



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

# RISING TIDES, RISING CAPACITY

SUPPORTING A SUSTAINABLE  
FUTURE FOR SMALL ISLAND  
DEVELOPING STATES



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Resilient nations.

The United Nations Development Programme works in nearly 170 countries and territories, helping to achieve the eradication of poverty, and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion. We help countries to develop policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, institutional capabilities and build resilience in order to sustain development results. UNDP focuses on helping countries build and share solutions in three main areas: sustainable development, democratic governance and peacebuilding, and climate and disaster resilience. In all our activities, we encourage the protection of human rights and the empowerment of women, minorities, the poorest and most vulnerable.



The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) is a coalition of small island and low-lying coastal states that share similar development challenges and concerns about the environment, especially their vulnerability to the adverse effects of global climate change. AOSIS has a membership of 39 States and 5 observers.



Norwegian Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs



June 2017

This report outlines the key results of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Support Programme, managed through UNDP and implemented by AOSIS. The majority of the funding was provided by the European Commission. The publication provides the rationale, the context, what was delivered, lessons learned and the legacy of the programme. It also highlights specific experiences of AOSIS member nationals who benefitted from the capacity building efforts under this initiative.

This publication draws on the work of staff at UNDP and AOSIS. The initiative was led by Craig Hawke, with contributions from Yuqiong Zhou, Renata Rubian, Rohan Kocharekar, Maria Cruz Gonzalaz, Cassie Flynn, Sameera Savarala, and the AOSIS team of Bryce Rudyk, Michael Crocker, Mark Jariabka, Amelia Linn, Karmjit Sangha and Ismail Zahir. Special thanks goes to Gretchen Luchsinger as writer.

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A group of people in traditional outrigger canoes are on the water at sunset. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, and the water is dark blue. The canoes are in the foreground, and the people are silhouetted against the light. In the background, there are palm trees and a small island.

# RISING TIDES, RISING CAPACITY

**SUPPORTING A SUSTAINABLE  
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DEVELOPING STATES**

**The results of the Alliance of Small Island  
States Climate Change Support Programme**



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# FOREWORDS

## AMBASSADOR MARLENE MOSES



Nauru assumed the role of Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) in 2012, a time when climate change impacts were becoming increasingly severe and when science showed that the window for meaningful action was rapidly closing.

Indeed, climate change has profoundly affected small island nations around the world and accelerating sea level rise has already forced some island communities to relocate, and soon may cause some island nations to vanish entirely.

It is no accident that AOSIS helped bring the climate crisis to international attention over 25 years ago or that it has led the charge for progress from the Rio Earth Summit to the Paris Agreement on climate change and beyond.

It was an honor and privilege for Nauru to lead AOSIS and we will continue to work with our island brothers and sisters to ensure it continues.

**Marlene Moses**

Nauru's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and Chair of AOSIS, 2012-2014

## AMBASSADOR AHMED SAREER



The Maldives began its tenure as AOSIS Chair in 2015 after Nauru completed its term and during what was a fortuitous year for climate change and sustainable development agreements at the United Nations.

Early in the year, we began preparations for both COP 21 and the 2030 Agenda. We worked tirelessly as a group to lay the groundwork for an ambitious climate change agreement and Sustainable Development Agenda that measurably improve the lives of people on the ground.

I am proud that we were able to meet both these goals and that we continue to work to ensure that the climate change accord and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are fully implemented.

The Maldives is honored to lead AOSIS during this critical time in history and we will continue to fight for progress like our lives depend on it, and for many of us they do.

**Ahmed Sareer**

Maldives' Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and Chair of AOSIS, 2015-2017

## MAGDY MARTINEZ-SOLIMAN



Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are on the frontline of climate change impacts. Indeed, it is an existential issue for many of these countries and critical to the achievement of resilient development in SIDS.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) stands alongside and supports their efforts to increase global action on the climate change. From community based adaptation initiatives that ensure access to fresh water to national energy and carbon mitigation initiatives, UNDP is supporting action at all levels in SIDS. At the global level, UNDP is working with SIDS to turn the climate commitments of the Paris Agreement – the Nationally Determined Contributions – into action.

The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) partnership came at a critical time in the years leading up to the Paris Climate Agreement. The Alliance has supported its members to strengthen their voices in the UNFCCC negotiations, supported the development of robust policies for SIDS,

and raised the visibility of the impact climate change will have on the lives of island populations. I want to thank the European Commission, as an anchor funder, as well as Australia, Norway, Sweden and Finland, who provided support at various phases of this initiative.

I encourage you to read the inspirational stories of the AOSIS fellows, the next generation of skilled climate change negotiators for small island states. I hope you will enjoy their powerful stories of commitment and achievement.

This is a publication about how partners can come together, harness their various strengths, and achieve positive and enduring impacts for small island states.

**Magdy Martinez-Soliman**

Assistant Secretary-General and Director  
Bureau of Policy and Programme Support, UNDP



# A VOICE FOR THE VULNERABLE

## FAST FACTS ABOUT SIDS (AVERAGES)



26.2%  
LAND AREA LESS THAN  
5 METERS ABOVE  
SEA LEVEL



29.3%  
POPULATION LIVING  
AT LESS THAN 5 METERS  
ABOVE SEA LEVEL



24,111 km<sup>2</sup>  
LAND AREA



666,110 km<sup>2</sup>  
EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC  
ZONES



96.5%  
OF AREA IS OCEAN



3.5%  
OF AREA IS LAND

Source: Small Island Developing States in Numbers, 2013, UN OHRLLS

To be a small island developing state today calls for treading a careful path, marshalling existing and new strengths to cope in a time of acute vulnerability.

Across vast oceans and scattered islands, strength comes from a wealth of distinct cultural and natural resources. It arises from ingenuity in the face of adversity. Over thousands of years, island societies have mastered skills to survive and even thrive in the face of harsh storms and isolation, among other challenges.

Yet a changing climate now pushes the limits of these abilities. Small island developing states (SIDS) were among the first countries to understand, nearly three decades ago, what the alarming consequences might be in a warming world.

Living at sea level, they witnessed worsening storms and floods, the loss of once vibrant fisheries, and the intrusion of salt water into land used to grow food. As small, developing economies on the margins of globalization, few had sufficient resources to defend against these impacts.

But they did have a voice and a commitment to using it. Banding together 27 years ago as the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), they have drawn the attention of the world to the moral imperative of climate action to meet the needs of not only the most powerful, but of all people, and particularly those at the greatest risk.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF AOSIS AT CLIMATE TALKS

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_12016](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_12016)

