



Foundation for Development Planning, Inc

U.S. Virgin Islands in the Context of the Development Agenda for Small Island Developing States



USVI and Caribbean: Shared Development Experience

1. Shared history and culture
2. Migration patterns – contributions to VI development
3. Ongoing political ties
4. Ongoing economic ties – business, trade, technical services, education
5. Shared ocean resources
6. Same threats – natural and man-made
7. Similar development challenges – natural resource scarcity, size limitations, transportation, etc.
8. Insurance and reinsurance



Inter-governmental Arrangements

1. British Virgin Islands (MOUs)
2. Puerto Rico (MOUs)
3. Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (MOU)
4. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (Associate Member)
5. Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee
6. Caribbean Council for Science and Technology
7. Caribbean Tourism Organisation
8. Regional Coordinating Mechanism for Sustainable Development
9. Small Island Developing States Programme of Action



Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Agenda 21: Programme of Action for Sustainable Development (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 1992)

Chapter 17, Section G – “Small island developing States and islands supporting small communities are a special case for both environment and development. They are ecologically fragile and vulnerable. Their small size, limited resources, geographic dispersion and isolation from markets, place them at a disadvantage economically and prevent economies of scale.”

The chapter called for the cooperation of the international community to assist SIDS in meeting their development challenges.



SIDS 1992-2014

1. Rio 1992 – Agenda 21 => Call for Programme of Action on SIDS
2. Barbados 1994 – 1st SIDS Conference => SIDS Programme of Action
3. Mauritius 2005 – Mauritius Strategy of Implementation
4. Samoa 2014 – 3rd International Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS+20)



Barbados Programme of Action

1. Climate change & sea level rise
2. Natural & environmental disasters
3. Management of wastes
4. Coastal and marine resources
5. Freshwater resources
6. Land resources
7. Energy resources
8. Tourism resources
9. Biodiversity resources
10. National institutions and administrative capacity
11. Regional institutions and technical cooperation
12. Transport and communication
13. Science and technology
14. Human resource development
15. Implementation, monitoring and review



3rd International Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Objectives:

1. Assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation;
2. Seek a renewed political commitment by all countries by focusing on practical and pragmatic actions for implementation of BPoA and MSI;
3. Identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of SIDS and means of addressing them; and
4. Identify priorities for the sustainable development of SIDS for consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 UN development agenda.



SIDS+20: Preparatory Process

1. National Consultations – November 2012-May 2013
2. Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting – July 2-4, 2013, Jamaica
3. Inter-regional Preparatory Meeting – August 26-28, 2013, Barbados
4. Global Intergovernmental Process – October 2013-September 2014
5. 3rd International Conference on SIDS – September 1-4, 2014, Apia, Samoa



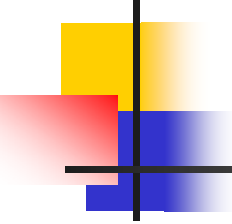
Inter-Regional Preparatory Meeting: Outcome 1

New Challenges:

- Health and non-communicable diseases
- Inadequate investment and utilization of information and communication technologies (ICTs)

New Opportunities:

- Green economy



Inter-Regional Preparatory Meeting: Pragmatic Actions

1. Climate Change – resilience, security, Green Climate Fund
2. Management of chemicals and waste – capacity development
3. Social development – gender equity, social protections, inclusion and justice
4. Health and non-communicable diseases
5. Food security
6. Oceans and seas – ocean-based economy, ocean acidification, LBSP, fisheries management, research, monitoring, data mgt.
7. Biodiversity – management and benefits sharing
8. Sustainable forest management
9. Sustainable energy
10. Disaster risk reduction
11. Promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns



Inter-Regional Preparatory Meeting: Enabling Factors

1. Financing
2. Capacity building
3. Technology transfer
4. Data collection and management
5. Partnerships and technical cooperation
6. International support to SIDS development strategies
7. Dealing with systemic imbalances – trade, participation in the international financial system, debt sustainability

Implications for the USVI: Challenges



1. Consistent participation in Caribbean development initiatives
2. Possible conditionalities linked to financing

Implications for the USVI: Opportunities



1. Potential to be included in regional assessments (e.g. climate change)
2. Ocean governance and ocean-based economy
3. Strategic use of the Energy Development in Island Nations (EDIN) Initiative, and possible involvement in SIDS-DOCK (institutional and financing mechanisms)
4. Data management – Institute for GeoComputational Analysis and Statistics (GeoCAS)
5. R&D infrastructure – CERC, Caribbean Green Technology Center, Research & Technology Park, Agricultural Experiment Station



Q & A

- 3rd SIDS Conference – www.sids2014.org
- International Institute for Sustainable Development – www.iisd.org
- SIDS Network – www.sidsnet.org
- Foundation for Development Planning, Inc – www.fdpi.org