

Title/Heading

World Team Project – Sustainable Solutions: Ocean Opportunities & Small Island States (SOS-IS)

Context and rationale

The World Team project's goal is to team-up to play to transform our world. We bring the resources: **T**ime, **E**nergy, **A**ction and **M**oney to demonstrate small scale system solutions on islands.

An overview of the contribution

- Create a network of Eco Observatories and Parks to baseline, outreach, and conduct ecotourism, inspired by UNESCO Eco Observatories, the Treetop Canopy Walkway in the Falealupo Rainforest Reserve Samoa, Kula Eco Park Fiji and Sleeping Giant Zipline Fiji. Careful zipline layout with well-considered elevation grades ("latitude and altitude") integrated with the topology traversing below the canopy and above the canopy. Parks will encompass the ocean and mangroves where feasible.
- Mangrove restoration, ocean cleanup, and preservation, water use, net-zero buildings, plus sustainable transportation and contribute to educational programs for communities.

The island/ocean demonstration projects and programs are designed for alternative life ecosystems. Altogether we remain in action as the island and surrounding ocean area, to demonstrate the integration of the interconnectedness of indigenous culture, life and earth systems together as we deploy solutions.

How the contribution leverages living natural systems as a solution to avert climate change?

We demo multiple systems on a small scale that are integrated together for an alternative way to grow renewable solutions; in culture, education, transportation, agriculture, energy, policy, law, equality, and how these systems are interdependent.

Restoring mangrove forests is a critical component of addressing our climate crisis, as they are nursery and habitat for so many species, protector of coastal communities and ecosystems from flooding, and carbon sink for the planet."

How might the contribution support both climate, mitigation and adaptation as well as other important co-benefits and social, economic and environmental outcomes in coming years?

We will plan to create conservation mangrove parks and nurseries and educational preserves.

In these parks and preserves, we will show how Mangroves provide benefits in addition to storing carbon of reducing flooding and erosion from storms, acting as nurseries for fish and habitat for lizards, snakes and nesting birds, and filtering pollutants from water.

Researchers estimate the monetary value of the benefits provided by mangroves at \$194,000 per hectare annually. A 2018 study finds mangrove soil held around 6.4 billion metric tons of carbon in 2000.

Which countries and organisations are involved in the contribution?

Fiji, Samoa, World Team[®], World Team-Building, LLC, World Team Now[®], Renewables 100 Policy Institute, Hydrogen House Project, Genmounts[™], H/Cell Energy Corporation, Well Manager, a sovereign wealth fund, Nukubalavu Village Vanua Levu, Falealupo Village Savai'i, Samoa, four Ratu (Chiefs), and Prof. Ilan Juran of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and board of NYU, creator of a network of UNESCO Eco Observatories.

We are now in negotiation with various Pacific Islands' governments, ministries, indigenous villages, and sponsoring companies. We plan to invite the following organizations to participate:

- The Locally-Managed Marine Area Network (LMMA)
- Pacific Mangroves Initiative
- Seacology
- University of South Pacific
- Live and Learn Fiji

How have stakeholders (for example local communities, youth and indigenous peoples, where applicable) been consulted in developing the contribution?

In both Samoa and Fiji, we have worked with the village people (Mataqali) and village chiefs (Ratu) who would benefit soliciting their needs and inputs as well as regional and national government ministers/administrators.

Where can the contribution be put into action?

Our initial focus is on a small island. However, SOS-IS is an aggregation of people, resources and partners from the developed regions of the world offering to serve locations on Small Islands, or Large Ocean States.

How the contribution will be delivered? How will different stakeholders be engaged in its implementation? What are the potential transformational impacts?

Each project will engage the local population and work closely with existing programs to contribute a global perspective to the community. Learning from Indigenous culture and integrating local traditions is a critical component of the team work's "cradle to cradle" approach for renewable solutions.

The global perspective of our team members demonstrates the diverse foreign cultures' contribution.

Is this initiative contributing to other Climate Action Summit work streams?

Energy Transition, infrastructure, resilience and adaptation, cities and local action, youth and citizen mobilization, and mitigation strategy

How does this contribution build upon examples of experience to date? How does the contribution link with different ongoing initiatives?

We wrote an academic review article on EVs and lead an EV charging project in Malibu California that helped early adoption of EVs by raising public awareness. SOS-IS will do the same but larger scale for mangrove restoration.

We will coordinate with mangrove restoration projects by organizations like the Pacific Mangroves Initiative and our other partners' projects.

What are the mechanisms for funding (with specific emphasis on potential for partnerships)?

Our initial funding offer comes from a sovereign wealth fund.

What are the means of stewardship, metrics for monitoring?

Interns, students, and volunteers will be engaged in stewardship and monitoring. For capacity building, ongoing community involvement and assimilation is aided by Team Volunteer Corps (TVC), part of World Team Now. TVC will hire locally, and start up an innovative entrepreneurial structure to offer ongoing local opportunities the region.

The network of Eco Observatories will provide the baseline and impact data and metrics to analyze/monitor desired goals.

What is the communication strategy?

The World Team[®] developing interactive media platform is for a global audience. The research and development of the project have a 30-year arc and journey to deliver an educational interactive experience.

What are the details of proponents (indicating the degree of commitment among the countries and organizations that are named).

Each of our non-profit partners is now working on a different region of the world, and our combined strengths cover policy, law, technology, ocean innovation and media strategy to engage the public at large, to demonstrate these goals.

Numerous meetings with government ministries, agencies were done; site tours, consultations, presentations, "tanoa" dialog were all conducted and intentions set. Four meetings with Ratu and Mataqali produced signed agreements.