Leveraging ocean resources for sustainable development of small island developing States

Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report

VIRTUAL REGIONAL LAUNCH
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UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Countries with Special Needs Section and its previous reports

- Least developed countries (LDCs)
- Landlocked developing countries (LLDCs)
- Small island developing States (SIDS)

Key messages

- Asia-Pacific SIDS need to accelerate action to implement the 2030 Agenda

- To accelerate progress towards achieving these Goals, SIDS must take full advantage of their Blue Economy in a sustainable manner

- Fisheries and tourism are among the most promising sectors. However, challenges must be addressed

- While, in the short term, addressing the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic must take priority, it could provide a historic opportunity to advocate for change
Chapter I  Ocean resources for sustainable development of small island developing States

Progress made by SIDS towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

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<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>TARGET 2030</th>
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<td>1 No poverty</td>
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<td>10 Reduced inequalities</td>
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<td>11 Sustainable cities and communities</td>
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<td>12 Responsible consumption and production</td>
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<td>13 Climate action</td>
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<td>14 Life below water</td>
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<td>15 Life on land</td>
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<td>16 Peace, justice and strong institutions</td>
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<td>17 Partnership for the Goals</td>
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SIDS face specific development challenges...
- Small land mass
- Limited resources
- High vulnerability to external shocks
- Remoteness

SIDs are progressing well
- SDG 1: No poverty
- SDG 2: Zero hunger
- SDG 3: Good health and well-being
- SDG 5: Gender equality
- SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation
- SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy
- SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth
- SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities
- SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production

SIDs are regressing
- SDG 4: Quality education
- SDG 5: Gender equality
- SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation
- SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy
- SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth
- SDG 10: Reduced inequalities
- SDG 14: Life below water
- SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions
- SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals

Source: Based on ESCAP data.
Chapter I Ocean resources for sustainable development of small island developing States

• Asia-Pacific SIDS have great potential to grow. The size of their Exclusive Economic Zones is significantly larger than their land area.

• The abundance of ocean resources of SIDS should be leveraged more effectively to support their sustainable development.

• This report identifies fisheries and tourism as key drivers of sustainable development in Asia-Pacific SIDS.

Kiribati EEZ

Kazakhstan land area

< 120,000 people

> 18,589,000 people
Chapter II  
Fisheries as a driver for sustainable development

**ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE**

Offshore tuna catches of the world’s main offshore fishing areas 2018 in metric tons:
- Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO): 2.77
- Indian Ocean: 1.17
- Eastern Pacific: 0.67
- Atlantic: 0.56

WCPO accounts for **55%** of the world tuna catches.

Food:
- Per capita consumption is **2-3 times higher** than the global average.

Income:
- **0.2-16%** contribution to GDP
Chapter II: Fisheries as a driver for sustainable development

**RISK OF OVERFISHING**
- Adequate conservation efforts

**GOVERNANCE**
- Multi-stakeholder engagement

**CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**MANAGEMENT & DATA AVAILABILITY**
- Strengthened statistical system

**CLIMATE CHANGE & MARINE POLLUTION**
- Regional cooperation
COVID-19 and demand disruption in SIDS

60-80% international tourist arrivals decline globally in 2020

$910 billion to $1.2 trillion in tourism receipts loss globally

www.unescap.org/COVID19
Tourism as a driver for sustainable development

- Tourism contributes to economic growth and the achieving of SDGs
- Tourism is a promising sector due to growing demand and unique character/variety of attractions offered by Asia-Pacific SIDS
- Tourism generates employment

![Tourism chart](chart.png)

Visitor arrivals in Asia-Pacific SIDS

- 2008: 2,000,000
- 2018: 3,600,000
- UP 86%

Legend:
- Employment in tourism
- As percentage of total employment
Tourism as a driver for sustainable development

Chapter III

Environmental sustainability

Economic sustainability

How to ensure the benefits are shared among local populations

How to preserve and protect natural environment and marine ecosystems

Sociocultural sustainability

How to build resilience to external shocks like the COVID-19 pandemic

How to ensure indigenous cultures are preserved and promoted in the times of globalization
Chapter III  Tourism as a driver for sustainable development

Policies Recommendations

1. Strengthen links between local economies, local populations and the tourism sector
2. Develop local content-intensive marine-based and culture-based tourism
3. Implement green fee/tax mechanisms
4. Enhance regional cooperation to improve connectivity and strength the branding
Chapter IV  Conclusion

Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report: Leveraging Ocean Resources for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States calls for scaled-up actions to:

- better integrate fisheries and tourism into their local economies
- ensure their sustainability
- enhance international and regional cooperation
- improve access to factual, transparent and harmonized data
- better enforce international frameworks, norms and standards
THANK YOU

Ask your question on YouTube at


or by email escap-scas@un.org