ensuring implementation of existing regulation needs strengthening of officer capacity for enforcement. - Industrial chemicals – draft Bill yet to be passed and need for capacity building to set up management office for monitoring and enforcement. - Plastic pollution – need for testing capacity for microplastics and marine litter in collaboration with academia. Marine Pollution and Prevention Bill elaborated some years prior – BZE Port Authority is piloting the Bill in Parliament and could use support – capacity for inspection and monitoring of shipping, impacts on coral reefs. - Recycling sector – very informal, dynamic – that needs transparency, regulation and transitioned into formal sector operations. - Waste oils – need to explore options to cooperate with Guatemala to tap into their recycling capacity. 	

**Annex 1
Caribbean SIDS Project Matrix**

Thematic Area(s)	Intervention area	Lead agency
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building - Infrastructure (IT - Policy/legal - Institutional strengthening - Public awareness, education - Other <p>HAI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With EU support, progress made on impact assessment, auditing of companies. Growing trends of waste pollution and management – massive use of plastic pollution (water bottles). - Education and awareness raising, capacity building – key needs, incentives that match needs to suit the local problem. - Transparent framework for monitoring and management that has buy-in across stakeholder groups in marine/coastal areas, ports. - Scientific, systematic monitoring of chemicals pollution - Lead detected in blood samples from poor disposal practices of batteries etc. - <p>SVG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agree with TTO’s needs - Pesticide inspectors need training of farmers based on existing practices (NPK pollution) based on soil science particular to SVG. Pesticide containers disposed indiscriminately and proper disposal needs to be part of training. - Assessment of fertilizer use based on local soil conditions needed. - Recycling opportunities should be linked to livelihoods and for a variety of waste streams. Waste sorting and composting expertise needed. - Open burning a huge problem – tyre burning part of the formal/informal sector. Tyre waste is generated from short life cycle in vehicular use. - Education of the public and stakeholders including the private sector, policy-makers, community levels to help with reuse and recycling practices. Need robust punitive measures in laws. - <p>DOM (Minister Frederick)</p>	

**Annex 1
Caribbean SIDS Project Matrix**

Thematic Area(s)	Intervention area	Lead agency
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building - Infrastructure (IT - Policy/legal - Institutional strengthening - Public awareness, education - Other 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State Corporation managing wastes - Financing is a major limitation. Main dumpsite/landfill – post-COVID actions to strengthen and improve operations. Revenue streams from cruise ships lost because of COVID from tipping fees. Piloting waste separation actions through project support. 900 households provide 500 gallon buckets for organic waste for composting collected by a small tipping trucks. - Limit tipping at the landfill and need to strength systems for disposal and collections from households etc. - Efforts to diversify funding resources – grant funding (EU), commercial fees, Govt subvention etc. - Policies to encourage systematic tipping practices and encouraging people in communities to sort waste, reduce landfilling. Education that garbage is everybody’s business in promotional campaigns and use of traditional knowledge. - Biodegradable compostable waste – as inputs to farming - Derelict vehicles and metal wastes – being collected for a small fee and Govt needs partners and support on these efforts. - DOM model for ITLCs and vulnerable groups is unique, with lessons for IPs in Guyana, Brazil etc. who are exposed to violence in the communities related to mining. Fostering appreciation for natural resources and how IPs interact with same and the stock of traditional practices and knowledge. - Education materials (e.g. books, comic strips, fictional characters) targeted to children’s learning being developed – using local illustrators, writers translating indigenous traditions and heritage to improve awareness and appreciation for country’s indigenous heritage. Information should be available in digital formats for use on smart phones and digital devices. - Digital content to be developed for front line workers. <p>SKN:</p>	

**Annex 1
Caribbean SIDS Project Matrix**

Thematic Area(s)	Intervention area	Lead agency
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building - Infrastructure (IT - Policy/legal - Institutional strengthening - Public awareness, education - Other 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 landfill in St. Kitts located in economy Village which is at capacity, and 1 in Nevis - Periodic fires at the St. Kitts landfill, which is characterized by mixed wastes. Close proximity to beach and communities, that have demonstrated high cancer rates among young people <30 y.o. - Improper labelling of chemicals and toxic waste handling needs legislation; gaps in existing legislation. Updates needed to control imports with stiffer punitive measures. - Large consumption of plastics 50K population has yielded 50K lbs of plastic waste from clean-up activities. Plastic recycling project via landfill facility – baled and proposed for shipping to Taiwan pending completion of the facility – supported by the Taiwanese Technical Mission. Plastics ban not a priority today but needs reactivation – single, multiple use. <p>BCRC Team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many of the issues are being addressed under BCRC-led projects. - Need to be aware of and promote integrated activities on emerging issues, to reduce silo-ed actions, unintended consequences for related agreements 	

Annex 2

Caribbean SIDS Working Group Report of the 1st Meeting of Task Force

Participants List

Country	Name	Title	Organisation
Bahamas	Dr. Rhianna Neely	Director	Department of Environmental Planning and Protection
Barbados	Mr. Travis Sinckler	Senior Environmental Officer Policy Research, Planning and Information Unit	Ministry of Environment and National Beautification, Green and Blue Economy
Belize	Ms Celi Cho	Officer- Department of Environment	Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
Dominica	Honourable Minister Cozier Frederick	Minister	Ministry of Environment, Rural Modernisation and Kalinago Upliftment
Haiti	Mon Jean Fanfan Jourdain	Director of Coastal and Marine Zone Management	Ministry of Environment
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Ms. Vicia Woods	Biosafety Officer	Department of Environment
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Ms. Janeel Miller-Findlay	Director Sustainable Development Unit	Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development and Culture
	Mr. Brenton Quamie	Environmental Officer	Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development and Culture
Trinidad and Tobago	Mr. Kevin Bhajan	Environmental Officer	Ministry of Planning and Development
	Ms. Keima Gardiner	Waste Management Specialist Environmental Policy Planning Division	Ministry of Planning and Development
	Mr. Gustavo Mañez	Deputy Regional Director, a.i. Latin America & the Caribbean Office	UNEP
	Mr. Vincent Sweeney	Head Caribbean Sub-Regional Office	UNEP
	Ms. Dierdre Shurland	Programme Management Officer, Caribbean Sub-Regional Office	UNEP
	Ms. Carolina Quiroz	International Cooperation Specialist	UNEP
	Mr. Miguel Naranjo	Programme Officer	UNEP
	Ms. Patricia Aquing	Consultant	UNEP
	Ms. Veronica Villacis	Consultant	UNIDO

	Dr. Alfredo Cueva	Project Manager and Industrial Development Officer	UNIDO
	Ms. Belen Casanas	Project Associate - Division of Circular Economy and Environment Protection (CEP)	UNIDO
	Ms. Keira Ives-Keeler	Officer- Department of International Relations	UNIDO
	Ms. Jewel Batchasingh	Director	BCRC
	Ms. Janine Boodram	Research Analyst	BCRC
	Ms. Maurissa Charles	Project Officer II	BCRC
	Ms. Rachel Ramsey	Project Coordinator	BCRC
	Ms. Laura Teixeira	Project Officer II	BCRC

