

# **Feasibility Study of the Establishment of a SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub**

**Prepared by**

By

Dr. Mark D. Griffith, B.A. (Hons); Ph. D; LL.B (Hons); LL.M; Cet. Mgt.  
Environmental, Legal, Institutional, International Trade and International Development and  
Project Development Specialist;  
CaribInvest West Indies, Limited, Barbados

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Development Specialist;  
CaribInvest West Indies, Limited, Barbados



For

The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Office of the Deputy Principle

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## **ACRONYMS**

### **ACRONYMS**

<b>ACP</b>	African, Caribbean and Pacific
<b>ACP-EC</b>	ACP-EC Partnership Agreement (Cotonou Agreement)
<b>AGRICECON</b>	Agricultural Economics
<b>AIMS</b>	Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea
<b>ALBA</b>	Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas
<b>AOSIS</b>	Alliance of Small Island States
<b>BPOA</b>	Barbados Programme of Action
<b>CARICOM</b>	Caribbean Community
<b>CARIFORUM</b>	Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States
<b>CDB</b>	Caribbean Development Bank
<b>CELAC</b>	Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños
<b>CFTC</b>	Canada and the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation
<b>CFTC</b>	Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation
<b>COVID-19</b>	Corona Virus Disease
<b>CSIDS</b>	Caribbean Small Island Developing States
<b>CSME</b>	Barbados Programme of Action
<b>CSS</b>	Commonwealth Small States
<b>CTCN</b>	Climate Technology Centre & Network
<b>ECLAC</b>	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
<b>EDF</b>	European Development Fund
<b>EMF</b>	Ellen MacArthur Foundation
<b>EPA</b>	Economic Partnership Agreement
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agricultural Organization
<b>FTA</b>	Free Trade Area
<b>G-BEL</b>	Green-Blue Economy Learning
<b>GCF</b>	Green Climate Fund
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GEC</b>	Green Economy Coalition
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility
<b>GESS</b>	Green Economy Scoping Study
<b>GGKP</b>	Green Growth Knowledge Partnership
<b>GRULAC</b>	Latin American and Caribbean Group
<b>GSP</b>	Global Soil Partnership
<b>IADB</b>	Latin American Bank
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communications Technology
<b>IDB</b>	Inter-American Development Bank
<b>IGE</b>	Inclusive Green Economy
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IOF</b>	International Organisation of La Francophonie
<b>KAS</b>	Konrad Adenauer Foundation
<b>KM</b>	Knowledge Management
<b>KTH</b>	Knowledge Transfer Hub
<b>LAC</b>	Latin America and the Caribbean
<b>LAC-SIDS</b>	Latin America and Caribbean Small Island Developing States
<b>LDN</b>	Land Degradation Neutrality
<b>LMOs</b>	Living Modified Organisms

<b>MEAs</b>	Multilateral Environment Agreements
<b>MOCS</b>	Marketing, Outreach and Communication Strategy
<b>MS/BPOA</b>	Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the BPOA
<b>NCSA</b>	National Capacity Self-Assessment
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Government Organisations
<b>OAS</b>	American States
<b>PACE</b>	Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy Coalition
<b>PAGE</b>	Partnership for Action on Green Economy
<b>PISLM</b>	Partnership Initiative for the Sustainable Land Management
<b>POPs</b>	Persistent Organic Pollutants
<b>PPF</b>	Project Preparation Facility (PPF).
<b>PSF</b>	Private Sector Facility (PSF)
<b>SALPIE</b>	Small and Less Populous Island Economies
<b>SAMOA</b>	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action
<b>SAP</b>	Simplified Approval Process Pilot Scheme
<b>SCP</b>	Sustainable Consumption and Production
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SIDS</b>	Small Island Developing States
<b>SIDS/K-TAP</b>	Knowledge and Technical Assistance Programme
<b>SIDS-EU</b>	Small Island Developing States-European Union
<b>SIDSS</b>	SIDS Sustainability
<b>SLM</b>	Sustainable Land Management
<b>SMEs</b>	Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>SMI</b>	Sustainable Markets Initiative
<b>SSM</b>	Sustainable Soil Management
<b>ST-KTAG</b>	Scientific and Technical Knowledge Transfer Advisory Group
<b>SWITCH</b>	The largest EU-funded Programme Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production
<b>UNCAS</b>	UN Climate Action Summit
<b>UNCCD</b>	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
<b>UNCED</b>	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNEP/ROLAC</b>	United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Latin America and The Caribbean
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>UNITAR</b>	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
<b>UWI</b>	University of the West Indies
<b>VUSS</b>	Virtual University of Small States
<b>WEF</b>	World Economic Forum
<b>WMO</b>	World Maritime Organisation

## Executive Summary

This document explores the feasibility of establishing a SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Hub at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, and Barbados, as one of the flagship projects of the PAGE-Barbados Programme. The analysis concludes that the establishment of the SIDS-SIDS Green –Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub is not only feasible; but is relevant and necessary to keep the SIDS agenda alive. Further, it argued that such a mechanism should have been established decades before as a mechanism to contribute to the intellectual thinking on the evolution of SIDS Sustainable Development and its position in influencing negotiations at the international and regional levels. It lauds the proposed establishment of the SIDS-SIDS Green –Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub and cites a number of current events and decisions which seem to mark a resurgence of interest in the Sustainable Development of SIDS by the Caribbean Small Island Developing States; thus what appeared to be, until recently, of a waning interest, by SIDS themselves in the sustainable development of SIDS, as a negotiating concept and framework. It also warns of the need for increased vigilance and guarding of the concept of “the sustainable development of SIDS” give the emergence of some policy tensions which potentially have the implications for the weakening of the SIDS concept, and its effectiveness of it being used by SIDS, themselves, as the “SIDS Negotiating Lens” for broader issues such as debt relief or its use as a basis for the re-definition of conditionality and access to concessional resources from the international community.

The document is divided into five Sections. **Section One** place the discussion of the SIDS-SIDS Green –Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub into its historical context starting with the inclusion of the Chapter 17.G. entitled “*Sustainable Development of Small Islands*,” as part of Agenda 21 and the convening of the First United Nations Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) held in Barbados in May/April 1994. It also argues that SIDS-SIDS Green –Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub must be seen as part of a larger, evolving process, notwithstanding the inordinate length of time it has taken for it to materialise, which took root during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and its preparatory process. This it is argued, provided SIDS with an opportunity to articulate their concerns on a wide range of environment and development issues, and by doing so ensured that the international community was aware of their concerns. It also argues that the SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Hub has its grounding in the vision articulating by the Government of Barbados to become the “most environmentally advanced green country in Latin America and the Caribbean.”

In actuality, it further argues, that the establishment of the SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Hub is intended to operationalise the recommendation made by the Green Economy Scoping Study and that such a development has the general support of Caribbean Small Island Developing States (CSIDS). This is exemplified in their support for the development of [...] institutional modalities for the facilitation of SIDS SIDS cooperation [including the development of] knowledge transfer platforms for SIDS-SIDS cooperation and collaboration using existing regional ICT platforms [...] [including the promotion of] SIDS-SIDS cooperation on best-practices in resilience building [...]. Further, it is suggested that the SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of this document Green-Blue Economy is used to mean the same as Green Economy, defined in the Barbados Scoping Study as “an integrated production, distribution, consumption and waste assimilation system that,

Knowledge Transfer Hub must also be seen as part of the “Information, Knowledge and Public Awareness Pillar”<sup>2</sup> as a fundamental part of the Strengthening of the “Inner Circle”—the Caribbean Community—since one of the resolve of the Caribbean Community is to “*establish conditions which would facilitate access by their nationals to the collective resources of the Region on a non-discriminatory basis.*” The SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub, it concludes is one of the key institutional entities to help CSIDS achieve this objective, is therefore a *sine qua non*.

**Section Two** considers the concept of Knowledge Transfer and its applicability as it relates to the sustainable development of SIDS. It also outlines the various steps in the knowledge transfer process as well as the importance and benefits of the proposed SIDS-SIDS Green Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub whereas, **Section three** provides an overview of the various elements of the Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer. It outlines the Vision of the Knowledge Transfer Hub; functions and the internal workings of the system. It outlines the initial strategic focus of the Knowledge Transfer Hub, which includes:

- Development of Green Learning Products and Processes from International Legally Binding and Soft Law International Instruments;
- Serve as the institutional mechanism to support mainstreaming, coordination and implementation of learning, education, applied research, and analytical components of PAGE Barbados, as well as activities designed to “build back better” in the post COVID-19 world;
- SIDS-SIDS Knowledge Linkages and Partnership Programmes;
- Development and Sharing of Knowledge Products on Green and Blue Economy in SIDS, and
- Project and Programme Conceptualisation, Development and Execution, particularly those projects which focus the advancement of Knowledge, Knowledge Based Interventions and those which can accommodate the incorporation of international element(s) of knowledge transfer or knowledge sharing.

Section, Four, on the other hand, provides an overview of the resource requirements for the SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub as well as the identification of possible sources, where resources can be leveraged to facilitate its operationalization. It reiterates that the Knowledge Transfer Hub is a *sine qua non*, if CSIDS and SIDS in general, wishes to extract from the international system more substantive benefits to SIDS. It also argues that since it is most unlikely, that the international community will convene another international meeting on the sustainable development of SIDS; however, what will continue to drive the spotlight on SIDS are

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at its core, reflects the fragility of our small island ecosystems as the basis for natural resource protection policy intervention, business and investment choice, human development programming, and for the facilitation of export market development strategies.”

<sup>2</sup> Griffith, M.D. and D. Oderson, Strengthening the Inner Circle for Environment and Sustainable Development: The case of the Caribbean Community, CaribInvest Publishing in Collaboration with Wade Ross Publishing, Publidisa Mexicana S.A. Mexico, Caribinvest West Indies Limited, 2009, pp. 273.

the supporting SIDS specific institutions which have evolved since the adoption of Chapter 17.G of Agenda 21 by the international community.

Section Five argues that now that the **SIDS-SIDS Green –Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub** now that it is being developed, it should be done in such a manner, as to evolve as the **SIDS-Global Green Learning Centre of Excellence**. It suggest that in order to resolve the “Green Economy” and “Blue Economy” dichotomy which seems to be emerging, from a SIDS perspective, the concept of an “*Environmentally Sound, Climate Resilient Green-Blue Economy Framework*” be promoted as the context in which “*SIDS Sustainable Development*” issues be approach. It also identify elements of a Sustainable Financial Strategy for the Hub. One of the planks of the Strategy is that all future GEF projects implemented in CSIDS should have a “Knowledge Transfer Element” which is implemented by the Hub. To further enhance this suggestion, it is further recommended that a separate SIDS Account be established in the University System at the Cave Hill Campus, complimented by a “***SIDS Sustainable Development Endowment Fund***” to provide support for innovative research and policy development on sustainable development in CSIDS.

It also submits that the establishment of the **SIDS-SIDS Green –Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub, in actual fact satisfies the criteria establish by PAGE sustainability in Barbados, CSIDS and SIDS-Global**. It further proposes that a strategic Building Block, in this regard, should be the “**transitioning**” of the PAGE-Barbados Programme into the Hub. The implication being, that all of the PAGE-Barbados initiatives, are implemented through the Hub. As an integral part of this transitional process, PAGE-Global should make a tangible and significant investment in jump-starting the establishment of the KTH. In addition, the five PAGE Agencies which are currently involved in the financing of the PAGE-Barbados Programme should formulate a consolidated funded Programme for first three years of the Hub’s operations.



## **Section 1: Introduction and Context—A Renewed Emphasis on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean**

### **1.0. Introduction**

Though it has taken almost three decades after the adoption of Chapter 17.G. entitled “*Sustainable Development of Small Islands*,” as part of Agenda 21 and the convening of the First United Nations Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) held in Barbados in May/April 1994, for firm action to be given to the establishment of a Blue Green SIDS Knowledge Transfer Hub in the Caribbean; it is nevertheless a positive development which could have long lasting implications for the sustainable development of SIDS, in general. Such developments as argued by Griffith,<sup>3</sup> must be seen as part of a larger, evolving process, notwithstanding the inordinate length of time it has taken for it to materialise, which took root during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and its preparatory process; which provided SIDS with an opportunity to articulate their concerns on a wide range of environment and development issues, and by doing so ensured that the international community was aware of their concerns.

Further the SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Hub has its grounding in the vision articulating by the Government of Barbados to become the “most environmentally advanced green country in Latin America and the Caribbean”. That pronouncement<sup>4</sup> was pivotal for Barbados becoming the first Small Island Developing State (SIDS) to undertake and complete the production of a Green Economy Scoping Study (GESS).<sup>5</sup> One of the numerous recommendations made by the Green Economy Scoping Study is the establishment of a SIDS-SIDS Knowledge Transfer Platform of Green Economy Policies and Practices.<sup>6</sup> In actuality, the establishment of the SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Hub is intended to operationalise the recommendation made by the Green Economy Scoping Study. It also has the general support of CSIDS as exemplified in their support for the development of [...] institutional modalities for the facilitation of SIDS SIDS cooperation [including the development of] knowledge transfer platforms for SIDS-SIDS cooperation and collaboration using existing regional ICT platforms [...] [including the promotion of] SIDS-SIDS cooperation on best-practices in resilience building [...].<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Griffith, M.D. Reflections on the Implementation of the Programme of Action on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, *Ocean and Coastal Management*, Vol. 29, Nos 1-3, pp139-163, 1995.

<sup>4</sup> DR THE HONORABLE DENIS LOWE, Minister of the Environment and Drainage in the Green Economy Scoping Study, Barbados, 2014.

<sup>5</sup> See Moore, W., Alleyne, F., Alleyne, Y., Blackman, K., Blenman, C., Carter, S., Cashman, A., Cumberbatch, J., Downes, A., Hoyte, H., Mahon, R., Mamingi, N., McConney, P., Pena, M., Roberts, S., Rogers, T., Sealy, S., Sinckler, T. and A. Singh. 2014. Barbados’ Green Economy Scoping Study. Government of Barbados, University of West Indies - Cave Hill Campus, United Nations Environment Programme, 244p. Copyright © 2014 United Nations Environment Programme

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> See the San Pedro Declaration was adopted by the Caribbean SIDS Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in San Pedro, Belize, 7-9 August 2018.

Further, in the view of the author, the SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy<sup>8</sup> Knowledge Transfer Hub must also be seen as part of the “Information, Knowledge and Public Awareness Pillar” proposed by Griffith et al<sup>9</sup> as a fundamental part of the Strengthening of the “Inner Circle”—the Caribbean Community—since one of the resolve of the Caribbean Community is to “*establish conditions which would facilitate access by their nationals to the collective resources of the Region on a non-discriminatory basis.*” By implication, the entire region has a stake in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (CSIDS) environment and sustainable development agenda and therefore has a right to be kept informed. The SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub, is one of the key institutional entities to help CSIDS achieve this objective. Its establishment is therefore a *sine qua non*.

With a focus on the establishment of the “SIDS-SIDS Green- Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub” at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus; the year 2021, might mark a resurgence and re-focusing by the Caribbean on the Sustainable Development of Small Island States (SIDS). The timing is apt; since Caribbean SIDS, like the countries of the rest of the world, are faced with the task of rebuilding sustainably, after the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The collection and dissemination of “Knowledge” on the sustainable development of SIDS; might augur well, for the preparation of a Green COVID-19 Sustainable Recovery Strategy,<sup>10</sup> to “Build-Back-Better” in a Post COVID-19 New Normal.

A number of recent and significant developments, of which the pending establishment of a “Green-Blue Economy SIDS-SIDS Knowledge Transfer Hub,” is but one of them, is leading the increase focus being placed on SIDS. These SIDS specific developments to which one refer, include, *inter alia*:

- The adoption by the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers for the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean hosted by Barbados on 1-2 February 2021 of Decision 8 on the *Environmental Dimension of the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)*” which called for the formulation of a:

***[...] Caribbean SIDS Programme II to contribute to enhancing the implementation of the Environmental Dimension of the SIDS Sustainable Development Agenda in Caribbean SIDS, taking into account and building on the***

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<sup>8</sup> For the purpose of this document Green-Blue Economy is used to mean the same as Green Economy, defined in the Barbados Scoping Study as “an integrated production, distribution, consumption and waste assimilation system that, at its core, reflects the fragility of our small island ecosystems as the basis for natural resource protection policy intervention, business and investment choice, human development programming, and for the facilitation of export market development strategies.”

<sup>9</sup> Griffith, M.D. and D. Oderson, Strengthening the Inner Circle for Environment and Sustainable Development: The case of the Caribbean Community, CaribInvest Publishing in Collaboration with Wade Ross Publishing, Publidisa Mexicana S.A. Mexico, Caribinvest West Indies Limited, 2009, pp. 273.

<sup>10</sup> Such a Recovery Strategy has been called for by a number of For a, including the Forum of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean in their Decision 8 and the Bridgetown Declaration adopted by the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean held on 1-2 February 2021 hosted by Barbados.

*SIDS instruments which have been agreed by the international Community, namely, the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA); the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the BPOA (MSI/BPOA); and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway; [...]*

*the development of a Caribbean SIDS COVID-19 Recovery Response to address issues relevant to the economic health of Caribbean SIDS, including, inter alia, protocols to support sustainable tourism recovery; and enhancing food security through the sustainable use of land and marine resources [...]*

*the establishment of a Regional Modality or Institutional Mechanism in Caribbean SIDS, in the form of a SIDS Cooperation and Knowledge Hub preferably within a regional university, with the support of the ITC Agencies and others financial institutions such as the GEF, regional and hemispheric banks (e.g. CDB; Latin American Bank, IADB etc.) and UN Agencies.*

- The appointment by the Government of Barbados, at the Ambassadorial level, of an Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary with special responsibility for matters of climate change, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) issues and the Law of the Sea.<sup>11</sup> This is the first time since the inclusion of the “Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States” in Agenda 21, almost three decades ago, that the Government of Barbados, aptly considered as—“the Guardian of the SIDS Process”—has appointed an Ambassador to spearhead consideration of SIDS issues, nationally, regionally and globally, as part of their substantive responsibility. The delivery of this mandate, if done in a strategic and visionary manner could have significant implications for the sustainable development of SIDS, not only CSIDS, but SIDS worldwide.
- A foundational and fundamental ground breaking Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project entitled “*Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Multi-country Soil Management Initiative for Integrated Landscape Restoration and Sustainable Food Systems: Phase I*” (referred hereafter as “SOILCARE Phase 1”) which for the first time attempts to fill critical gaps in Caribbean SIDS with respect to Sustainable Land Management, in particular updating soil information which is dated, and the provision of information on soil carbon, that is critical to enable CSIDS to respond more effectively to the climate crisis. Such information is also necessary to enable CSIDS to finalise their strategies for the promotion of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in their respective territories as well as to provide the much needed information on the region that is required within the context of the Global Soil Partnership.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Forde-Craigg, S.; Foreign Affairs Ministry Appoints New Mission Heads, Barbados Government Information Service, March 13, 2021 at [Foreign Affairs Ministry Appoints New Mission Heads | GIS \(gisbarbados.gov.bb\)](https://gisbarbados.gov.bb/); Retrieved 28/03/2021.

<sup>12</sup> Established in December 2012 the Global Soil Partnership is an interactive, responsive and voluntary partnership, open to governments, regional organizations, institutions and other stakeholders at various levels. It includes two types of partnership: GSP partners which come from a wide range of institutions such as Governmental Organizations,

- Building upon SOILCARE Phase 1 is the proposed Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Transformational Project entitled “*CSIDS Initiative on Harnessing Land Degradation Neutrality as a means to Enhance Climate Smart Sustainable Land Management, Climate Resilience and Sustainable Food Security,*” which responds to priority issues identified by CSIDS which are fundamental to helping CSIDS “Build Back Better” after the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The objective of this “Umbrella” Initiative is to mobilise up to approximately USD 130 million for the Green Climate Fund, in the first instance, to enable CSIDS to address the identified priority issues.
- Last, but not least, the pending establishment of the “SIDS-SIDS Green- Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub” which is intended to be used, in part, for the Delivery Mechanism for the Green-Blue Economy Learning Programme (G-BEL) thereby acting as the institutional mechanism for the coordination and delivery of the activities which constitutes part of the Learning Programme.

Notwithstanding the re-newed focus on SIDS,” there are also, some policy tensions which potentially have the implications for the weakening of the SIDS concept, and its effectiveness of it being used by SIDS, themselves, as the “SIDS Negotiating Lens” for broader issues such as debt relief or its use as a basis for the re-definition of conditionality and access to concessional resources from the international community. In addressing SIDS related issues, vigilance should be undertaken to ensure, that whatever the issues under consideration are; these, should be as far as practicable, be dealt with, within the context of the framework of SIDS, under the rubric of the sustainable development of SIDS.

Against this backdrop, the proposed “Green- Blue Economy SIDS-SIDS Knowledge Transfer Hub” has a very critical role to play in helping to consolidate the SIDS gains and to underscore that in the SIDS context, Green-Blue issues are best dealt with together as the *raison d’être* for the SIDS rationale.

Further the need for and establishment of a Regional Knowledge Hub is recognised by the President of the Caribbean Development Bank<sup>13</sup> who in delivering the keynote at the 22nd Annual SALISES Conference argued that

Communities of practice and the knowledge hub should be developed through cooperative arrangements with regional actors, namely the University of the West Indies, central banks, the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre and other multilateral partners. The knowledge hub would include a tracker for the region’s

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Universities, Civil institutions, Research centers, Soil science societies, UN agencies, NGOs, Private companies, Farmer associations, Donors, etc. and GSP national focal points designed by FAO members countries.

<sup>13</sup> Caribbean Development Bank, CDB President calls for strengthening social resilience to place the Caribbean on a sustainable welfare path. News Release, Published on September 29, 2021

progress and serve as a platform for policy options and design based on the Sustainable Development Goals. Moreover, the knowledge hub would become a database with comparable social and environmental statistics while providing a fertile ground for cultivating an innovation lab.

### **The Establishment of the Green- Blue Economy SIDS-SIDS Knowledge Transfer Hub**

The concept of the Green-Blue SIDS Knowledge Hub is not new, as it is embedded in Action Plan for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (commonly referred to as the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA)) which was adopted by the international community in 1994, as one of the key human resources initiatives identified as being necessary to contribute to the sustainable development of SIDS. In the designing of the Hub, the decisions taken by the international community as reflected in the various SIDS instruments; namely, the *Programme of Action on the Sustainable Development of Small Island developing States* (commonly referred to as the *Barbados Programme of Action* (BPOA)); the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the BPOA (MS/BPOA) and the *SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway* (Commonly referred to as the SAMOA Pathway) must play an important and critical part in the determining the content and delivery of the Knowledge Transfer Hub. Figure 1.1.

Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) [1994]		Mauritius Strategy for the Further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action (MS/BPOA) [2005]		SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway (SAMOA Pathway) [2014]
I	CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE	I	CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. PREAMBLE</li> <li>2. SUSTAINED AND SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH DECENT WORK FOR ALL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SUSTAINABLE TOURISM</li> <li>• CLIMATE CHANGE</li> <li>• SUSTAINABLE ENERGY</li> <li>• DISASTER RISK REDUCTION</li> <li>• OCEANS AND SEAS</li> <li>• FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION</li> <li>• WATER AND SANITATION</li> <li>• SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT</li> <li>• SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND CONSUMPTION</li> <li>• MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICAL WASTE, INCLUDING HAZARDOUS WASTE</li> <li>• HEALTH AND NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES</li> <li>• GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CULTURE AND SPORTS</li> <li>• PROMOTING PEACEFUL SOCIETIES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES</li> <li>• EDUCATION</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. BIODIVERSITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DESERTIFICATION, LAND DEGRADATION AND DROUGHT</li> <li>• FORESTS</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES</li> <li>6. MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION, INCLUDING PARTNERSHIPS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PARTNERSHIPS</li> <li>• FININCING</li> <li>• TRADE</li> <li>• CAPACITY BUILDING</li> <li>• TECHNOLOGY</li> <li>• DATA AND STATISTICS</li> <li>• INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR SIDS</li> </ul> </li> <li>7. PRIORITIES OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES FOR THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA</li> <li>8. MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY</li> </ol>
II	NATURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS	II	NATURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS	
III	MANAGEMENT OF WASTES	III	MANAGEMENT OF WASTES	
IV	COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES	IV	COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES	
V	FRESH WATER RESOURCES	V	FRESH WATER RESOURCES	
VI	LAND RESOURCES	VI	LAND RESOURCES	
VII	ENERGY RESOURCES	VII	ENERGY RESOURCES	
VII I	TOURISM RESOURCES	VII I	TOURISM RESOURCES	
IX	BIODIVERSITY RESOURCES	IX	BIODIVERSITY RESOURCES	
X	NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY	X	TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION	
XI	REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION	XI	SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	
XII	TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION	XII	GRADUATION FROM LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY STATUS	
XII I	SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	XII I	TRADE: GLOBILISATION AND TRADE LIBERALIZATION	
XI V	HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT	XI V	SUSTAINABLE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	
XV	IMPLEMENTATION,, MONITORING AND REVIEW	XV	SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION	
		X	HEALTH	
			NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ENABLING ENVIRONMENTS	
			KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT	
			CULTURE	
			IMPLEMENTATION	

**Figure 1.1: Themes of the Outputs of the Three International Meetings on the Sustainable Development of SIDS**

provides and overview of the issues covered by these SIDS Instruments thereby underscoring the necessity for a facility such as the Knowledge Transfer Hub.

In addition, CSIDS participate actively in the international system and is Party to numerous international legal (e.g. Multilateral Environment Agreements<sup>14</sup> (MEAs etc.) and soft law instruments (e.g. Declarations, Actions Plans etc.); international environment Funds (e.g. Global Environment Facility; Green Climate Fund etc.), and these should be taken into considered as important processes as well as sources of information in the design and operationalization of the Hub. So should Hemispheric (e.g. Decisions of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean; Forum on Sustainable Development of Latin America and the Caribbean etc.) and Regional Legal Instrument (e.g. *Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas Establishing the Caribbean Community Including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy* (CSME) etc.); in particular, its environmental provisions.

The notion of a Green- Blue Economy SIDS-SIDS Knowledge Transfer Hub is deeply rooted in the various SIDS international instruments. Pursuant to Chapter XIV. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT of the *Programme of Action on the Sustainable Development of Small Island developing States* (commonly referred to as the *Barbados Programme of Action* (BPOA)) concludes that ***“It is a matter of high priority to strengthen national educational and training mechanisms in order to facilitate the flow of information on sustainable development issues, enhance public awareness of the environment and encourage participation in the implementation of effective solutions.”***<sup>15</sup> This will be one of the official function of the Transfer

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<sup>14</sup> For ease of comprehension the MEAs could be thematically grouped under a number of headings, namely

- *Wildlife /Conservation:* MEAs which deals mainly with wildlife, particularly at the species level
- *Biodiversity/Bio-Safety, Traditional Knowledge:* This group of MEAs deals with the under concept of biodiversity, including traditional knowledge and folklore; bio-safety, in particular, measures to ensure the safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health.
- *Marine Protection and Safety:* This group of MEAs deals primarily with the protection of the marine environment. Most of the MEAs are usually dealt with by the shipping authorities in the Member States since most of them falls under the jurisdiction of the World Maritime Organisation (WMO). International Civil liability is a key theme contained in most of the MEAs within this grouping.
- *Marine Resources:* This grouping includes the law of the Sea Convention and focuses on marine resources and the rights associated there with.
- *Chemical/Waste Management:* The MEAs in this group deals with the management of chemicals. This is an area of increasing importance for the region.
- *Sustainable Land Management:* This cluster has one MEA, i.e. the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, an important instrument for the region from the perspective of sustainable land management approaches and methodologies.
- *Atmospheric/Climate Systems;* The climate and atmospheric related Conventions fall under this cluster.
- *Protection of Human Health and the Environment:* This cluster deals primarily with persistent organic pollutants (POPs).
- *Cultural and Natural Heritage:* Focus is placed on the cultural and natural heritage issues.

<sup>15</sup> Paragraph 62, Barbados Programme of Action

Hub. It further highlights strategies for achieving this. One of the strategies highlighted in the BPOA to achieve this objective is *“Infuse sustainable development ideas into education curricula at all levels and promote participation by all groups, emphasizing the link between environment and social and economic issues [...]”*<sup>16</sup>. In this regard, the international community is encouraged to *“Support efforts to develop curricula for sustainable development, in particular tertiary level courses on environmental management and sustainable development, encouraging multidisciplinary approaches.”*<sup>17</sup> Another function which the Knowledge Hub will undertake.

In addition, the *SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway* (Commonly referred to as the “SAMOA Pathway”) calls for the establishment of *“[...] national and regional information and communications technology platforms and information dissemination hubs in small island developing States [...]”*<sup>18</sup> This is further elaborated by calls for the strengthening educational and training mechanism(s) of *“[...] national and regional information and communications technology platforms and information dissemination hubs in small island developing States to facilitate information exchange and cooperation, building on existing information and communications platforms [...]”*<sup>19</sup>

Taking these into consideration the call by the international community for establishment of national and regional information and communications technology platforms and information dissemination hubs in SIDS, UNITAR , in its capacity as one of the United Nations Agencies involved in the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)-Barbados Programme, is supporting Barbados’ objectives to integrate inclusive green economy goals and targets into SDG-aligned national economic and development planning, to implement evidence-based sectoral and thematic reforms in line with inclusive green economy priorities, to strengthen capacities at the national level and to improve the inclusive green economy knowledge base. This will be achieved, in part, through the establishment of a **SIDS-SIDS Green<sup>20</sup> —Blue<sup>21</sup> Economy Knowledge Hub**.

## 2.0.Terms and Reference

This section provides an overview of the Green-Blue Economy Learning Programme (G-BEL) which the SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Knowledge Transfer Hub is an integral part.

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<sup>16</sup> Paragraph 64. A. (i), Barbados Programme of Action

<sup>17</sup> Paragraph, 64. C. (i) Barbados Programme of Action

<sup>18</sup> Paragraph 109 (h), SAMOA Pathway

<sup>19</sup> Paragraph 109 (h), SAMOA Pathway

<sup>20</sup> According to the SAMOA Pathway, Paragraph, 25 “[...] the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication [is considered] as one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development. Barbados therefore defines Green Economy as “

<sup>21</sup> Blue Economy for the purpose of the Knowledge Hub, refers as outline in Paragraphs 57 and 58. (a) of the SAMOA Pathway “[...] integrated ecosystem approach to ocean-related activities [...] [including the consideration of] national, subregional and regional efforts to assess, conserve, protect, manage and sustainably use the oceans, seas and their resources by supporting research and the implementation of strategies on coastal zone management and ecosystem-based management, including for fisheries management, and enhancing national legal and institutional frameworks for the exploration and sustainable use of living and non-living resources.”



### **3.1. Objective and Purpose**

This assignment is taking place within the overall objective of Green-Blue Economy Learning Programme, whose overall goal is to mainstream relevant Green Economy and Blue Economy principles in university-level-learning interventions that address contemporary sustainable development policy challenges in Barbados and other Small Island Developing States.

The specific objectives of the G-BEL Programme include:

1. Extract the Green Learning components of the myriad international instruments to which Barbados and Caribbean SIDS have committed to, including from the GEF projects implemented in Caribbean SIDS, and translate them into Green Learning products and processes for integration into formal teaching at the tertiary level.
2. To ascertain learning priorities, competencies, outcomes and needs for development and implementation of Green and Blue Economy policies in Barbados;
3. To ascertain university-level curricula readiness to support Green and Blue Economy learning in Barbados and Caribbean SIDS;
4. To increase the capacity of The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus to deliver green and blue economy learning interventions to address sustainable development policy challenges in Barbados and Caribbean SIDS;
5. To conceptualize and initially plan for the establishment of a SIDS-SIDS Green Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub.
6. To support the mainstreaming/coordination and implementation of the learning, education, applied research, and analytical components of PAGE Barbados, inclusive of the activities resulting therefrom, as well as activities designed to “build back better” in the post COVID-19 world.
7. To improve the capacities of public officials and other key stakeholders in Barbados in the area of green and blue economy policy development and implementation;

To achieve those objectives, the Green-Blue Economy Learning Programme has a number of elements, including:

- i. The Establishment and Operationalisation of a SIDS-SIDS Green Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub;
- ii. A Green-Blue Economy Learning Needs Assessment;
- iii.** Course Development and Quality Assurance Safeguards;
- iv.** Programme Delivery, and

v. Green-Blue Economy Learning, Communication and Partnership

This document deals with (i) — the Establishment and Operationalisation of a SIDS-SIDS Green Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub. The overall objective of this assignment, is therefore, to undertake a Feasibility Study on the Establishment of a **SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub** to serve as a national and regional information and communication technology and information dissemination Hub for SIDS; to facilitate information exchange and SIDS-SIDS cooperation, including, *inter alia*, cooperation among SIDS on education and training and the exchange good practices as solutions to shared challenges. The Feasibility Study also take into consideration the framework highlighted in paragraph 117(c) of the SAMOA Pathway the need “*Improve inter- and intra-regional cooperation and collaboration among SIDS, including, where required, through institutional mechanisms and capacity building.*”

### **3.0. Methodological Considerations and Approach**

The first step taken in the preparation of the Feasibility Study for the Knowledge Transfer Hub involved not only reviewing the background information on the sustainable development of SIDS but also doing a comprehensive review of the concept of Knowledge Transfer and what it entails as well as the function it plays or can play in a University context. This action—*Desktop research of similar initiatives and relevant literature*— is identified as part of Phase 1— *Investigation and Review of Documentation Phase*—of the Terms of Reference for the assignment. Other actions identified to be carried out during this Phase of the assignment, included, consultations with a wide cross-section of stakeholders in Barbados on the feasibility of establishing a SIDS-SIDS Green Economy Knowledge Transfer Platform and solicit their views and suggestions on how such a Platform should be structured and operationalized. These include, *inter alia*; (a) The Ministry Officials who are leading this project within the context of PAGE (b) the University of the West Indies officials who are implementing the project, (c) Government Officials and other potential users of the Knowledge Hub, and (d) PAGE agencies. This were achieved through stakeholder interviews and consultations. These consultations were undertaken to get a better understanding of the various ideas which exist on the proposed Knowledge Hub.

In addition, a review of the IT Platform which will be used by the Hub at UWI Cave Hill Campus; the accessibility of the Platform to various stakeholders and potential linkages with other Knowledge Platforms was also undertaken. Based on the information gathered, an analysis and refinement of concept of the Knowledge Hub was undertaken and presented in this document.

The second Phase of the assignment—*Design of the Knowledge Hub and Preparation of a Business Plan for Its Operation*—focuses on the design of the Knowledge Hub, on the one hand, and the preparation of a Business Plan to guide its operation and future development, on the other hand. In designing of the Knowledge Hub a number of issues were considered, including, *inter alia*:

1. Target Audiences
2. Services and Operations
3. Marketing and Communication
4. Institutional Architecture and Governance
5. Partnerships and Alliances

6. Resource Requirement and Budget
7. Resource Mobilisation and Business Sustainability

In addition to undertaking consultations with key individuals knowledgeable on issues relating to the sustainable development of SIDS, particularly with respect to developments at the regional and international levels, targeted consultations were held within the context of the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus Green Economy Talks, specifically on the Hub. Two such consultation sessions were convened, the first one target key national resource persons, and the second a combination of potential institutions which could contribute to leveraging financing for the operationalization of the Hub and strategic national resource persons. The output of these sessions are summarized in Annex 1 and 2, respectively.

To place the assignment into its proper context, the next Section presents the SIDS-SIDS Green Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub as the Glue that will binds the Caribbean SIDS Resurgence together, as one of the few the only SIDS specific institutional mechanism established in CSIDS to implement aspects of the SIDS Sustainable Development Instruments.

## **Section 2: Knowledge Transfer: The Glue that Binds the Caribbean SIDS Resurgence and Provide a Bridge to the Integration of SIDS Issues into the University Curricula**

This Section considers the concept of Knowledge Transfer and its applicability as it relates to the sustainable development of SIDS. It also outlines the various steps in the knowledge transfer process as well as the importance and benefits of the proposed SIDS-SIDS Green Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub.

### **2.1. Knowledge Transfer: What is it in the Context of SIDS?**

Knowledge transfer is an intangible asset. It is not training or simply a circulation of information, *per se*. Instead, Knowledge Transfer encompasses a wide variety of activities that range from appearances in the media and at public forums to the participation in bi-lateral projects, the commercial development of research, the application of expertise through partnerships and the inclusion of broader community influences in the curriculum to enhance the capability of graduates.<sup>22</sup> Knowledge transfer can take place through a variety of channels; both formally and informally. Formal channels through which knowledge is transferred, include, *inter alia*; licensing, assignments, consultancy agreements; collaboration contracts, material transfer agreements, sponsored research agreements etc. Informal transfer of Knowledge, on the other hand, includes, *inter alia*; publications, teaching, conferences, courses, presentations, meetings etc.

Technology transfer, when viewed from the perspective of the role of Universities; it is argued by some, that the role of Universities must go beyond simply being an education and research provider, but also include transferring knowledge to industry, the community and the wider society; thus creating the third cornerstone of a University's mission.<sup>23</sup> Knowledge may be differentiated into "tacit knowledge" (also referred to as implicit knowledge, experiential knowledge, and "Know-how" knowledge) —knowledge, skills, and abilities an individual gains through experience that is often difficult to put into words or otherwise communicate<sup>24</sup> and "explicit knowledge"—knowledge that can be verbalized, stored, accessed, and shared with others. Both of these types of knowledge will be addressed by the Knowledge Transfer Hub. It is important to make this differentiation between knowledge since harnessing them requires fundamentally different actions and approaches. Bearing this in mind, it should be noted that once the "SIDS-SIDS Green Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub," is established and resourced, it can evolve over time, to fulfil the third "cornerstone" in the context of the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, namely "**Knowledge Transfer.**"

Viewed in a more restrict sense in the context of this study; **knowledge transfer** as it relates to the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) encompasses:

- The analysis, processing, transitioning and integration of instruments agreed by the international community on sustainable development issues, and in particular with respect to the SIDS Sustainable Development Instruments—the Action Plan for the Sustainable

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<sup>22</sup> Havlicek Ivana Ticha, Knowledge transfer, Agricultural Economics (AGRICECON), January 2007. Also found at ResearchGate, <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/294296083>

<sup>23</sup> Ibid

<sup>24</sup> [Tacit Knowledge: Definition, Examples, and Importance \(helpjuice.com\)](http://helpjuice.com)

development of Small Island developing States (commonly referred to as the “Barbados Programme of Action”(BPOA)); the *Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action* (MS/BPOA) and the *Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action* (SAMOA Pathway)—into the curriculum of the University of the West Indies, in particular, at the Cave Hill Campus, in the first instance.

- The analysis, processing, transitioning and integration of the range of international legal agreements—including the Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs), both international and regional etc.—to which SIDS are Party as well as the international soft-law instruments<sup>25</sup> to which SIDS have agreed to.
- Hemispheric legal instruments (e.g. *Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean*, (known as the “*Escazú Agreement*” etc.), and soft law instruments (e.g. the Declarations and Decisions of Bodies such as the Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean etc.).
- Regional legally binding instruments (e.g. *The Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas Establishing the Caribbean Community Including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy* etc.) and any relevant soft-law instruments.
- It involves the circulation of information on the sustainable development of SIDS, including, *inter alia*; ideas, tasks, processes, tools, document, the processing of complex principles and their applicability.
- It involves training and the delivery of specialised courses and research on issues relevant to the sustainable development of SIDS.
- SIDS are members of the major international funding mechanisms (e.g. Global Environment Facility (GEF); Green Climate Fund (GCF) etc.) and have sourced financing from these entities to support their sustainable development. Little effort, however, has been done to analyse the results, of say, the GEF interventions in Caribbean SIDS, with the view of drawing lessons, identifying the various technologies employed, analysing them and based on their suitability and applicability transfer that knowledge and know how contained therein to influence decision making. A function of the Knowledge Transfer Hub could therefore be the analysis of these projects and the packaging of the technologies and approaches used to inform policy; thus emphasising the potential for Project/research Policy Interface.

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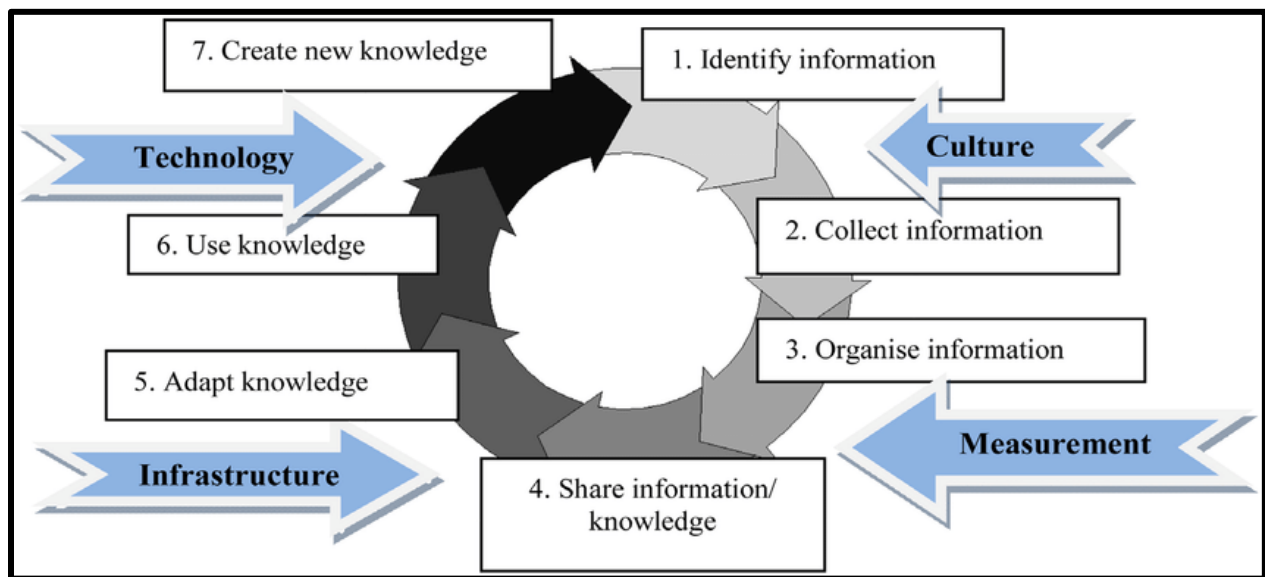
<sup>25</sup> Soft law means commitments made by negotiating parties that are not legally binding. Most Resolutions and Declarations of the UN General Assembly, like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; Elements such as statements, principles, codes of conduct, codes of practice etc.; often found as part of framework treaties; and other non-treaty obligations. The simplest explanation for using soft law concerns international agreements or other devices that serve to assist states in coordinating their behavior. Here we have in mind interactions among states in which states are relatively certain they will have no interest in deviating from the promised behavior in the future.

- The vehicle through which new innovations and major scientific and technical developments developed by the UWI, Cave Hill Campus can be disseminated and applied in the broader society.

## 2.2. Steps in Knowledge Transfer Process

Since the focus of this document is on Knowledge Transfer there is a need to establish from the outset an understanding of the KM Transfer process. This is illustrated schematically in Figure 2 which presents the steps in the knowledge transfer process in a knowledge transfer-enabling environment after O’Dell and Grayson.<sup>26</sup> The framework proposes seven KM processes which require four environmental KM enablers—culture, technology, infrastructure and periodic measurement—for it to function effectively. Following is an overview of the steps in the knowledge transfer process.

**Step 1: Identification and Collection of Knowledge:** Different means and technologies can be employed with respect to the identification and collection of knowledge. Knowledge, in an organisational context, can be generated via different means, including, *inter alia*; through brainstorming; designing of new projects; developing new ideas and seeking solutions to problems. This requires to some extent the development within an organisational setting a **Culture of Cultivating Knowledge**. In addition, explicit knowledge can also identified and collected. The development of the enabler of **Culture of Cultivating Knowledge** is critical if “knowledge” is to be appreciated as a fundamental “asset” and used in that regard.



Source: O'Dell, and Grayson (1998).

**Figure 1. Steps in the knowledge transfer process in a knowledge transfer-enabling environment.**

<sup>26</sup> O’Dell, C. and Grayson, C.J. (1998) *If Only We Knew What We Know: The Transfer of Internal Knowledge and Best Practices*. The Free Press, New York.

**Step 2: Capture and Storage of Knowledge:** Once the knowledge is identified and collected, the next stage is its capture and storage. This stage requires the establishment of the necessary **infrastructure**, not only for the organisation and storage of the knowledge which could take different forms; for example, reports, document, visuals, videos, but also to ensure maximum accessibility to the knowledge, to different “publics.”

**Step 3: Transfer and Share:** At this stage it is useful to prepare a Knowledge Plan, which should clearly outline how the knowledge should be shared; a management system which organises the knowledge and has the potential to automate knowledge sharing; a communication system which facilitates collaboration and knowledge and a dedicated person who manages the entire system, oversees the circulation of the knowledge and follow-up to ensure the information is delivered to the correct person(s). A knowledge based software could be used to assist in development of the most appropriate system; hence, a focus on technology, as an enabler.

**Step 4: Apply Knowledge and Measure Results:** This step involves the application of the Knowledge collected and measuring the results of the use of that knowledge. In this regard, it is of critical importance to have built into the Knowledge Transfer System a feedback mechanism which provides feedback on how the knowledge has been used or is being used.

**Step 5: Create New Knowledge:** This stage involves the processing of new ideas, technologies and the application of knowledge to solving problems faced and/or encountered.

### **2.2.1. The Importance and Potential Benefits of a SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Knowledge Transfer Hub for SIDS**

Despite the acceptance of the sustainable development of SIDS in the vernacular of the international community and consideration given to their uniqueness and special assistance needs as well as its integration into all the major international multilateral agreements, both legally binding and soft-law instruments; there seems not to be in some CSIDS, themselves, a fundamental understanding of the depth and breadth of the concept of SIDS and its implications for their national and regional development. As highlighted by Griffith, the inclusion of Chapter 17 in Agenda 21 was an important milestone<sup>27</sup> in that it marked the first time the international community recognised SIDS as “a special case for environment and sustainable development ...[that they are] special challenges for implementing sustainable development...[and that they would be] constrained in meeting the challenges without cooperation and assistance from the international community.”

In this regard, the SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub has a critical role to play in raising the consciousness of SIDS and its importance to national and regional development.

It was the coining of SIDS and its acceptance by the international community that provided the basis for the establishment of “[...] a clearly identifiable, qualified and competent entity with the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat [...] to provide [...] support for both intergovernmental and inter-agency coordination

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<sup>27</sup> Griffith, M.D. Reflections on the Implementation of the Programme of Action on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Ocean and Coastal Management, Vol. 29, Nos 1-3, pp139-163, 1995.

mechanisms” in support of SIDS sustainable development efforts. Further, the acceptance by the international community of SIDS as a special case for environment and development provides the basis for special consideration to be given to SIDS in international legal instruments and funding mechanisms (e.g. GEF, GCF etc.). The coining of SIDS also contributed to the Commonwealth Secretariat, initiating dialogue with the top leadership of the International Monetary Fund, The World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank, to raise awareness of the unique challenges faced by small states in accessing affordable finance, and managing and reducing their debt.

The Hub also has a fundamental role in helping SIDS to realise “SIDS Collectivity”—a concept coined by the Prime Minister of Barbados<sup>28</sup> to explain how SIDS should operate going forward. According to CaribInvest (West Indies) Limited<sup>29</sup> SIDS Collectivity” simply put

Refers to SIDS acting with one voice in international sustainable development, trade, finance etc.; negotiating as a Consolidated Group of Countries and supported by the establishment of the necessary structures to facilitate programming on a SIDS intra-regional basis. It implies a deeper form of collaboration between SIDS in a spirit of self-reliance and for mutual support.

The concept “SIDS Collectivity” comprises of essentially three components— a SIDS Regional Inter-Governmental Structure which comprises of two components: (a) a SIDS Inter- and Intra-regional Hub which facilitates inter- and intra- regional collaboration and cooperation among the SIDS regions, and (b) a SIDS Inter- regional Institutional Mechanism in each of the three SIDS regions which works closely with the Hub in delivering inter- and intra- regional initiatives in support of SIDS Sustainability (SIDSS) and (c) the SIDS international Negotiating Mechanism— the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).<sup>30</sup>

Acting collectively, SIDS could have considerable influence in the United Nations System. According to the United Nations Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, of the 193 Members of the United Nations, 39 Member States are classified as SIDS, located primarily across three of the five United Nations designates Regions. These are: the **African Group**: Cape Verde, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius, São Tomé and Príncipe and Seychelles; **Asia and the Pacific Group**: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, São Tomé and Príncipe, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Timor-Lesté, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu; **Latin America and**

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<sup>28</sup> Address by the Hon. Freundel J. Stuart, Q.C., M. P. Prime Minister of Barbados to the SIDS Inter-Regional Meeting Ahead of the Third International Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small island Developing States, The Twenty Year Journey from Barbados to Samoa—Acknowledging the Success, Rationalising the Constraints and Charting the Way Forward, The Hilton, Bridgetown, Barbados, 26 August 2013

<sup>29</sup> CaribInvest (West Indies) Limited, A Small Island Developing States Inter-and Intra-Regional Institutional Mechanism: A Basis for Strengthening Small Island Developing States Collectivity and Building a Global Compact for the Sustainable Development of SIDS, Unpublished Policy Analysis, August 2014.

<sup>30</sup> Commonwealth of Learning, Diploma in Environmental Management FOR Sustainable Development: Course Guide. Prepared by CaribInvest (West Indies) Limited for the Commonwealth of Learning, 4710 Kingsway, Suite 2500, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada, March 2016.

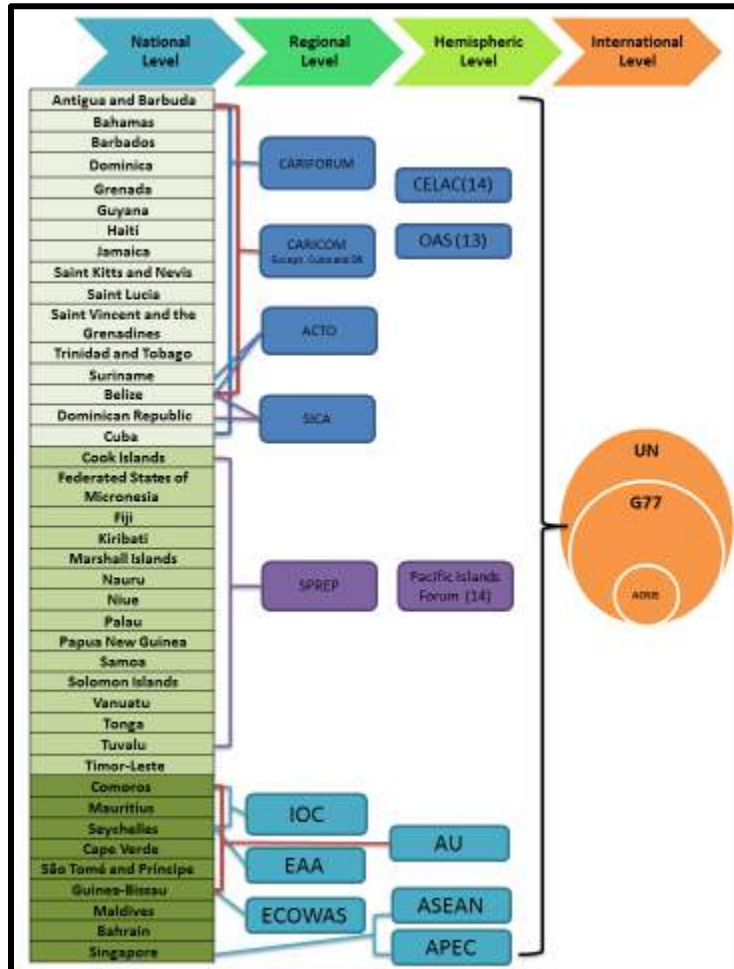


**Caribbean Group:** Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. SIDS therefore constitute approximately twenty percent of the membership of the United Nations, and in the view of the author; forms a considerable influential block of countries, it used strategically.

In addition, SIDS are located geographically across the globe, and can also exert considerable influence within their respective regions if the concept of “SIDS Collectivity” is practiced and adhere to. As an example, Caribbean SIDS constitute approximately 48.4 percent of the LAC Group; Asia and Pacific SIDS, 27.7 percent of their Group and Africa SIDS 11.1 percent of their Regional Group. Similarly when viewed from the perspective of the various Political Groupings of which they are Member, a similar situation is observed. As an example, in the case of the CSIDS, they have the power to influence significantly decisions taken at the Hemispheric level if they stick together and the concept of “SIDS Collectivity” is practiced.

**2.2.2. Benefits of the Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub**

The establishment of the Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub will have significant benefits. Some of the indicative benefits are outlined in Table 2.1.



**Table 2.1. Indicative Benefits of the Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub**

- Extraction of green and blue learning components from the various SIDS sustainable development instruments and myriad international instruments, both legally binding and soft law, and making them accessible for teaching staff and students alike.
- Evolving overtime into the SIDS Centre of Excellence for Green Learning and the building of linkages with other Green Growth Institutions, globally.
- The first SIDS Specific entity established in the Caribbean SIDS:
  - With the mandate to organize Knowledge and information as it relates to the SIDS sustainable development instruments and international environmental legal instruments and make it accessible for learning, policy purposes as well as enhancing general public understanding and awareness about SIDS.
  - Exchange knowledge and information on SIDS Green-Blue Issues.
  - Enhances SIDS ability to compile critical knowledge, create new one and making them accessible.
  - Facilitates the transfer and movement of knowledge and information between stakeholders.
- Provides a mechanism whereby scientific, technological and innovational aspects of the SIDS sustainable development Instruments can be operationalized to the benefit of SIDS.
- Facilitate more systematic dissemination of new innovations and scientific developments which have implications for SIDS sustainable development.
- Has the potential to operationalize a Knowledge Transfer Mechanism which provides the basis for the transfer of Knowledge and Expertise from CSIDS to SIDS from other regions and worldwide as well.
- Help CSIS cope with specific challenges and constraints such as providing technical and legal backstopping in complex bi- and multilateral negotiations, including the provision of technical support on issues faced by SIDS.

The benefits to be derived from the SIDS-SIDS Green and Blue Knowledge Transfer Hub are significant and once resourced and nurtured will make a significant contribution to SIDS sustainable development. The next Section, therefore, clearly outlines how the design of the KTH can and will contribute to the attainment of the benefits outlined.

### **Section 3: The Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub: It's Functions, Structure, and Strategic Focus Programming Areas**

This Section provides an overview of the various elements of the Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer. It outlines the Vision of the Knowledge Transfer Hub; functions and the internal workings of the system.

#### **3.1. The Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub: Vision and Functions**

This Sub-section provides an overview of the design of the SIDS-SIDS Green Economy Hub Transfer Platform, the Legal Framework governing its operations and the ICT infrastructure which is required to support the SIDS GE knowledge development and transfer.

##### **3.1.1. VISION and Functions of the Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub**

**The VISION:** The Green-Blue Economy SIDS Knowledge Transfer Hub allows SIDS to connect, collaborate and communicate and to share Knowledge and Information across national boundaries between SIDS and its peoples, nationally, regionally and globally; particularly on Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

The Letter of Agreement between UNITAR and the University of the West Indies which outlines the **Functions** of the Green-Blue SIDS Knowledge Transfer Hub as set out in the Terms of Reference are as follow:

- Serve as the vehicle through which Green Learning components of the myriad international instruments to which Barbados and Caribbean SIDS have committed to, are extracted and translate into Green Learning products and processes for integration into formal teaching at the tertiary level and practical action on the ground.
- Serve as the institutional mechanism to support mainstreaming/coordination and implementation of learning, education, applied research, and analytical components of PAGE Barbados, inclusive of the activities resulting therefrom, as well as activities designed to “build back better” in the post COVID-19 world.
- Knowledge products development, knowledge sharing and management platform on the implementation of green and blue economy in SIDS and with specific reference to the SAMOA Pathway and Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Provide training for targeted audiences** through a portfolio of foundational and specialized courses and programmes for various audiences in SIDS in support of the SAMOA Pathway and Sustainable Development Goals. Training interventions will target key sectors including, *inter alia*, fisheries, agriculture, manufacturing, energy and tourism and will cater to the most urgent needs of national stakeholders, as identified in key policy announcements as well as the re-inception mission of PAGE Barbados in November 2018. To this end, the applicable SDGs will be utilized to provide context for the intervention.

- Improve the capacities of public officials and other key stakeholders in Barbados and wider Caribbean SIDS region in the area of green and blue economy, and sustainable development.
- Facilitation of **SIDS - SIDS country technical exchanges and thematic workshops.**
- Support the **joint development of SIDS Green and Blue Economy Initiatives** in support of the SAMOA Pathway and Sustainable Development Goals.

### 3.2. Institutional Architecture and Governance

Figure 3.1. outlines the institution architecture of the Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub. In terms of governance the Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub will be located in the Office of the Deputy Principle of the Cave Hill Campus and will be staffed by a small Unit comprising of a Knowledge Hub Programme Director; an Education, Knowledge and Communication Specialist; a Knowledge and Applied Research Coordinator and an Administrator/Secretary. In addition, provision should be made for contracting on a short term basis of a Resource Mobilisation and Project Development Specialist, to assist with the preparation of project proposals which will be necessary for the mobilization of financial resources to fund the operations of the Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub.

To facilitate the operationalisation of the Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub, a Digital SIDS-GE-KTH Net Portal will be established at the UWI-Cave Hill Campus. Internally, the Hub will consist of six major components, as shown schematically in Figure 3.1. These are:

1. **Identification and Collection of Knowledge:** Knowledge is sourced from many sources, including the SIDS instruments; the Multilateral and Bi-Lateral Processes in which Barbados and SIDS, in general participates; PAGE Economy processes and activities as well as from other Groups, including the Scientific and Technical Knowledge Transfer Advisory Group (ST-KTAG) which shall be established as an advisory body to the KTH.
2. **Knowledge Organisation and Processing:** Once the knowledge is identified and received by the Knowledge Transfer Hub, it will be processed internally in the required format established by the Hub for the processing of its Knowledge resources.
3. **Knowledge Storage:** The Knowledge resources are then stored in a format which is easily accessible by potential users.
4. **Knowledge Sharing:** Once the knowledge is organized, stored and available for access, the principle users, at the University of West Indies, Cave Hill Campus will be automatically be informed to the new resources availability.
5. **Knowledge Access and Distribution:** To be able to access the knowledge in the TNK Database, potential users will need to register before access is given. An online registration system will therefore be an integral part of the SIDS-GE-KTH Net Portal.

## ***Institutional Architecture of the SIDS-SIDS Green Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub***

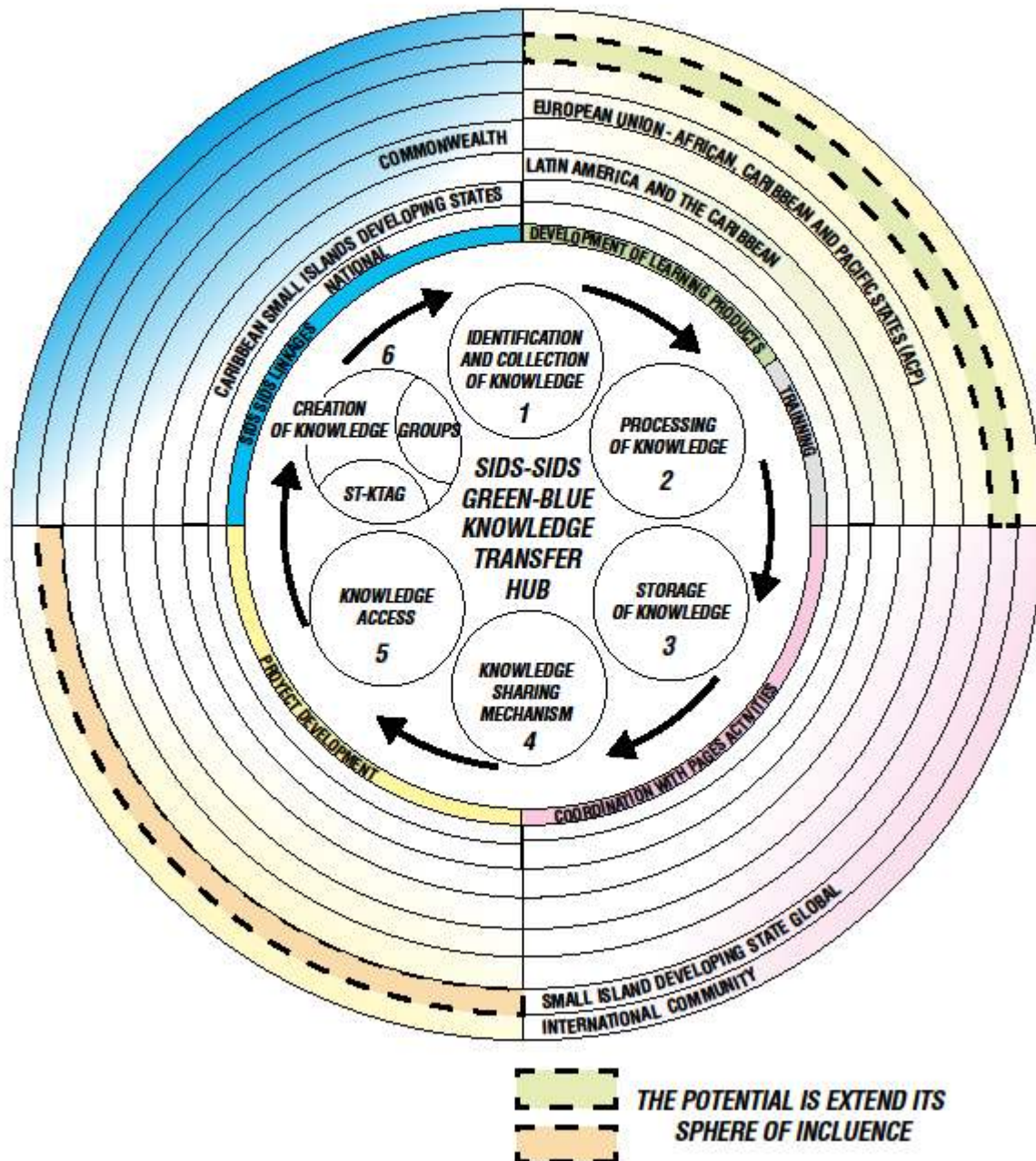


Figure 3.1. Institutional Architecture of the Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub

6. **Creation of New Knowledge:** New Knowledge includes new technologies and scientific developments. In addition, a number of mechanisms will be established to contribute to the generation of new knowledge. Groups, both, closed and opened will be encourage. In addition, the KTH will be supported by a Scientific and Technical Knowledge Transfer Advisory Group (ST-KTAG) which shall be established as an advisory body to the KTH. The functions of the ST-KTAG will be;
- i. To advise on new areas of research on the sustainable development of SIDS.
  - ii. Play a key role in supporting SIDS negotiations at the international level, as may be required.
  - iii. Inform SIDS Strategic Directions on a range of issues in support of SIDS sustainable development and poverty eradication

In terms of the overall governance of the Hub, the institution should be required to prepare Annual Progress and Financial Reports. In terms of financial management, in keeping with best practices the resources of the Hub should be lodged in a Special Hub Account to facilitate ease of management.

### **3.3. The Strategic Programmatic Focus of the SIDS Green and Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub**

As outlined in Figure 3.1. the SIDS-SIDS Green and Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub outlined in its first incarnation will have five main **Strategic Focus**—the Development of Green Learning Products; Training and Research; Collaboration with PAGE Activities, globally, including serving as the SIDS Green Learning Centre of Excellence; Project Development with an emphasis on Knowledge Development and Transfer; and Collaboration with SIDS, globally, and supporting SIDS, technically, to the extent practicable, in complex international negotiations. These strategic focus areas, together, will provide the basis for the SIDS Green and Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub *modus operandi*.

Following is an overview of the initial strategic focus of the Knowledge Transfer Hub. The Programmatic Areas of the SIDS-SIDS Green and Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub will therefore include, *inter alia*:

1. **Development of Green Learning Products and Processes from International Legally Binding and Soft Law International Instruments:** As indicated in Figure 3.1., this particular area of focus is intended to a large extent for the national constituency as well as overtime for CSIDS, in general. Barbados and other Caribbean SIDS are party to a large number of Multilateral Environment Agreements<sup>31</sup> (MEAs) and soft-law instruments. A

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<sup>31</sup> For ease of comprehension the MEAs in the environmental field could be thematically grouped under a number of headings, namely

- **Wildlife /Conservation:** MEAs which deals mainly with wildlife, particularly at the species level
- **Biodiversity/Bio-Safety, Traditional Knowledge:** This group of MEAs deals with the under concept of biodiversity, including traditional knowledge and folklore; bio-safety, in particular, measures to ensure the safe handling, transport

key function of the Knowledge Hub therefore will be the extraction from these Instruments the Green Learning components and translate them into learning products and processes for integration into formal teaching at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, in the first instance, as well as practical action on the ground.

A core aspect of this Strategic Focus will be the formulation of a Green Learning Programme to be implemented at the Cave Hill Campus. To facilitate this an evaluation of existing programme content relevant to Green and Blue Economy at the UWI Cave Hill is being undertaken as a means of providing the basis for considering the integration green/blue economy and sustainable development related issues into the UWI Cave Hill curricula. The three targeted outputs are expected from this exercise, namely: (i) a Green Economy Learning Framework for Programme/Curriculum Development at UWI Cave Hill (ii) a Competency Framework for Green and Blue Economy Policy Development and Implementation, and (iii) a Preliminary Report on Curriculum Assessment on Green and Blue Economy Learning at UWI Cave Hill.

It is anticipated that the output of the Learning Needs Assessment will result in the implementation inclusive of: Professional Short Courses- Industry based; Undergraduate Programme; Professional Post Graduate Programme for SIDS Policy Practitioners and Post Graduate Applied Research Programme. In formulating these courses the standard Curriculum Development Frameworks which are used for the development of courses being offered by the University will be utilized.

In addition, the SIDS-SIDS Green and Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub, will also play a pivotal role in helping to address the perceived Knowledge Gap which seems to currently exist between the UWI teaching and the negotiations Caribbean SIDS are undertaking at the regional and international levels. To address this perceived Knowledge

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and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health.

- *Marine Protection and Safety:* This group of MEAs deals primarily with the protection of the marine environment. Most of the MEAs are usually dealt with by the shipping authorities in the Member States since most of them falls under the jurisdiction of the World Maritime Organisation (WMO). International Civil liability is a key theme contained in most of the MEAs within this grouping.
- *Marine Resources:* This grouping includes the law of the Sea Convention and focuses on marine resources and the rights associated there with.
- *Chemical/Waste Management:* The MEAs in this group deals with the management of chemicals. This is an area of increasing importance for the region.
- *Sustainable Land Management:* This cluster has one MEA, i.e. the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, an important instrument for the region from the perspective of sustainable land management approaches and methodologies.
- *Atmospheric/Climate Systems;* The climate and atmospheric related Conventions fall under this cluster.
- *Protection of Human Health and the Environment:* This cluster deals primarily with persistent organic pollutants (POPs).
- *Cultural and Natural Heritage:* Focus is placed on the cultural and natural heritage issues.



Gap, a number of specific programmatic Initiatives will be launched overtime. To this end, a Caribbean SIDS Knowledge Transfer Initiative will be launched as a means of filling the Knowledge Transfer Voids which exists, especially the void which seems to exist between what is being negotiated by SIDS at the international and hemispheric spaces and the limited consideration of those issues by academia. To address this void, the CSIDS Knowledge Transfer Initiative will comprise of a number of targeted sub-programmes, including *inter alia*; the provision of technical support to CSIDS negotiators in specific areas of endeavor and the establishment of a UWI-International Community Knowledge Interface Initiative.

The technical support to CSIDS negotiators is intended to address one of the main weaknesses faced by CSIDS negotiators—the absence of sustained technical support and back-up during complex negotiations. In this regard, the KTH will be expected to mobilise the necessary resources to enable this. In the case of the UWI-International Community Knowledge Interface Initiative, key aspect will be the launching of the UWI- Ambassador Knowledge Transfer Initiative. Such a programme will provide space for the representative of SIDS in foreign capitals were decisions are being made that affect SIDS Sustainable Development, by invitation, to report periodically on issues being negotiated as well as the status of those negotiation and strategies being adopted by the region to address those issues. This programme will also allow CSIDS representatives to receive periodic feedback from the ground from a wide cross-section of stakeholders.

### Summary of Green Learning Products and Services

- **Green Learning Programme** to be implemented at the Cave Hill Campus.
- **Caribbean SIDS Knowledge Transfer Initiative**
  - ✓ Technical support to CSIDS negotiators in specific areas;
  - ✓ UWI-International Community Knowledge Interface Initiative.
    - Ambassador Knowledge Transfer Initiative.
- **GEF Learn Knowledge Initiative**

CSIDS have today undertaken or participate in the implementation of many GEF projects. Notwithstanding, a major knowledge gap exists with respect to understanding and knowledge on the approaches and technologies employed in these projects and the impact they have had on the target groups for which they were and/or effecting policy changes. To this end, the Knowledge Transfer Hub will launch an initiative to address this knowledge void—GEF Learn Knowledge Initiative. The objective of the GEF Learn Knowledge Initiative is for the Knowledge Transfer to undertake an analysis and review of the GEF projects implemented in CSIDS with the view of extracting valuable knowledge on approaches, technologies etc. used and how they can be used to (a) inform learning and (b) future project development and (c) implications for decision making.



2. Serve as the Institutional mechanism to support mainstreaming, coordination and implementation of learning, education, applied research, and analytical components of PAGE Barbados, as well as activities designed to “build back better” in the post COVID-19 world:

**The KTH as an Institutional Mechanism to Support Mainstreaming, Coordination and Implementation of Learning, Education, Applied Research, and Analytical Components of PAGE Barbados**

- Training in green growth and learning, building on the activities being undertaken by PAGE-Barbados.
- Post COVID-19 Sustainable

The essence of the strategic focus of this programme will be training in green growth and learning, building on the activities being undertaken by PAGE Barbados. Its principle target population, in the interim will be national, with implications for CSIDS, and in the medium and long term, SIDS-Global. The KTN will serve as the institutional mechanism for analysing the various policy instruments reference in this document as well as the coordination of the development of knowledge products which will be used as a basis for the mainstreaming of issues relating to the sustainable development of SIDS in the UWI curricula. It will also support the further development and implementation of PAGE Outputs

including the coordination of the Green-Blue Economy Learning Programme (G-BEL). The KTN will also have a research focus in facilitating applied research on critical national identified priorities.

The KTN will also be expected to play a key role in articulating and implementation of the environmental dimensions of the Post COVID-19 Sustainable Recovery Knowledge Programme for SIDS, pursuant to Decision 8 and the *Bridgetown Declaration* of the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean. A key role could be to draw on the body of Green responses which have been implemented by countries worldwide and evaluate their applicability to the CSIDS context. Already under the PAGE-Barbados Programme, a modest amount of resources have been made available to support for Green COVID-19 Economic Recovery.<sup>32</sup> In this regard, the KTH should be given the responsibility of implementing the business component of that Initiative.

In addition, as a means of following-up on the recommendation made by the Hon. Prime Minister of Barbados during the High Level Session of the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean hosted by Barbados on 1-2 February 2021, the PISLM announced that it intends to take the lead in the development of “*Post COVID-19 Environment and Sustainable Recovery Strategy for Caribbean*”

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<sup>32</sup> The Proposal is entitled “Embedding “a Circular and 5Rs Clean and Green Philosophy” in Barbados’ Recovery and Associated Consumption and Production Practices.” It has three Thematic Areas: Thematic Area 1: Impact assessment, support for greening of economic stimulus packages and mobilising private finance for green recovery; Thematic Area 2: Strengthening collective national ownership of green recovery plans and national discourse on green and inclusive recovery and Thematic Area 3: Targeted capacity building on green and inclusive recovery

SIDS,”<sup>33</sup> and in so doing, it will be done in collaboration with the proposed Small Island Developing States Knowledge Hub which was mentioned in Decision 8, of the said body.<sup>34</sup>

### 3. SIDS-SIDS Knowledge Linkages and Partnership Programmes.

This programming area is intended to build and consolidate cooperation between the Caribbean SIDS (CSIDS) and SIDS from the Pacific and AIMS regions, respectively. One of the key initiatives which will be implemented under this focus area is the operationalisation of the SIDS Knowledge and Technical Assistance Programme (SIDS/K-TAP). Originally recommended by Griffith et al,<sup>35</sup> as a modality to facilitate inter- and intra-regional cooperation on sustainable development between SIDS, this mechanism which forms an integral part of the various SIDS instruments as a Knowledge Transfer Mechanism. The Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island developing States (commonly referred to as the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA)) pursuant to “*Chapter XI, Regional Institutions and Technical Cooperation*”<sup>36</sup> specifically provides for such a

#### Summary of SIDS-SIDS Knowledge Linkages and Partnership Programmes

- Operationalisation of the SIDS Knowledge and Technical Assistance Programme (SIDS/K-TAP).
- Private Sector Development Knowledge Support Programme for SIDS.
- Promotion of Green Economy Knowledge Transfer Partnerships. Possible examples include, inter alia:
  - ✓ Implementation of a Sustainable Consumption and Production Partnership for SIDS.
  - ✓ A Micro-Small and Medium Sized Enterprises Facility to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and mainstreaming of Green technologies and innovation.
- SIDS-SIDS Country Technical Exchanges and Thematic Workshops as a Basis for South-South

<sup>33</sup> This is one of the five areas which the Prime Minister of Barbados highlighted in her presentation during the High Level Segment of the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean, on the theme, “The Environmental Dimension of the COVID-19.” This issue is also highlighted in the Bridgetown Declaration of the said Forum of Ministers of Environment Meeting.

<sup>34</sup> Intervention of the Executive Director of the PISLM at the Ministerial Panel on the Role of Nature and Ecosystems Restoration in Building a Sustainable Recovery; 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021, at the Ministerial Panel on “the Role of Nature and Ecosystems Restoration in Building a Sustainable Recovery,” XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean, hosted by Barbados virtually on 1-2 February 2021.

<sup>35</sup> Griffith, M.D. and J Ashe, The Sustainable Development of SIDS with Special Reference to the Atlantic and Caribbean States: An Overview, Centre for Environment and Development, University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica, July 1993.

<sup>36</sup> See Paragraph 52 (iii) of the Barbados Programme of Action

Knowledge Transfer Initiative. The need for such a modality is further re-stated in the SAMOA Pathway which calls for enhanced regional and interregional cooperation among SIDS. It has been argued that such a modality provides a vehicle through which resources could be made available to SIDS to compensate for the limited access by some SIDS, such as Barbados, to concessionary resources.<sup>37</sup>

Another initiative which could be operationalize under this thematic area is the Establishment of a Private Sector Development Knowledge Support Programme for SIDS. The design of this programme will use as its point of reference the Section in the SAMOA Pathway entitled “*Sustained and Sustainable, Inclusive and equitable economic growth with Decent Work for All.*”<sup>38</sup> This is the Section of the SAMOA Pathway which establishes the framework for the Green Economy as an important tool when viewed in the context of sustainable development and poverty alleviation. This Section identifies a range of issues on which Knowledge based solutions are applicable. These issues include, *inter alia*; the development of public-private partnerships; international cooperation, exchanges and investments in formal and non-formal education and training to create an environment that supports sustainable investments and growth; fostering entrepreneurship and innovation, building capacity and increasing the competitiveness and social entrepreneurship of micro-,small- and medium-sized enterprises; the creation of decent jobs; debt sustainability etc. With the increasing emphasis on Inclusive Green Economy Development, the Knowledge Transfer Hub could developed specialised courses for this sub-sector, to enable them to better capitalised on opportunities in the export markets (for example, opportunities provided by the Economic Partnership Agreement<sup>39</sup> (EPA) etc.; thus underscoring its role as a Knowledge Provider.

Also the Promotion of Green Economy Knowledge Transfer Partnerships could be formulated and delivered under this thematic area. One such Partnership could be a “Sustainable Consumption and Production Partnership for SIDS.”<sup>40</sup> Such a programme can be formulated pursuant to Paragraphs 68-69 of the SAMOA Pathway which calls for

“[...] As promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production is an overarching objective of and essential requirement for sustainable development, we recall the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns<sup>41</sup> and its vision, and we

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<sup>37</sup> CaribInvest West Indies, Limited; The Small Island Developing States Technical Assistance Programme: A *Modality* for Facilitating SIDS-SIDS Cooperation and a *Platform* for Enhancing SIDS-South Triangular Technical Cooperation; A Discussion Paper, July 2013, Unpublished Paper.

<sup>38</sup> See Paragraphs 23-30 of the SAMOA Pathway.

<sup>39</sup> In this regard, the Knowledge Transfer Hub should develop linkages with organisations which are charged with implementation of the EPA (e.g. Caribbean Export Development Agency etc.) with the view of providing those services.

<sup>40</sup> It should be noted that a Draft Concept Note on this Theme has already been formulated and discussed with SIDS ahead of the Third International Conference on the Sustainable Development of SIDS.

<sup>41</sup> The world’s Heads of States adopted the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns at the at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), in June 2012, It is a global framework for

recognize that all countries should promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with developed countries taking the lead and all countries benefiting from the process.[...] **we call for support for the efforts of small island developing States** to develop and implement programmes under the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns to advance sustainable consumption and production, **with an emphasis on micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, sustainable tourism, waste management, food and nutrition, lifestyles, education for sustainable development and linkages in the supply chain to promote rural development.**

Such an initiative is also supported pursuant to Decision 8 of the XII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean which endorses “[...] the establishment of a SIDS Framework Initiative to implement the sustainable consumption and production priorities of Caribbean SIDS, as called for in the 2018 San Pedro Declaration of Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean<sup>42</sup> (SIDS).”<sup>43</sup>

In the case of Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises programmes could be design to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and technology and the spread of technical and business skills to these entities. This would contribute to facilitating, stimulating and enhancing green economy business-relevant research and training undertaken by the knowledge base, and enhance the business and specialist skills of a recently qualified graduate. In the development of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships emphasis will be placed on those projects that are innovative and imaginative in scope, have commercial potential, demonstrate clear academic challenge and which have the ability to contribute to new knowledge.

A key strategy for support the initiatives under this Focus Area will be the convening of SIDS - SIDS country technical exchanges and thematic workshops. This thematic area has the potential to strengthen south-south cooperation as articulated by the Minister of Foreign

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action to enhance international cooperation and accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns in both developed and developing countries. The 10YFP aims at developing, replicating and scaling up SCP and resource efficiency initiatives, at national and regional levels, decoupling environmental degradation and resource use from economic growth, and thus increasing the net contribution of economic activities to resource efficiency and productivity, poverty eradication, social development and environmental sustainability. The framework supports capacity building, facilitates access to technical and financial assistance for developing countries as well as encourages innovation and cooperation on a wider scale among all stakeholders to achieve greater collective impact for the shift to SCP patterns.

<sup>42</sup> The San Pedro Declaration was adopted by the Caribbean SIDS Regional Preparatory Meeting, held in San Pedro, Belize, 7-9 August 2018.

<sup>43</sup> See Decision 8 on the Environmental Dimension of the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, Bridgetown, Barbados, 1-2 February 2021

Affairs of Barbados<sup>44</sup> on the occasion of the Second High Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation March, 2019 Buenos Aires, Argentina, when he acknowledged that the “[...] *SIDS-SIDS Green Economy Knowledge Transfer Platform as a tangible contribution to the implementation of paragraph 109 of the SAMOA Pathway [...] that [it] can serve as a catalyst for scaling-up and delivering targeted South-South cooperation interventions for addressing SIDS sustainable development challenge.*” The recommendation made by the Minister of Forum Affairs is support by a call for the establishment of a SIDS-SIDS Cooperation and a SIDS-Latin America Cooperation programmes,<sup>45</sup> respectively. This idea is codified pursuant to Decision 8 of the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean which supports the establishment of a “[...] dedicated Caribbean SIDS Horizontal Technical Cooperation Programme that enables SIDS-SIDS and LAC-SIDS Technical Cooperation, pursuant to Decision 4 of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for LAC to improve resilience and enhance capacity-building initiatives, and to improve the diversion of resources devoted to these cooperation agreements in order to meet sustainable development needs.”<sup>46</sup>

In addition, this particular focus area could also be used as the context to implement elements of agreements to CSIDS are party. In this regard, a SIDS-EU Green Knowledge Initiative could be launched based on elements of the *Economic Partnership Agreement Between CARIFORUM States, on the one part, and the European Union and its Member State, on the other part*, in particular, Articles and 136 and 138 which make provision for cooperation on science and technology and eco-innovation, respectively as well as cooperating on relevant elements of the “European Green Deal.”<sup>47</sup>

In the case of Article 136 provision is made for cooperation in science and technology as follows: “*The Parties will foster the participation of their research and technological development bodies [...]. Cooperative activities may take the following forms: (a) joint initiatives to raise the awareness of the science and technology capacity building programmes of the European Community, [...], as appropriate; (b) joint research networks in areas of common interest; (c) exchanges of researchers and experts to promote project preparation and participation [...] in the other research programmes of the European*

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<sup>44</sup> Draft Barbados National Statement for Delivery By the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados, Senator Dr. the Hon. Jerome Walcott, M.P. on the Occasion of the Second High Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, March 20-22, 2019, Buenos Aires, Argentina,

<sup>45</sup> See the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, Bridgetown, Barbados, 5-6 November 2019.

<sup>46</sup> See Decision 8 on the Environmental Dimension of the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, Bridgetown, Barbados, 1-2 February 2021

<sup>47</sup> This is a new growth strategy that aims to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050 and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use.

*Community; (d) joint scientific meetings to foster exchanges of information and interaction and to identify areas for joint research; (e) promotion of advanced science and technology studies which contribute to the long term sustainable development of both Parties; (f) development of links between the public and private sectors; (g) evaluation of joint work and the dissemination of results; (h) policy dialogue and exchanges of scientific and technological information and experience at regional level; (i) exchange of information at regional level on regional science and technology programmes; (j) participation in the Knowledge and Innovation Communities of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology.”*

With respect to Article 158 provision is made for eco-innovation as follows; “[...] the Parties agree to cooperate, including by facilitating support, in the following areas: (a) projects related to environmentally-friendly products, technologies, production processes, services, management and business methods, including those related to appropriate water-saving and Clean Development Mechanism applications; (b) projects related to energy efficiency and renewable energy; (c) promotion of eco-innovation networks and clusters, including through public-private partnerships; (d) exchanges of information, know-how and experts; (e) awareness-raising and training activities; (f) preparation of studies and provision of technical assistance; (g) collaboration in research and development; and (h) pilot and demonstration projects.”

The TKH could serve as the vehicle for the operationalization of these and other provisions of the EPA. Similar provisions are also contained in the EPA between CARIFORUM States and the United Kingdom. Further, it also play a critical role in serving as the Knowledge Disseminator for innovation and scientific breakthroughs taking place at the UWI, Cave Hill Campus.

**Development and Sharing of Knowledge Products on Green and Blue Economy in SIDS:** Green Economy is considered by the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (commonly referred to as the “SAMOA Pathway”) in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication as one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development.<sup>48</sup> The concept of the Blue Economy on the other hand, includes all economic activities related to oceans, seas and coasts. Since the Green and Blue Economy are underpin by the same principles and goals, from a “*SIDS Sustainable Development*,” these two concepts should be addressed in unison, rather than separately. To do this, a unifying concept of an “*Environmentally Sound, Climate Resilient Green-Blue Economy Framework*” should be promoted as the context in which “*SIDS Sustainable Development*” issues be approach. Within this framework, SIDS Green and Blue Economy Initiatives could be developed in support of the various SIDS Instruments— “the Barbados Programme of Action “BPOA”, the MS/BPOA and the SAMOA Pathway) and the Sustainable Development Goals.

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<sup>48</sup> See Paragraph 25 of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway

In addition, the Green and Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub will also provide training for targeted audiences through a portfolio of foundational and specialized courses and programmes for various audiences in SIDS in support of the SAMOA Pathway and Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, courses which could be considered, include, *inter alia*, international environmental and sustainable development negotiations, international institutional architecture for environment and sustainable development, sustainable consumption and production etc. The purpose of which contribute to improving the capacities of public officials and other key stakeholders in Barbados and wider Caribbean SIDS region in the area of green and blue economy, and sustainable development. Training interventions will target key sectors including, *inter alia*, fisheries, agriculture, manufacturing, energy and tourism. It will cater to the most urgent needs of national stakeholders, as identified in key policy announcements as well as the re-inception mission of PAGE Barbados in November 2018. In addition, applicable SDGs will be utilized to provide context for the intervention.

4. **Project and Programme Conceptualisation, Development and Execution:** In this regard, projects particularly those which focus the advancement of Knowledge: Knowledge Based Interventions and those which can accommodate the incorporation of international element(s) of knowledge transfer or knowledge sharing.

### 3.4. Target Audiences

Given the nature and scope of the SIDS sustainable development instruments, the potential audiences to which the SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub will be expected to serve is extensive. A closer look of Figure 2.1. suggest the potential target audiences of the SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub. The schematic diagram also suggest that the Knowledge Transfer Hub will be oriented to different target groups.

Firstly, there is the national audience which comprise of (a) the lecturers at the University of the West Indies for whom the Green Learning Products are being developed to assist, by way of enhancing the quality of information being made available to students; (b) the students of the University of the West Indies who will benefit from the information provided on the sustainable development of SIDS; (c) a wide cross-section of professionals from both the public and private sectors who stands to benefit from the increase focus on Green Economy learning, since a critical function of the Hub is Coordination with the activities being undertaken under PAGE Barbados.

Secondly, the Caribbean SIDS constitute is another target Group which will benefit from the establishment of SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub since many of the courses and training developed and spearheaded by the Knowledge Transfer Hub could also be extended to them. In addition, the Learning products developed by the Knowledge Transfer Hub will also be of immense importance to Caribbean SIDS in general. In addition, it is anticipated that the Knowledge Project Development focus of the Hub, will significantly benefit CSIDS, even though it is anticipated that the Hub will also participate from time to time in Global SIDS Initiatives.

Base on the promotion by the Knowledge Hub of the SIDS-SIDS Knowledge Linkages and Partnership Programmes; it goes without saying, that SIDS, in general, will be a major target Group

for the Knowledge Transfer Hub. This is evident given the very nature of the activities to be undertaken under this Focus Area which include, *inter alia*;

- (a) the operationalisation of the SIDS Knowledge and Technical Assistance Programme (SIDS/K-TAP) will have implications for a wide cross-section of persons from the respective SIDS regions give the potential it has of creating opportunities and exchanges across SIDS worldwide;
- (b) so does the a **Private Sector Development Knowledge Support Programme for SIDS** and
- (c) the **Promotion of Green Economy Knowledge Transfer Partnerships which** facilitate the transfer of knowledge and technology and the spread of technical and business skills to the Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises as a means of facilitating, stimulating and enhancing green economy business-relevant research, business development and training.

A key aspect under this Focus area will be the continual involvement and/or oversight of the various negotiations in which CSIDS are involved internationally. It will also develop functional linkages with the SIDS entity in the UN Secretariat as well as with the various UN agencies which have specific SIDS Programmes (e.g. UNESCO SIDS Action Plan, FAO SIDS Action Plan etc.).

In terms of coordination with PAGE Activities at the national level, the Green Economy Transfer Hub will become an integral part of the Green Economy Global Community. It will therefore establish direct linkages with the various Green Economy Groups (e.g. the Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP),) internationally, and over time will evolve as a Centre for Excellence in Green Economy.

### **3.5. Services to be Provided by the SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Knowledge Transfer Hub**

The KTH will provide a wide range of services, including, *inter alia*:

- The development of leaning products and their integration into UWI curricula. This will be a central element of the Hub's work.
- Provision, depending on the availability of resources, of legal and technical backstopping to CSIDS to support ongoing negotiations (e.g. issues being discussed under various MEAs and trade instruments etc.) at the international and hemispheric levels.
- Provision of foundational and specialized courses and programmes for various audiences in SIDS in support of the SAMOA Pathway and Sustainable Development Goals (e.g. international environmental and sustainable development negotiations, international institutional architecture for environment and sustainable development, sustainable consumption and production with specific reference to the circular economy etc.).
- The promotion and facilitation of technical expertise among SIDS worldwide. This will be done to a large extent through the operationalisation of the SIDS Knowledge and Technical Assistance Programme (SIDS/K-TAP).



- Facilitation and transfer of knowledge and technology and the spread of technical and business skills to the Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises.
- Promotion of learning, education, applied research, and analytical components of PAGE Barbados.
- Promotion of activities designed to “build back better” in the post COVID-19 world.
- Promotion of SIDS - SIDS country technical exchanges and thematic workshops, particularly with respect for cooperation on science and technology and eco-innovation, respectively and the fostering of alliances with research and technological development bodies.

### 3.6. Partnerships and Alliances

In keeping with the theme for the Third International Meeting of the Sustainable Development of SIDS held in Samoa in 2013 on—*international cooperation and ensuring genuine and durable partnership*—a major strategy of the KTH will be the development of Partnerships and Alliances with a wide cross-section of the environmental and sustainable development stakeholders across the globe, including, inter alia; with green growth organizations; PAGE organisations; SIDS worldwide;

#### 3.6.1. Green Growth Linkages

There are a number of organisations and mechanisms across the world promoting Green Growth Strategies. As part of the Green Growth Family, the KTH will build linkages with a number of organizations in this space, including, *inter alia*; **the Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP)**—a global community of organizations and experts from the policy, business, and finance communities committed to collaboratively generating, managing, and sharing green growth knowledge and data to mobilize a sustainable future—**and the Green Economy Coalition (GEC)**—a network of civil society organisations from around the world, united by a shared mission to accelerate the transition to a green and fair economic future.

The KTH will also build direct linkages with the International Training Centre of the ILO, in particular, to develop specific linkages with the **Global Academy on the Green Economy**, which offers capacity-building events implemented in partnership with PAGE. In actual fact, the Academy could mount a Green Economy Training Course for SIDS at the KT Hub at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. This will be particularly relevant and timely given the need for a Post COVID-19 Sustainable Recovery since the Academy support the global transition to environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive economies during and after the COVID-19 crisis as well as focuses on transformative change towards greener economies.

The KTH should also build an alliance with the the Circular Economy Coalition for Latin America and the Caribbean,<sup>49</sup> established, pursuant to Decision 2 “*Sustainable Consumption and*

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<sup>49</sup> The Latin America and Caribbean Regional Coalition on Circular Economy, will be led by a Steering Committee composed of four high level government representatives on a rotating basis, and eight permanent strategic partners: the Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN), the Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS), the Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy Coalition (PACE), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Economic Forum (WEF).

*Production and Circular Economy – Key Drivers for Post COVID-19 Sustainable Recovery*” of the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean; and probably be the CSID represented on that Body. The issues which the coalition was mandated by the Ministers to take into consideration are relevant to green growth issues. These issues, pursuant to Decision 2 of the Forum of Ministers include; inter alia;

- a) Building a common regional vision on sustainable production and consumption, including but not limited to circular economy.
- b) Serving as a platform to exchange best practices and promote South-South and North-South cooperation,
- c) Providing science-based knowledge on the opportunities and co-benefits of a circular economy approach to post COVID-19 economic recovery, including its potential to create new jobs, promote innovation in resource efficiency practices and accelerate the adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns. All this as an important contribution to achieve the goals under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement, and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.
- d) Increasing dialogue and access financing for innovation and circular economy by governments and the private sector, with special emphasis on small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
- e) Supporting resource mobilization for the operationalization of the Regional Coalition on Circular Economy and the implementation of projects in the region.

In addition, the KTH will continue working with and strengthening relationships with a wide cross-section of international organisations, in particular, the PAGE agencies—**UNEP, UNITAR, UNIDO, UNDP, ILO.**

### **3.6.2. SIDS Global and its Negotiation Arm**

Naturally, the KTH will build linkages with SIDS in the other two SIDS regions—the **Pacific and AIMS regions**. A key strategy going forward, in this regard, will be for Sub-Knowledge Transfer Hubs to be established in the other SIDS regions. In addition, since SIDS, within the context of the United Nations System, negotiates within the existing system of Regional Groups—African SIDS in the **African Group**; the Asian, Indian Ocean and Pacific SIDS in **Asia-Pacific Group**; the Caribbean SIDS in the **Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)**, these regional groupings could also be considered as part of the KTH alliances sphere of influence.

The KTH will develop functional linkages with the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), which is the negotiating arm of SIDS within the United Nations System. This will be necessary to ensure that the knowledge generated through the negotiating activities of AOSIS are captured. Since AOSIS is the negotiating arm of SIDS in the United Nations Systems; and since one of the support services which will be provided by the KTH is support to those negotiations, it will be important for a close functional relationship be forged between AOSIS and the KTH.

### **3.6.3. Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Land Management for Caribbean SIDS**

Alliances will need to be built between the SIDS-SIDS Green-Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub and the Partnership Initiative for the Sustainable Land Management (PISLM) for Caribbean SIDS, since both entities would be involved in Knowledge based activities. In the case of the PISLM its involvement in Knowledge promotion is more limited to Sustainable Land Management in that SOILCARE Phase 1, for which the PISLM is the Executing Agency has as one of its components the establishment of a Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Knowledge Hub which is intended to facilitate digital collaboration between the participating Member States as well as with other SIDS and the rest of the world in general, thus enabling the sharing of experiences, knowledge and learning about LDN, SSM and SLM issues particularly relevant to SOILCARE Phase 1 as well as the UNCCD and the activities of ASLAC-Caribbean.<sup>50,51</sup>

The need will therefore exists for these two entities to work together, thus providing the basis for a Network of Knowledge Transfer Hubs in CSIDS. The basis for such collaboration is in the making since the PISLM has already signal the need for these two entities to work together. This is exemplified by the pronounced by the PISLM that it intends to take the lead in the development of “*Post COVID-19 Environment and Sustainable Recovery Strategy for Caribbean SIDS*,”<sup>52</sup> and in so doing, it will be done in collaboration with the proposed Small Island Developing States Knowledge Hub which was mentioned in Decision 8 of this august body on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.<sup>53</sup> This Initiative will be a Multi-Donor Initiative which seeks to encourage, facilitate and promote sustainable land-based activities; resilient livelihood options and opportunities and sustainable infrastructure to support green recovery and future resilience in Caribbean SIDS.<sup>54</sup>

#### **3.6.4. Commonwealth Secretariat and Francophone SIDS<sup>55</sup>**

The KTH will also build an alliance with the Commonwealth Secretariat and some of the affiliated organisations associated with the Commonwealth such as the Virtual University of Small States (VUSS) based in Canada and the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC) etc., as well as the International Organization of the Francophonie,<sup>56</sup> since SIDS are also members of that

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<sup>50</sup> See Component 5, Output 5.2.1. Caribbean LDN and SLM Knowledge Hub Established of SOILCARE, Phase 1.

<sup>51</sup> Aspects which the SOILCARE Phase 1 Knowledge Hub will have are: Learning and Data/Information Gathering and Dissemination Mechanism; the publication of the Caribbean Land-Soil Outlook 2030 to facilitate dissemination of knowledge generated by the project and a Regional SLM and LDN Public Education and Awareness Initiative as the basis for establishing and implementing a Sustained Public Education and Awareness Programme on SLM, SSM and LDN.

<sup>52</sup> This is one of the five areas which the Prime Minister of Barbados highlighted in her presentation during the High Level Segment of the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean, on the theme, “The Environmental Dimension of the COVID-19.” This issue is also highlighted in the Bridgetown Declaration of the said Forum of Ministers of Environment Meeting.

<sup>53</sup> Intervention of the Executive Director of the PISLM at the Ministerial Panel on the Role of Nature and Ecosystems Restoration in Building a Sustainable Recovery; 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021, at the Ministerial Panel on “the Role of Nature and Ecosystems Restoration in Building a Sustainable Recovery,” XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean, hosted by Barbados virtually on 1-2 February 2021.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> SIDS that are members of the [International Organization of the Francophonie](#).

<sup>56</sup> This organization was formed in Niger in March 1970, as an intergovernmental organisation of French-speaking nations called the Agency of Cultural and Technical Cooperation. In In 1998, it became the Intergovernmental Agency of Francophonie and when its new Charter of Francophony was adopted in 2005, the organisation was renamed “the International Organisation of La

organisation (See Table 3. 2.). A closer examination of Table 4.2, suggests that approximately 59 percent of the countries which are classified as SIDS are also Commonwealth Small States

Commonwealth Small States (CSS) <sup>57</sup>	Small Island Developing States (SIDS) <sup>58</sup>	Francophonie SIDS
<b>Caribbean</b>	<b>Caribbean</b>	
Antigua and Barbuda	Antigua and Barbuda	
Bahamas	Bahamas	
Barbados	Barbados	
Belize	Belize	
Dominica	Dominica	Dominica
Grenada	Grenada	
Guyana	Guyana	
Jamaica	Jamaica	
St. Kitts and Nevis	St. Kitts and Nevis	
St. Lucia	St. Lucia	St. Lucia
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	
Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago	
	Cuba	
	Dominican Republic	
	Haiti	Haiti
	Suriname	
<b>Africa</b>	<b>African, Asian and Indian Ocean</b>	<b>African, Asian and Indian Ocean</b>
Mauritius	Mauritius	Mauritius
Seychelles	Seychelles	Seychelles
Botswana		
Lesotho		
Namibia		
Swaziland		
	Cape Verde	Cape Verde
	Comoros	Comoros
	Guinea-Bissau	Guinea-Bissau
	San Tome and Principe	San Tome and Principe
<b>Asia</b>		
Brunei Darussalam		
Maldives	Maldives	
	Singapore	
<b>Pacific</b>	<b>Pacific</b>	<b>Pacific</b>
Fiji	Fiji	
Nauru	Nauru	
Tonga	Tonga	
Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea	
<a href="#">Kiribati</a>	<a href="#">Kiribati</a>	
<a href="#">Samoa</a>	<a href="#">Samoa</a>	
<a href="#">Solomon Islands</a>	<a href="#">Solomon Islands</a>	
<a href="#">Tuvalu</a>	<a href="#">Tuvalu</a>	
<a href="#">Vanuatu</a>	<a href="#">Vanuatu</a>	<a href="#">Vanuatu</a>
	Cook Island	
	Marshall Island	
	Niue	
	Micronesia (Federal State of )	
	Palau	
	Timor –Lester	
<b>Europe</b>		
Cyprus*		

Francophonie” (IOF) as it is still known today. Geographically the IOF spans Europe, West Africa, Central Africa, the Indian Ocean region, North Africa and the Middle East, America and the Caribbean, and Asia and South Pacific with 31 of its member states and governments are located in Europe. Together, the members of the IOF represent over one-third of the United Nations’ member states with a population of over 890 million people, including 220 million French speakers.

<sup>57</sup> Defined as countries mostly with populations of around 1.5 million or less. Included in this Grouping are Botswana, Jamaica, Lesotho, Namibia and Papua New Guinea because these countries share many of the same characteristics of small states.

<sup>58</sup> After the United Nations at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sids/memberstates>

**Table 3.2.: Commonwealth Small States (CSS) and Small Island Developing States**

(CSS). Of the 16 Caribbean SIDS, 12 or 75 percent are CSS; of the 15 Pacific SIDS, 9 or 60 percent are CSS and of the 8 Africa, Asia and Indian Ocean SIDS, 2 or 20 percent are CSS

### **3.6.5. Cooperation with the European Union and Supporting Institutions and Mechanisms**

The EU is one of the major financiers of projects programmes implemented in SIDS, worldwide. It therefore is in a position to exert considerable influence on the public policy directions of these countries. This influence is facilitated through a number of institutional structures and processes. At a macro-level, is the **The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States**<sup>59</sup> (ACP) which could be used more strategically by the KTH in support of Small Island Developing States Sustainability. Approximately ninety two percent of the countries classified as SIDS are members of the ACP, representing about forty six percent of the ACP's membership. Most of the SIDS, with the exception of a few (i.e. Singapore, Maldives and Timor-Leste) are signatory to the *Cotonou Agreement* also known as the *ACP-EU Partnership Agreement*. Sustainable development of its Member States and their gradual integration into the world economy, the ACP/EU has a central role to play in SIDS sustainability. The main instrument which is currently being used as the basis of the relationship between the ACP Member States and the European Union is the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA); a scheme aimed at creating a Free Trade Area (FTA) with the ACP Group of States.

Other structures which have evolved with which the KTH will need to build linkages with are in the case of Caribbean SIDS the **Forum of the Caribbean Group**<sup>60</sup> of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States (CARIFORUM), formally established in 1975 with the signing of the *Georgetown Declaration*; the main mechanism for the promotion of policy dialogue and coordination with the European Union. It provides the Forum for cooperation with the EU, within the framework of the *Cotonou Agreement* between the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of countries (ACP) and the European Union (EU) and the CARIFORUM-European Community Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). It is through this mechanism that Caribbean SIDS, with the exception of Cuba, benefit directly from regional resources under Caribbean Regional Indicative Programmes financed by the European Development Fund (EDF).

The new EU Funding instrument exemplifies the need for the KTH to develop tangible linkages with the EU, given the overall allocation of €79.5 billion in current prices, the EU's new instrument

<sup>59</sup> **The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States** (ACP) is an organisation created by the Georgetown Agreement in 1975. It is composed of 79 **African, Caribbean and Pacific states**, with all of them, save Cuba, signatories to the Cotonou Agreement, also known as the "ACP-EC Partnership Agreement" which binds them to the European Union.

<sup>60</sup> Established in 1992, this body is a subgroup of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States and serves as a base for economic dialogue with the European Union. It was established in 1992. Its membership comprises the 15 CSIDS (with the exception of Cuba) and Montserrat, which is still a British dependent territory but also a full Member of the Caribbean Community.

cover for EU cooperation with all third countries. The total allocation will be divided as follows: €60.38 billion for geographic programmes (at least €19.32 billion for the Neighbourhood, at least €29.18 billion for Sub-Saharan Africa, €8.48 billion for Asia and the Pacific, and Americas and the Caribbean, €3.39 billion); €6.36 billion for thematic programmes (Human Rights and Democracy, Civil Society Organisations, Peace, Stability and Peace Conflict Prevention and Global Challenges); €3.18 billion for rapid response actions. A “cushion” of unallocated funds of €9.53 billion could top-up any of the above-mentioned programmes and rapid response mechanism, to address unforeseen circumstances, new needs or emerging challenges and promote new priorities.<sup>61</sup>

### **3.6.6. The Hemispheric Level: Latin America and the Caribbean**

Caribbean SIDS are also members of a number of hemispheric bodies through which they can articulate their concerns and influence action in support of their sustainability. It will therefore be prudent for the KTH to build linkages with these bodies and processes. In terms of processes, probably, one of the most important is the Forum of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>62</sup>—the preeminent space for Hemispheric Dialogue on the environment. The Forum of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean has since adopted a number of Decisions since 2003 on the Sustainable Development of SIDS. The Government of Barbados has had the distinction of the only English Speaking SIDS that has served as the President of the Forum on two occasions. Firstly, in 2000 and more recently in February 2021, when it hosted, virtually, the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean. Another United Nations body which the KTH should also follow is the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.<sup>63</sup> This is the regional mechanism to follow up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its means of implementation, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

In addition, there are a number of hemispheric organisations in which Caribbean SIDS participate, namely the Organisation of American States (OAS); the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (Spanish: *Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños*, (CELAC)); and to a limited extent, the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas (ALBA), with which relations should be built. With the exception of Cuba all Caribbean SIDS are members of the OAS which brings together 32 Member States of Latin America and the Caribbean with the United States. All

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<sup>61</sup> European Commission - Press release European Commission welcomes political agreement on future €79.5 billion for a new instrument to finance the EU external action and lead the global recovery through international partnerships, Brussels, 18 December 2020.

<sup>62</sup> This is a body that meets under the United Nations Environment Programme to discuss environmental issues and priorities within the Hemisphere.

<sup>63</sup> The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, through Resolution 700 (XXXVI) approved in May 2016 within the framework of the Thirty-sixth Session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), created the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a regional mechanism for the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SDGs, their targets and means of implementation, as well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development.

Caribbean SIDS are also members of CELAC which was created by the signature of the *Declaration of Caracas* on 3 December 2011. The CELAC comprise of the 33 Member States of Latin America and the Caribbean and is the successor of the [Rio Group](#).<sup>64</sup> The CELAC has bi-lateral relations with the European Union and regular CELAC-EU Summits are convened.

### 3.6.7. Other Partnerships and Alliances

There are a number of other institutions and/or processes which the TKH could benefit from in terms of establishing formal partnerships. One such institution/process is the Sustainable Markets Initiative (SMI). This Initiative aims to lead and accelerate the world's transition to a sustainable future by putting Nature, People and Planet at the heart of global value creation. The Sustainable Markets Initiative was launched by His Royal Highness at The World Economic Forum 2020 Annual Meeting in Davos together with a **10-point action plan** to kick start bold and imaginative action across the next decade. These include:

- ✓ **Shifting our default setting to sustainable**, by putting sustainability at the centre of our business models, our analysis, our decisions and our actions.
- ✓ **Outlining responsible transition pathways to decarbonize and achieve net and negative zero** by moving together with clear roadmaps that create efficiencies and economies of scale that will allow us to leapfrog our collective progress and accelerate our transition.
- ✓ **Reimagining industries through the lens of sustainable markets** to create entirely new industries, products, and services and supply chains while, in parallel, helping to transition our existing systems.
- ✓ **Identifying game-changers and barriers to transition.** To accelerate, we need to showcase and invest in the game-changing technologies and emerging solutions while eliminating the barriers to progress.
- ✓ **Reversing perverse subsidies and improving incentives for sustainable alternatives.** Levelling the playing field and to think about how we properly deploy taxes, policies and regulation in a way that catalyses sustainable markets.
- ✓ **Invest in STEM, innovation and R&D with a focus on sustainable solutions, alternatives and industries.** We are on the verge of catalytic breakthroughs that will alter our view of what is possible – and profitable – within the framework of a sustainable future. It is time to invest in solutions.
- ✓ **Investing in nature as the true engine of our economy by building conservation and nature-based solutions into our asset base and supply chains** which offer significant economic growth opportunities, including in areas such as the circular bioeconomy, ecotourism and green public infrastructure.

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<sup>64</sup> The Rio Group was created on 18 December 1986 in [Rio de Janeiro](#), Brazil by means of the Declaration of Rio de Janeiro. Seven Caribbean SIDS were members, namely Belize, Cuba, Dominica Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica and Suriname.

- ✓ **Adopting common metrics and standards.**  
An increasing number of corporations are adopting environmental, social and governance (ESG) methodologies and highlighting their investments aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. However, it is time to move to unified metrics and global standards.
- ✓ **Making the sustainable options the trusted and attainable options for consumers.**  
With consumers controlling an estimated 60% of global GDP, people around the world have the power to drive the transformation to sustainable markets. We must better communicate with consumers about the sustainability of the goods, services and investments we offer.
- ✓ **Connecting investments to investables using platforms that can rapidly scale solutions.** It is time to align sustainable solutions with funding in a way that can transform the marketplace. This requires not only showcasing high potential investments but also reimagining financial analysis, structuring and models of return.

Another mechanism, with which the TKH could build an alliance with is the Adaptation Action Coalition<sup>65</sup> which was formed in January 2021, to build upon the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit (UNCAS) ‘[Call for Action on Adaptation and Resilience](#). The Adaptation Action Coalition will deliver sector-specific, action-orientated work streams, initially focused on health, infrastructure and water in 2021. It will however, deliver work across all 12 of the [Adaptation Action Agenda](#) sectors, with the view to demonstrate real world action that is being taken to respond to climate risks; build the evidence base on good adaptation; support the integration of climate risk into sectoral and national plans; ensure work is driven in partnership with others, including the [Race to Resilience](#) to bring together state and non-state actors, and integrate inclusion and the locally-led principles.<sup>66</sup>

### 3.4. Marketing and Communication

In the initial stages of its operations, the building of linkages with organisations will be a critical part of the KTH’s work. A considerable amount of work will need to be undertaken in promoting the work of the KTH, the services it provides and the activities it promotes and undertake. In addition, it could be used as **a vehicle for the promotion of Knowledge (tacit) resident in Barbados and CSIDS in general to other SIDS and developing countries**, in general. This will entail at an early stage in its development the recruitment of an Education, Knowledge and Communication Specialist who is knowledgeable about Green Economy and green growth strategies to spearhead the Hub’s external programming. Key aspects of this work will be the formulation of a **Marketing, Outreach and Communication Strategy (MOCS)** for the HUB. Aspects of the MOCS should include *inter alia*; a strategy:

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<sup>65</sup> The Coalition was developed by the UK in partnership with Egypt, Bangladesh, Malawi, the Netherlands, Saint Lucia and the United Nations.

<sup>66</sup> For more information on the Coalition see [Adaptation Action Coalition: an overview - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



- The building linkages with key Green Economy institutions;
- Ensuring that all future GEF projects financed by the GEF has a Knowledge Transfer component which is implemented by the HUB. This will be but one of the strategies for ensuring sustainability of funding for the HUB.
- The promotion of Knowledge generated from the work of the University of the West Indies. This will constitute part of the KTH as the Academy for the Green Economy in SIDS, worldwide.

The operationalisation of the SIDS\_SIDS Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub will require resources to facilitate its start-up and continuation of its operations, in the short and medium term. Section Four therefore deals with “Resource Requirements, Resource Mobilisation and the Budget” considerations for the KTH.

## **Section 4: Resource Requirements, Resource Mobilisation and Budget**

This Section provides an overview of the resource requirements for the SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub as well as the identification of possible sources, where resources can be leveraged to facilitate its operationalization. The Knowledge Transfer Hub is a *sine qua non*, if CSIDS and SIDS in general, wishes to extract from the international system more substantive benefits to SIDS. It is most unlikely, that the international community will convened another international meeting on the sustainable development of SIDS; however, what will continue to drive the spotlight on SIDS are the supporting SIDS specific institutions which have evolved since the adoption of Chapter 17.G of Agenda 21 by the international community. Unfortunately, very few institutions have evolved in CSIDS, despite being the intellectual birthplace of the Concept of “Small Island Developing States,”<sup>67</sup> has come from the Caribbean, nor has a robust research and academic programme gained root in the region’s academic institutions which sought to build on the gains made by the coining of the concept of SIDS in international environment and sustainable development discourse and negotiations. The Knowledge Transfer Hub, as one of the first SIDS specific related institution, in Caribbean SIDS, therefore has very important role to play, in this regard. Its establishment is necessary and urgent.

### **4.1. Towards a Strategy for Resources Mobilisation**

Since the KTH will be performing a supporting function, theoretically, part of its financing should come from the myriad of projects, in particular GEF projects, being implemented in the region, since all of them should have a Knowledge Management component, and now, in light of this development, a “Knowledge Transfer” component. This view, however, may not be practically possible at this stage, since project development in the region as a whole, is not done in a central systematic manner, but to a large extent, still driven by narrow national interest, *per se*. This is the situation, notwithstanding the argument made, “[...] *that a more coordinated approach for the mobilization of resources in line with the Caribbean Community and its Member States strategic objectives is required [...] greater benefits [can be realized] if regional projects are coordinated during both development and implementation phases.*”<sup>68</sup> Table 4.1. nevertheless provides an overview of some of the possible sources of finance which can be leveraged to finance the programmes of the Knowledge Transfer Hub. To trigger these resources, however, a considerable

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<sup>67</sup> See the Statement Made in the General Debate by Dr. Mark D. Griffith, Barbados Representative at the First Substantive Session of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and development, Nairobi, Kenya, August 8, 1990, 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, First Substantive Session of the Preparatory Committee, Nairobi, Kenya, August 6-31, 1990.

In Dr. Griffith’s Statement a Call was made for emphasis to be placed on the special vulnerabilities of small island states. This Call was subsequently follow-up by the Barbados representative which was galvanized over the next two years culminating in the inclusion in Agenda 21, of a specific section (Chapter 17 (G)) focusing on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). This marked the origin of the Concept of SIDS in international environment and sustainable development negotiation. The convening of the First United Nations Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island developing States held in Barbados in April/May 1994 was strategically designed to consolidate the gains made at Rio and to consolidate SIDS as a recognized group of countries within the United Nations, having special requirements for environment and development.

<sup>68</sup> Griffith, M.D. and D. Oderson, Strengthening the Inner Circle for Environment and Sustainable Development: The case of the Caribbean Community, CaribInvest Publishing in Collaboration with Wade Ross Publishing, Publidisa Mexicana S.A. Mexico, Caribinvest West Indies Limited, 2009, pp. 273.

Possible Indicative Sources of Financing for the Knowledge Transfer Hub	Indicative Follow-Up Action Which is Required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Given the benefits to be derived by the Operationalisation of the Green-Blue Economy Transfer Knowledge Hub, PAGE should make an initial investment to facilitate the operationalization of the Transfer Hub.</li> </ul>	<p>It is being recommended that the PAGE-Programme funds the KTH Programme Director for the first 2-3 years of its operations. Thereafter the KTH should have been evolved sufficiently to mobilise the resources to finance the continuation of the Programme’s Director tenure.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decision 8 on the “<i>Environmental Dimension of the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)</i>” of the XXII Meeting of the Forum of minister of the Environment for Latin America held in Barbados on 1-2-February 2021 calls for “support [for] Caribbean SIDS with the establishment of a Regional Modality or Institutional Mechanism in Caribbean SIDS, in the form of a SIDS Cooperation and Knowledge Hub preferably within a regional university, with the support of the ITC Agencies and others financial institutions such as the GEF, regional and hemispheric banks (e.g. CDB; Latin American Bank, IADB etc.) and UN Agencies.</li> </ul>	<p>This Decision should be actioned. Since the UWI, Cave Hill Campus, is taking the initiative through the PAGE-Barbados Programme in establishing the SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Knowledge Transfer Hub, the University should <b>officially in writing</b> convey this message to the Forum of Minister of the Environment Secretariat so it can be registered and efforts made to mobilise the necessary resources for its operationalization. Hence the KTH will be expected to play an important role in the mobilization of CSIDS work and activities to support the implementation of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of LAC Outcomes and Outputs, which is currently lacking by CSIDS, in general. The Hub could also play an oversight role on the behalf of CSIDS on the various Working Groups which have been established to coordinate the Forum Outcomes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All new GEF projects being developed in the Region should have a ‘Knowledge Transfer’ component and resources allocated within the project resources to facilitate this. Part of those resources should, theoretically, be invested in the Knowledge Transfer Hub.</li> </ul>	<p>This will require a number of fundamental changes in project development in the region: (1) The issue of “Knowledge Transfer” in GEF Projects would have to be agreed by the GEF; (2) CSIDS, especially the English speaking CSIDS, especially the CSIDS which are Member States of the Caribbean Community would need to agree that resources allocated to “Knowledge Transfer” to be invested in the Knowledge Hub; (3) Where single subject Knowledge Hubs are already part of regional projects; collaborative arrangements would need to be workout with respect to the sharing of knowledge <i>et al.</i> Consideration will have to be given to the rationalization of Knowledge Hubs in the Region. One way of doing this is through the establishment of a Regional Network of CSIDS Knowledge Hubs, which will eventually be linked to other Knowledge Hubs in the other SIDS’s Regions.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leveraging of financial support under the the <i>Economic Partnership Agreement Between CARIFORUM States, on the one part, and the European Union and its Member State, on the other part</i> on the relevant provisions being implemented by the TKH</li> </ul>	<p>Provision is made under the EPA for its implementation. Since the TKH will be taking the lead on the implementation of some provisions of the EPA (e.g. Articles 136 and 138, as example) resources could be leverage under the EPA for their implementation of the proposed SIDS-EU Knowledge Transfer Initiative. Follow-up with the CARIFORUM Secretariat is therefore necessary.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new EU Financing Mechanism—the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument<sup>69</sup>—which based on the geographic programmes allocation at least €3.39 billion has been allocated Americas and the Caribbean.</li> </ul>	<p>Many areas under this programme are relevant to the Strategic Programmatic focus of the SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Transfer Knowledge Hub. For example, under the theme “<b>Environment and Climate</b>” areas highlighted include as examples, “Developing and/or strengthening sustainable green and blue growth in all economic sectors; Supporting efforts to improve sustainable economic diversification, competitiveness and trade, private sector development with a particular focus on low-carbon climate resilient green growth, microenterprises and SMEs and cooperatives, taking advantage of existing trade agreements with the EU. <b>Under Prosperity</b>: Promoting cooperation in the areas of science, technology and research, and open data and innovation; <b>Under Partnerships</b>: Enhancing country ownership, partnership and dialogue, in order to contribute to greater effectiveness of development cooperation in all its dimensions [...]. A proposal should be formulated immediately to leverage resources through this EU Financing Mechanism.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The USA New Initiative on “Small and Less Populous Island Economies (SALPIE) Initiative,” a new economic cooperation framework designed to strengthen U.S. collaboration with these island economies to counter COVID-19 economic challenges, promote economic recovery, respond to the climate crisis, and advance longer-term shared interests.</li> </ul>	<p>A proposal should be formulated to leverage funding for the design and implementation of a Post COVID-19 Green, Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Recovery Programme for CSIDS.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation of a GEF Medium Sized Knowledge Transfer Project—<b>GEF Learn Knowledge Initiative</b>— the objective of which is to undertake an analysis and review of the GEF projects implemented in CSIDS with the view of extracting valuable knowledge on approaches, technologies etc. used and how they can be used to (a) inform learning and (b) future project development and (c) implications for decision making.</li> </ul>	<p>A GEF Medium-Sized Project should be prepared for leverage financing from the GEF.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic Partnership Agreement between the CARIFORUM States, of the one part, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the other part</li> </ul>	<p>Resources could be leverage from the UK through this agreement.</p>
	<p>Provision is made under the EPA for its implementation. Since the TKH will be taking the lead on the implementation of some provisions of the EPA (e.g. Articles 136 and 138, as example) resources could be leverage under the EPA for their implementation. Follow-up with the CARIFORUM Secretariat is therefore necessary.</p>

<sup>69</sup> For more information on the areas which this programme covers See EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Enhancing country ownership, partnership and dialogue, in order to contribute to greater effectiveness of development cooperation in all its dimensions (giving special consideration for the specific challenges of Least Developed Countries and countries affected by conflict, as well as specific transitional challenges of more advanced developing countries); Brussels, 14.6.2018 COM(2018) 460 final ANNEXES 1 to 7.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commonwealth Secretariat in particular the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC) and the Small States Programme.</li> </ul>	<p>The CFTC should be targeted to finance the Education, Knowledge and Communication Specialist for at least the first three years of the Hub’s operation. A formal request would need to be made by the UWI for personnel support for the Hub.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable Markets Initiative (SMI): This Initiative aims to lead and accelerate the world's transition to a sustainable future by putting Nature, People and Planet at the heart of global value creation. The Sustainable Markets Initiative was launched by His Royal Highness at The World Economic Forum 2020 Annual Meeting in Davos together with a <b>10-point action plan</b> to kickstart bold and imaginative action across the next decade.</li> </ul>	<p>Proposals should be developed for implementation under this programme.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Green Climate Fund, the world’s largest climate Fund.</li> </ul>	<p>The GCF has a range of financial instruments which are available to its members. These financial instruments include, <i>inter alia</i>: grants, concessional loans, equity and guarantees. Some of the instruments, include, inter alia; the Readiness and preparatory Support Programme (the Readiness Programme) supports country-driven initiatives by strengthening institutional capacities, governance mechanisms, and planning and programming frameworks towards a transformational long-term climate action agenda; Simplified Approval Process Pilot Scheme (SAP); The Private Sector Facility (PSF) and The Project Preparation Facility (PPF).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>G-STIC CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME Under which Close to €5 million subsidies for rolling out climate-impact solutions in developing countries has been programmed.</li> </ul>	<p>To support developing countries in the fight against climate change, the Government of Flanders launches the G-STIC Climate Action Programme in 2021, a call for proposals in the field of international climate finance. This programme provides €4,849,361 in subsidies for projects which implement and upscale climate solutions in developing countries. The goal is to enable these countries to follow low-carbon development paths and to make their communities more resilient to the impact of climate change. The programme strengthens the implementation of developing countries' climate policies, strategies, regulations, action plans and actions for both adaptation and mitigation to help achieve the Paris Agreement goals. For projects to be eligible they must be aimed at supporting actions in developing countries which strive to develop or implement measures to adapt to the effects of climate change (adaptation) and/or limit climate change by addressing the causes (mitigation), in line with the OECD DAC Rio Markers for Climate Handbook.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ireland’s Strategy for Partnership with Small Island Developing States</li> </ul>	<p>Ireland’s approach is informed by the Government’s Global Ireland 2025 strategy, which amongst other things seeks to increase Ireland’s engagement with island states in the Asia Pacific, Latin America and Caribbean regions, as well as Africa. This initiative takes a new approach to how Ireland collaborates with SIDS (as a group, and in regional blocs, as well as bilaterally), on multilateral issues.</p>

**Table 4.1. Possible Indicative Sources of Financing for the Knowledge Transfer Hub**

initial preparatory work is required to leverage them. In this regard, it must be noted, however, that based on the indicative identification of the possible sources of financing for the establishment and operations of the Hub, significant follow-up will be required on the part of the promoters of the Knowledge Transfer Hub, including the preparation of project documents, as a means of tapping into the possible pots of resources which might be available.

That being said, the question which arises is: *What are the sources of financing which can be leveraged to facilitate the operationalization of the Knowledge Transfer Hub to facilitate its Start-up?* The answer to this question is critical in helping to determine the feasibility of establishing the SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Knowledge Transfer Hub. For ease of reference, Table 4.2 “*Preliminary Sources of Income for the Hub during its First Three Years of Operations*” based on activities currently being undertaken in CSIDS, gives a brief snapshot of some of the possible sources of financing that can be leveraged in support of the operationalization of the Hub. Based on the analysis of the possible funding possibilities which exist, the resources required to jump-start the operations of the Hub and the importance of the functions, from a SIDS perspective, **it is concluded that the SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub is feasible. Given the benefits to be derived from its establishment as outlined in Table 2.1., it is recommended that the SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub should be established at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, in the shortest possible. With the PAGE-Barbados Programme expected to come to an end in December 2021, for the next several months, this Programme should be transitioning into the SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub, with a formal start-up, probably during the last quarter of 2022.**

The first and foremost source of possible seed financing for the operationalisation of the KTH is through the PAGE Programme. It is being recommended that PAGE invest, initially, enough resources to jump-start the establishment of the Hub. In this regard, **the PAGE Programme, should finance the post of the Knowledge Transfer Programme Director in the initial stages of its operationalization**—as a minimum, for the first three years of the Director’s tenure. **The rationale for this is quite simple, since the SIDS-SIDS Green –Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub will evolved, overtime, as a SIDS Centre of Excellency for the promotion of Green Growth Development, catering for SIDS, globally.** Further, it will form an integral part of the Network of Green Growth Institutions which can contribute to bringing policy makers, business and the financial communities to promote, manage and share green growth strategies. Secondly, the wealth of knowledge on green growth approaches, methods and technologies which have been implemented in CSIDS through GEF project interventions should be sourced. The constraint, however, is that no such effort has been made to analyse and collates these experience. Herein lies an opportunity for approaching the GEF to leverage resources to undertake the same. Such an approach is timely, as it coincides with the need for CSIDS to embark on a Post COVID-19, Green, Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Recovery, aimed at “Building Back Better.” Once this initial capacity is in place, the onus will fall on the Hub Director to mobilise additional resources for the Hub’s operations. An invest through the PAGE Programme in the Hub would signal to the rest of the world a serious commitment and provide the basis for attracting additional resources.

Proposed Activity		Preliminary Projected Income For Years 1-3, (USD)	Comment
<b>1</b>	<b>Human Resources (Salaries)</b>		
	Knowledge Transfer Hub Programme Director	345,000.00 <sup>70</sup>	Resources to be provided through the PAGE Programme
	Education, Knowledge and Communication Specialist	282,000.00 <sup>71</sup>	Technical assistance to be provided through the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC)
	Research Officer		Resources to be provided through a GEF Medium Sized Project**
	Secretary/Office Assistance		Resources to be provided through the PAGE Programme
	Short Term Resource Mobilisation Consultant to assist with Resource Mobilisation (Short Term)		Resources to be provided through a GEF Medium Sized Project**
<b>2</b>	<b>Development of Green Learning Products and Processes from International Legally Binding and Soft Law Instruments</b>		
	Caribbean SIDS Knowledge Transfer Programme and GEF Learn Knowledge Initiative	1,000,000-2,000,000	Resources to be Mobilised through Global Environment Facility (GEF) Medium Sized Projects.**
<b>3</b>	<b>Supporting mainstreaming, coordination and implementation of learning, education, applied research, and analytical components of PAGE Barbados, as well as activities designed to “build back better” in the post COVID-19 world</b>	190,000.00	This Focus Area, with the exception of the potential Post COVID activity, is already committed under the Current PAGE Barbados Programme and are considered as transitional resources (e.g. EGS Trade Assessment: 85,000 from UNEP; Green Jobs Survey, 65,000: ILO; Climate Impact Assessment of Fisheries Value Chain, 25,000: UNIDO and Climate Youth, 20,000: UNDP).
	PAGE Post COVID-19 Recovery Project	100,000.00	Already approved. Relevant elements to be implemented by the Hub.
	Post COVID-19 Green Sustainable Recovery Strategy		Project Proposal to be Developed. Possible Sources of Finance, include, a range of options as outlined in Table 4.1.
<b>4</b>	<b>SIDS-SIDS Knowledge Linkages and Partnership Programmes</b>		Project Documents would need to be developed.
<b>5</b>	<b>Development and Sharing of Knowledge Products on Green and Blue Economy in SIDS</b>		
	Development and Delivery of training 1: Course on international environmental and sustainable development negotiations,	80,000.00	Development of a new specialized Course on International Environment and Sustainable Development Negotiations. Source of Resources. Resources to be Mobilised
	Development and Delivery of Training 2: international institutional architecture for environment and sustainable development	50,000.00	Request to be made to the Commonwealth Secretariat for the use of its course. The Courses already exists but will require updated.
	Development and Delivery of Training 3: sustainable consumption and production. Application and Implications of Circular Economy Transformation in CSIDS	60,000.00	Course to be held for CSIDS in collaboration with UNEP/ROLAC Sustainable and Consumption Programme for LAC. UNEP SCP Programme to be targeted to provide the resources for this Training Workshop
<b>6</b>	<b>Project and Programme Conceptualisation, Development and Execution</b>	Estimated Cost of Projects: 3-5 million	Project Documents would need to be developed

\*\* To be Mobilised via GEF Projects

**Table 4.1. Preliminary Sources of Income for the Hub during its First Three Years of Operations**

<sup>70</sup> Based on United Nations Salary Scale for P5

<sup>71</sup> Based on United Nations Salary Scale for P4

Since the concept of the establishment of a “*SIDS Cooperation and Knowledge Hub*” has been endorsed by the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean, pursuant to its Decision 8 on the “*Environmental Dimension of the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)*” this should be used as a basis for leveraging of resources to assist with the operations of the KTH. As a follow-up the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, has formally informed the Forum Secretariat of its intension as serving as the at the earliest possible time to communicate its intension of hosting the Technology Transfer Hub as agreed by the Forum of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean Secretariat. This signals a commitment, which could be used as a context for resource mobilisation. This will be a very positive development for CSIS since the KTH will be implementing elements of the Decisions of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment for LAC. This will also serve as an important vehicle in heightening the importance of the Forum and its outcomes in Caribbean SIDS, which is currently lacking.

In terms of additional technical staff, it is being recommended that a request be made by the University of the West Indies, backed by the Government of Barbados to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation<sup>72</sup> (CFTC) for the financing of the post of Education, Knowledge and Communication Specialist. The other technical position—Research Specialist—and the short-term Resource Mobilisation Consultant, be financed through project resources. In this regard, a GEF Medium Sized Project should be formulated, immediately, with the backing of the Government of Barbados, or any other CSIDS, for consideration by the GEF. The focus of which could be the development of the —GEF Learn Knowledge Initiative—the objective of which is to undertake an analysis and review of the GEF projects implemented in CSIDS with the view of extracting valuable green learning knowledge, on approaches, technologies etc. used and how they can be used to (a) inform learning and (b) future project development and (c) implications for decision making and (e) provide valuable information on the Green strategies and approaches which can be employed in the Post COVID-19 Green Sustainable Recovery efforts.

In terms of the Programmatic aspects of the KTH, there are a relatively large number of options, as outlined in Table 4.1. which could be leveraged. One such option is through the EU. A number of possibilities exist in this regard, including, *inter alia*; (a) since the KTH will be implementing elements of the EPA resources could be sourced through that window. The necessary representation, however, would need to be made through the CARIFORUM Regional Office for this to be effective; (b) a financial proposal could be made under the new EU Financing Mechanism—the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument<sup>73</sup>—which based on the geographic programmes has an allocation at least €3.39 billion has been

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<sup>72</sup> Administered by the Commonwealth Secretariat, this mechanism is the principal means for providing technical assistance to Commonwealth countries. It is a mutual and voluntary fund. Members contribute resources according to ability and draw on them according to their needs.

<sup>73</sup> For more information on the areas which this programme covers See EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Enhancing country ownership, partnership and dialogue, in order to contribute to greater effectiveness of development cooperation in all its dimensions (giving special consideration for the specific challenges of Least Developed Countries and countries affected by conflict, as well as specific transitional challenges of more advanced developing countries); Brussels, 14.6.2018 COM(2018) 460 final ANNEXES 1 to 7.



allocated Americas and the Caribbean, and (c) leveraging of resources through possible programmes being implemented by the ACP.

Another option for which resources could be leveraged is through the new USA funding mechanism—the **Small and Less Populous Island Economies (SALPIE) Initiative**. This is a new economic cooperation framework designed to strengthen U.S. collaboration with these island economies to counter COVID-19 economic challenges, promote economic recovery, respond to the climate crisis, and advance longer-term shared interests.<sup>74</sup> This mechanism is ideal for an approach to assist CSIDS with the development and implementation of the CSIDS Post COVID-19 Sustainable Recovery Strategy called for pursuant to the Bridgetown Declaration adopted by the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean and included in the UK-Caribbean Forum Action Plan with a commitment by Caribbean countries to implement the terms of the LATAC Bridgetown Declaration of 2 February 2021.<sup>75</sup> The 10<sup>th</sup> UK-Caribbean Forum, was held virtually on 18 March 2021, with the Foreign Ministers of the United Kingdom and Caribbean countries. The Action Plan is for a two-year period up to 2023.

#### **4.2. Sequencing of Activities for the Operationalisation of the SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub**

During its first year of the SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub operations emphasis will be placed on refining the purpose and significance of the **SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub** as well as building out the cooperation infrastructure which is necessary for its long term sustainability. A key objective during its first year of operations will be to integrate the KTH into the global Network of Green Growth Organisations. In this regard, the KTH will establish formal linkages with a number of these organisations including, *inter alia*; the Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP) and the Green Economy Coalition. It will also establish linkages with the Global Academy on the Green Economy and commence planning for the eventual convening of a **SIDS Green Economy Training Course for SIDS**.

The flagship initiative of the KTH during its first year of operation will be the further development and implementation of the Green-Blue Economy Learning Programme. Based on the Learning Needs Assessment<sup>76</sup> it is anticipated that a number of specific activities will be identified for implementation.

An equally important focus of the KTH during its first year will be the bonding between the KTH and the CSIDS. This will be done initially through the convening of a number of specialized short Courses on emerging issues. Courses identified for implementation include, *inter alia*; international environmental and sustainable development negotiations, international institutional

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<sup>74</sup> The White House, Statement by NSC Spokesperson Emily Horne on National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and National Economic Council Director Brian Deese’s Small and Less Populous Island Economies (SALPIE) Initiative Launch Event, March 22, 2021, Statements and Releases

<sup>75</sup> See the **TENTH UK-CARIBBEAN FORUM: ACTION PLAN**, MARCH 18, 2021; [Tenth UK-Caribbean Forum: Action Plan - CARICOM](#)

<sup>76</sup> This Assessment is being undertaken during the months of May and June 2021. The results

architecture for environment and sustainable development, sustainable consumption and production with a focus on Circular Economy and implications for SIDS.

## Section 5: Conclusion

From the foregoing analysis and overview it is evident that the SIDS-SIDS Green –Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub is not only feasible; but will play a key role in placing Inclusive Green Economy (IGE) in Barbados on a stronger footing, providing institutional support for climate response and Post COVID-19 sustainable recovery as well continue to mobilize the public and private sectors in mainstreaming green learning in their day to day activities. It will also play a critical, strategic and necessary role to keep the SIDS Green and sustainable development agenda alive. **Consistent with the criteria<sup>77</sup> for PAGE sustainability, the SIDS-SIDS Green –Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub will provide the basis for a national coordination mechanism for IGE for Barbados as well for SIDS-Global. In essence, the SIDS-SIDS Green –Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub, fundamentally, ensures the sustainability of Barbados’ transformation efforts to a Green Economy.** The SIDS-SIDS Green –Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub will also serve as a vehicle for the development of strategies, plans and policies for implementing IGE across sectors, including within civil society and the private sector, as well as strengthening capacities for policy analysis and contributing to the reframing of economic and national development policies along IGE, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and climate action priorities. It is also pivotal for the integration of IGE elements into the University of the West Indies Curricula and training programmes delivered by the University and other national institutions.

Further, it may be argued that such a mechanism should have been established decades before as a mechanism to contribute to the intellectual thinking on the evolution of SIDS Sustainable Development and its position in influencing negotiations at the international and regional levels. Now that it is being developed, it should be done in such a manner, to evolve as the **SIDS-Global Green Learning Centre of Excellency**; a development which is already acknowledged by the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus.<sup>78</sup> A strategic Building Block, in this regard, should be the **“transitioning”** of the PAGE-Barbados Programme into the Hub. The implication being, that **all** of the PAGE-Barbados initiatives, are implemented through the Hub. As an integral part of this transitional process, PAGE-Global should make a tangible and significant investment in jump-starting the establishment of the KTH. In addition, the five PAGE Agencies which are currently involved in the financing of the PAGE-Barbados Programme should formulate a consolidated funded Programme for first three years of the Hub’s operations.

In terms of planning for the Sustainability, a Sustainable Financial Strategy for the Hub should be designed, as one of the operational aspects of the Hub. One plank of this Strategy should be the inclusion of all future GEF projects to be developed and implemented in CSIDS should have an explicit *“Knowledge Transfer Element”* contained, therein, which is implemented by the Hub. To

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<sup>77</sup> See the PAGE Guidance Note entitled “Developing a Sustainability Strategy for an Inclusive Green Economy.

<sup>78</sup> See the Statement Delivered by the Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal of the University of the West Indies Professor V. Eudine Barribeau, at the Renaming Ceremony for Owen Arthur CARICOM Complex on 10 July 2021, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados.

The Principal in recognizing that the institution “[...] continues to do sterling work in sustainable development [...]” explained that it “wishes to position itself as a Centre of Excellence in relation to the Green Economy [...]”.

further enhance this suggestion, it is further recommended that a separate SIDS Account be established in the University System at the Cave Hill Campus, complimented by a “***SIDS Sustainable Development Endowment Fund***” to provide support for innovative research and policy development on sustainable development in CSIDS, within the an “Environmentally sound, Climate Resilient, Green-Blue Economy Framework.”

## Annex 1

### University of the West Indies, Cav Hill Campus, Green Economy Talks: Consultation No. 1 on the SIDS-SIDS Green and Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub

#### 1.0. Introduction

A number of consultations were held to support the overall objective of Green-Blue Economy Learning Programme, whose overarching goal is to mainstream relevant Green Economy and Blue Economy principles in university-level-learning interventions that address contemporary sustainable development policy challenges in Barbados and other Small Island Developing States. The consultations were delivered into two separate Phases: Phase 1 focused on the Green-Blue Economy Learning Programme, specifically, and Phase 2: on the delivery mechanism framework for the delivery of the Green-Blue Economy Learning Programme, namely—the Establishment and Operationalization of a SIDS-SIDS Green Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub—which this Feasibility Study addresses.

In addition to the individual consultations which took place with key individuals at the national regional and international levels, the group discussions took place within the context of **the** UWI-CH Green Economy Talks. The Aims and Objective of Green Economy Talks which were convened specifically to consider the SIDS-SIDS Green and Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub were:

1. Reflect on the Strategic Programmatic Focus of the SIDS-SIDS Green and Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub;
2. Explore potential for institutional partnerships and cooperation in support of operationalization and functioning of the SIDS-SIDS Green and Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub at Cave Hill Campus (UWI);

Two Consultations specifically addressing the SIDS-SIDS Green and Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub were convened; one essentially for national stakeholders and another one for predominantly persons who could assist in leveraging resources for the Hub's operations, mixed with key national stakeholders.

#### 2.0. List of Participants

##### **Professor Winston Moore**

Professor of Economics and Deputy Principal  
The University of the West Indies  
Cave Hill Campus  
Bridgetown, BB11000, Barbados  
Email: [winston.moore@cavehill.uwi.edu](mailto:winston.moore@cavehill.uwi.edu)

##### **Ms. Donna King-Brathwaite**

PAGE National Coordinator  
And  
Chairperson of the UWI-CH Green Economy Talks

UNDP, Barbados and the OECS  
Email: [donna.king-brathwaite@undp.org](mailto:donna.king-brathwaite@undp.org)

**Ms. Amrikha Singh**  
Programme Manager, Sustainable Development  
CARICOM Secretariat  
P.O. Box 10827, Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown, Guyana  
Email: [amrikha.singh@caricom.org](mailto:amrikha.singh@caricom.org)

**Allan Franklin**  
Sustainable Development and Tourism Consultant  
Email: [allan\\_940@hotmail.com](mailto:allan_940@hotmail.com)

**Joyce Lisle**  
Chief Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Division  
Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Blue Economy  
Email: [Joyce.Leslie@barbados.gov.bb](mailto:Joyce.Leslie@barbados.gov.bb)

**Erika Watson**  
Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Third Sector  
Email: [erica.Watson@barbados.gov.bb](mailto:erica.Watson@barbados.gov.bb)

**Psyche Burke**  
Senior Economist  
Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Third Sector  
Email: [psyche.burke@barbaods.gov.bb](mailto:psyche.burke@barbaods.gov.bb)

**Kelly Hunte**  
United Nations Volunteer  
UNDP, Barbados and the OECS  
Email: [kelly.hunte@undp.org](mailto:kelly.hunte@undp.org)

**Mohammad Nagdee**  
Cluster Head, Solutions, Energy and Climate Change  
UNDP, Barbados and the OECS  
Email: [Mohammad.nagdee@undp.org](mailto:Mohammad.nagdee@undp.org)

**Dannielle Howell**  
Member and Representative  
Caribbean Youth Environmental Network  
Barbados  
Email: [danielle\\_howell@live.com](mailto:danielle_howell@live.com)

**Atarah Brown**

Member and Representative  
Caribbean Youth Environmental Network  
Barbados  
Email: [Atarah.brown@cyen.org](mailto:Atarah.brown@cyen.org)

**Delano Scantlebury**

Project Director (Ag)  
Ministry of Energy and Business Development  
Email: [delano.scantlebury@barbados.gov.bb](mailto:delano.scantlebury@barbados.gov.bb)

**Amina Desai**

Past Student  
University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus  
St. Michael  
Email: [amina\\_is@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:amina_is@hotmail.co.uk)

**Kyle Holderr-Leech**

Undergraduate  
University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus  
St. Michael  
Email: [guildpresident@mycavehill.uwi.edu](mailto:guildpresident@mycavehill.uwi.edu)

**Sumaya Desai**

Email: [sumayadeasi@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sumayadeasi@yahoo.co.uk)

Mr. Ronnie Griffith  
Chief Economist, Economic Affairs Division  
Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs  
Government Headquarters, St. Michael, Barbados  
Email: [Ronnie.Griffith@barbados.gov.bb](mailto:Ronnie.Griffith@barbados.gov.bb)

**Mr. Travis Sinckler**

Senior Environmental Officer,  
Policy, Research, Planning and Information Unit  
Ministry of Environment and National Beautification  
Warrens, St. Michael, Barbados  
Email: [Travis.Sinckler@barbados.gov.bb](mailto:Travis.Sinckler@barbados.gov.bb)

Ron Goodridge  
Environmental Officer (Climate Change),  
Policy Research, Planning and Information Unit  
Ministry of Environment and National Beautification  
Warrens, St. Michael, Barbados

Ministry of Environment and National Beautification  
Warrens, St. Michael, Barbados  
[Email: Ron.goodridge@barbados.gov.bb](mailto:Ron.goodridge@barbados.gov.bb)

**Ms. Shawn Carter**  
Legal and Environmental Expert  
Barbados  
[Email: shawncarter@me.com](mailto:shawncarter@me.com)

**Dr. Mark D. Griffith**  
President and CEO, CaribInvest Group  
And  
Legal, Environmental, Institutional and International Development Specialist,  
“The Anchorage,” Golf Club Road,  
Christ Church, 020200, Barbados  
[Email: caribinvestwilt@gmail.com](mailto:caribinvestwilt@gmail.com)

### **3.0. Summary of Discussion and Conclusions**

The Consultation was chaired by Ms. Donna King-Brathwaite, Barbados-UN PAGE Coordinator, who presented an overview of the PAGE-Barbados Programme. Following the introduction of the participants, a Power Point Presentation on the proposed SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy Transfer Knowledge Hub was made by Prof. Moore, followed by points of clarification and discussion. These two presentations provided the context for the discussion on the Hub.

Following is a summary of the discussion and conclusions:

- **Relationship with Other Hubs and Networking:** It was recommended that the SIDS-SIDS Green and Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub develops linkages with other Hubs which might exist, but particularly those in other SIDS Regions, if they exist. In addition, Supporting Nodes of the SIDS-SIDS Green and Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub at the UWI, Cave Hill Campus should be established in the other SIDS Regions. There was general consensus that the Hub should network with entities both within and outside of the region, in particular with Green Economy liked institutions and mechanisms.
- **Marketing/Selling the Hub:** The Knowledge Transfer Hub is creates a niche, which is needed in CSIDS. However, it is necessary for the Hub to develop and implement a Marketing and Outreach Strategy with the view of making itself known to the international community and potential partners. In this regard, it would be useful to market the hub at environmental conferences and events.
- **Continuous Development and Promotion of the Hub:** There is general consensus that the Hub should establish a “Continuous Development Strategy” which encourages and engage new independent research. It was highlighted that are already a number of persons currently researching issues of interest to SIDS and the Hub can assume the role of a coordinator and work with those individuals, whether in UWI or



outside, to source financing for their research projects and to develop their projects so as to benefit SIDS. It was also emphasized that the Hub must also create the space for innovation and problem-solving for the youth of SIDS. It was also pointed out that that in discussing knowledge management and knowledge management training for the public service, the concept of “Knowledge Cafés” as well as information sharing sessions such as “Lunchtime Discussions” were highlighted.

The general conclusion is that accommodation can be made by the Hub for the establishment of “Knowledge Cafes” as well as for “Lunchtime Discussions.” In this regard, reference was also made to the proposal contained in the Feasibility Study for the launching, by the Hub, of the UWI—Ambassador Knowledge Transfer Initiative— which is intended to provide space for the representative of SIDS in foreign capitals where decisions are being made that affect SIDS Sustainable Development, to invite them to report periodically on issues being negotiated as well as the status of those negotiation and strategies being adopted by the region to address those issues. Such sessions, it was agreed could also draw upon the vast knowledge and experience of retired persons whose knowledge is otherwise lost when they leave the system; and professionals with specialist knowledge in a field, particularly in the public sector where there is insufficient opportunity to articulate their views, who can transfer their knowledge to students

- **Resource Mobilisation and Staffing:** There was general agreement that success required the dedication of resources to implementation and a team/arm responsible for the co-ordination of ideas and the mobilization of resources. Without a dedicated team and resources, there is a risk that this idea will not be implemented or may not be as successful and from experience, staffing resources, in particular, made a difference. It was explained, that in the design of the Hub, provision is made for a coordinator, an individual looking at communication, a research person and some support staff. It was intended that the Hub would commence with a core group and expand its staffing as it matured. In relation to the creation of new knowledge, it was intended for there to be a technical and scientific policy arm that would comprise of experts from the wider community who would be invited to generate new knowledge and give direction to the Hub.

In terms of resource mobilization provision is made, in the first instance, of a Resources and Project Development Consultant who would work with the core staff and other partners in, not only identifying sources of finance, but also assisting in developing projects and programmes aimed at leveraging those resources. The idea is to ensure the Hub has a solid financial base. In addition, it was highlighted that consideration could be given to the launching of an Endowment Fund to support SIDS Sustainable Development

- **Sustainability and Commercialization: There is general agreement that a “Sustainability Strategy and Plan”** should be put in place for the Hub, including a programme for its commercialization so as to encourage engagement, partnership and financial support from the private sector. There is consensus that the commercialization of the Hub and its activities are of utmost importance. It was highlighted that a lot of the research conducted by scientists has potential commercial application. In this regard, it is envisaged that if the Hub assists researchers to get financing for a research idea that is then

commercialized, it can be agreed that a percentage of the fees returns to the Hub. It was also envisaged for the same to occur with licensing arrangements. Grant proposals can be linked to commercialization and licensing. As the private sector does not have much of its own research and development resources, the Hub can position itself to do research and development for the private sector and the private sector provide a grant for this research. It may be useful for the Hub to adopt this approach and create a partnership with the private sector. Reference was also made to the view expressed by Professor Cardinal Ward of the Caribbean Science Foundation, that Grants can be used as a way to promote science in the Caribbean.

## Annex 2

### University of the West Indies, Cav Hill Campus, Green Economy Talks: Consultation No. 2 on the SIDS-SIDS Green and Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub

#### 1.0. Introduction

Consultation No. 2 on the SIDS-SIDS Green and Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub was held to review the information on the Hub as contained in the Feasibility Study as well as explore possible financial sources for the Hub and the identification of cooperation programmes. The particular, Green Economy Talk had representation from local and regional personnel as well as representation from agencies which could assist in the mobilization of resources for the Hub.

#### 2.0. List of Participants

Professor Winston Moore  
Professor of Economics and Deputy Principal  
The University of the West Indies  
Cave Hill Campus  
Bridgetown, BB11000, Barbados  
Email: [winston.moore@cavehill.uwi.edu](mailto:winston.moore@cavehill.uwi.edu)

Ms. Donna King-Brathwaite

Email: [donna.king-brathwaite@undp.org](mailto:donna.king-brathwaite@undp.org)

#### Ms. Amrikha Singh

Programme Manager, Sustainable Development  
CARICOM Secretariat  
P.O. Box 10827, Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown, Guyana  
Email: [amrikha.singh@caricom.org](mailto:amrikha.singh@caricom.org)

#### Mr. Calvin James

Executive Director  
Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management (PISLM)  
22 Upper Hadfield St. D'Urban Backlands, Georgetown  
Email: [cjames@pislmsids.org](mailto:cjames@pislmsids.org)

#### Sra. Andrea Brusco

Coordinadora Regional de Gobernanza Ambiental  
Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente  
Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe  
Panamá, República de Panamá  
[andrea.brusco@un.org](mailto:andrea.brusco@un.org)

#### Dr. Christopher Cox

Task Manager, Caribbean portfolio  
GEF Biodiversity and Land Degradation Unit  
**Ecosystems Division**  
**UN Environment Programme**  
Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean  
Ciudad del Saber - Avenida Tejada, Edificio 103  
Ciudad de Panamá, PANAMA  
[christopher.cox@un.org](mailto:christopher.cox@un.org)  
Skype: chriscox01

**H.E. Joy-Ann Skinner**

Ambassador of Barbados to Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, The Netherlands and the European Union  
Embassy of Barbados  
Avenue Franklin Roosevelt, 166  
B-1050 Ixelles  
Email: [jskinner@foreign.gov.bb](mailto:jskinner@foreign.gov.bb)  
Web: [www.foreign.gov.bb](http://www.foreign.gov.bb)

**H.E. Elizabeth Thompson**

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Climate Change, Ocean and SIDS  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade  
Government of Barbados  
Email: [lizthompson@foreign.gov.bb](mailto:lizthompson@foreign.gov.bb)

**Ms. Tishka Francis**

Head of the SIDS Sub-Programme  
Sustainable Development Officer  
Office of the High Representative  
for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS  
E-mail: [Tishka.Francis@un.org](mailto:Tishka.Francis@un.org)

Mohammad Nagdee  
Cluster Head, Solutions, Energy and Climate Change  
UNDP, Barbados and the OECS  
Email: [Mohammad.nagdee@undp.org](mailto:Mohammad.nagdee@undp.org)

**Mr. Nigel Grimes (Trinidad and Tobago: Private Sector)**

Senior Agro-ecological and Climate Change Consultant  
SYMBIOSYS LIMITED  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Email: [nigelgrimes2015@gmail.com](mailto:nigelgrimes2015@gmail.com)

**Mr. David Jordan (St. Lucia-Private Sector)**

Chairman and CEO,

Foundation for Research Innovation Enterprise Entrepreneurship Training and Development in the OECS (**FRIEETAD**)

St. George's, Grenada and Castries, St. Lucia

And

Senior International Trade Economist

Giordano Associates Limited

Castries, St. Lucia

**Email: [chairmanfrietad@gmail.com](mailto:chairmanfrietad@gmail.com)**

**Mr. Travis Sinckler**

Senior Environmental Officer, Policy, Research, Planning and Information Unit

Ministry of Environment and National Beautification

Warrens, St. Michael, Barbados

**Email: [Travis.Sinckler@barbados.gov.bb](mailto:Travis.Sinckler@barbados.gov.bb)**

**Mr. Anthony Headley**

Director, Environmental Protection Dept.

Ministry of Environment and National Beautification

**Email: [Anthony.Headley@epd.gov.bb](mailto:Anthony.Headley@epd.gov.bb)**

**Mr. Steve Devonish**

Director, Natural Heritage Dept.

Chairman, World Heritage Committee

Ministry of Environment and National Beautification

**Email: [heritage.sdevonish@barbados.gov.bb](mailto:heritage.sdevonish@barbados.gov.bb)**

**Dr. Leo Brewster**

Director, Coastal Zone Management Unit

Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Blue Economy

**Email: [lbrewster@coastal.gov.bb](mailto:lbrewster@coastal.gov.bb)**

Ms. Shawn Carter

Legal and Environmental Expert

Barbados

**Email: [shawncarter@me.com](mailto:shawncarter@me.com)**

**Dr. Mark D. Griffith**

President and CEO, CaribInvest Group

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“The Anchorage,” Golf Club Road,

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participants, a Power Point Presentation on the proposed SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Economy Transfer Knowledge Hub was made by Prof. Moore, followed by points of clarification and discussion. These two presentations provided the context for the discussion on the Hub.

Following is a summary of the main conclusions of the Consultation:

- Generally there was consensus on the need for the establishment of the Hub and the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, congratulated for taking the initiative for its establishment. The meeting also recognized and congratulated UNITAR for making available the resources to enable the UWI-CH to undertake the Feasibility Study which provides the blueprint for its development.
- H.E. Joy-Ann Skinner, Ambassador of Barbados to Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, The Netherlands and the European Union and UNESCO lauded the UWI-CH for taking the initiative in setting up the Hub and underscored its usefulness and importance in consolidating a renewed focus on SIDS Sustainable Development. Her Excellence recommended that consideration be given to promoting the Hub as a Centre of Excellence under the auspices of UNESCO and in this regard, consultations should be held with the National Commission of UNESCO. Reference was also made to the new EU Financing Mechanism—*the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument*—which could possibly be leverage to support the establishment of the Hub. It was advised that support for the Hub should be included in the Multi-Country Programming Framework under the ACP-EU Agreement. Reference was also made to the G-STIC Climate Action Programme launched by the Government of Flanders in 2021 to support developing countries in the fight against climate change
- The representative from the Caribbean Community Secretariat welcomed the proposed establishment of the Hub and specific a number of areas of cooperation which could be considered. In this regard, reference was made to the possible contribution the Hub can make to the planning and convening of the SIDS + 30 process. Reference was also made to G-BEL programming and the potential contribution it could make to enhancing knowledge in CSIDS and beyond. It was recommended that an Agenda Item on the Hub could be included on the Agenda of the next Council of Trade and Economic Development (COTED)-Environment to be convened by the Caribbean Community and its Member States.
- The UNEP representative lauded the UWI-CH for undertaking what was referred to as a good initiative which will benefit, not only CSIDS, but SIDS in general. As the UNEP Caribbean GEF Coordinator for Land Degradation and Biodiversity, one of the drawbacks of the GEF CSIDS portfolio is the loss of learning which can be extracted from GEF interventions in the region, because of the absence of a mechanism for doing so. It was suggested that the SIDS-SIDS Green-Blue Knowledge Transfer Hub provides an opportunity for doing so and this opportunity should be grasped. Reference was also made to the GEF-8 Integrated Blue-Green Island Programme as a possible source from which resources could be levered.

- A number of other issues were considered, including, *inter alia*;
  - ✓ The sustainability of the Hub-in this regard, it was recommended that all GEF projects being implemented in CSIDS should have a Knowledge Management Component which could implemented by the Hub.
  - ✓ Cooperation of the Hub with Regional and International organisations and mechanisms; in particular with SIDS related and organisations promoting Green Growth Strategies and Programmes.
  - ✓ Resource Mobilisation. In this regard, it was highly recommended that the Hub leverage resources from a wide cross-section of financial mechanisms, including, *inter alia*: through the PAGE Programme, in particular from the PAGE Secretariat and the PAGE Participating Agencies; Caribbean Development Bank (CDB); the Bank of Latin America (CAF); Inter-American Development Bank (IADB); Global Environment Facility (GEF); Green Climate Fund (GCF); the European Union under the ACP-EU Programme as well as from other Bi- and Multi-lateral organisations and mechanisms.