



Small Island Developing States (SIDS)



ABOUT INSIGHT BRIEFS

Insight Briefs are a series of discussion papers developed by the NDC Partnership through its members and Support Unit to share insights into thematic issues based on requests received by countries and the support provided by the NDC Partnership. The following Insight Brief provides an analysis of requests related to disaster risk reduction and gives recommendations on how the Partnership can maximize efficacy in responding to such requests.



INTRODUCTION

Small Island Developing States, or SIDS, are at the forefront of climate action. While most are low emitters, they are particularly exposed to climate change, with sea-level rise posing a threat to the very existence of some. Twenty out of 38 SIDS are NDC Partnership members, and 16 of them receive Partnership support: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Grenada, Jamaica, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles, Tonga and Vanuatu.¹

Altogether, SIDS have sent 871 requests to the Partnership (20.6% of the total), and 73% of them are supported – more than the Partnership average of 66%. Out of the 166 supporting partners working with the Partnership, 97 are active in the SIDS (58.4%).

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TWO IMPORTANT ISSUES: OCEANS AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Given the vulnerability of SIDS to climate change, the topics of adaptation and resilience are prominent in their requests to the Partnership.

For instance, Oceans and Coasts, and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) are frequently important topics for SIDS.² DRR was the topic of 138 requests (after Finance and Investment, it is the second most requested topic within SIDS), and Oceans and Coasts was the topic of 51 requests. Close to one-third of DRR requests and 40% of Oceans and Coasts requests submitted to the Partnership are coming from SIDS. These typically include coastal protection or coral conservation in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, while some also focus on important projects in the blue economy (see box below).

40%

The percentage of Oceans and Coasts requests submitted to the Partnership coming from SIDS.

SIDS AND THE BLUE ECONOMY

Belize



Aerial Drone view of South Water Caye tropical island in Belize barrier reef

In Belize, the WWF and PEW Charitable Trusts supported research studies to assess the coastal ecosystems' blue carbon potential and adaptation co-benefits. This informed Nationally Determined Contribution targets and will strengthen the protection and effective management of blue carbon stocks over the long term. Desktop analysis of mangroves has aided in valuation, preliminary assessment of the costs of mangrove protection per unit area and climate and ecosystem service risk modelling. Field analysis of below-ground mangrove and seagrass carbon is also being conducted. The updated mapping will offer robust information to assist in informing the seagrass below-ground carbon analysis and help to identify seagrass areas for targeted protection. *Paragraph quoted from the Partnership in Action 2021.*

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Seychelles



Seychelles' national development strategy prioritizes sequestering and storing blue carbon, while conserving and restoring coastal and marine environments. Seychelles aims to protect 50% of blue carbon stocks by 2025 and 100% by 2030. Seychelles has a similar conservation policy for mangroves and hopes to expand it to seagrass meadows.

Please check the [Partnership in Action 2021 report](#) for more detailed information on [Seychelles' climate policies](#) and on [blue economy](#).

FINANCE IN THE SIDS

Mobilizing climate finance is extremely challenging for many SIDS for several reasons. First, many SIDS' public finance leaves them little fiscal room to maneuver, and the COVID-19 crisis has complicated the issue.³ Second, the share of Official Development Assistance (ODA) dedicated to SIDS has been steadily declining over recent decades. Among the SIDS where the Partnership is active, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Seychelles are not eligible for ODA. Antigua and Barbuda should be graduating from the list of eligible countries in 2022.

Partners have come up with innovative financial support. For instance, it sometimes comes within a multi-country approach, such as the development in Fiji of a renewable energy access fund that covers other islands in the region. Other innovative projects include Belize, which has set up a debt-for-climate/nature swap mechanism with support from the Commonwealth.

ENERGY AND MITIGATION IN THE SIDS

While adaptation and resilience are important, half of SIDS' requests are cross-cutting, and the fact that mitigation is more requested than adaptation shows the importance of the energy sector in these countries (**Figure 1**). It is by far the most requested sector, with 188 requests – far from the second sector, forest and land use (FOLU), which is only covered by 100 requests (**Figure 2**). Of the mitigation requests, 76% focus on this sector. Three topics stand out in terms of energy requests: the development of renewable energy capacities, energy finance, and energy efficiency (some of these requests overlap, which is why the addition of the total number of requests here is more important than the total of the energy requests) (**Figure 3**).

188

Number of requests for energy.

FIGURE 1. SIDS REQUESTS BY FOCUS AREA

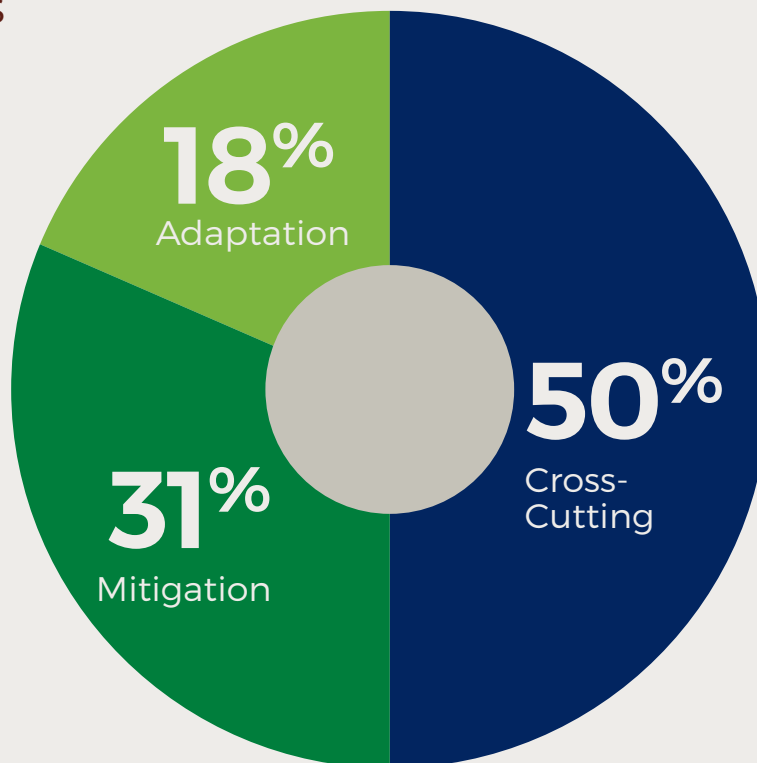
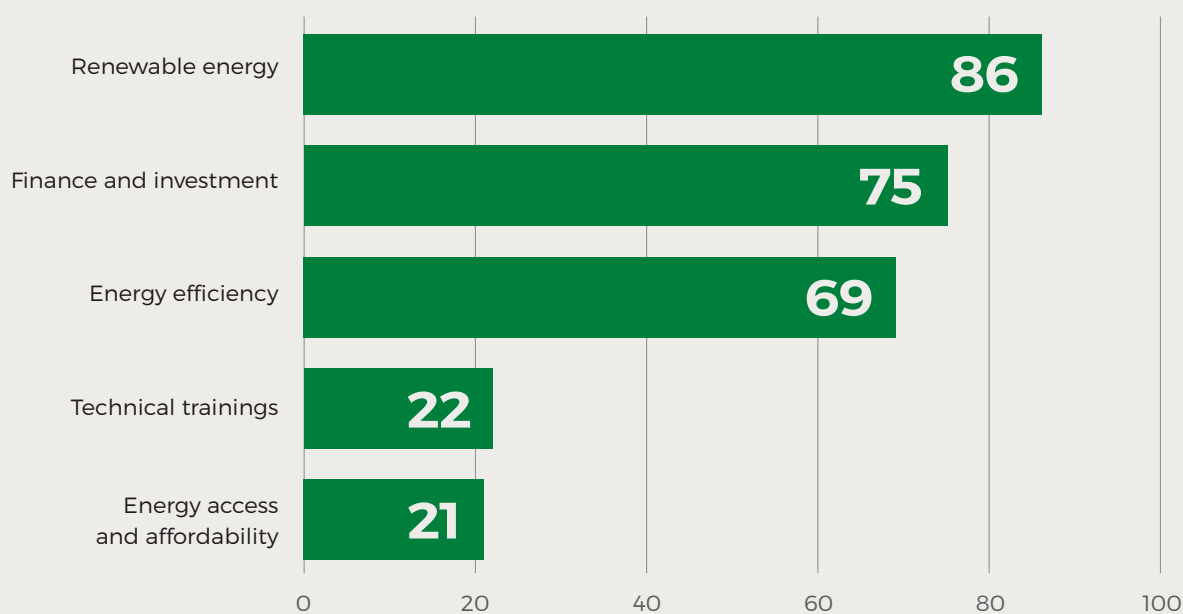


FIGURE 2. MAIN SECTORAL REQUESTS FROM THE SIDS

Sector	Number of requests	Number of SIDS that expressed requests
Multisector	450	15
Energy	188	13
FOLU	100	9
Transport	75	9
Waste	58	8
Agriculture	55	8

FIGURE 2. MAIN SECTORAL REQUESTS FROM THE SIDS



One driver for these requests is many SIDS' reliance on expensive fuel imports, which are a heavy fiscal burden. In addition to reducing carbon footprints, accelerating energy transition can reduce dependency on external supply and significantly lower energy costs. This may also be one of the reasons why a little over 30% of the requests on e-mobility come from SIDS – electric vehicles can be a way to rely less on imported oil. In addition, the work on energy transition can support better energy access.

The Eastern Caribbean Solar Challenge is an initiative supporting these energy transitions in the Caribbean SIDS. It engages the private sector, development partners and households to increase solar energy use. This program is part of the Caribbean NDC Finance Initiative, launched in 2017 by the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, or OECS, and the government of Saint Lucia, under the NDC Partnership umbrella and with support from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Germany.⁵

30%

of the Partnership requests on e-mobility come from Small Island Developing States (SIDS).



AN EXAMPLE OF ENERGY PROJECTS IN SIDS: GRENADA

Grenada's second NDC demonstrates a commitment to reducing greenhouse gases by 40% by 2030. To reach this ambitious target, Grenada's National Energy Policy has been updated to prioritize renewable energy and energy efficiency. The government aims to ensure that all future energy investments will be in renewables and that by 2030, 40% of the energy mix will come from renewables, which is up from 2% today.

To achieve this ambitious energy goal, several initiatives are being proposed or implemented, including sectoral studies in geothermal, solar, wind, waste-to-energy and ocean thermal energy conservation. Financial incentives for low-carbon energy and energy efficiency investment and use are being considered or implemented, including a moderately scaled carbon tax.

Please check the Partnership in Action 2021 report for more detailed information on [Grenada's climate achievements](#).



PARTNERS INVOLVED

Many NDC Partnership members actively support SIDS. The Regional Pacific NDC Hub contributes to the work of the Partnership, and key SIDS actors, such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the OECS and the Pacific Community, are members. Other main partners are listed in Figure 4.

Partner	Number of requests with confirmed support	Countries and number of request
The World Bank	83	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Antigua and Barbuda (3) ● Dominican Republic (32) ● Grenada (3) ● Jamaica (7) ● Republic of the Marshall Islands (5) ● Saint Lucia (3) ● São Tomé and Príncipe (27) ● Seychelles (3)
United Nations Development Programme	46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grenada (10) ● Republic of the Marshall Islands (7) ● São Tomé and Príncipe (19) ● Seychelles (7) ● Vanuatu (3)
GIZ	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dominican Republic (17) ● Grenada (11) ● Jamaica (1) ● Papua New Guinea (2) ● Republic of the Marshall Islands (4) ● Saint Lucia (1) ● Seychelles (3) ● Vanuatu (1)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grenada (8) ● Papua New Guinea (3) ● Republic of the Marshall Islands (2) ● São Tomé and Príncipe (22)
French Development Agency (AFD)	32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dominican Republic (30) ● Jamaica (2)

MORE RESOURCES – PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION COUNTRY STORIES

- [The Dominican Republic](#)
- [Grenada](#)
- [Republic of the Marshall Islands](#)
- [São Tomé and Príncipe](#)
- [Seychelles](#)

ANNEX

FIGURE 5. REQUESTS BY SIDS AND SUPPORT STATUS

Country	Confirmed	Indicative	Partial	Partner responses not consolidated yet and reflected	Unsupported	Total
Antigua and Barbuda	90				5	95
Belize	29				15	44
Dominica		1				1
Dominican Republic	106	11		3	26	146
Fiji	1	1				2
Grenada	54	13	32		17	116
Jamaica	16			1		17

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Country	Confirmed	Indicative	Partial	Partner responses not consolidated yet and reflected	Unsupported	Total
Nauru		1			1	2
Papua New Guinea	11				1	12
Republic of the Marshall Islands	16	8	21		3	48
Saint Kitts and Nevis	2					2
Saint Lucia	60	2			57	119
São Tomé and Príncipe	116				108	224
Seychelles	28					28
Tonga	10				1	11
Vanuatu	4					4
Total	543	37	53	4	234	871



ENDNOTES

1. The support provided by the Partnership is, however, concentrated in 12 countries, as it only has limited activities in Dominica, Fiji, Nauru and Saint Kitts and Nevis, who submitted only one or two requests (see Figure 5 in Annex).
2. See the NDC Partnership's [Insight Brief on Disaster Risk Reduction](#)
3. The Impact of COVID-19 Crisis on External Debt in Small Island Developing States; Cecilia Piemonte; 2021; [https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/External-debt-in-small-island-developing-states\(SIDS\).pdf](https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/External-debt-in-small-island-developing-states(SIDS).pdf); March 7, 2022.
4. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Post-2015 Development Finance Agenda; OECD; 2015; <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/Addis%20Flyer%20SIDS%20FINAL.pdf>; March 7, 2022.
5. See the [Partnership in Action](#)



CREDITS

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