

I-GO for ISLANDS:

Training workshop for SME stakeholders in SIDS

Background:

Enhancing sustainability – including efficient management chemicals and waste – as well as business productivity are priorities for many small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) just like any other businesses elsewhere. However, it is often the case that effective solutions that assist SMEs to achieve these goals, and eventually transition to a circular business model are lacking in SIDS.

The **I-GO for ISLANDS** collaboration intends to assist SMEs across SIDS to achieve those goals by helping them become more ‘resource efficient’. Integrating resource efficiency into business practice can help reduce the environmental impact by ensuring a more sustainable consumption and production of resources throughout the full product life cycles. At the same time, the approach helps SMEs maximize economic value by incorporating a restorative and regenerative design to keep products at their highest utility and value. With this in mind, the I-GO initiative enables SMEs to access support and navigate strategies to adopt to a more resilient and economically productive business model based on their needs and status.

I-GO for ISLANDS:

The [Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in Small Island Developing States](#) (hereafter ‘ISLANDS’) Programme is supporting 33 island nations in the Atlantic, Caribbean, Indian and Pacific regions to improve chemicals and waste management.

The [I-GO initiative](#) has been developed by the [Green Industry Platform](#) of [the Green Growth Knowledge Partnership \(GGKP\)](#) to help upscale the resource efficiency efforts of SMEs. I-GO provides a support structure that aligns the most relevant existing resource efficiency knowledge (research, case studies, technical guidance) and support services (training, financing solutions) with the everyday operational needs of individual SMEs.

The 'I-GO for ISLANDS' is a collaboration between the GEF ISLANDS Programme and the [Green Growth Knowledge Partnership \(GGKP\)](#), who is an ISLANDS Programme's executing partner and a co-financier.

By joining the forces between GGKP's [Green Industry Platform](#) and the ISLANDS Coordination, Communication and Knowledge Management (CCKM) Project, the collaboration aims to close the existing gap in support to SMEs and entrepreneurs in SIDS. Moreover, it intends to accelerate the ISLANDS' global and regional-level progress in reducing and preventing hazardous chemicals and wastes by promoting overarching resource efficiency strategies spanning the topical focuses of **energy, chemicals, waste, material, and water** to SIDS communities.

Workshop description:

This workshop aims to first set the scene by explaining the basics of resource efficiency, and how it can help SME operations in SIDS. Then, it will explain how to most effectively use the [I-GO Assistant](#) to get started on resource efficiency actions adapted to an SME's specific needs, through a live demonstration of the I-GO Assistant tool and its current and future functionalities.

The workshop will also provide an overview of the [I-GO Network](#) specifically for the SME stakeholders (SME-supporting organizations, business associations, chamber of commerce, NGOs, government agencies, and more). The I-GO Network offers SME stakeholders a unique opportunity to share knowledge and experience and network among themselves, to in turn better support the SMEs in their respective networks.

Target audience:

The workshop invites SME stakeholders and SME-supporting organizations across the Caribbean and Pacific Ocean SIDS that include but are not limited to:

- National and regional Chamber of Commerce
- National or local-level business associations
- Government agencies delegated with SME support programmes

The workshop will also invite the GEF ISLANDS Programme's national project focal points as well as regional implementing agencies and executing agencies across the Caribbean and Pacific Ocean SIDS.

Expected outcome:

- SME stakeholders in SIDS are introduced to the concept of 'resource efficiency' relevant to the SIDS business and SME operations context.
- SME stakeholders in SIDS are introduced to the support structure the I-GO initiative and are familiarized with utilizing the I-GO Assistant tool, which helps SMEs to self-assess their resource efficiency and retrieve relevant knowledge and support services.
- SME stakeholders are introduced to the I-GO Network and its upcoming opportunities to network and share information.

Workshop agenda:

Tuesday, 18 April 2023, Online (Zoom)

*English-Spanish simultaneous interpretation provided

17:00–18:30 Trinidad and Tobago (AST) (GMT-4)

23:00–00:30 Geneva (CEST) (GMT+2)

Next day 7:00–8:30 Port Moresby, PNG (GMT+10)

Next day 9:00–10:30 Suva, Fiji (FJT) (GMT+12)

Time	Description	Speaker
10 min	Opening remarks The 'I-GO for ISLANDS' collaboration	Melanie Ashton GEF ISLANDS Programme Coordinator
15 min	Introduction to Resource Efficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What resource efficiency really means for an SME? How a business's bottom line can be improved through resource efficiency measures 	Jesse Ojobor Managing Director, Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Production (RESP) Solutions
20 min	Introduction to I-GO Initiative and I-GO Assistant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background explanation of the I-GO initiative Detailed explanation of the self-assessment and navigation process using the I-GO Assistant tool in real-time 	Hannes Mac Nulty Manager, Green Industry Platform

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding the type of customized recommendations and tailored list of support services that I-GO Assistant delivers 	
10 min	I-GO Network for SME-supporting organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can the I-GO Network help SME-supporting organizations to upscale collaboration and host opportunities to network and share information How to join and utilize the Green Forum I-GO Community Space 	Hannes Mac Nulty Manager, Green Industry Platform
30 min	Q&A session & experience sharing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Questions from the audience on the functionality of the I-GO Assistant tool Feedback from SME stakeholders on what they see as the challenges to implementing resource efficiency measures in SIDS and what needs to be strengthened Questions and feedback on communicating about the I-GO initiative to SMEs within respective networks 	Interactive discussion

5 min	Wrap up and next steps	Workshop host
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