

Panelist Abstract

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Name of Session: Session VI. GEF-Related Activities in International Waters - Two Concurrent Information Sessions – Thematic Session

Presentation Title: Small Island Developing States: Pacific SIDS

Summary of Key Issues and Best Practices/Lessons Learned

- **South Pacific** – 14 countries, 38 million km², 200 high islands, 2500 low islands and atolls, **diverse** history, cultures, state of economic development, environments – with an extremely rich biodiversity and significant threats to resources
- Programme Formulation – extensive national and regional **consultation** (Government agencies, private sector, inter-governmental organizations, private sector and NGO's] that generated broad **political support**.
- Threats, solutions and priorities identified by people with detailed local knowledge – not external consultants. A role for all participants – **shared ownership**.
- Clear identification of issues to be addressed: oceanic and coastal.
- At the regional level - to **utilize comparative advantages** – combining the strengths of several inter-governmental organizations to address a common objective of addressing threats in international waters.
- At the national level - clear identification of objectives, strategies, stakeholder and community responsibilities and timescales for optimizing community participation in project implementation. **Sustained community contact**.

Key References

Global Environment Facility/United Nations Development Programme, Regional Project for Asia and the Pacific. *Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Pacific Small Island Developing States*. Project Document.

Note: Effectively the project has only been operational for two months.