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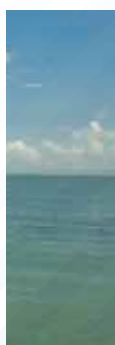
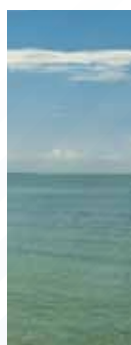
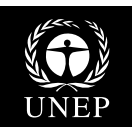
***Green Economy in a Blue World for SIDS– Executive Summary***

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# SIDS-FOCUSED

# GREEN economy

## AN ANALYSIS OF CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



## PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

### United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

UNEP coordinates United Nations environmental activities, assisting developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices. It was founded as a result of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in June 1972. Its mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

### The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

DESA and its predecessors have helped countries around the world meet their economic, social and environmental challenges for more than 50 years. DESA's mission - to promote development for all - reflects a fundamental concern for equity and equality in countries large and small, developed and developing.

### Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Achieving food security for all - to make sure people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives - is at the core of all FAO activities, including for fisheries and aquaculture. FAO's mandate is to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy. Fisheries and aquaculture have the capacity - if supported and developed responsibly - to contribute significantly to improving the well-being of poor and disadvantaged communities. The vision of FAO for these sectors is a world in which responsible and sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture resources makes an appreciable contribution to human well-being, food security and poverty alleviation. The FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, in particular, aims to strengthen global governance and the managerial and technical capacities of members and to lead consensus-building towards improved conservation and utilisation of aquatic resources.

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# FOREWORD

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have placed sustainable development prominently on their agenda for twenty years, since the 1992 Earth Summit recognised the special case of SIDS.

The concept of the Green Economy is a relatively new idea, which has been selected as one of the prominent themes of the Rio+20 Conference. For SIDS like other developing countries, the concept needs to be interpreted according to their individual sustainable development priorities and national economic and social conditions.

At the same time, the development and implementation of a Green Economy strategy would have to be consistent with the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation that have clearly outlined the way forward in pursuit of sustainable development for SIDS. The Rio+20 Conference provides an opportunity in particular for SIDS, to start taking advantage of what a Green Economy approach might offer to them.

This present synthesis publication, "SIDS-Focused Green Economy: An Analysis of Challenges and Opportunities", jointly prepared by UNDESA and UNEP, and to which FAO, the GCIAR-Worldfish Center and UNEP/

GRID-Arendal have contributed, seeks to highlight important issues in selected sectors of particular relevance to SIDS with respect to the Green Economy, and provides a number of SIDS-focused policy recommendations in the respective sectors.

In the preparations for Rio+20, Member States, in conjunction with other stakeholders, have identified several focus areas for priority attention for SIDS. These are, *inter alia*: small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture, Tourism, Water, Energy, and Waste, which are included in this report. It is clear to all that efforts must be made to create the necessary enabling environment towards a more effective development pathway. A green economy is such an approach, and a means to achieving sustainable development. It provides a platform for guiding discussion towards implementation in priority areas and cross-cutting issues in the hope of strong and consolidated action from all Member States.

This Synthesis Report intends to help further engage SIDS in particular, but entire international community as a whole, to review the proposals. It is hoped, that this Report will assist in stimulating more policy deliberations on green economy, and pursuing the strategies that best suit the needs of countries.

UNEP

DSD-UNDESA





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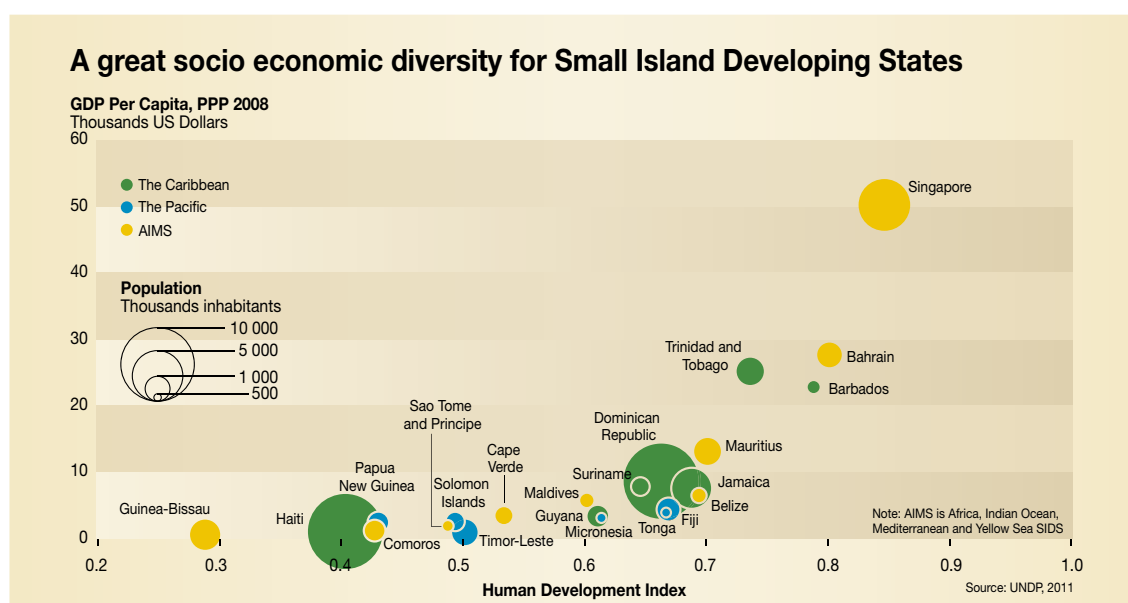
# INTRODUCTION

Small island developing states (SIDS)<sup>1</sup> are a group of countries that “*share similar sustainable development challenges, including small population, limited resources, susceptibility to natural disasters, vulnerability to external shocks and excessive dependence on international trade. Their growth and development is often further stymied by high transportation and communication costs, disproportionately expensive public administration and infrastructure due to their small size, and little to no opportunity to create economies of scale*”<sup>2</sup>.

The Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 marked the first time that the special characteristics of SIDS were paid significant attention and were recognised as a distinct group. In 1994, the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of SIDS was held in Barbados, under the auspices of the

United Nations. It resulted in the adoption of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA), which recognised the unique and particular vulnerabilities of SIDS and identified the sustainable development challenges SIDS face. The BPOA explicitly identified key areas requiring urgent action.

In 2005, the high-level international meeting in Mauritius reviewed the implementation of the BPOA and adopted the Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation of the BPOA, which underscores the need to, inter alia, mobilize domestic resources, attract international flows, and promote international trade as an engine for development. It also stresses the need to enhance coherence and governance of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in order to complement SIDS’ development plans.



<sup>1</sup> Recognised as three regions: the Caribbean, the Pacific and the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas (AIMS).

<sup>2</sup> UN DESA. 2007. *Who are the SIDS?* [www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sids/sidslist.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sids/sidslist.htm)



In 2012, on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Earth Summit, world leaders and Heads of States will again affirm political commitment to sustainable development<sup>3</sup>. The Conference will have as its theme, *"a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and, the institutional framework for sustainable development"*<sup>4</sup>. Coming at a time in which financial markets are still recovering from a global economic crisis and when the economies of SIDS have been severely impacted by external factors originating in developed countries, the "green economy" has stirred a great deal of interest regarding its possibilities as a means of alleviating this crisis.

**A green economy "is one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities"**<sup>5</sup>. This definition is amplified further to mean an economy that is **"low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive"**<sup>6</sup>. It is also envisaged that in a green economy *"growth in income and employment will be driven by public and private investments that reduce carbon emissions and pollution, enhance energy and resource efficiency, and prevent the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services"*.

UNEP defines a green economy as one that results *"in improved human well-being and social equity while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities"*

Source: UNEP, 2011

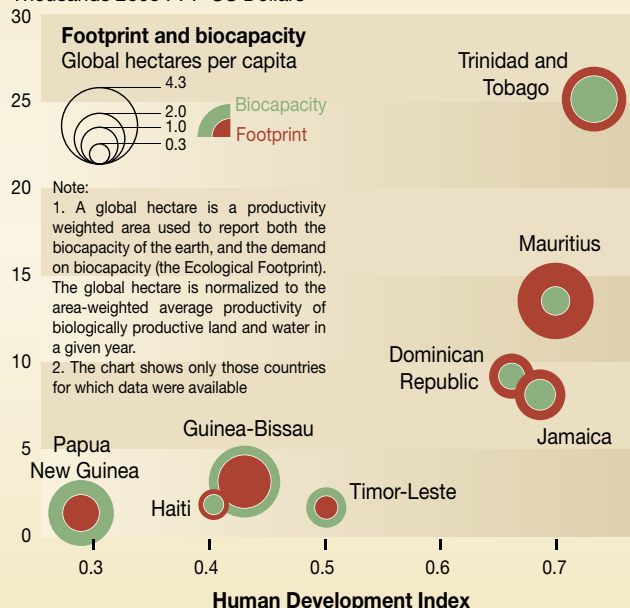
Individual SIDS have and are interpreting the green economy concept according to their individual sustainable development priorities and national economic and social conditions.

While there is no consensus on the concept of a

## Ecological footprint and the wealth of SIDS

GDP per capita

Thousands 2008 PPP US Dollars



achieve those objectives, it is vital that the right climate or enabling conditions are provided to generate and stimulate both public and private sector investments that incorporate broader environmental and social criteria. From this perspective, the overall goals of a green economy are supportive of the sustainable development concept, which had as its main objectives: development and poverty eradication, predicated on sustainable use of environmental resources.

**In this Synthesis Report, five development sectors for SIDS - small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, water, tourism, energy and solid waste - are analysed in an attempt to show how a transition to a green economy can assist in addressing some of the most critical challenges SIDS face while stimulating economic development, maintaining**

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