Global Environment Facility

GEF

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October 18, 2001

Dear Council Member:

I am writing to notify you that we have today posted in the GEF's website at www.gefweb.org, a medium-sized project proposal from UNDP **entitled *Global: Capacity Building for Small Island Developing States through SIDSNet*.** The GEF will contribute $1,000,000 towards a total cost of $1,507,932.

The project will serve to highlight the use of information technology in integrated ecosystem management and in sustainable development endeavors of relevance to the Rio conventions. The objectives will be to strengthen SIDSNet by improving the collection, organization and dissemination of information on good practices to address biodiversity conservation, climate change responses and international water management issues among AOSIS Member States, and to foster inter-SIDS sharing of experiences on the use of information technology as a sustainable development tool in the context of ecosystem management.

The project proposal is being posted for your information. We would welcome any comments you may wish to provide by **November 8, 2001**, in accordance with the procedures approved by the Council.

If you do not have access to the Web, you may request the local field office of the World Bank or UNDP to download the document for you. Alternatively, you may request a copy of the document from the Secretariat. If you make such a request, please confirm for us your current mailing address.

Sincerely,

cc: Alternates, Implementing Agencies, STAP

United Nations Development Programme

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

Date: August 27, 2001

To: Mr. Kenneth King
Assistant CEO

Attention: Program Coordination

From: Emma Torres
GEF Deputy Executive Coordinator and Officer in Charge

Subject: Submission of Medium Size Project Brief for SIDS Network: "Capacity Building for Small Island Developing States through SIDS Net"

Enclosed is a project brief entitled *"Capacity Building for Small Island Developing States through SIDS Net"* submitted to UNDP by and The Small Islands Developing States Network. Please note that the project has been endorsed by the GEF national operational focal point in *the* SIDS countries.

In accordance with the operational guidance for the preparation and approval of medium-sized projects, we are submitting this to the GEF Secretariat for action by the Chief Executive Office (CEO). We understand that the Secretariat will recommend to the CEO that the project be submitted to the Council for approval, that it be returned for revision or that it not be developed further.

We are simultaneously circulating copies to UNEP/GEF, World Bank/GEF, STAP for comments to the GEF Secretariat. We expect to receive these comments by September 18, 2001. We look forward to receiving the recommendation of the CEO by October 2, 2001 and understand that the project will not be formally approved until the Council has reviewed it by 24 October, 2001.

Thank you and best regards.

MEDIUM SIZED PROJECT IN SUPPORT OF THE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES NETWORK (SIDSNET)
PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT IDENTIFIERS	
1. Project name: Capacity building for Small Island Developing States through SIDSNet	2. GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP
3. Country or countries in which the project is being implemented: Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)	4. Country eligibility: All Members of AOSIS are developing countries and parties to the FCCC and CBD.
5. GEF focal area(s): Climate Change, Biodiversity, International Waters, POPs	6. Operational program/Short-term measure: OP12. Integrated ecosystem management, with linkages to OP10 Regional Technical Support Component
7. Project linkage to national priorities, action plans, and programs: SIDSNet was endorsed by AOSIS within the Barbados Program of Action. Subsequently, endorsement has been given by Heads of State and Government from the Pacific, Caribbean and Indian Ocean, including at the 3rd AOSIS Summit in September 1999. All AOSIS Members have included aspects of SIDSNet linkages in their national programs. The further development of SIDSNet in broader areas of sustainable development, such as integrated ecosystem management was endorsed at the 3rd AOSIS Summit.	
8. GEF national operational focal point and date of country endorsement: Ambassador Tuiloma Neroni Slade, Chairman of AOSIS, on behalf of AOSIS. The letters of endorsement from AOSIS, SPREP and UWICED are attached in annex 2.	
PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES	
9. Project rationale and objectives: SIDSNet was established to assist SIDS with information technology. The project will serve to highlight the use of information technology in integrated ecosystem management and in sustainable development endeavors of relevance to the Rio conventions. The objectives will be to strengthen SIDSNet by improving the collection, organization and dissemination of information on good practices to address biodiversity conservation, climate change responses and international water management issues among AOSIS Member States, and to foster inter-SIDS sharing of experiences on the use of information technology as a sustainable development tool in the context of ecosystem management.	Indicators: 1. Improved access in SIDS to information technology. 2. Wider dissemination of information on integrated ecosystem management 3. Increased SIDS-SIDS networking. 4. Wider use in SIDS of information technologies for ecosystem management.
10. Project outcomes: The information needed by SIDS to facilitate improved management of ecosystems of both national and global significance will become readily available to AOSIS Member States, and there will be greater access and usage of information technology as a tool for sustainable development.	Indicators: 1. Increased use of SIDSNet as the portal for information on sustainable development for SIDS, as the number of "hits" on SIDSNet can be monitored. 2. Increase in SIDS-SIDS information exchange through list-serves, web site linkages, on-line conferences, etc. 3. Increased awareness in SIDS of integrated

	ecosystem management approaches and best practices.
11. Project activities to achieve outcomes (including cost in US$ or local currency of each activity): Placement of SIDSNet personnel with key regional organizations, starting with SPREP and UWICED: $150,000 Training $250,000 Maintaining SIDSNet services in New York: $967,932 Other costs: $140,000 Total: $1,507,932	Indicators: Successful placement of SIDSNet personnel. Maintenance of SIDSNet services from New York to continue. Necessary software and equipment procured and used.

12. Estimated budget (in US$ or local currency): PDF: GEF: 1,000,000 Co-financing: 507,932 TOTAL: $1,507,932
INFORMATION ON INSTITUTION SUBMITTING PROJECT BRIEF
13. Information on project proposer: Alliance of Small Island States, established 1990, with the Department for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, the South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP, Apia, Samoa) and the University of the West Indies Center for Environment and Development (UWICED, Mona, Jamaica).
14. Information on proposed executing agency (if different from above): Department for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations.
15. Date of initial submission of project concept: May 23, 2001
INFORMATION TO BE COMPLETED BY IMPLEMENTING AGENCY:
16. Project identification number:
17. Implementing Agency contact person: Mr. Andrew Hudson, Principal Technical Advisor, International Waters, UNDP-GEF, FF-1076, 1 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017. Tel. 212 906 6228; fax 212 906 6998; email: Andrew.Hudson@undp.org.
18. Project linkage to Implementing Agency program(s): As a project using information technologies to strengthen capacities of SIDS in integrated ecosystem management, climate change prevention and mitigation, protection of international waters and conservation of globally significant biodiversity, the project will support a number of ongoing and pipeline UNDP-GEF projects and programmes in the Caribbean, South Pacific and Indian Oceans. Through linkages between these global issues and UNDP focus areas such as information and communications technology, energy and environment, governance, and poverty reduction, the project also supports UNDP CCF's in the participating SIDS.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
- Project rationale and objectives:

The Small Island Developing States Network (SIDSNet) was initially established by UNDP in response to the Barbados Program of Action for the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The Sustainable Development Networking Programme (SDNP) and the Special Agency for Technical Cooperation between Developing Countries (TCDC) of UNDP were the initial coordinators. SIDSNet is a medium for communications for SIDS stakeholders on issues regarding the BPoA, and for promoting the sharing of SIDS experiences and the development of the global SIDS agenda. As of mid-2000, SIDSNet has been transferred to the SIDS Unit of UN DESA to streamline the delivery of information, assistance and coordination of SIDS related matters within the UN system.

While climate change is a major priority of SIDS, it is but one of 15 chapters of the Barbados Program of Action. AOSIS has called for SIDSNet to become more involved in information sharing in the other chapters, and this is occurring to some extent on biodiversity, energy, tourism and international waters. As an example of how information technology can be utilized not only for these sectors, but for integrated ecosystem management on a wider scale, SIDSNet provides an important opportunity to test these relationships and inter-linkages. SIDSNet provides new opportunities for coordinating the globally dispersed AOSIS members, strengthening the inter-regional exchange of information and building capacity at national level by educating stakeholders and assisting with data collection and publication. At the 2nd AOSIS Workshop on Climate Change in Apia, Samoa, participants reaffirmed the importance of SIDSNet, and made the following recommendations:
1. Participants identified a number of tasks for SIDSNet. These include:
(a) Assisting SIDS in the identification of short/long-term capacity needs through coordination with the regional institutions;
(b) Dissemination and promotion of a number of tools, such as vulnerability and adaptation studies, geographic information systems, and serving as a virtual site for ongoing capacity development in these areas;
(c) Serving as a repository for various sources of relevant information, documents and expertise of AOSIS Member States; case study profiles were seen as important additions to this process.
(d) Enhancing cooperation between regional organizations and with AOSIS Member States, in accordance with the mandates of the organizations and on availability of resources.
2. Participants recommended that an updated and revised directory of SIDS Experts be made available through SIDSNet, categorized by country, region and area of expertise. This would assist AOSIS Member States in accessing expert advice and assistance for a variety of capacity development and technical assistance needs. Participants noted the contribution that had been made by TCDC Unit of UNDP (SIDSTAP – SIDS Technical Assistance Program), and recommended that this task be taken up by SIDSNet in its transition over to the SIDS Unit of UN DESA. SIDSNet should also standardize assistance to these States with the coordination of data collection and monitoring to allow for more uniform reporting on SIDSNet, which in turn would allow for ease of comparison between countries and regions. The SIDS Unit of UNDESA should assist SIDSNet in this, in cooperation with the relevant regional organizations.
3. Participants also recommended that SIDSNet should be strengthened to enable it to conduct ongoing virtual capacity development workshops in areas of greatest concern to AOSIS Member States, as identified in the BPOA. This will require funding through various sources,

including through the CDI. The work should be coordinated through the SIDS Unit of UNDESA, and should involve the UN system and relevant regional organizations, as well as relevant institutions and programs in Member States of AOSIS.

4. Participants invited regional organizations to disseminate their current and planned programs through SIDSNet for the purpose of establishing an ongoing and programmatic approach to capacity development in AOSIS Member States, building on the appropriate regional mechanisms that may be in place.

5. Participants called for the development of a regional presence for SIDSNet, including within the regional organizations of AOSIS Member States involved in national communications. This could necessitate a full-time SIDSNet officer in each of the AOSIS regions and, as appropriate, within the regional organizations within AOSIS Member States. Specific tasks for such officers will have to be determined according to the mandates of the regional organizations, regional priorities, needs and capacities, but could include assisting the SIDS Unit of UNDESA in its work to coordinate information exchange within and between AOSIS Member States.

6. Participants agreed that the strengthening of SIDSNet activities at the national level within AOSIS Member States required urgent attention. SIDSNet will also seek to keep AOSIS Member States fully informed of progress with SIDSNet, as well as any problems encountered, as well as its future needs.

7. Participants urged SIDSNet to explore ways of providing information in languages other than English, given the diversity of the Membership of AOSIS.

These recommendations were endorsed by the AOSIS Plenary in September 2000, and have been circulated to the UN General Assembly as an official document.

- ## Current situation

At the outset, funds were received from Norway, Japan, Italy and Germany in order to initiate activities under SIDSNet, but have not been sufficient to maintain continuity of the core capacity. Currently two SIDSNet staff are funded by donor contributions from Germany, Italy and Norway, while the SIDSNet Manager is funded through another UN project. These arrangements are not sustainable and cause great personnel uncertainty.

SIDSNet has benefited from technology partnerships with Hewlett Packard, Muscat (now known as Smartlogik), Mailstart (now know as WebBox) and other technology companies. This assistance has provided various tools to enhance the networking experience for SIDS stakeholders. SIDSNet works with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), CPACC and the Indian Ocean Commission. Relationships need to be strengthened at a regional and national level with government departments and other regional organizations.

The Government of Japan provided funding for SIDSNet Internet workshops in 21 different SIDS. Another 3 workshops were organized for regional trainers and funded in Barbados, Fiji and Mauritius. CPACC in the Caribbean and UNDP in the Indian Ocean and the Pacific implemented the training. Part time training coordinators were hired and despite limited funding the workshops were completed at less than $8000 per workshop. The training covered basic Internet skills in terms of retrieving information and also a component on how to use SIDSNet. Some national workshops also covered web page publishing. It was identified at these workshops the need for follow up to continue building necessary information processing skills.

Public awareness is needed to raise the profile of the SIDS agenda and to promote SIDSNet as the island network. SIDSNet presentations have been made in various workshops in New York and

the SIDS regions. Emails with relevant news have also become an effective means of publicizing the SIDSNet website. SIDSNet posters, mouse pads and brochures have been developed. These have been distributed via focal points in the UNDP offices in SIDS

In recognition of the imbalance between SIDS regarding access to the Internet, SIDSNet has worked to enable the minimum of email access to participating SIDS. In the Pacific an initiative begun by SIDSNet resulted in Tuvalu coming online in 1999. Excessive costs and low penetration of the web continues to demand capacity building to improve access to the Internet at the national level. Due to funding limitations SIDSNet is now limited to an advocacy role promoting national Information and Telecommunications policies that enable affordable access for all.

The SIDSNet website is located at www.sidsnet.org and hosted from servers at UNDP, New York. SIDSNet provides a number of tools to facilitate networking between stakeholders accessing the website. Information is arranged according to themes from the BPoA and by Island State. In the latter part of 1999, SIDSNet was being accessed at a regular basis from over 100 countries with many of these AOSIS nations. The majority of accesses were from university / academia and development organizations. The site activity exceeded 270,000 hits per month.

These activities have been carried out through the donor contributions, and have become part of the expected basic services that AOSIS relies on SIDSNet to provide. However, in the absence of donor contributions, these tasks cannot be carried out beyond the very basic servicing of the website.

Evaluations of SIDSNet have been carried out by SDNP in 1994 and in 1998. These reports can be found at http://www.sdnp.undp.org/docs/evals . In addition, the tripartite review (SIDSNet Steering Committee - SIDSNet management, regional representation by SIDS and senior UN officials) has met on a regular basis to review progress and new directions for SIDSNet. At a meeting in August 1999, the current proposal was outlined. The proposal was presented to donors at meetings in September 1999 and in January 2000, resulting in some of the co-financing being made available. In order to complete the budgetary requirements and accomplish the tasks set out, this proposal is seen as crucial by the SIDSNet Steering Committee and by the SIDS. This has clearly demonstrated that the proposal is in line with the expectations of the SIDS, that the development of SIDSNet has been evaluated as an important and meaningful sustainable development tool for SIDS, and that there a great deal of support from the donor community. The evaluation has also reassured SIDSNet management and the SIDS Unit of the appropriateness of steps taken so far, and for the need to press ahead with the activities listed in this proposal.

- Expected project outcomes, with underlying assumptions and context

The activities that have been carried out should be expected to continue as a result of the medium sized grant, and should be considered as the baseline activities upon which all further efforts will have to be based. In order to fully enable countries to prepare integrated solutions to ecosystem management and sustainable development challenges, information technology will play an important role. The following tasks should therefore be carried out, with a particular focus on how to support SIDS in the GEF program areas of climate change, biodiversity, international waters and POPs. It will be necessary to strengthen regional coordination and human resources, and will mean that 1 full time officer will be situated in each of the three main island regions, located within a key regional organization. It is envisaged that this will first be carried out with SPREP and with UWICED, to be followed by the other regions. This person will be responsible

for facilitating information capacity development programs at national and regional levels and managing relevant regional and national information published to SIDSNet. Responsibility will include coordination with the various clearinghouse mechanisms implemented in SIDS and other relevant networks. The person will also assist with the coordination of the global SIDS agenda, working with the UN SIDS Unit and the hosting organization. The details can be separated into three major components:

- technical enhancement
- information management
- resource mobilization.

It can be summarized as follows:

1. Technical enhancement

SIDS Development Portal
The SIDSNet web site will be repositioned to provide an easy to use portal or gateway site for development resources related to BPoA and islands. This activity has already begun featuring an online directory that can take submissions from stakeholders via the Internet, providing one-stop access to relevant development websites, news, search facilities and other documents. Management is by key regional and national users or headquarters staff. News and other key announcements will be highlighted on the front page enabling easy access to SIDSNet and other island resources. The UN Radio service was recently made available through SIDSNet. Attempts will be made to try to make their island related news programs available through SIDSNet using FTP or other technologies.

i. Regional Officers
Funding is required for 1 full time officer in each of the 3 main island regions, located within a key regional organization. This person is responsible for facilitating information capacity development Programs at a national and regional level and managing relevant regional and national information published to SIDSNet. Responsibility will include coordination with the various clearinghouse mechanisms implemented in SIDS and other relevant networks. The person will also assist with the coordination of the global SIDS agenda, working with the UN SIDS Unit and the hosting organization. Initially the Pacific and the Caribbean regions will be the starting points, as they have the well-developed and functioning SPREP and UWICED, respectively. UWICED was endorsed as the focal point for providing sustainable development information and for information technology related activities at the 1997 Caribbean Summit in Barbados, and is well placed to become an active partner in the further development of SIDSNet. SPREP has been endorsed as the focal point for sustainable development and for environment information through the endorsement by the Leaders of the Pacific Island Countries of the "Action Plan for Managing the Environment of the Pacific Islands Region 2001 - 2004", adopted in September 2000.

ii. Core Office Staff
Within the mandate of the Division for Sustainable Development, and the Water Management, Natural Resources and SIDS Branch, the SIDS Unit is responsible for

assisting and promoting sustainable development in SIDS. This Unit is responsible for co-ordinating the implementation of the Barbados Program of Action for the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States within the UN system. The Unit is task manager for the overall implementation of the Barbados Program of Action, and is focal point for a number of specific Chapters of the BPOA. It is responsible for co-ordinating its activities with the activities of other agencies. It is also responsible for promoting the implementation of the BPOA at the international level, and for supporting the domestic implementation efforts of the SIDS at the national and regional levels. It also serves as the conduit of information on sustainable development relevant to SIDS, between Governments, between agencies, and between Governments and agencies, in particular for SIDS Governments. Two officers will be required to provide technical and content support for SIDSNet and enable the SIDS Unit to fulfill its coordination role for the SIDS agenda and the Barbados Program of Action.

Development of a decision support system
i. AOSIS Decision Support System
A closed decision support system will be developed to allow AOSIS and regional negotiators to access a virtual library of non-public documents. A capacity building program with AOSIS missions and regional organizations will train users and ensure equal access to information. We are also looking at what hardware and software may have to be provided to the various communities and the missions. In practical terms we will seek to have a virtual on-line secure discussion forum, which will allow AOSIS delegations to prepare and discuss different options for future negotiations. In extremis it may also allow access for delegations not present at certain negotiations to provide input to the negotiators who are present.

ii. Experts
SIDSNet will have an online database of SIDS experts available to all users. This will enable virtual uploading, management and searching by country, region or sectoral expertise. This is a key part of the project, aimed at ensuring relevant expertise sharing, and for building regional and inter-regional capacity. Under climate change experts would be made available to the Members for a wide range of activities relevant to the national communications process, for adaptation projects and for sharing scientific research. At present this sort of cooperation occurs only on a very informal basis among SIDS.

iii. Cross Regional Action Teams
SIDSNet will work where possible to promote and empower cross regional and cross sectoral action teams which are working to develop approaches for SIDS to develop effective positions and strategies in international negotiations. Under the climate change banner this will fit in well with the AOSIS Decision Support System, as well as with some of the regional activities such as the successor projects to PICCAP and CPACC. These ongoing efforts being implemented in both regions can be seen as the first sets of GEF funded activities in SIDS, and information support will be critical. These teams should also take responsibility documenting the experience for the implementation of these projects. This information would support the significant number of new ideas and

project proposals that are in the pipeline and those to follow as the GEF activities are further increased in the SIDS as requested by the various Conference of the Parties and United Nations resolutions.

iv. Conference Presence
SIDSNet will pursue the need of providing Internet presence at key island conferences and ensure that reports and presentations are provided online for all stakeholders on the conclusion of the conference. This enables remote participation by non-attendees and promotes the use of technology in our implementation agenda. At the 2nd AOSIS Workshop on climate change in Apia, Samoa July/August 2000, all the documents that were available were posted on SIDSNet ahead of time. During the meeting the rest of the presentations, press statements and other materials were also posted. However, this was not on a secure site, and therefore there were no sensitive materials disseminated in this way. That will require a great improvement in the hardware and software available to the Members of AOSIS.
At the 1st AOSIS Workshop on Biosafety in Saint Kitts and Nevis, and at the 3rd AOSIS Workshop on climate change in Cyprus, all the documents, participants lists and other relevant information was also posted. The SIDSNet website now functions as a virtual library for these documents, as well as for relevant press releases and information.

v. Reporting Standards
SIDSNet will push for reporting standards with the regional organizations to ensure that useful information and documents on the BPoA activities, projects and meetings are available online as a knowledge bank for all stakeholders. This is a starting point to capturing experiences, and for making sure that the information is easily formatted. This will also complement the efforts of other projects to standardize information for appropriate database development for SIDS, which will greatly enhance the ability to fully utilize integrated ecosystem management concepts.

2. Information management

Technical and content support
The core staff and the regional presence described above will form the key personnel for technical support and for content management. This will entail selecting appropriate personnel, in cooperation with AOSIS, who can moderate and direct questions to the appropriate experts. In this regard the regional presence will become very important. In the first stages the officers seconded to SPREP and UWICED will carry out many such tasks in support of the information management for SIDSNet.

Coordination of clearinghouse mechanisms
Also in this case, the core staff and the regional presence described above will form the key personnel for technical support and for content management. This will entail selecting appropriate personnel, in cooperation with AOSIS, who can moderate and direct questions to the appropriate experts.
SIDSNet will also provide a 'technology watch' and 'technology test bed' to identify, select, test and apply new information and communication technologies for the benefit of

national SIDS stakeholders. This will be important not only for the clearinghouse function per se, but also for the dissemination of information on best practices.

Development of country directories
Country contact information is currently online but requires enhancement. SIDSNet will examine approaches to ensure country information remains fresh and relevant. This information will be of a more general nature, on issues such as tourism and other country-specific information. It is not necessarily particular to climate change issues, but would be of relevance.

Compilation and dissemination of information on experiences and best practices – with emphasis on integrated approaches
Formatting information using online forms and databases will be used on SIDSNet to capture best practice or benchmark experience with various issues. The regional SIDSNet office will assist with the documentation of successful national and regional projects. National workshops will be used to capture and publish these practices. Under each sector we would expect to not only have any relevant national communications from SIDS, but also official documents regarding that sector from AOSIS and the Member States. Emphasis will also be given to projects and proposals that highlight integrated approaches to dealing with sustainable development challenges.
The documentation will be managed as a searchable database that can be accessed through various sets of parameters. We also expect to have access to various innovative programs that can be of assistance, such as any manuals or guidelines being developed specifically to respond to issues under the Rio conventions. It has been suggested that also vulnerability and adaptation assessment study modules could be made available using SIDSNet.

Human resource development for AOSIS Member States, national capacity building and training workshops
SIDSNet workshops in phase 1 have been a successful capacity building tool. SIDSNet has been requested to continue with follow up workshops and coordinate with the National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plans (NBSAP) of SIDS, climate change conferences and other capacity building workshops. SIDSNet has continued to emphasize national capacity building and this remains our objective with national workshops. Trainers will be drawn from a regional pool to ensure that SIDS experts in the region are utilized at all times. Workshops will be held in those countries that were excluded from the first round, and it is most likely that workshops will have to return to those countries that were included in the first phase for follow-up purposes. This could also provide an important opportunity for further collaboration with the GEF and the Rio Conventions through the Capacity Development Initiative of the GEF.

Technical Development
SIDSNet will work with regional organizations and private enterprise to ensure national stakeholders have access to cutting edge tools for collecting, analyzing and publishing information. It is important to monitor actions to ensure that duplication is avoided and information and data can be analyzed for our own information needs.

Linkages and cooperation with other sustainable development processes and projects

In order to assist with the achievements of the goals set out in this section, and for the overall success of the project, it will be very important to set up linkages to other GEF projects, and to fully explore the synergies with the portfolio of GEF projects in SIDS (or that have distinct benefits for SIDS). Currently these projects can be found in the climate change, biodiversity and international waters areas, but will soon be complemented by renewable energy and persistent organic pollutants. A full list of these projects is listed in annex 1. SIDSNet will liaise with the implementing agencies, regional organizations and national focal points to ensure that information on best practices is gathered and disseminated. This will greatly facilitate inter-project learning and information exchange.

Of particular interest to the successful implementation of the project is the possible linkages with the GEF project IW:LEARN (www.iwlearn.org). Cooperation and coordination with this project would enable many of the underlying concepts of distance learning and educational courses to be provided in numerous other fields of relevance to the BPOA. As a conceptual tool for sustainable development of water resources, IW:LEARN can provide important lessons for how to provide the stakeholders with the relevant information and capacity. In addition, IW:LEARN will also be able to benefit from the experts database on SIDSNet and the documentation of best practices.

3. Resource mobilization

The mobilization of funding for natural resources management projects in AOSIS Member States will be the ultimate indicator tool for success of the project. It is recognized that it will be difficult in the short term to clearly state whether the project was directly implicated in the successful delivery of grants or loans to another project. However, the following could be considered as important first steps.

Matching Needs to Donors

Funding and financial opportunities from various donors and Programs will be listed and for SIDSNet stakeholders to find appropriate donors for their projects. It is very clear to us that we need to expand the activities to meet the needs and expectations of our clientele.

- **Activities and financial inputs needed to enable changes**

The SIDS as the main stakeholders in the SIDSNet exercise are not able to finance the operations of SIDSNet by themselves. The United Nations has so for been unable to find regular budget funding for SIDSNet. Donor contributions received so far will only enable the core staff to remain employed. The activities outlined will therefore only become a reality with the additional financing from the medium sized grant.

- Sustainability analysis and risk assessment

AOSIS has pointed out in many interventions at the international level that the support and endorsement that SIDSNet has received should result in greater financial commitment from the international community. The perception among donors may be that SIDSNet requires a longer track record to prove its utility. As an operational entity SIDSNet has been functioning properly since 1997. A medium sized grant may be the necessary impetus to ensure full donor support into the next phases. It is also expected that with these additional activities there may be commercial opportunities for support, through private sector involvement. SIDSNet management will explore ways and means of seeking out private sector funding as well as innovative means of cost-recovery from the beneficiaries of the project implementation. Given the modest size of the private sectors in SIDS this will have to be considered as a longer-term activity. Nevertheless, part of the costs as well as the core funding for staff will have to be considered in this broader view of the project over the longer term.

- Stakeholder involvement and social assessment

SIDSNet is a very inter-active and open tool for the use of multi-stakeholder communities. The overall approach is fundamentally to empower grass roots and community-based organizations and individuals with information. It is also increasingly seen as the one-stop information portal for SIDS governments seeking sustainable development information. This grant will significantly enhance that function for the three main program areas in particular and also for the concepts of integrated ecosystem management.

INCREMENTAL COST ASSESSMENT

The baseline situation consists of a broad and diverse range of national sustainable development activities underway in SIDS, of widely varying levels of advancement and effectiveness. These activities are complemented by a number of GEF-supported national and regional activities in SIDS related to climate change prevention and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, protection of international waters and reduction/elimination of POPs releases. In the absence of SIDSNet, results, best practices and lessons learned in these national and regional activities concerning the global environment are only shared sporadically on an ad hoc basis. SIDSNet is incremental by providing the institutional and technical framework for sharing knowledge and experience in protecting the global environment across the world's SIDS. The project's eligibility under OP12 falls within OP12 mandate to support "….interventions will include activities such as documentation and dissemination of experience to facilitate replication".

CO-FINANCING

There has been considerable interest in SIDSNet from the donor community. The co-financing section shows the totals of funds received or pledged by the sustaining donors, Japan, Norway, Germany and Italy. Nevertheless it has been problematic to find a sustaining donor for the starting phases of the project, and for the activities outlined above. However, interest has been shown by several donors for discrete financing of separate regional components. Therefore, aspects of the regional presence in the Pacific may be set aside as a co-financing aspect, and a proposal will be made to the traditional cooperation partners of that region.

In addition, a general approach has been made to seek funds for content partnership and information management through the InfoDev unit of the World Bank Global Development Gateway. The contribution of DESA in financial terms is listed in the section of other funding. This should also be considered in conjunction with the considerable in-kind contributions of office space, other equipment, management and administrative support provided by DESA in its ongoing support for SIDSNet and the SIDS Unit. Total co-financing amounts to $407,932.

BUDGET

	GEF	Others+	Co-financing received	TOTAL
PERSONNEL	**600,000**	**69,932**	**298,000**	**967,932**
- Info Systems Specialist*	325,000	37,432	162,000	
- Communications Specialist*	275,000	32,500	136,000	
SUBCONTRACT	**150,000**	**0**	**0**	**150,000**
- Caribbean	75,000	0	0	
- Pacific	75,000	0	0	
TRAINING ACTIVITIES	**200,000**	**50,000**	**0**	**250,000**
- Caribbean**	100,000	0	0	
- Pacific**	100,000	0	0	
- IMA**	0	50,000	0	
EQUIPMENT AND PUBLICITY MATERIALS	**0**	**50,000**	**40,000**	**90,000**
TRAVEL	**40,000**	**0**	**0**	**40,000**
MISCELLANEOUS	**10,000**	**0**	**0**	**10,000**
TOTAL	**1,000,000**	**169,932**	**338,000**	**1,507,932**

* Including administrative overhead cost and others.
** 4 two-day workshops, or 2 longer workshops.
+ Includes in-kind support, transferred funds, and support to be pursued as part of project.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

DURATION OF PROJECT (IN MONTHS):						
ACTIVITIES	PROJECT-MONTHS					
Completion of project activities	6	12	18	24	30	36
1. SIDS Development Portal	x	x				
2. Regional officers recruitment	x	x				
3. Training workshops		x	x	x	x	x
4. AOSIS decision support system			x	x	x	
5. Expert directory		x	x			
6. Country directory			x	x	x	x
7. Compilation of best practices						

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

SIDSNet is a very inter-active and open tool for the usage of multi-stakeholder communities. The overall approach is fundamentally to empower grass roots and community-based organizations and individuals with information. Relevant NGOs and other sectors of civil society in SIDS will be invited to participate in national workshops planned. They will also be able to fully utilize the services offered by SIDSNet in accordance with national legislation and the availability of less-costly Internet access. Special thematic public stakeholder forums can be established on SIDSNet to enable the SIDS communities to discuss sustainable development and ecosystem management. It will be important for SIDSNet management to engage the communities through outreach and information, in the context of national SIDSNet workshops and during conferences held in SIDS.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

The project will be subject to standard UNDP M&E procedures including Annual Project Report (APR) and a final independent evaluation. The project will also participate in the GEF M&E process via the annual Project Implementation Review (PIR). SIDSNet already has in place a tripartite review process involving regional representation from AOSIS, SIDSNet management and senior officials of the UN system. Arrangements can be made for this tripartite review to meet on a quarterly basis to receive reports from management, bring forward reports from the AOSIS Members, and provide relevant information to the GEF Secretariat on progress in the implementation.

Annex 1: Linkages to other GEF projects in SIDS

The following is a non-exhaustive list of GEF projects in SIDS that will be linked up through SIDSNet, and whose best practices and lessons learned SIDSNet will collect and disseminate.

UNDP/UNEP/WB IW:LEARN:
Web site: www.iwlearn.org
Project document:
http://www.gefweb.org/Documents/Project_Proposals_for_Endorsem/project_proposals_
for_endorsem.html

UNDP Implementation of the Strategic Action Program of the Pacific Small Island
Developing States (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall
Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga,
Tuvalu, Vanuatu)
Web site: http://www.sprep.org.ws/iw/default.htm
Project document:
http://www.gefweb.org/Documents/Project_Proposals_for_Endorsem/project_proposals_
for_endorsem.html

UNEP/UNDP Caribbean SIDS International Waters project
(PDF-B; Full project goes to GEF Council Dec. 2001)

UNDP South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP) (Cook Islands,
Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau,
Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)
Web site: http://www.sprep.org.ws/

UNDP Pacific Island Climate Change Assistance Project (PICCAP)
Web site: http://www.sprep.org.ws/

UNDP Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Programme
http://www.gefweb.org/Documents/Work_Programs/wp_july2000/wp_july2000.html

WB Samoa: Marine Biodiversity Protection and Management
http://www.gefweb.org/wprogram/Jan99/Jan99.htm

UNEP Biodiversity Country Studies (includes Bahamas, Cuba and Papua New Guinea)

UNEP Biodiversity Data Management (includes Bahamas and Papua New Guinea)

UNEP People, Land Management and Environmental Change (includes Papua New
Guinea)

UNEP Development of Best Practices and Dissemination of Lessons Learned for Dealing with the Global Problem of Alien Species that Threaten Biodiversity (includes Mauritius)

UNEP Promoting Best Practices for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity of Global Significance in Arid and Semi-Arid Zones (includes Jamaica)

UNEP/FAO Reduction of Environmental Impact of Tropical Shrimp Trawling through Introduction of By-Catch Technologies and Change of Management (includes Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago)

UNEP Solar and Wind Energy Resource Assessment (includes Cuba)

WB Ship-Generated Waste Management (OECS - Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines)

WB Western Indian Ocean Islands Oil Spill Contingency Planning (includes Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles)

UNEP Creation and Strengthening of the Capacity for Sustainable Renewable Energy Development in Central America (includes Belize)

UNDP Building Capacity for Conducting Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessments in the Caribbean Region (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago)

WB Coral Reef Monitoring Network in the Member States of the Indian Ocean Commission within the Global Reef Monitoring Network (includes Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles)

UNDP Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Programme (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos)

WB Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef (includes Belize)

UNEP Development and Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment in Sub-Saharan Africa (includes Seychelles)

UNDP Creating a Co-Managed Protected Areas System (Belize)

UNDP Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Barrier Reef Complex (Belize)

WB Community-managed Sarstoon Temash Conservation Project (Belize)

WB Energy and Water Sector Reform and Development (Cape Verde)

UNDP Island Biodiversity and Participatory Conservation in the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros (Comoros)

UNDP Protecting Biodiversity and Establishing Sustainable Development in the Sabana Camaguey Region (Cuba)

UNDP Priority Actions to Consolidate Biodiversity Protection in the Sabana Camguey Region (Cuba)

UNDP Producing Energy Efficient Home Refrigerators Without Using Ozone Depleting Substances (Cuba)

UNDP Co-generation of Electricity and Steam Using Sugarcane Bagasse and Trash (Cuba)

WB Dry Forest Biodiversity Conservation (Grenada)

UNDP Programme for Sustainable Forestry (Guyana)

WB National Protected Areas System (Guyana)

WB Demand Side Management Demonstration (Jamaica)

WB Wider Caribbean Initiative for Ship-Generated Waste (includes Caribbean SIDS)

UNDP/UNEP Demonstrations of Innovative Approaches to the Rehabilitation of Heavily Contaminated Bays of the Caribbean (includes Cuba and Jamaica)

WB Sugar Bio-Energy Technology (Mauritius)

UNDP Restoration of Highly Degraded and Threatened Native Forests of Mauritius (Mauritius)

WB Biodiversity Restoration (Mauritius)

WB Restoration of Round Island (Mauritius)

UNDP Community Conservation and Compatible Enterprise Development on Pohnpei (Federated States of Micronesia)

UNDP Biodiversity Conservation and Resource Management (Papua New Guinea)

WB Forestry and Conservation Project (Papua New Guinea)

WB Biodiversity Strategy, Action Plan and First National Report and Clearing House Mechanism (Sao Tome and Principe)

WB Biodiversity Conservation and Marine Pollution Abatement (Seychelles)

WB Management of Avian Ecosystems (Seychelles)

WB Marine Ecosystem Management Project (Seychelles)

UNEP National Biodiversity Strategies, Action Plan and the First National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (St. Lucia)

UNDP Conservation of the Globally Significant Forest Ecosystem of Suriname Guayana Shield (Suriname)

WB Protected Areas and Wildlife Management Project (Trinidad and Tobago)

Biodiversity Enabling Activities (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cape Verde, Comoros, Cuba, Dominica, Fiji, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Kiribati, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Federated States of Micronesia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Vanuatu)

Climate Change Enabling Activities (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cape Verde, Comoros, Cook Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Malta, Mauritius, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Seychelles, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago)

Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism Enabling Activity (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Cape Verde, Dominica, Fiji, Kiribati, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu)

Annex 2

Letters of endorsement
(attached)