



# Africa Islands States Climate Commission

Ministerial Meeting: Transitioning to a climate resilient future

8th December 2023, African Pavilion, COP28, UAE

#AfricaCOP



**COP28UAE**



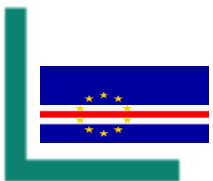
COP28UAE



AUDA-NEPAD  
AFRICAN UNION DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



- Introduction
- Readiness Project Proposal
- Road to the 4<sup>th</sup> SIDS International Conference





## Background

*A holistic approach for Island States in a changing climate*

- **The First Africa Action Summit, held on the sidelines of COP22 in Marrakech in November 2016, set in motion the development of three Commissions for climate action.**
  - The Sahel Commission, chaired by the President of the Republic of Niger
  - The Island States Commission, chaired the President by the Republic of Seychelles
  - The Congo Basin Commission, chaired by the President the Republic of the Congo
- **The three Commissions were endorsed by African Union as means to significantly enhance the implementation of the Paris commitments.**



- **Comprising of the following 9 members States:**

1. Cabo Verde
2. Comoros
3. Equatorial Guinea
4. Guinea Bissau
5. Madagascar
6. Mauritius
7. Sao Tome and Principe
8. Seychelles
9. Tanzania (Zanzibar)

- **The goal is collaborating to drive transformational climate action through sustainable development in Africa's Island States.**



# Objectives of the Africa Islands States Climate Commission

- To provide a holistic approach for African island states to address climate change in the context of sustainable development, through utilizing natural solutions, promoting innovation and new technologies with associated capacity building, and enhancing access to finance;
- To promote the required adaptation policies and measures, which are also catalysts for a deep economic and social structural transformation in Africa Island countries;
- To consolidate Africa's commitments to combat the effects of climate change, to bring more coherence to current or planned strategies with a view to increasing the resilience of the Africa Islands Countries;
- To accelerate the realization of initiatives already identified or launched, building not only on our intrinsic resources but also by mobilizing multilateral and bilateral donors as well as non-state actors;
- To encourage and facilitate the participation of the private sector in mobilizing additional capacity and finance to meet the challenge of climate change.



## KEY MILESTONES OF AISCC

- COP 22 in Marrakech, 2016: Establishment of the African Islands States Climate Commissions
- COP 25 in Madrid, 2019: Seychelles presented the framework for AISCC
- AU Summit in Addis, 2020: Launch event in February 2020, in the sidelines of the AU Summit
- COP 26 in Glasgow, 2021: African Islands Ministerial Side Event "Towards Realization and Action"
- Ministerial Meeting in Cairo, September 2022 – Requirements for operationalisation of AISCC
- First Technical Meeting, October 2022 – Proposed IOC to host an interim Secretariat
- 10th CCDA in Namibia: Ministerial and technical Meeting – Endorsement of outcome of the technical meeting

## KEY MILESTONES OF AISCC

- COP 27 in Egypt: High-level Joint Side Event AISCC, Sahel and Congo Basin Commissions
- AU Summit in Addis, 2022: AISCC reporting at CAHOSCC
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Technical and Experts Meeting in Seychelles, May 2023: Focus on the governance structure and roadmap, Beau Vallon Outcome Document
- African Climate Summit in Kenya, September 2023: Ministerial Side Event, “Towards a blue and resilient future”, endorsement of the Beau Vallon Outcome Document
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Technical and Stakeholders Meeting in Mauritius, October 2023: Agreement joint project, Port Louis Recommendations

# International Cooperation Forum & Meeting of African Ministers of Finance, Economy and Environment (7-9 September 2022, Egypt)

Members present included  
representatives of Cabo  
Verde, Equatorial Guinea  
and Sao Tome and Principe,  
and the Chair member,  
Seychelles.





In-person Technical Meetings the  
African Island States Climate  
Commission  
and Experts Group Meeting in 2023

-Beau Vallon, Seychelles

-Port Louis, Mauritius



Ministerial meeting of the African  
Island States Climate Commission:  
Towards a blue and resilient future



African Climate Summit, Kenya



# Cooperation framework

African Heads of State and Government Summit held in 2016 in Morocco, resulted in the establishment of three African Climate Commissions, including the African Islands States Climate Commission (AISCC), chaired by the Republic of Seychelles.

Beau-Vallon Outcome Document of the 2<sup>nd</sup> African Islands States Climate Commission NFPs and Experts Meeting requested UNECA to continue its support to AISCC and Member States in developing their institutional capacities, and to advance in the discussions with the GCF and partners to prepare a Regional Cooperation Programme with focus on supporting Member States on reinforcing their multi hazard early warning systems, climate information services and other relevant matters.

# Cooperation framework

Nairobi AISCC Ministerial Meeting 'Towards a blue and resilient future' encouraged to strengthen the AISCC collaboration with the GCF and UNECA to jointly promote a Regional Cooperation Programme.

Port Louis Outcome Recommendations of the 3<sup>rd</sup> African Islands States Climate Commission NFPs and Experts Meeting urged to advance the discussions with the GCF to implement a pilot Readiness Project, as the basis for a Regional Cooperation Programme, to strengthen the capacities of the member states with the support of the IOC and UNECA and focus on developing a platform and toolkit for hazard, vulnerability, and risk assessment for decision-making.

# Readiness Project Proposal

The Readiness Programme is a funding modality that will assist AISCC member states to enhance their weaknesses, challenges, and gaps in institutional capacities, governance mechanisms, and investment frameworks planning and programming.



This will strengthen their capacities to further engage with the GCF and to contribute towards a climate resilience building agenda.



# Justification

- The project builds on previous experiences and complements them:
  - UNECA SIDS Program to deploy high-resolution weather prediction and early warning systems supported by ACPC TCND
  - UNECA project to support standardized and harmonized greenhouse gas protocol to support carbon market integrity and investment in climate-resilient economic activity in Congo Basin Climate Commission member countries
  - The Great Blue Wall Initiative, promoted by UNECA and IUCN
  - IOC projects focusing on improving the capacity in meteorology, climatology and Climate Services in West Indian Ocean Island States, as well as the RDRM-IO focusing on Disaster Risk Reduction and improving Early Warning Systems
  - GCF projects in AISCC member states, including the Climate Resilience Co-investment Facility
  - Other complementary programmes, such as CREWS and CLIMSA

# Q&A

## The African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) advances the roll-out of weather observation systems in African small island developing States

A recent workshop in the Seychelles marked the latest stage in a project deploying high-resolution weather prediction and early warning systems across African small island developing States (SIDS). Joseph Intsiful, Senior Climate Science Expert at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa's African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) discusses how early weather warnings are enabling local communities to prepare for extreme climate events, while accurate and timely forecasts help safeguard productivity in key economic sectors such as agriculture and fisheries.

**Many countries across Africa are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Why does ACPC's deployment of these weather observation systems focus particularly on the small islands?**

The unique geographical location of the African small island developing States – Cabo Verde, the Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe and Seychelles – makes these small land masses highly susceptible to extreme weather events including cyclones, hurricanes, droughts and storms.

But it is only by visiting SIDS that you can really understand their vulnerability and day-to-day challenges. Take for example Cabo



Figure 1: Systems deployment in African SIDS

Verde – it's essentially a desert in the middle of the ocean. Access to water is limited to the extent that almost all water sources come from desalination, a huge challenge not least because of the incredibly high costs involved. Low rainfall makes farming virtually impossible while the island's fishing industry – critical to the economy – is under constant threat from erratic weather conditions, most notably harsh winds.

Already grappling with entrenched poverty and related challenges of food, water and energy security, their resilience is being further

### Moroni Declaration for Ocean and Climate Action in Africa Moroni, Union of Comoros | 14th June 2023

Recognizing the critical importance of ocean conservation, climate action, and the sustainable development of coastal communities.

We, the Ministers, and High-Level Representatives of the Union of Comoros, the Republic of Cabo Verde, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Madagascar, the Republic of Mauritius, the Republic of Mozambique, the Republic of Sao Tome e Principe, the Republic of Seychelles, the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania assembled at the "Blue Future Ministerial Conference on Blue Economy and Climate Action in Africa: Island and Coastal States at the forefront" in Moroni, Union of Comoros from 12th to 14th June 2023, hereby declare our collective recognition of African Island States specificities and the need for their integration in continental and regional policies, strategies and frameworks and our support for the Great Blue Wall initiative as a flagship, transformative, and collective approach to foster resilience and to climate change mitigation and adaptation and as a leverage for a sustainable Blue Economy in Africa.

We therefore commit to working together to advocate for a specific treatment of African Islands and coastal issues and to achieving the goals and objectives of the Great Blue Wall initiative towards meeting the continental and global aspirations outlined in the African Union Agenda 2063 and UN Agenda 2030.

#### Regarding the African Island States specificities:

- We acknowledge that the island and coastal nations of the African continent are on the extreme frontlines of the impact of interconnected crises of biodiversity loss, climate change, and coastal zones degradation including impacts on the ocean and socio-economic vulnerability, which require an ongoing and enhanced systematic and strong political advocacy as well as urgent and coordinated action.
- In that context, we recognise that African Island Countries are particularly vulnerable and already heavily impacted by these interconnected challenges and therefore require a specific attention and targeted response to support their effort to address current and future challenges and opportunities.
- We affirm the need to safeguard the sensitive and interconnected marine and coastal ecosystems and ecological processes of the continent, including coastal forests, mangroves, seagrasses, and coral reefs, which provide essential ecosystem services and goods and contribute to climate resilience and to the economic growth and livelihood of African Island and Coastal States.
- We acknowledge the unique characteristics of African Island States and the imperative to leverage the tremendous advantages of blue economy development for sustainable production, value addition, investments, and trade towards intra - African and global markets.
- We acknowledge the need to strengthen multi-hazard early warning systems in African Island States, based on solid observation networks, which have critical potential to save lives.
- We also recognise the unique opportunity presented by of the African Continental Free

Ninth Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa  
*Towards a just transition that delivers jobs, prosperity and climate resilience in Africa: Leveraging the green and blue economy*  
Santa Maria, Sal Island, Cabo Verde  
13-17 September 2021

#### The Santa Maria Call to Action

The ninth session of the Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-IX) convened under the theme of "A just transition that delivers jobs, prosperity and climate resilience in Africa: leveraging the green and blue economy" was hosted by the Government of Cabo Verde, in partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC), UNECA and the African Development Bank (AfDB), from September 13-17, 2021. It was the first CCDA to be held in an African Small Island State. By hosting CCDA-IX, the Government of Cabo Verde focused attention on the urgent need for concerted global action on climate change as African countries, especially the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), are already being severely impacted by climate change and warming faster than other regions. CCDA-IX also highlighted African perspectives on what a just transition and green recovery for Africa should look like, and proposed appropriate frameworks to support African countries in their efforts to design and implement African-led solutions for a just green recovery that fosters prosperity and builds resilience, while also strengthening the continent's voice and agency in global climate negotiations ahead of the COP26 of the UNFCCC.

*Mindful of the increasing impacts of climate change on African and SIDS economies and societies, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic;*

*Mindful that Africa, constituting 17 percent of the global population, accounting for less than 4 percent of global emissions, has already warmed by 1.8 degrees and is being severely impacted by climate change impacts;*

*Noting that Africa and the SIDS continue to show leadership in advancing action on climate change;*

*Concerned by low global ambition, particularly by developed countries not doing their fair share to address the urgency of climate action;*

## Congo Basin Climate Commission

A standardized and harmonized greenhouse gas protocol to support carbon market integrity and investment in climate-resilient economic activity in Congo Basin Climate Commission member countries

# Partnership

Main donor: Green Climate Fund

Delivery Partner: United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Partner Countries: Cabo Verde, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Tanzania (Zanzibar)

Implementation Partners: AISCC, COI-IOC, EW4A, UT-ITC



# Objectives

Strengthening the institutional capacities of the African Island States Climate Commission (AISCC) member states for climate resilience, including loss and damage, vulnerability and hazards risk assessments



It will contribute to the Readiness:

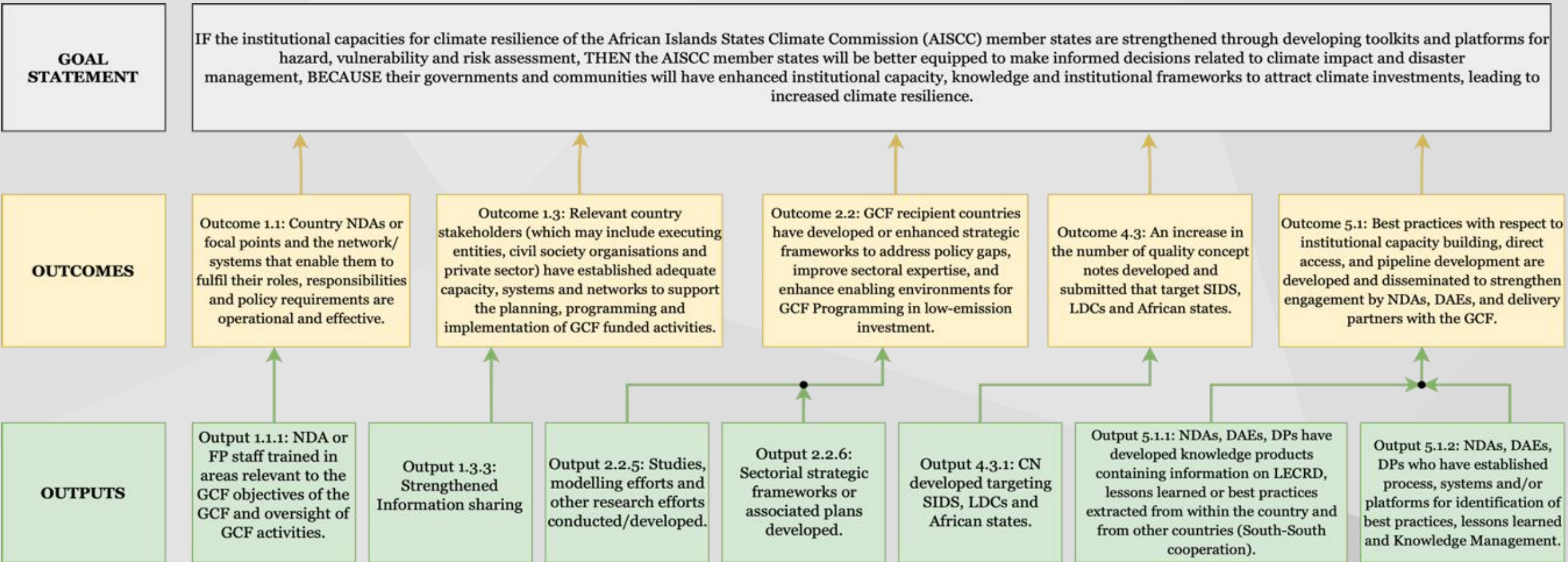
Objective 1. Capacity Building

Objective 2. Framework Development

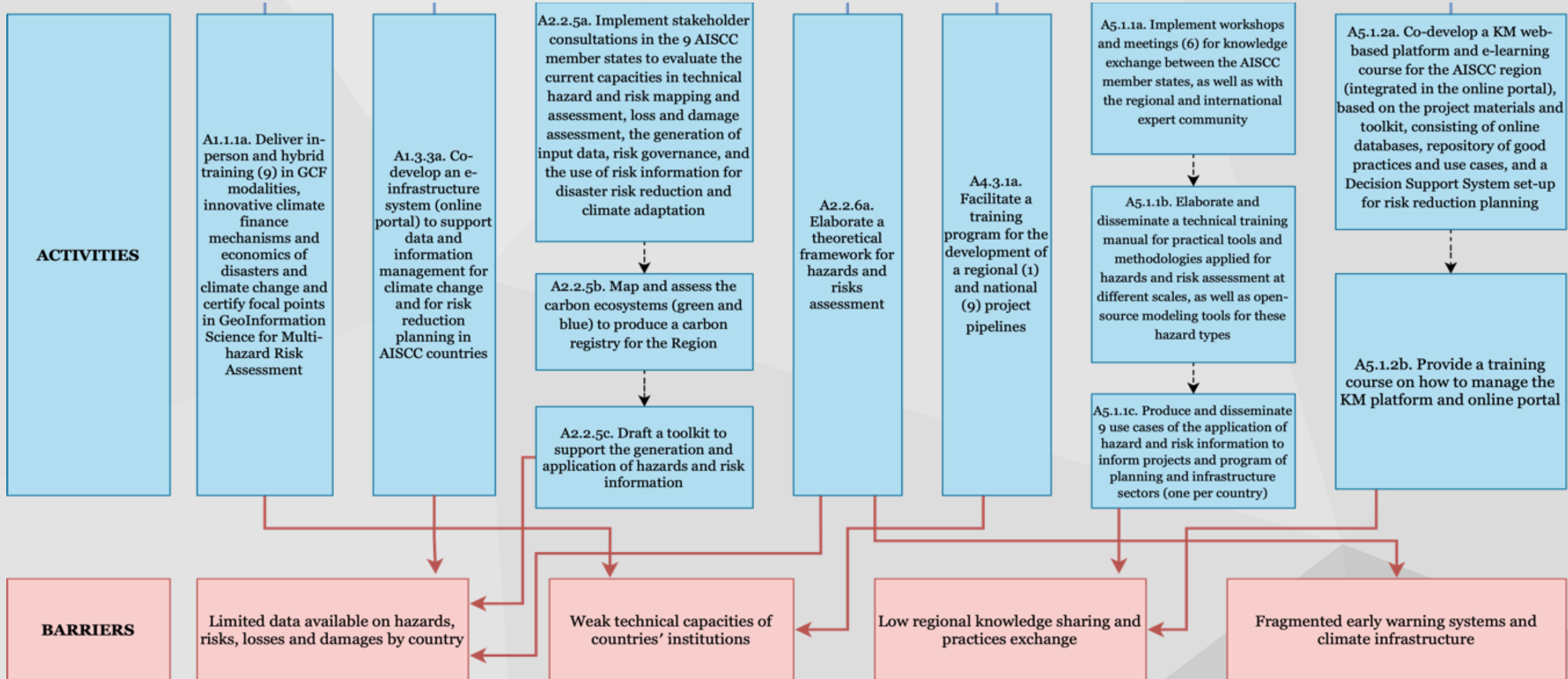
Objective 4. Pipeline development

Objective 5. Knowledge sharing and learning

# Theory of Change (I)



# Theory of Change (II)



# Theory of Change (III)

## RISKS

Geopolitical unrest in AISCC countries

Limited national technical capacity to implement the project

Limited ownership and/or uptake of the outputs

Money laundering, terrorist financing, corruption, or prohibited practices.

Disruptive (NatTech) events

Insufficient or no follow up

No common language for all island states involved

## ASSUMPTIONS

- Member States actively engage with and commit to the execution of project activities [Outcome 1.1, 1.3, 2.2, 4.3, 5.1]
- AISCC plays a coordination role, assisted by the Indian Ocean Commission [Outcome 1.1, 1.3, 2.2, 4.3, 5.1]
- Technical expertise and resources are available for the activities [Outcome 1.3, 2.2, 4.3, 5.1]
- Effective cooperation and sharing of information between member countries [Outcome 1.3, 4.3, 5.1]
- Decision-makers within Member States are receptive to using the toolkit and platform [Outcome 1.3, 2.2, 5.1]
- Social and political stability in the region [Outcome 1.1, 1.3, 2.2, 4.3, 5.1]

# Main stakeholders

## Government officials

- Key Ministries: Climate, Finance, Planning, Environment, Blue Economy, Health, DRR, Security, Energy, Infrastructure, Land development

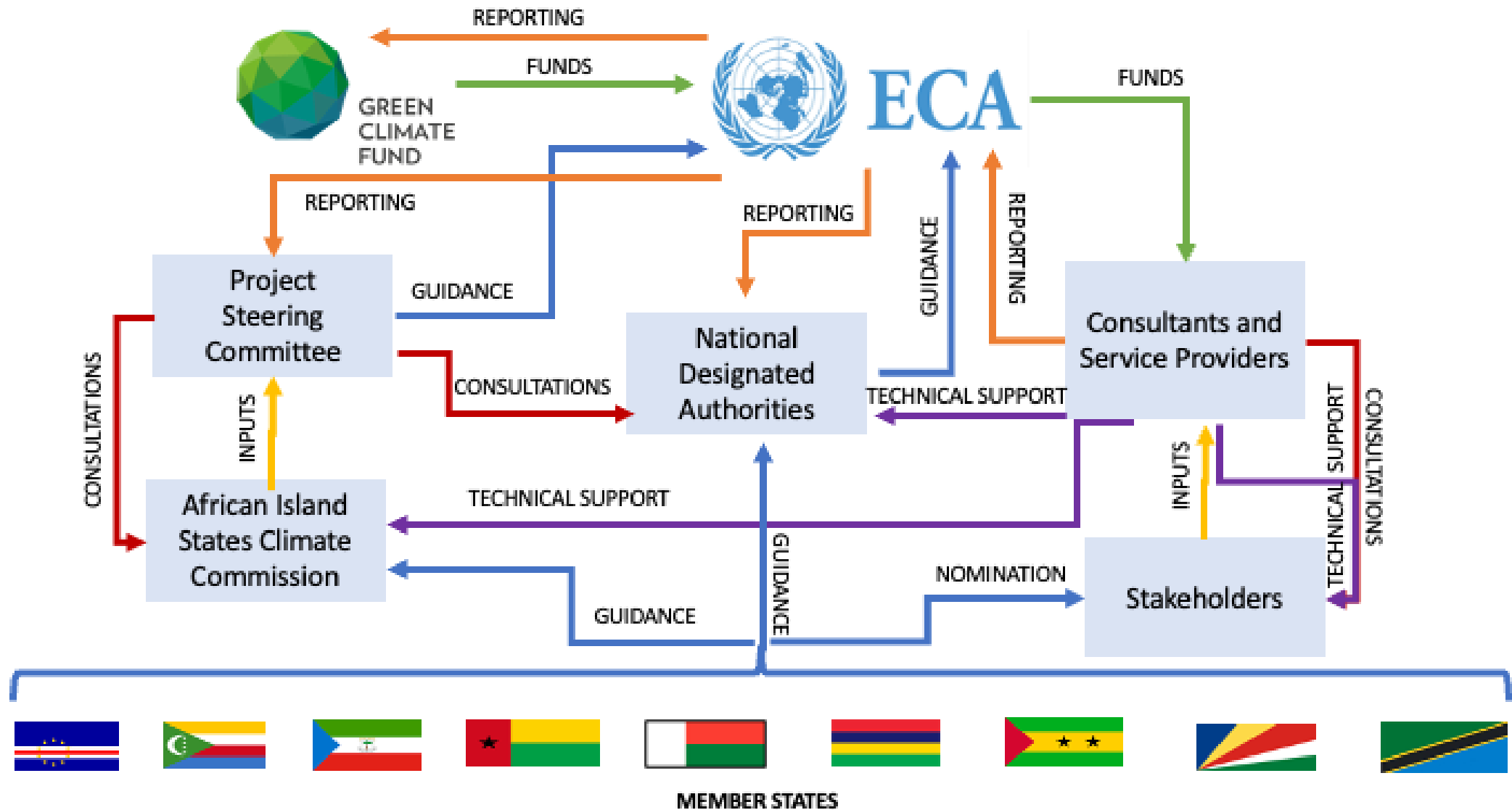
## Specialized agencies

- Civil protection and Emergencies institutions, with the mandate to design disaster response plans
- DRR and Hydromet institutions, with the mandate to design structural risk reduction measures
- Planning institutions, with the mandate to make land development plans

## General population from African Island States

- Vulnerable communities
- Those more exposed to disasters and climate hazards

# Implementation



# Project support team

## Regional Team

Project coordinator, Environment and Climate Specialist, Climate Finance and Economics Specialist, Knowledge Management Specialist, Admin & Finance Assistant

## Experts and Consultants

Hazard Assessment and Management, DRR, Climate Information, EWS, Trainers and Resource People

## National Team

National coordinators (9)

# Consultation process

Collection of inputs from Member States through their NDA and NFP – November

AISCC member states Readiness session at GCF Regional Dialogue, in Windhoek, Namibia – November

Letter of Agreement for Delivery Partner (UNECA) – December

Finalization and submission of the Readiness proposal – December

Announcement of the project at the AISCC Ministerial Meeting at COP 28, in Dubai, UAE – December



# Preparatory process - 4th International Conference on SIDS



# Timeline

**March-June**  
National Data  
Collection



RCOs; UNCT;  
National  
Stakeholder  
engagement

**March-July**  
Regional Report  
Compilation and  
Completion



**24-25 July**  
AIS Regional  
SAMOA Pathway  
Meeting, Mauritius



Regional meetings  
for Caribbean and  
Pacific regions

**September 2023**  
Interregional  
SAMOA Pathway  
Meeting, Cabo  
Verde



**New 10-year SIDS  
Agenda adopted**

SIDS-IV (Host  
country: Antigua  
and Barbuda)

**May 2024**  
Global Process



→  
AIS SAMOA  
Pathway Outcome  
Document



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Thank



YOU