



8th international Adaptation Futures Conference (AF2025)

Side Event: Lessons Learned and Findings from Adaptation Interventions in SIDS and LDCs, Experiences from the Adaptation Fund Portfolio

Tuesday, October 14th, 2025 | Christchurch, New Zealand

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM NZST (UTC+12)

Room: Dobson 1

Overview:

During this session the Adaptation Fund (AF) Secretariat and Implementing Entities (IEs) will discuss lessons learned and findings from adaptation interventions funded through AF projects in Small Islands and Developing States (SIDS). While the focus is on SIDS, the session will also highlight experiences from other highly vulnerable contexts, such as Least Developed Countries (LDCs) with significant coastal and island vulnerabilities.

The AF Secretariat will introduce the session by framing key trends, challenges, and knowledge emerging from its SIDS and LDCs portfolio. IEs from across regions will share country-specific perspectives on designing and delivering adaptation projects in diverse island contexts, including practical approaches to resilience building, community engagement, and overcoming implementation challenges.

The event will conclude with a moderated discussion, inviting reflections from the audience on cross-cutting themes, replicable practices, and opportunities to strengthen adaptation in SIDS and LDCs.

Objective: To explore lessons learned, innovative approaches, and practical solutions for strengthening adaptation in SIDS and LDCs, drawing from the experiences of IEs delivering AF-funded projects.

Target audience: Climate adaptation and development practitioners, policymakers, academia, knowledge institutions, civil society, and representatives from governments and funding agencies.

Opening remarks: Video message from Mikko Ollikainen, Head, Adaptation Fund

Speakers:

- **Garth Simon**, Monitoring and Evaluation Associate, Department of Environment (DoE), Ministry of Health and the Environment, Antigua and Barbuda
- **Anna Deinhard**, Climate Finance Advisor, Pacific Community, New Caledonia
- **Eli Romero**, Climate Finance Manager, Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT), Belize
- **Allan Taman**, Chairman, Santo Sunset Environment Network (SSEN), Vanuatu

Agenda

Time	Session Segment & Speakers
10:45 – 10:50	<p>Welcome and opening remarks</p> <p>Video message from <i>Mikko Ollikainen</i> (Adaptation Fund, Head) and Opening Remarks from <i>Cristina Dengel</i> (Adaptation Fund, Knowledge Management Specialist)</p>
10:50 – 10:55	<p>Setting the stage & introduction of speakers from IEs</p> <p>Key findings on AF interventions in SIDS and LDCs, followed by speakers' introduction – <i>Cristina Dengel</i></p>
10:55 – 11:30	<p>Presentations from IEs representatives on project experiences with the Adaptation Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antigua and Barbuda – <i>Garth Simon</i> • New Caledonia – <i>Anna Deinhard</i> • Belize – <i>Eli Romero</i> • Vanuatu – <i>Allan Taman</i>
11:30 – 12:00	<p>Panel discussion</p> <p>Linking experiences and extracting lessons – <i>Cristina Dengel</i> (Moderator) and IEs Representatives</p>
12:00 – 12:10	<p>Q&A</p> <p>Open floor for participants questions and reflections – <i>Cristina Dengel</i> (Moderator)</p>
12:10 – 12:15	<p>Wrap-up and closing remarks – <i>Cristina Dengel</i></p>