



QUESTIONNAIRE

Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the MSI, BPOA for the Sustainable Development of SIDS

Please note that strict word limits have been established for each question. The Secretariat is unable to consider any information beyond these established word limits. In this regard, you are requested to report only on new or updated information. Information conveyed in previous surveys will not be considered. Previous surveys can be accessed at XXXX under reports.

PART A

VULNERABILITY REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE BUILDING IN SIDS

1. Enhanced Support for a Resilient Post-COVID-19 Recovery in SIDS

Vulnerability reduction and resilience building are critical issues that must be addressed by SIDS. Briefly elaborate on any resilience building interventions or strategies (proactive or preventative) that have been or are being implemented at national or regional levels that aim specifically at improving resilience in SIDS. Please include financial resources expended in this regard, if available **(750 words)**.

2. Enhanced and Tailored Development Cooperation for SIDS

Improved, tailored development co-operation approaches, calibrated to the specific needs, capacity constraints, and economic challenges facing SIDS are necessary if SIDS are to effectively recover from the COVID Pandemic. Briefly elaborate on any planned or ongoing strategies/approaches to improve and deliver on more tailored development support to SIDS. What are the expected results from these interventions in the targeted countries. Please include indications of resource allocations if available **(850 words)**

WIPO input: (reporting period 2022-2023)

During the reporting period 2022-2023, WIPO's development-oriented technical assistance to SIDS focused on assisting the development of innovation eco-system, technological capacity building, access to scientific and technical information, and skills building on using intellectual property (IP) for economic growth and sustainable development.

In this context, WIPO has been providing technical assistance to Cabo Verde and São Tomé and Príncipe on developing National Intellectual Property Strategies (NIPS). Presently, 9 SIDS have developed NIPS and 17 SIDS are in the process of implementing NIPS. Moreover, WIPO assisted 4 SIDS Member States on developing draft Patent Act and draft Patent Regulations.

Currently, 22 SIDS are benefiting from WIPO's Program of Business Solutions for IP Offices, receiving support for digital transformation of IP offices and trainings for improving the delivery of their services.

WIPO continued to provide technical assistance to SIDS on facilitating access to scientific and technological information resources through its various programs. Technology and Innovation Support Centres (TISC) have been established in 4 SIDS with support from WIPO. As of March 2023, 30 SIDS have now joined the Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI) program, aimed at increasing the availability of scientific and technical information in developing countries and LDCs. Moreover, 29 SIDS are included into the WIPO- administered program on the Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI), through which patent offices and academic and research institutions in developing countries and LDCs can receive free or low-cost access to sophisticated tools and services for retrieving and analysing patent data.

The SIDS with the Least Developed Countries (LDC) status also benefit from "WIPO's Graduation Support Package for LDCs", launched in 2022 to assist graduating LDCs in developing and upgrading their national IP systems to meet IP-related obligations after graduation; and to enable them to harness IP and innovation for attaining graduation goals relating to structural transformation, enhancing productive capacity, competitiveness and economic diversification. In March 2023, WIPO has developed and started the implementation of a country-specific graduation support program for São Tomé and Príncipe.

During the reporting period, a wide range of tailored technical assistance projects and activities on using IP for economic growth, business and sustainable development have been undertaken by WIPO to address the specific needs, capacity constraints and challenges of the beneficiary SIDS. These include among others the following projects and activities on leveraging IP for innovation, branding, technology transfer, IP commercialization, business support, creative industries, as well as tradition- and community-based entrepreneurship, targeting a range of stakeholders and beneficiaries, such as SMEs, women entrepreneurs, young innovators, Indigenous peoples, as well as local communities, and others:

- “Project on a Forum on Intellectual Property, Innovation and Sustainable Development for SIDS: A Look at Leveraging IP in the Blue Economy Sector”, which provides trainings on leveraging IP & innovation tools to 14 CARICOM countries.
- “Project on Intellectual Property for Women Entrepreneurs in the Caribbean: Creating Value through IP”, implemented in Jamaica since November 2022.
- Women entrepreneurs in Jamaica benefitted from “Training, Mentoring and Matchmaking Program on Intellectual Property for Women Entrepreneurs from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities”, which assists Indigenous Peoples’, as well as local communities’ women, to make strategic and effective use of intellectual property tools in their community-based businesses.
- In 2022, a “National Competition on the Use of Intellectual Property (IP) Information for Development and Utilization of Appropriate Technologies” was held in Trinidad and Tobago to encourage the use of appropriate technologies for addressing development challenges by taking advantage of technological and scientific information contained in patent databases.
- “Project on the Use of Intellectual Property, Technology Transfer and Commercialization to Address Problem of Plastic Waste in the Caribbean” to enhance the capacity of 14 CARICOM countries to mitigate plastic waste pollution in seawater.
- Under the WIPO Covid-19 Response Package, a Project for the development of IP tool for carnivals was implemented in Trinidad and Tobago in 2022. It is expected to be a practical reference tool to assist the future Carnival Museums in managing the IP issues that arise in the context of carnival festival (music, performing arts, costumes, art and ritual objects; etc.).
- Mentorship programs were carried out on copyright system to support creative SMEs and start-ups, creators, managers and other professionals in the music and visual arts sectors to enhance their IP skills and capacities in Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Tonga in 2022.
- Under “WIPO Covid-19 Response Package”, a Project for the establishment of a Carnival Museum and the assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on creative industries has been carried out in Trinidad and Tobago in 2022.
- Under “WIPO Covid-19 Response Package”, A Project on Collective Marks for Barbuda Logwood Honey and A&B multi-floral Honey” has been commenced in

Antigua and Barbuda.

- A Project on Establishment of the IP Training Institutions is being implemented in the Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago, which includes capacity-building activities on IP as a tool for post-COVID -19 economic recovery for SMEs, entrepreneurs, the broader private sector, women, and young people.
- A Project in Cabo Verde for providing training and support to young entrepreneurs seeking to commercialize their IP assets.
- A new project on copyright, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions - “DRIVE – Creative Industries, the driving force of the Pacific” - was launched in April 2023 with the beneficiary SIDS countries including Fiji, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
- Capacity building workshop for indigenous experts on IP and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Express was held in February, 2023 for SIDS, including Samoa and Singapore.
- A Webinar on IP, Traditional Knowledge, and Traditional Cultural Expressions was organized in November 2022 for Suriname.

PART B

IDENTIFYING POLICY PRIORITIES IN SIDS FOR THE NEW AGENDA

The SAMOA Pathway contains a number of action areas which require policy formulation, programmes or projects to implemented at national, sub regional and/or regional levels. While SIDS have made a fair amount of progress with actioning these over the last decade, a number of gaps remain. As the international community prepares for the 4th International Conference on SIDS, what are the key priority policies, programmes and projects that are needed to further advance the SIDS development agenda and why? (750 words)

WIPO’s recommendations on the key priority policies, programmes and projects for further advancing the SIDS development agenda

Science, technology and innovation are instrumental for addressing vulnerabilities and supporting sustainable development efforts of small island developing states, in particular for addressing challenges related to water supply, renewable energy, rural

development, food security and economic diversification. However, despite certain progresses, the SIDS continue facing significant gaps in this field.

Intellectual property, innovation and creativity can be a powerful tool for promoting growth and advancing sustainable development in SIDS. Therefore, the new Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States may benefit from incorporating specific support actions (programs and projects) aimed at developing an enabling IP ecosystems to promote innovation and creativity and empowering people, businesses and communities to leverage IP effectively for their endeavors.

These may include the followings:

1. Assisting SIDS in developing inclusive, balanced and effective intellectual property ecosystems for promoting innovation and creativity;

Integrating intellectual property (IP) into national development policies and strategies would enable SIDS to generate IP assets and create conditions for all national stakeholders to work together to create, own and commercialize research, inventions, innovations, new technologies and creative works. WIPO can step up its efforts to assist SIDS in creating the effective innovation eco-system and commercialization of IP.

2. Enhancing support services or mechanisms to enable stakeholders in SIDS to leverage intellectual property successfully for economic growth, business competitiveness and sustainable development;

The effective use of various IP rights, such as patents, trademarks, designs, geographical indications, copyright, as well as traditional knowledge, genetic resources and folklore can significantly benefit the economic growth and development in many SIDS by promoting innovation and creativity of all stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities.

Entrepreneurs, inventors, creators and researchers in SIDS need better access to support services that would enable them to create and commercialize IP assets and make the effective use of opportunities provided by the IP system. Thus, relevant entities in SIDS can be given tools and other types of support which in turn would allow them to provide necessary services and assistance to innovators and creators.

3. Increasing Intellectual Property Knowledge and Skills in SIDS;

IP users and stakeholders, especially youths and women, MSMEs, innovators, creators, universities, research institutes and local communities, in SIDS lack awareness, knowledge, tools and skills on using the IP system effectively for their activities and endeavors. Therefore, skills building for a broad range of stakeholders should be a strong component of technical assistance and support provided to SIDS in the area of promoting innovation and creativity.

4. Assisting SIDS on gender equality and empowerment of women through supporting their role in innovation and entrepreneurship

Integrating gender mainstreaming into national development policies, strategies, and projects on intellectual property (IP) in SIDS is crucial. Targeted capacity building and mentorship programs for women innovators and agripreneurs are essential to bridge the gender gap in market information and intellectual property. WIPO can support initiatives that promote women's participation and leadership in innovation and entrepreneurship by assisting their use of the intellectual property system.