



SIDS DOCK
SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES
ISLAND ENERGY FOR ISLAND LIFE



United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy For All (2014-2024)

**Draft Concept Paper
For the Establishment of an**

**Island Women Open Network (IWON)
“Sustainable Energy & Climate Resilience in Island Nations”**

**SIDS DOCK Support Program Platform Building Activity 2.1 - Country energy planning
capacities strengthened, focus on policy-makers**

INTRODUCTION

There is no doubt that the global energy system needs to undergo the biggest transformation in modern history and bold policy measures will be required to enable the energy sector to deliver on this challenge¹. Without the active participation of women, it will be impossible for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to transition to Sustainable Energy For All and to achieve the SIDS DOCK goal to increase energy efficiency by 25 percent (2005 baseline) and to generate a minimum of 50 percent of electric power from renewable sources and a 50 percent decrease in conventional transportation fuel use by 2033: *Island Energy for Island Life 25-50-25 by 2033*.

SIDS DOCK is a SIDS Sustainable Energy and Climate Resilience Initiative created by Island Nations, in order to increase availability of financial resources to invest in building climate resilience. Island Nations are haemorrhaging precious foreign exchange, as each year, they spend in excess of USD 140 billion on imported petroleum products.

Gender in sustainable energy matters. Women make up one-half of the world’s human capital and account for half of any country’s talent base. Worldwide, women are expected to outnumber men within the next 50 years. Women have a smaller carbon footprint than men due to different consumption patterns and lifestyle of women and men. This holds true regardless of whether they are rich or poor. Every issue women face is one that affects us all. World Bank studies show that development strategies focusing on gender equality see stronger economic growth than gender-neutral strategies. Throughout the world, women represent a substantial, underutilised force for sustainable development. Recognising this, SIDS DOCK is seeking to put in place a gender equality intervention strategy to ensure actions are taken to guarantee women’s participation and inclusion in the new transformed, low carbon economy in Island Nations. If not, women will have the least capacity to participate or be involved in discussions or negotiations on sustainable energy and adaptation strategies and approaches.

¹ As noted by Dr. Christoph Frei, Secretary-General of the World Energy Council, in commenting on the SE4ALL

This Concept Paper for the *Establishment of an Island Women Open Network (IWON)*, forms part of the activities to be implemented under the SIDS DOCK Support Program, funded by the Government of Denmark in 2010, to support Island Nations to transition to low carbon economies through development and deployment of renewable energy (RE) resources and promotion of greater energy efficiency (EE). Under the Denmark SIDS DOCK Support Program, Island Nations' priority themes, including energy security, energy access with special regard to gender, and climate change, will be mainstreamed into all projects and components². Women more than men, face serious challenges in adjusting to the impacts of climate change, and the energy divide is also gendered with women in most developing countries experiencing energy poverty differently and more severely than men. Climate change and gender inequality are inextricably linked in that they both create obstacles to achieving poverty reduction and development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Furthermore, climate change makes existing inequalities worse and generally slows progress toward gender equality. Similarly, gender inequality aggravates the impacts of climate change. Therefore, attempts to ensure gender equality can help to reduce the impacts of climate change.

The myths of gender blind policies must be exploded and serious attention must be given to devising gender-aware strategies and remedies that will significantly improve the lives of women, men and children across Island Nations. Establishment of the IWON is intended to help build the capacity of women at the community and grassroots levels in small islands and low lying developing states to participate in the transformation of Island Nations' energy sector to achieve the SIDS DOCK goal of *25-50-25 by 2033*. The objective is to ensure that gender equality issues are integrated in the concept, design, implementation and evaluation of sustainable energy and climate change-related projects in the SIDS DOCK Indicative Project Pipeline, by establishing an Island Nations' association that provides networking opportunities that promote empowerment of women to help build community resilience to a changing climate and sea level rise through capacity building, education and awareness, demonstration of SIDS-Appropriate Technologies, and financing for sustainable energy projects.

One reason that economic growth has failed to translate fully into widespread socio-economic benefits is Island Nations' dependence on fossil fuel imports. The island economy is highly susceptible to oil price shocks, with oil imports accounting for five percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2013, and in many Island Nations, in excess of 100 percent of exports, resulting in the Island Nations being 10 of the 14 most indebted countries in the world. SIDS DOCK research and studies indicate that domestic renewable energy development can reduce economic vulnerability due to reliance on fossil fuel imports, and that there is significant potential to create jobs to tackle the unemployment rate of women in Island Nations and improve the standard of living.

BACKGROUND AND STRATEGY

About SIDS DOCK

SIDS DOCK was launched in December 2010, in Cancun, Mexico, with four Partners: the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); The World Bank, and the Government of Denmark, which announced a grant of USD14.5 million in start-up

² SIDS DOCK Support Program: World Bank-UNDP Proposal to Government of Denmark, March 2011

contributions. In December 2011, in Durban, South Africa, the Government of Japan joined the SIDS DOCK Partnership with a pledge of USD 15 million, over two years (2012-2014).

SIDS DOCK, the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs of the Republic of Austria, and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), announced a historic partnership in March 2014, worth millions of Euros, to establish a network of regional Centres for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Island Nations. The Government of Austria, through the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), has committed to fund the establishment and the first operational phase for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Centres in the Caribbean (CCREEE), Indian Ocean (IOCREEE), and the Pacific (PCREEE), and to provide support to the African islands at the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE).

Twenty-two (22) SIDS DOCK Members have signed historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishing a long-term partnership with the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI) that will see the Partners working together to speed up innovative renewable energy projects and solutions that would significantly transform Island Nations' energy sectors to the benefit of the population.

The new and innovative SIDS DOCK organization will be structured but flexible, allowing it to respond to the needs of members in developing low carbon economies and building climate resilience; it will be internationally and regionally supported. SIDS DOCK has been assigned four principal functions by its members:

1. A mechanism to help Island Nations develop low carbon economies that generate financial resources to invest in climate change adaptation/ resilience building.
2. Assist Island Nations' transition to a sustainable energy sector, by increasing energy efficiency and conservation, and development of renewable energy;
3. Providing a vehicle for mobilizing financial and technical resources to catalyse low carbon economic growth;
4. Provide Island Nations with a mechanism for connecting with the global carbon market and taking advantage of the resource transfer possibilities that will be afforded.

In 2009, SIDS DOCK Members began the process of establishing the organisation through a Memorandum of Agreement, and on 1 September 2014, the Statute Establishing the SIDS DOCK was signed by 17 states and 1 ratification, during the Ceremony for the Opening of the Signing of the Statute Establishing the SIDS DOCK, on the margins of the UN Third International Conference on SIDS. By the close of the signature period in Samoa there were a total of 20 signatories. The Statute remained open for signature, in Apia, Samoa, until 5 September, and then re-opened for signature at the Permanent Mission of Belize to the UN, in New York, from 6 September 2014, until it enters into force. Nine (9) Instruments of Ratification are required for the Statute to enter into force; up to 30 April 2015, six members have ratified: Belize, Cook Islands, Dominica, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Tuvalu.

About the Denmark SIDS DOCK Support Program

In March 2011, the World Bank (WB), and the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), submitted a joint proposal for funding to the Government of Denmark, on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). The proposal aimed to support Island Nations to transition to low carbon economies through development and deployment of renewable energy (RE) resources and promotion of

greater energy efficiency (EE). The Program is implemented by UNDP and ESMAP (through WB regional units and the Environment Department). The UNDP and ESMAP established Trust Funds for this purpose, and the Program coordination mechanisms are articulated through a Memorandum of Understanding involving the donor, UNDP, WB, and AOSIS. The SIDS DOCK Support Program had an implementation period of 18 months, beginning July 1, 2011, through December 31, 2012, with a total program budget of USD 14.5 million. Based on results, implementation should have resulted in a second tranche of funding from Denmark, pending submission of a new proposal. There has been mounting project delays, with project completion extended again, from 2013 to 2015, and in one or two cases 2016 completion dates.

Under the SIDS DOCK Support Programme supported by the Government of Denmark, USD 1.385 million had been allocated for developing the SIDS DOCK Platform in 2012, and included funding for, *Supporting Technical Assistance Services SIDS DOCK* and *Institutional Design and Strengthening*. These items are listed as Activities 2.1-2.6 in the Program proposal. Based on consultations between UNDP and the SIDS DOCK Steering Committee, it was agreed that Activities 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.6 would be implemented through a consultancy agreement between the UNDP New York, and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre on behalf of the SIDS DOCK Secretariat. *Activity 2.1 - Country energy planning capacities strengthened, focus on policy-makers*, included development of a public education and awareness programme to promote the benefits of transitioning to a low carbon economy in Island Nations.

Table 1: List of SIDS DOCK Pilot Countries

Country	Population (2013)	SIDS DOCK National Coordinators/Policy-makers
CARIBBEAN REGION		
1	Barbados	Mr. Jehu Wiltshire
2	Dominica (Commonwealth of)	Mr. Michael Fadelle
3	Grenada	Mr. Timothy Antoine, Ms. Yolande Newton
4	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Mr. Ellsworth Dacon
AIMS REGION		
4	Cabo Verde (Republic of)	Mr. António Medina S. Baptista
5	Mauritius (Republic of)	Dr. P.M.K. Soonarane, Ms. Sheikha Bundhoo, Mrs. Sadhna Appanah
6	Seychelles (Republic of)	Mr. Tony Imaduwa, Ms. Jeanette Larue
PACIFIC REGION		
7	Kingdom of Tonga	Mr. Ofa Sefana
8	Solomon Islands	Mr. John Korinihona, Mrs. Helen Beck
9	Tuvalu	Mr. Mafalu Lotolua
	Total	2,024,973

STRUCTURE OF THE NETWORK

The Island Women Open Network (IWON) will be set up as an informal network with a Gender Desk responsible for overall management and coordination of network activities. Under the proposed SIDS DOCK organisational structure, IWON will be hosted by the SIDS DOCK National Financing Mechanism (NFM) Program Organization. The SIDS DOCK NFM Program Organisation would undertake capacity building activities, invest in non-commercial low carbon projects, manage relationships with donors and others, and undertake other activities supporting SIDS DOCK. The Program Organization could receive and disburse all manner of grants and support that furthers the mission of SIDS DOCK and would be a “charitable” organization in that it would pursue the reduction of poverty, enhancement of the environment and transition to a sustainable development path for vulnerable people.

The SIDS DOCK Assembly, Executive Council and the SIDS DOCK Secretariat would provide strategic guidance and direction to the network and its activities. The IWON can further rely on a group of technical advisors at the CCCCC, SPREP, ECREEE, UNIDO, and the CCI, who can support the IWON’s activities at the international, regional and national levels on a demand-driven basis.

The announcement in March 2014, of three Austrian-sponsored Centres for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CREEE), makes it possible to establish three IWON regional networks. These regional networks will be developed into active and vibrant networks, working closely with the IWON, the CREEE, regional and national organisations, and with each other. There are long-term plans to have each regional IWON headed by a Regional Network Coordinator (RNC) to facilitate the process of needs assessment at the national and regional levels, and translate these into concrete network activities. Each regional network could consist of a number national networks, which are managed and coordinated by the SIDS DOCK National Coordinators.

PROPOSED PROGRAMMES & OUTCOMES

There are major gender-based inequities in access to education, training and technology, and despite the substantial efforts made by the limited number of professionals in institutions mandated to address climate change adaptation since the Second Conference on SIDS in 2005, Island Nations continue to face major challenges in the development of effective capacity at the systemic, institutional and individual levels.

The SIDS DOCK IWON Intervention Strategy (2016-2018) targeting gender equality has five key programme areas: (a) Capacity Building and Human Resource Development; (b) Policy Harmonisation and Influencing; (c) Financing, Rural Enterprise Development, and Business Viability (d) Demonstration and Deployment of SIDS-Appropriate Technologies in the SIDS DOCK Project Pipeline; (e) Public Education and Awareness, and Information Sharing. These programmes are intended to provide women at the community and grassroots levels the opportunity, and readily built tools and shared skills to participate in the transformation to a low carbon economy through increased institutional capacity at the individual, institutional and systemic levels. The programmes will facilitate the active participation in the development of funding criteria and allocation of resources, the accounting for women's specific priorities and needs when considering technological developments, help deepen women’s understanding of advocacy tools and introduce them to a broad range of activities that attempt to influence

sustainable energy and climate change adaptation, and other sectoral policies, legislative, regulatory or implementation outcomes, and help them understand how the strategy would benefit them as individuals and the communities they live in.

1. Capacity Building and Human Resource Development

In general, women tend to be under-represented in capacity building initiatives, particularly those activities focused on sustainable energy and climate change adaptation. In the case of the 32-member SIDS DOCK organisation, there are eight (8) women who are Permanent Representatives to the UN that are represented on the SIDS DOCK Steering Committee, and five (5) women who are SIDS DOCK National Coordinators.

Research conducted in 2013, on twelve (12) pilot SIDS DOCK member countries to develop a *Capacity Building Strategy for Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency (RE/EE) for a Sustainable Energy Sector in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)* to manage the transition, noted that there are no established standards/models for projecting human resource capacity for RE and EE in the SIDS context. The closest model found in the literature is in the following 2010 report – *Putting renewables and energy efficiency to work: How many jobs can the clean energy industry generate in the US? By Max Wei, Shana Patadia and Daniel M. Kammen published in the Energy Policy Journal Vol. 38 (2010) pages 919–931*. The report also projected that training of personnel for the planning and management of RE and EE technologies starts at ground level and it will take SIDS DOCK an estimated six to ten years (approaches 2020) to establish the training programmes that will roll out the professionals required. The projections for 2033 suggest that it will take another 10 plus years, for the trained professionals to shape, plan, implement and manage the various SIDS appropriate technologies sustainably.

2. Policy Harmonisation and Influencing

It will be easier to promote aggregation of financing if policies are harmonized among SIDS. Policies that empower women's participation in achieving sustainable energy for all are important as women and men have different roles in the energy system. The aim is to alter the ways in which power, resources and ideas are created, distributed and consumed at the national level so that women have a more realistic chance of controlling their own development. Women can play critical roles in the advocacy process, handling policy analysis, issue development, public education, constituency organizing, lobbying, legal class actions, or creating an entire advocacy campaign. Advocacy, at its core, is an action-oriented process. It plays an important role in determining social justice, political and civil liberties, and in giving voice to citizens and historically marginalized groups. At its best, advocacy expresses the power of an individual, constituency, or organization to shape public agendas and change public policies. In a broader civil society strategy, advocacy-oriented action goes beyond specific objectives to providing the means to mobilize society, ideas, and resources in an effort to bring about democratic change and/or its consolidation.

SIDS DOCK has already prepared a Concept Paper for Policy Harmonisation in the Caribbean, and the Pacific Concept Paper is currently being developed. In June 2014, Seychelles and Cabo Verde began discussing establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to cooperate on sustainable energy issues in the AIMS region.

3. Financing, Rural Enterprise Development, and Business Viability

The SIDS DOCK Member Governments have agreed to the establishment of a **National Financing Mechanism (NFM)** that would facilitate members to access public and private resources to finance low carbon projects. The implementation of the financing mechanism will help strengthen institutional capacities at the national, regional and global level across Island Nations, and reduce dependence on international donors. The NFM will also generate additional financial resources through access to carbon markets and, very importantly for Island Nations, it will bring additional savings from reductions in the importation of fossil fuels.

Island Nations, more than any other grouping of countries, have a clear understanding of the need to invest in climate resilience building and climate adaptation. It is not a matter of *if* we have to urgently adapt, we have no other option. Sea level rise by 3.5 to 34.6 inches (8.8 to 87.8 cm) between 1990 and 2100 would result in saline coastal groundwater, endangering wetlands and inundating valuable land and coastal communities. SIDS DOCK will help Island Nations build resilience by development of sustainable energy.

A multi-agency study, led by the World Bank and the International Energy Agency (IEA), was presented at the Vienna Energy Forum 2013. The Global Tracking Framework report charts the course to achieve universal energy access, double the use of renewable energy and improve energy efficiency. Countries, international organizations, private sector and civil society need to more than double existing energy investments of \$409 billion. They need to add at least \$600 billion more every year until 2030. The additional \$600 billion would include \$45 billion for electricity expansion, \$4.4 billion on modern cooking, and \$394 billion in energy efficiency, and \$174 billion on renewable energy.

4. Demonstration and Deployment of SIDS-Appropriate Technologies in the SIDS DOCK Project Pipeline

The *SIDS DOCK Indicative Summary Project Pipeline*, first presented at the SIDS DOCK National Coordinator's Meeting in Barbados in 2012, was developed under the Denmark SIDS DOCK Support Program. At that time, the pipeline had an estimated USD 370 million in potential investments. Further development over 2013 increased the indicative projects in the pipeline to over USD 1.6 billion in projects. The projects include technology deployment, feasibility studies and capacity building. The development of the Indicative Project Pipeline is an ongoing activity and was presented at the Samoa 2014 Conference on SIDS.

In 2012 and 2013, SIDS DOCK conducted a study titled, *SIDS-Appropriate Sustainable Energy Technology Assessment*. This study focuses in particular on the development of criteria for the identification, assessment, and categorization of both supply and end-use energy technologies as SIDS-appropriate to be deployed in SIDS to achieve sustainable development. This required the creation of a new methodology to properly assess and categorize energy technologies as suitable to SIDS. This study will guide the deployment of technologies at the community level.

5. Public Education and Awareness, and Information Sharing

Any successful sustainable energy programme must include an education and outreach element. Simply providing a building with weatherization services to reduce energy use or installing a renewable energy system without educating and empowering the beneficiaries served will yield

only short-term benefits. Energy education and awareness can produce benefits over many years by producing behaviour changes such as more attention to the care of energy equipment or motivation to save energy.

Table 2: Programme Objectives, Activities and Outcomes (2016-2018)

Programmes	Objectives	Activities	Outcomes
Capacity Building and Human Resource Development	To provide women at the community and grassroots level the opportunity, and readily built tools and shared skills to participate in the transformation to a low carbon economy through increased national capacity at the individual, institutional and systemic levels	<u>Training Programmes</u> 1. Capacity Building in Project Cycle Management I – Basic Proposal Writing – Integrating Gender Issues in Climate Change and in the Project Cycle 2. Training in installation, operation, maintenance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar water heaters • Stand-alone photovoltaic systems • Biogas digesters • Wind-driven water pumps • PV-powered village water systems 3. Capacity Building in Electronic Commerce (e-commerce) for Women Traders	Women equipped with knowledge to effectively mainstream gender equity strategies throughout different stages of sustainable energy and climate change projects and able to mainstream gender into sustainable energy and climate change work Increased human capacity in energy efficiency and conservation and renewable energy system maintenance Increase in women traders’ knowledge of electronic commerce (e-commerce) and the power of the internet in trade relations in order to enable greater understanding of and access to carbon markets
Policy Harmonisation and Influencing	To help deepen women’s understanding of advocacy tools and introduce women to a broad range of activities that attempt to influence sustainable energy and climate change adaptation, and other sectoral policies, legislative, regulatory or implementation outcomes	<u>Training Programme</u> 1. Civil Society Capacity Building - Basic Guide to Advocacy and Negotiation	Increased capacity in crafting messages and choosing appropriate strategies for targeting them to their own constituencies, policy makers, technocrats, external agents, various publics. Increased awareness about the benefits and risks of advocacy, as well as skills in monitoring and evaluation. Increased capacity in Alliance building.

Financing, Rural Enterprise Development, and Business Viability	<p>To support the active participation of women in the development of funding criteria and allocation of resources for sustainable energy and climate change initiatives and to promote gender analysis of all budget lines and financial instruments for energy and climate change to ensure gender-sensitive investments in programmes for adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer and capacity building</p>	<u>Training Programmes</u> 1. Introducing the SIDS DOCK National Financing Mechanism (SIDS DOCK NFM) 2. Financial Planning for NGOs 3. Development of Business & Strategic Plans for NGOs	<p>Capacity to participate and benefit from the SIDS DOCK NFM</p> <p>Increased capacity in practical financial management, strategic financial management, financial management for programme managers, for board members, accounting basics and budgeting basics</p>
Demonstration and Deployment of SIDS-Appropriate Technologies in the SIDS DOCK Project Pipeline	<p>To ensure that technological developments related to sustainable energy and climate change take into account women's specific priorities and needs and make full use of their knowledge and expertise, including traditional practices.</p>	<u>Training Programme</u> 1. Introducing <i>SIDS-appropriate sustainable energy technologies</i> (solar, biomass, wind, hydro, geothermal)	<p>Women's involvement in the development of new technologies can ensure that they are user-friendly, effective and sustainable</p> <p>Ability to categorize energy technologies and prioritize energy technologies that are (1) <u>technically feasible</u>, (2) consistent with <u>sustainable development objectives</u>, and (3) that are better tailored to the <u>conditions</u> and <u>needs</u> in island communities</p>
Public Education and Awareness, and Information Sharing	<p>To help educate women and other vulnerable groups at the community and grassroots levels about transforming the current SIDS economy to a low carbon economy and to involve them in the development and implementation of the SIDS DOCK goal of 25-50-25 by 2033, in order to help them understand how the strategy would benefit them as individuals and the communities they live in</p>	<u>Programmes</u> 1. National Consultations on Energy 2. Community Programme to Engage Men in Gender Diversity 3. Establishing a Network presence on the Island Life Information Network (ILIN)	<p>Behaviour changes such as more attention to the care of energy equipment or motivation to save and conserve energy</p> <p>Development of best practices to help organizations engage men in women's development; setting up a network of male allies who are passionate about working together with women on collaborative leadership</p> <p>Network to facilitate meetings and conferences, project execution and implementation, and to exchange learning and sharing of relevant knowledge about</p>

			technologies and best practices related to renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency and conservation (EEC), applicable in the SIDS member countries
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CONCLUSION

SIDS DOCK is a new and innovative initiative – something never done before in humankind. The idea, developed by SIDS for SIDS, to finance Climate Change Adaptation through the transformation of the energy sector is unique, and requires knowledge of the SIDS economy and its relationship and connection to climate change. Lessons learned from building the SIDS DOCK Platform to date, highlight the importance of analysing how gender plays a role in a community and then including gender concerns from the very beginning of start-up of the organisation as this makes it much easier to follow through. It also emphasizes the importance of “*doing things differently*” and moving away from “*business as usual*” to ensure that the implementation of projects is appropriate to the gendered roles and responsibilities of men and women and that the organisation is aware of and sensitive to this.

Pre-existing gender-related patterns of inequalities and vulnerabilities can block women’s ability and capacity to effectively engage in eco-friendly technologies, natural resource management and early warning systems. Sources of these vulnerabilities range from lack of secure land rights (which are inter-related with access to credit and livelihoods), to gender gaps in the ownership of productive assets, higher illiteracy rates among women than men, unpredictable and less favourable access to employment and income, and inequalities in decision-making³. At the same time, risks associated with climate change threaten to reinforce gender inequalities and even erode progress that has been made towards gender equality in several Island Nations. Poor women’s limited access to resources, restricted rights, limited mobility and voice in community and household decision-making can make them much more vulnerable than men to the effects of climate change. This is unfair and can lead to unfortunate consequences for all, as women play a unique role in the stewardship of natural resources and support to households and communities.

With their knowledge, women can shape adaptive mechanisms in vulnerable areas. It is therefore vital that gender equality considerations, as well as men’s and women’s different needs, perspectives and knowledge, be taken into account in SIDS DOCK’s planning of community-based adaptation and resilience building activities.

SIDS DOCK Secretariat
Revised 11 September 2015

³ http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/gender/Gender%20and%20Environment/EngendCC_7.pdf