INTERNATIONAL WATERS RESULTS NOTES

Medium Sized Project in Support of the Small Island Developing States Network (SIDSnet)

GEF ID#: 1455   PIMS ID#: 2312   Project Status: Completed

Key results:

1. Increased use of SIDSnet as the portal for information on sustainable development for SIDS.

2. Integrated ecosystem based management tools and techniques disseminated via the internet and training workshops.

3. Internet connectivity and technology improved among Small Island Developing States.

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PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The Small Island Developing States Network (SIDSnet) was established to assist small island developing states (SIDS) with information technology. The project's focus was on the use of information technology in integrated ecosystem management and in sustainable development endeavors of relevance to the Rio conventions. The objectives were to strengthen SIDSnet by improving the collection, organization and dissemination of information on good practices to address biodiversity conservation, climate change responses and international water management issues among Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) members, and to foster inter-SIDS sharing of experiences on the use of information technology as a sustainable development tool in the context of ecosystem management.

RESULTS: PROCESS

INDICATOR #1: Improved access in SIDS to information and communication technology (ICT). [*Target: Improved and* c*ontinuous ICT connectivity*.]

Significant progress was made on Internet connectivity. There was increased use of SIDSnet as the portal for information on sustainable development for SIDS. Internet coverage of, and intranet provided for the Mauritius International Meeting for the 10-year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action (2005), including the lead-up to the meeting and follow-up after. SIDSnet personnel presence in the Pacific, Caribbean, and Indian Ocean regions, as well as at the New York headquarters, was successfully established.

INDICATOR #2: Wider dissemination of information on integrated ecosystem management. [*Target: Improved and continuous dissemination of information on integrated ecosystem management*.]

A comprehensive survey on the availability of environmental and socioeconomic data available online at the Caribbean countries was carried out. A metadata description was prepared for each of the sources of data, which included what indicators were available, data date and aggregation, format and possibilities of making on-line analysis and downloading the data. A survey was conducted about the most important integrated ecosystem management planning and implementation projects in the Caribbean. A full revision of conservation planning methods was carried out and a methodology for planning management of protected areas was prepared.

A website was developed that was planned to be jointly published by SIDSNet Caribbean, The University of the West Indies (UWI) and the Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA), and would be hosted by the CCA and jointly maintained by SIDSnet Caribbean and CCA. This website was conceived as the first step of an eventual Caribbean Data Portal, which would be a supporting tool for integrated planning at the sub-regional level as well as to improve the reporting capabilities of the countries in the Caribbean.

A training course on the use of GIS and decision support software for systematic conservation planning of coastal and marine areas was prepared and taught in Colombia as a SIDSnet contribution to a Caribbean Conservation Initiative. Contributions were also being made towards the development of a National System Plan of Protected Areas for Jamaica.

Around 70 professionals from a range of institutions in several Caribbean countries were trained or initiated in the use of GIS, remote sensing, decision support systems and other IT related tools for integrated ecosystem and conservation planning in training workshops organized by or developed with technical support of SIDSnet and UWI. More than 50 professional technicians related to the protected areas system in Cuba have been trained in management planning.

INDICATOR #3: Technology improvement of SIDSnet. [*Target: Improved and continuous technology improvement.*]

Continuous improvement technology tools were provided by SIDSnet. A system for analysis of access logs of internet services was developed, which produces detailed reports on who read or retrieved which documents and information. The system was developed to efficiently monitor project impact. A multiple dimension search and news retrieval system was newly developed enabling users to retrieve relevant documents, news and other information from the public internet.

KEY LESSONS LEARNED

1) Building partnerships from the very beginning of the project development and implementation has enabled the project to benefit from resources already available from other partners.

2) Instilling a sense of ownership of the project to the recipient countries - the AOSIS member States - was a good practice. The support of AOSIS members has been instrumental in the development of SIDSnet.

3) Establishment of clear work programs is necessary as in regard to the creation of a regional presence for SIDSnet.