

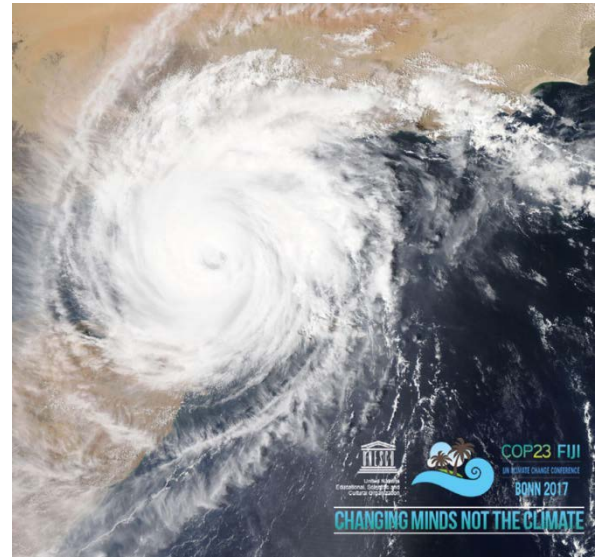
SIDS Action Day

- to address SIDS vulnerability
- assess Loss and Damage
- enhance scientific capacity and policy
- value indigenous and local knowledge systems
- mobilize citizen science to adapt and build resilience

14 November 2017

UNESCO Pavilion

14:00 - 17:00



UNESCO provides a **SIDS Action Day** to bring together experts, policy-makers, government officials, civil society and community representatives to engage in a transdisciplinary dialogue about SIDS and climate change impacts, mitigation and adaptation. It will focus reflections on:

- **Innovative approaches to address Loss and Damage at national and local level:** UNESCO and the University of the South Pacific's Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (USP PACE-SD) will launch the results of the project "*Towards Climate Change Resilience: Minimising loss and damage in Pacific SIDS communities*". This pilot project was implemented in five Pacific and South-East Asian SIDS communities (Cook Islands, Samoa, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste). It developed and tested tools and approaches to better understand loss and damage at the community level; identified challenges in coping and adaptation; and made recommendations for follow-on interventions in research and implementation.
- **Strengthen communities & ecosystems resilience: Pacific RESCCUE & INTEGRÉ:** Strengthening integrated coastal management to maintain and enhance the resilience of Pacific ecosystems and peoples is at the heart of two regional projects implemented by the Secretariat Pacific Community (SPC): *RESCCUE* and *INTEGRÉ*, which are respectively funded by AFD/FFEM and EU. This presentation describes actions including nature-based solutions and strengthening participatory governance systems, in World Heritage sites and other areas. Important lessons for Pacific adaptation.
- **Citizen science participatory production of climate change-related data to enhance community resilience, and support policy planning and decision-making:** SIDS are challenged to provide basic data or sufficient quality data to shape decision-making. Weak data capacity makes indicators and vulnerabilities more difficult to identify and monitor. Through citizen science, UNESCO supports the promotion of cooperation between different actors of the society (citizens in general, natural resources users, indigenous and local communities, scientists and policy-makers) to move from observations to generate data and to co-produce valuable knowledge. One of the good examples of citizen science is the UNESCO [Sandwatch project](#).

- **Building bridges between local & indigenous knowledge holders, scientists and policy-makers**

SIDS host exceptional and unique biodiversity, ecosystems and traditional knowledge systems. The coping strategies that the island communities have developed over millennia represent a treasure trove of observations, innovations, adaptation and lessons learnt that are critical as we move into uncharted waters of climate change.

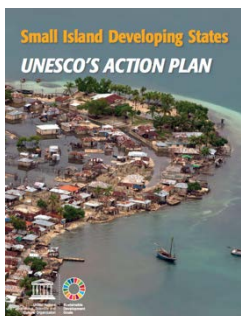
Acknowledging the crucial contribution from local and indigenous communities, this session will include dialogue between **local and indigenous knowledge holders, scientists and policy-makers** to highlight synergies and collaboration towards advancing innovative and holistic in understanding the nature, its environment and its unpredictability,

- **UNESCO contribution to strengthen resilience to weather related hazards in the Caribbean**

Due to climate change, floods, wildfires and other extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and intense, in particular in the Caribbean region. This session will present UNESCO's contribution to enhance disaster risk reduction in this region within its mandate and commitment to Sendai Framework and Paris Agreement. Recent UNESCO activities in this field in Haiti and Antigua and Barbuda will be highlighted.

Speakers:

- **Ronald Jumeau**, Ambassador Permanent Representative, The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Seychelles to the United Nations
- **Elisabeth Holland**, Director, Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (PaCE-SD), The University of the South Pacific, Fiji
- **Jean-Baptiste Marre**, RESCCUE Project Deputy Coordinator at Pacific Community-SPC, New Caledonia
- **Tristan Pearce**, University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia and University of Guelph, Canada
- **Nigel Crawhall**, Chief, Small Islands and Indigenous Knowledge Section, UNESCO
- **Karuna Rana**, Co-Founder and Executive Director, SIDS Youth AIMS Hub (SYAH)
- **Irina Pavlova**, Section on Earth Sciences and Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction, UNESCO
- A youth representative from the SIYAH Seychelles



UNESCO SIDS Action Plan

UNESCO's [SIDS Action Plan](#) mobilizes the Organization's multidisciplinary expertise to enhance SIDS resilience and sustainability of their social and ecological systems; advance ocean sciences; promote social transformations; preserve tangible and intangible cultural and natural heritage; increase connectivity, information management and knowledge sharing, among others.

It supports SIDS to launch frameworks, cooperation and capacity building to deal with climate vulnerability, in line with the SAMOA Pathway, the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

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