



Raising the Visibility and Building Capacity of Sustainable Development Policy Making Related to Small Island Developing States (SIDS)



Objective and Summary

IISD Reporting Services is seeking a funding partnership to support the small island developing State element within IISD's suite of Policy & Practice knowledgebases, which was created expressly to assist in building capacity within the international sustainable development small island developing State community. This partnership would also support IISD's Earth Negotiations Bulletin coverage of the negotiations leading up to and during the 2014 International Conference on Small Island Developing States. By supporting IISD's already well-respected and well-read work on this topic, this partnership would serve to raise the profile of the funder as a key player in the field of small island developing State sustainable development policy.

Implementing Party: International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

Proposal duration: 12 months

Geographical Scope: Global

Project Cost (in USD): 506,553

Project Framing

IISD Reporting Services' mission is to increase transparency and accountability of intergovernmental sustainable development decision making. Our flagship publication – *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* – has assisted negotiators and representatives from governmental and nongovernmental organizations to follow multilateral environmental treaty negotiations for over 20 years. Our Knowledge Management tools, including the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Policy & Practice project outlined here, complement this work by enhancing the transparency and accountability of intergovernmental organization and others' work in implementing international policy and agreements, as well as by providing a platform for both policy makers and practitioners to share and explore news and analysis.

With the ever expanding universe of information sources, decision makers require tools like our SIDS Policy & Practice knowledgebase (<http://sids-l.iisd.org/>) to help them quickly identify relevant information and analysis. IISD's SIDS Policy & Practice was therefore brought online in September 2011, as part of our suite of 13 topical and regional sustainable development-related knowledge management platforms for policymakers and practitioners.

Project Elements

SIDS Policy & Practice reports and disseminates the latest activities related to small island developing States' sustainable development, carried out by stakeholders relevant to international policy processes and development practice, including international organizations, initiatives and processes, non-governmental actors, and others. Our searchable knowledgebase creates a permanent record of the key events and publications in the evolution of sustainable development policy innovation and technological deployment, as they relate to SIDS, and contains information that, in some cases, that does not exist outside of our site.

In recent years, IISD's Policy & Practice knowledgebases have quickly become flagship products in the field of sustainable development knowledge management. Information on each of the news posts that we add to our SIDS knowledgebase reach subscribers to our SIDS-L listserv as well as readers of SIDSnet. Funding organizations therefore would have the opportunity to associate their name and brand with one of the highest-quality and widely read news distribution services for the SIDS sustainable development policymaking community, including via the prominent placement of funder logos on the knowledgebase as well as in the weekly *SIDS Update* newsletter.

The SIDS-L listserv, a component of this project's capacity building efforts, has garnered a dedicated readership, as confirmed by regular quality control surveys,¹ not only because it is the delivery mechanism for IISD's funder-sponsored *SIDS Update*, but also because it provides subscribers with the valuable opportunity to broadcast their own new publications and projects to our uniquely broad and comprehensive subscriber base.

Part of the proposed project will be to ensure that the SIDS-L listserv community is kept up to date on the funder's SIDS-related activities, and in both the interest of the funder and of IISD, we will continuously work to increase the number of SIDS-L listserv subscribers. As this proposed partnership is one that will depend wholly on IISD's ability to continue delivering high quality services to its subscriber-base, we will of course maintain the highest standards of quality during the course of the agreement, and will continue to promote these tools to improve the transparency of SIDS' sustainable development policymaking processes and the capacities of practitioners.

¹ A September 2011 survey of the users of our knowledgebases found over 97% of respondents rated the overall service as good to excellent and close to 80% of readers felt it contributes to greater transparency in multilateral environmental policy making.

This proposal also seeks support for activities aimed at raising the profile and enhancing the transparency of SIDS issues and preparations for the 2014 meeting. IISD RS will help to raise the profile of the preparations for and negotiations at the 2014 International Conference on SIDS through its *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* reporting from the regional, interregional and preparatory conferences leading up to, and including, the International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2014. The work outlined in this proposal would support and complement the work of governments, organizations, programs, agencies and other players working on SIDS sustainable development issues. In particular, the project would ensure timely and comprehensive dissemination of information on relevant publications, key meetings, statements, policy announcements or programs and projects. Furthermore, the SIDS-L listserv would provide a platform for system-wide exchange of information on both activities and the challenges facing SIDS, as well as a means of engaging stakeholders in the preparations for the 2014 Conference.

Specific Project Components and Deliverables

The project involves seven main components:

1. **Regularly seek out, vet, analyze and summarize news about sustainable development activities in SIDS to post to the SIDS Policy & Practice knowledgebase.** We also will regularly invite key high-level actors and stakeholders to draft articles on to be published as part of our efforts to expand and distribute the publicly available knowledge on international policy and practice in the field, including from the funding agency.
2. **Enhance the database to improve the user experience and ability to search the existing data,** including via the development of Web 2.0 semantically aware tagging, creating a searchable archive of activities based on actors, themes and other categories, and incorporating open data concepts into the database experience.
3. **Expand and moderate SIDS-L,** an e-mail listserv for the policy community focused on sustainable development in SIDS.
4. **Regularly update a comprehensive online calendar** (iCal) of global SIDS-related activities, compatible with all major scheduling software platforms, and including key events organized by the funder.
5. **Publish a weekly e-mail update** (the *SIDS Update*) on activities recently added to the knowledgebase together with guest articles and event calendar materials via the SIDS-L listserv.
6. **Develop and implement an updated outreach strategy** for the knowledgebase and the SIDS-L listserv will be developed by IISD Reporting Services within the first three months of the project to raise awareness and increase the use of the knowledgebase, as well as to build up the membership in the SIDS-L listserv. In particular, we will seek to raise the percentage of knowledgebase users in developing country regions beyond our current levels of 8% in Africa, 24% in Asia, and 7% in Latin America and the Caribbean. The strategy may use, for example, traditional media, new media tools and physical presence at international events that our Reporting Services teams cover.
7. **Provide IISD RS *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* coverage** of the following expected meetings:

- three regional preparatory meetings (AIMS, Pacific and Caribbean), expected in 2013;
- one interregional meeting, expected in final quarter of 2013;
- three global preparatory committee meetings, expected in 2014;
- a final preparatory committee meeting immediately prior to, and the International Conference on Small Island Developing States, in Apia, Samoa, in 2014.

Cost Breakdown

Two project budgets are presented below. The first would cover IISD RS' activities to maintain and update the SIDS Policy & Practice knowledgebase through May 31, 2014. The second would cover IISD RS' *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* reporting from the meetings leading to and including the 2014 event.

Funding required for both components is USD 506,553.

SIDS Policy & Practice Budget

June 2013-May 2014	Item	Amount
	IISD staff costs	124,900.00
	Web Costs	1,667.00
	Outreach & Communication	833.00
	Staff Meeting	3,880.00
	SIDS Policy & Practice Budget	USD 131,280.00
<i>Overhead</i>	15%	19,692.00
Total funding needed for SIDS Policy & Practice		USD 150,972.00

Earth Negotiations Bulletin Meeting Coverage Budget

Meetings	Item	Amount
	Regional Prep Meetings: Caribbean, Pacific, AIMS	66,943.00
	Interregional Conference	46,786.00
	Global PrepComs 1 & 2	77,144.00
	Global PrepCom3 & SIDS Conference	118,328.00
	Meetings Budget	USD 309,201.00
<i>Overhead</i>	15%	46,380.00
Total funding needed for Meetings		USD 355,581.00
Total Funding Needed SIDS Policy & Practice and Meeting Coverage		USD 506,553.00

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