



## The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Framework<sup>1</sup>

### *Assistance to SIDS*

1. In consonance with its assigned responsibilities for capacity-building in the Barbados Program of Action, UNDP assistance to the SIDS<sup>1</sup> has included the elaboration of a Small Island Developing States Technical Assistance Program (SIDSTAP), an assessment of unmet technical cooperation needs and priorities in the SIDS regions, the completion of a Directory of SIDS experts and institutions to facilitate the implementation of the Barbados Program of Action and training at the ILO Turin Training Center for SIDS regional training institutions. UNDP support was also instrumental in the launching of a Small Island Developing States Information Network (SIDSNET) to enable SIDS to access and make their information available on the internet and to facilitate exchanges of information between SIDS in areas of sustainable development, focusing initially on three Chapters of the Barbados Program of Action, namely, coastal and marine resources, energy and sustainable tourism.
2. In the Caribbean SIDS, in addition to the formulation of a compendium of project profiles, UNDP has provided support through its Capacity 21 Fund for the formulation and implementation of national strategies for sustainable development and has provided assistance to strengthen capacities for sustainable development in Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica and St. Lucia. In the context of forging partnerships, training of Caribbean officials in environmental technology and management, urban management, telecommunications and building services, information technology management and civil aviation management was provided through a joint initiative between UNDP and the Government of Singapore. Other assistance in the Caribbean SIDS, including activities funded from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), have focused specifically on environmental management, formulation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, watershed management, forestry development, capacity-building for climate change and sea-level rise, renewable energy development and disaster management.
3. In the Pacific Island countries, assistance provided by UNDP has focused on support for the improved development and management of forest resources, offshore fisheries development, water supply and sanitation, conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs, tourism development planning, disaster preparedness and management, strengthening of national capacity for sustainable development, renewable energy village power systems, as well as national biodiversity strategies and action plans in Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea and Samoa.

---

<sup>1</sup> This text is extracted from *Small States: Meeting Challenges in the Global Economy*, Report of the Commonwealth Secretariat/World Bank Joint Task Force on Small States, Washington DC and London, April 2000.

4. In collaboration with the African Development Bank, UNDP organized a Ministerial Meeting of Small Island Developing States in the Indian Ocean, Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean (IMA) which adopted the Mahe Declaration and Program of Action as a regional strategy for the implementation of the Barbados Program of Action. The Programs of assistance supported by UNDP in the IMA include the formulation of national sustainable development plans in Cape Verde and Sao Tome and Principe, reforestation in Mauritius, environmental protection program in Comoros and National Biodiversity Action Plans in Cape Verde, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles.
5. In consonance with the General Assembly's call for the mobilization of resources to enhance the effective implementation of the Barbados Program of Action, UNDP and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized a meeting of Prospective Donors and representatives of Small Island Developing States in New York in February 1999. The meeting facilitated consultations on specific project proposals submitted by SIDS and renewed the spirit of partnership between donors and SIDS for the implementation of the Barbados Program of Action.
6. In support of the efforts of SIDS to diversify their production base, enhance their international competitiveness and facilitate their integration into the global economy, UNDP is currently formulating a flagship project focusing on strengthening national capacity in selected SIDS to support the accelerated growth of small and medium size enterprises. With regard to UN system coordination, consultations undertaken with SIDS governments, within the framework of the Resident Coordinator system and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), ensure that UN system development cooperation is fully integrated into national strategies for sustainable development.