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Blue & Green Islands

A Transformative Approach for
Small Island Developing States (SIDS)



1

**Integrated
programme**



15

Countries



USD 135.6M

total commitment



undp.org/nature/our-flagship-initiatives/bgi-ip

**Accelerating sustainable blue
& green transition in SIDS**



**Invaluable
global
environmental
benefits**

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The Blue and Green Islands Integrated Programme is a transformative and comprehensive initiative designed to address pressing environmental challenges faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The programme integrates the value of nature into decision-making and leverages the significant innovation emerging from SIDS to turn their most pressing challenges into opportunities for prosperity, enabling them to build forward better, greener and bluer.

The programme catalyses nature-positive development and reduces ecosystem degradation in SIDS by valuing nature and introducing nature-based solutions with specific application to the interlinked food, tourism, and urban sectors. The programme offers a systemic approach to achieve global environmental benefits, sustainable development, and climate resilience in SIDS, working through a whole-of-government, whole-of-society lens to produce whole-of-island results.

The transformation has three interlinked levers for change:

1. Shifting development, planning, and fiscal policies to be nature-positive with the support of an integrated platform of technical assistance serving all 15 SIDS
2. Implementing nature-positive and nature-based solutions at scale, crowding in finance through BGI's Nature-Based Solutions Accelerator
3. Amplifying impact through collective action, knowledge exchange, learning, coordination, and the replication of successful approaches across SIDS through the BGI Community of Practice

and its Digital Collaboration Space.

The programme includes 15 SIDS. Individual country projects cover **Belize, Cape Verde, Comoros, Cuba, Maldives, Mauritius, Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Seychelles, Timor Leste, Trinidad & Tobago, and Vanuatu.**

UNDP is the lead GEF Agency, responsible for the implementation of the overall programme, ensuring the coordination of the 15 country projects and developing mechanisms that embed the programme in existing initiatives and organizations so that the impacts of the programme reach the wider SIDS community. Regional partnerships are coordinated through the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC).

In addition to UNDP, country projects are managed by five other GEF agencies: Conservation International, FAO, IUCN, UNEP, and WWF-US.



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United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification

The Programme benefits from financial support from the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)'s Global Mechanism to ensure that gender equality drives sustainable, progressive, and meaningful action to avoid, reduce, and reverse land degradation in SIDS.

Participating countries	GEF Agency	Project Title
Global	UNDP	BGI IP Global Coordination Project
Belize	WWF-US	Resilient, Bold Belize
Cabo Verde	FAO	Accelerating Cabo Verde's Transition to Blue and Green Economy
Comoros	UNDP	Biodiversity Conservation through Nature-based Solutions as Pillars of the Blue & Green Economy in the Union of Comoros
Cuba	FAO	Blue and green development in food and urban sectors of Cuba
Maldives	Conservation International	Strengthening Biodiversity Conservation in Protected Areas in Maldives
Mauritius	FAO	Mainstreaming Nature-based Solutions in land-use systems for productive and resilient ecosystems
Micronesia	IUCN	Micronesia: Tourism Support for Biodiversity Conservation
Palau	IUCN	Transforming productivity in Palau's food systems through nature positive innovations
Papua New Guinea	UNDP	Accelerating PNG's Sustainable Blue Economy through Strengthened Governance and Investment in Marine Areas
Samoa	UNDP	Coastal Resilience Samoa
Seychelles	UNDP	Blue Green Islands Integrated Programme for the Seychelles Child Project
St. Lucia	UNEP	Valuing Nature and Nature-based Solutions for Sustainable Blue and Green Pathways for the Tourism, Food and Urban Sectors in Saint Lucia
Timor Leste	UNDP	Nature-based Solutions for Intersectoral Nature-Positive Development in Timor-Leste
Trinidad & Tobago	FAO	Trinidad and Tobago – Nature Based Solutions in Productive Landscapes
Vanuatu	FAO	Restoring and protecting Biodiversity, Coastal Landscapes, and Climate Change Resilience through Nature Based Solutions, Women and Youth Entrepreneurship in Vanuatu

Photo: UNDP-GEF SGP Belize



Photo: UNDP Comoros



Photo: Andrea Egan/UNDP PNG





Photo: UNDP Cuba



Photo: UNDP Mauritius

The Global Environment Fund (GEF) investment in the Blue & Green Islands Integrated Programme totals USD 135.6 million. This includes country allocations managed through individual country projects and a global coordination project.

BGI has been up and running since the start of 2025 offering a comprehensive programme of support, inception workshops, capacity building, and island-to-island knowledge exchange.

BGI's Objectives & Approach

BGI is a first-of-its-kind investment by the GEF in SIDS, and a central pillar of UNDP's integrated SIDS Offer ***Rising Up for SIDS***. Providing crucial support for the implementation of the Antigua & Barbuda Agenda for SIDS, BGI's strategies tailored to SIDS' deep interdependence between terrestrial, coastal, and marine systems will build resilience, reduce environmental degradation, and promote blue and green economy transformation.

BGI promotes the scaling up of proven nature-based solutions to reverse the loss and degradation of ecosystems and biodiversity in SIDS. The programme amplifies the collective voice of SIDS on the global stage, advocating for nature-positive, climate-resilient and inclusive sustainable development.

To ensure a strong SIDS-led approach, BGI's governance and implementation is directly informed by global and regional SIDS partners on BGI's Strategic Advisory Board. This comprises SIDS organizations and leaders at global, regional and country

level including the Alliance Of Small Island States (AOSIS), BGI's partner Regional SIDS Organizations (SPREP, CARICOM and IOC) and the three SIDS country co-chairs of the Global SIDS Coalition for Nature.

The programme's Theory of Change sets out a transformative journey for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through integrated solutions across the three focus sectors, strengthening political, legislative and institutional frameworks, implementing nature-based solutions at scale through partnerships and innovation, unlocking public and private sector finance and delivering collective action, knowledge and learning.

The Theory of Change employs transformational levers of change such as governance reforms, financial leverage, multistakeholder dialogue, and innovation to drive positive outcomes and overcome key barriers. BGI's whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach inspires collaboration with a diverse range of stakeholders and partners engaged in whole-of-island systems, including governments, private sector, civil society, local communities and regional organizations.

Innovation spreads from island to island: BGI creates a collective impact that reaches beyond individual projects in participating SIDS by fostering a network of interconnected initiatives that magnifies the on-the-ground results of the programme, informs regional and global policy change, coalesces new partnerships and mobilizes additional investment.

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Join Us to Shape a Bluer, Greener and Better Future for SIDS

For more information, visit the programme [website](#)

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