



ISLANDS Forum+

Policy frameworks and  
collaboration models for SIDS  
working on chemicals and waste  
management

28 April 2026  
15.00hrs - 16.30hrs CET (UTC+1)

The Tide has to Turn

[gefislands.org](https://gefislands.org)

# Programme

15.00 – 15.05	Introduction and Preliminaries	Jana Thuaud, KM Specialist, ISLANDS CCKM (Moderator)
15.05 – 15.15	From Policy Gaps to Practical Solutions: Collaborative Knowledge Sharing to Strengthen Chemicals and Waste Management in SIDS	Fabienne Pierre, Head, GGKP, Project Manager, ISLANDS
15.15-15.25	ISLANDS Perspectives: Regional policy and collaboration context in ISLANDS Atlantic	Florisvindo Furtado, Regional Project Coordinator, ISLANDS Atlantic, BCRC-Senegal
15.25-15.35	ISLANDS Perspectives: Strengthening the first line of defense: Building confidence of customs authorities in border control against chemicals and waste in the Indian Ocean	Clara Mottura, UNDP Regional Project Manager, GEF ISLANDS Indian Ocean
15.35-15.45	ISLANDS Perspectives: Increasing capacity for policy implementation – highlights of the ISLANDS Caribbean Globally Harmonized System (GHS) Training Activities	Delena Indar, UNITAR Consultant, GHS Activities in the Caribbean
15.45-15.50	Reflection pause (for emerging questions)	Moderator
15.50-16.10	The Waste Management Policy Support System (WMPSS): A digital evidence base to strengthen waste and chemicals policy in SIDS	Gianguelielmo Calvi, Sr KM Systems Specialist, GGKP
16.10-16.25	Open Forum and Q&A	Speakers and Participants
16.25-16.30	Closing and Call to Action	Elena Chernysheva, Communications Specialist, ISLANDS CCKM

# From Policy Gaps to Practical Solutions: Collaborative Knowledge Sharing to Strengthen Chemicals and Waste Management in SIDS

Fabienne Pierre  
Head, Green Growth Knowledge Partnership

# Bridging the gap

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Strong policy and legislative frameworks are essential to shift SIDS onto a safe chemical development pathway.

Robust laws enable countries to control the flow of hazardous chemicals into their territories, strengthen compliance with the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions, and prioritize prevention by reducing future accumulation of toxic materials.

Without clear policy direction, SIDS are left reactive—managing risks only after harm occurs.

# GEF ISLANDS as a SIDS platform

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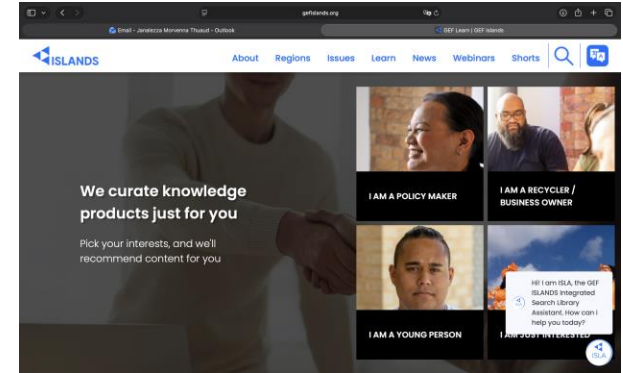
- Strengthening policy, legislation, and multistakeholder collaboration is central to the GEF ISLANDS Programme's objective of enabling Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to enter a safe, low and non-chemical development pathway.
- However, SIDS face persistent structural challenges: limited and outdated data, fragmented institutional mandates, and weak coordination across chemicals, waste, and circular economy agendas.
- To address these gaps, UNEP and partners of the GEF ISLANDS programme have developed complementary policy support interventions that translate global commitments into actionable national and regional solutions.



# Using knowledge to enhance collaboration

GGKP, as executing agency of the Coordination, Communications and Knowledge Management (CCKM) global project under UNEP's lead implementation of the GEF ISLANDS Programme, supports these solutions by:

- Ensuring that policy relevant knowledge across all regions is shared through a central knowledge hub;
- Curating available global best practice guidance for SIDS-specific policy challenges (EPR, recycling, stakeholder engagement); and
- Convening communities of practice and partnerships, ensuring policy lessons travel across linguistic, geographic, and institutional boundaries.



# ISLANDS Perspectives: Regional policy and collaboration context in ISLANDS Atlantic

Florisvindo Furtado,  
Regional Project Coordinator, ISLANDS Atlantic, BCRC Senegal

# Regional context: ISLANDS Atlantic

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ISLANDS Atlantic countries include: Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe

- All three countries have ratified the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions;
- The Minamata Convention has been ratified by Guinea-Bissau and São Tomé and Príncipe.
- National legal frameworks exist for general waste and environmental protection, yet challenges exist.

Challenges in Policy Implementation and Collaboration

- Legislative gaps for topics such as POPs, mercury, WEEE, ELVs and extended producer responsibility (EPR)
- Limited coordination and capacity – multiple roles spread across ministries with limited coordination mechanisms, and need recognized for technical training

ISLANDS ongoing solutions: Policy and institutional strengthening; national training needs assessments and capacity building programmes for ministries working on ELVs and WEEE.

# ISLANDS Perspectives: Strengthening the first line of defense: Building confidence of customs authorities in border control against chemicals and waste in the Indian Ocean

Clara Mottura

UNDP Regional Project Manager, GEF ISLANDS Indian Ocean

# Highlights from ISLANDS Indian Ocean Customs regional training workshop



## ISLANDS Indian Ocean objectives focused on policy and regulatory frameworks

- Development of regulatory and policy measures to control imports and improve the management of chemicals and products that lead to the generation of hazardous wastes.
- Improved capacity of customs officers, port authorities and environmental law enforcement officers

# ISLANDS Perspectives: Increasing capacity for policy implementation – highlights of the ISLANDS Caribbean Globally Harmonized System (GHS) Training Activities

Delena Indar  
Consultant, UNITAR



## ***Highlights of the ISLANDS Caribbean Globally Harmonized System (GHS) Activities – Increasing capacity for policy implementation***

### *Output 1.4*

*Assessment of the Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) in Project Countries and Development of a Training, and Awareness Raising Plan*

*28 April 2026*

*Ms. Delena Indar,  
UNITAR*



# The **GHS**: Context



# Political context of the GHS

“GHS is the true backbone of chemicals management and its importance cannot be underlined enough!

As a system that ensures chemical hazards are identified and classified consistently, it sets universal standards for protective measures that prevent exposure.”

(Bjorn Hansen, Executive Director [now retired], European Chemicals Agency, January 2022)

# Purpose and benefits of the GHS



**Enhance the protection** of human health and the environment by providing an internationally comprehensible system for hazard communication;



**Provide a legal framework** for countries without an existing system;



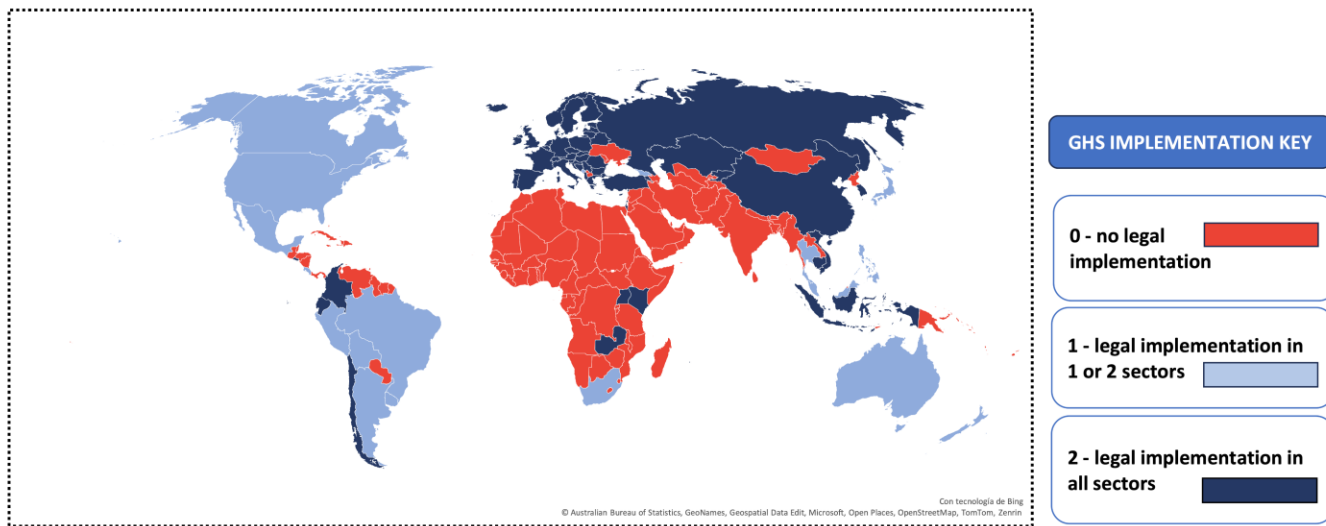
**Reduce the need for testing** and evaluation of chemicals;



**Facilitate international trade** in chemicals whose hazards have been properly assessed and identified on an international basis

# The GHS globally

However, despite this, the GHS is still **not operational in more than 120 countries**, mostly developing countries and countries with economies in transition.



The boundaries shown on this map do not imply endorsement or acceptance by the UNITAR

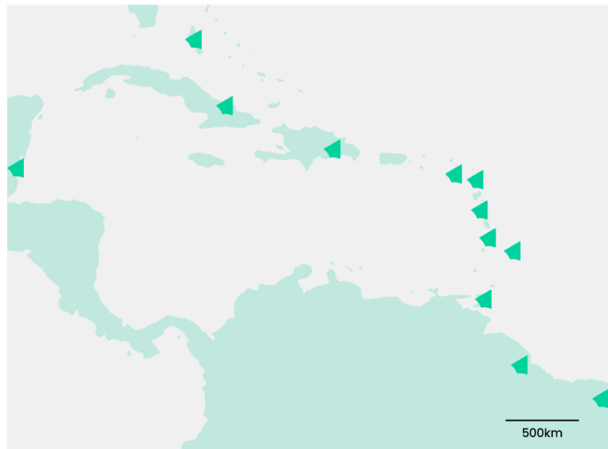


# What was done in the Caribbean?

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1. To assess the current implementation of GHS in each project country, understand the barriers and opportunities for the implementation of GHS | July 2024 – March 2025

2. Develop and deliver a training programme to assist Caribbean countries to capitalize on opportunities to implement within each national context | February 2025 - March 2025



1. Antigua and Barbuda (ATG),
2. Bahamas (BHS),
3. Barbados (BRB),
4. Belize (BZE),
5. Cuba (CUB),
6. Dominica (DMA),
7. Dominican Republic (DOM),
8. Guyana (GUY)
9. Saint Kitts and Nevis (KNA),
10. Saint Lucia (LCA),
11. Suriname (SUR),
12. Trinidad and Tobago (TTO)

## Key outputs and outcomes

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- **1 Regional Assessment Report – 12 Country Profiles**
  - Recommendations and opportunities to address barriers and assessment areas
  - Country stakeholder maps
  - Data collection from NWGs, private sector, academia, NGOs
- **Increased capacity**
  - Training workshop
  - GHS scholarships in the E-learning course
  - Concept and materials for the DLH
- **Increased resources/advancing GHS legislation**
  - Legislative review in the regional report
  - Model legislation

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# Regional assessment snapshots

# Snapshots – Status of implementation of the GHS

Country	Status
BLZ	There is compulsory standard that refers to GHS for medical gas cylinders, namely BZS 1: Part 8: 2023. GHS is expected to be adopted with the enactment of the Draft Integrated Chemical Management Bill
DOM	Two voluntary standards refer to the GHS, namely: Nordom 836 – 2: GHS – Part 2: Hazard Communication – Chemical Labelling; & Nordom 836 – 3: GHS – Part 3: Hazard Communication – SDS
GUY	Regulations No. 44 of 2024 – The Pesticides and Toxic Control (Amendment) Regulations 2023 requires SDS in line with the GHS. Further legislation is to be passed in the near future.

# Snapshots – Barriers to the implementation of GHS

Top barriers/Challenges to GHS Implementation Principales barreras/desafíos para la implementación del SGA	ATG	BHS	BRB	BLZ	CUB	DMA	DOM	GUY	KNA	LCA	SUR	TTO
Economic resources for GHS implementation in government Recursos económicos para la implementación del GHS en el gobierno	●	●	●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●
Understanding of GHS by the workforce and public Comprensión del GHS por parte de los trabajadores y el público	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Enforcement capacity Capacidad de ejecución	●	●	●				●		●	●	●	●
Economic resources for implementation in companies Recursos económicos para la implementación en las empresas					●	●	●			●	●	●

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# Training workshop and capacity building snapshots

# Training highlights

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- The workshop was held in both **English and Spanish** with simultaneous interpretation provided throughout all sessions.
- It was an **interactive hybrid course**, with exercises conducted throughout its duration for in presence and online participants.
- **Active participation was highly encouraged.** Online participants could engage verbally using a microphone or via chat.
- **Two types of certification** offered
  - Certificate of attendance
  - GHS Ambassador Diploma



## CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

has successfully completed the  
Training on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of  
Chemicals, and achieved the GHS Ambassadors Diploma

26 and 27 February 2025

Georgetown, Guyana

# Learning materials developed for the project

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**Module 1:** Introduction to the GHS

**Module 2:** GHS implementation

**Module 3:** GHS in the Caribbean region



**[See the Digital Learning Hub  
for access!](#)**

# UNITAR e-Learning Course

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## **Offered by the UNITAR**

- Eleven (11) Week online Training
- Twelve (12) scholarships provided and all utilized by GEF ISLANDS (Caribbean) Participating countries.
- Opportunity is open to others from the GEF ISLANDS Participating countries;
  - Contact BCRC-Caribbean / UNITAR for potential discounts
  - Next session will be held in October



# Lessons



# Opportunities

# Lessons to opportunities

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- **Develop regional networks** to facilitate ongoing collaboration
- **Explore synergies** with other environmental and sustainability initiatives to enhance GHS efforts, given the fundamental nature of the GHS to all chemicals management issues, as well as waste management or pollution control programs.
- Global GHS Ambassador Programme - **GHS Ambassador Programme**  
**Maintain regular communication with individuals who have achieved the Ambassadors Diploma** and those who were granted scholarships for the GHS Course

# Opportunities for other regions/islands

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## Resources or training:

- **Use of key tools for policy – such as the model legislation**
  - **Use of tools, guidance etc. should be based in national assessments!**
- **Resources and materials** developed under this Activity into an e-learning course available
  - *See the BCRC-Caribbean DLH*
  - *See UNITAR Resources / Continue the relationship with UNITAR for access to GHS experts, to continue training on the GHS and other chemicals and waste issues.*

# Advancing GHS legislation – models (A next step)

- Technical assistance for policy development to help countries create or revise legislative frameworks.
- UNITAR, to continue the collaboration, was able to secure resources to develop “model legislation” for the GHS in the Caribbean region.
- Provides key elements and articles that any legislation would need to factor in.
- n.b. legislation should always be based on an analysis of what exists and what is needed. The model can then serve as a basis for next steps

Link to access the model legislation:

<https://unitar.org/sites/default/files/media/file/GHS%20Model%20Legislation%20-%20Caribbean%20EN.pdf>



**Model Legislation for the  
Implementation of the Globally  
Harmonized System of Classification  
and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)**  
August 2025





# UNITAR and the GHS

# UNITAR and the GHS

- Co-lead of the Global Partnership to Implement the GHS, with the ILO and OECD, and a range of coalition partners: Governments, regional organisations, private sector, trade unions, academics and NGOs;
- Activities for training and awareness raising, developing implementation strategies, and supporting the drafting and review of legislation



# Resources – videos, documents etc.

A great deal of resources available for stakeholders to be benefiting from:

- Key elements of an implementation roadmap (UNITAR)
- Lessons-learned (UNITAR)
- Legislation guidance (UNITAR)
- The GHS and trade (UNITAR)
- The GHS in the world of work (ILO)
- Introduction to the GHS (4 presentations and 4 leaflets)
- Introduction to the GHS (2 videos)
- Webinars (Sign up at <https://cwcourses.unitar.org/subscribe/>)

<https://unitar.org/sustainable-development-goals/planet/our-portfolio/globally-harmonized-system-classification-and-labelling-chemicals>



**For more information, please  
contact UNITAR**

*Globally Harmonized System of Classification and  
Labelling of Chemicals | UNITAR*

<https://www.unitar.org/sustainable-development-goals/planet/>

**or visit the GHS website**

<https://unece.org/about-ghs>

Delena Indar,  
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# Reflection Pause

# The Waste Management Policy Support System (WMPSS): A digital evidence base to strengthen waste and chemicals policy in SIDS

Gianguielmo Calvi  
Senior Knowledge Management Systems Specialist, GGKP

*From evidence-based insights to actionable curated knowledge for effective policy formulation and implementation*

# The Waste Management & Circular Economy Policy Support System

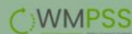
A digital evidence base to strengthen waste and chemicals policy in Small Island Developing States

## Gianguglielmo Calvi

Senior Knowledge Management Systems Expert  
Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP) · UNEP



Led by UNOSD, UN DESA and GGKP | In partnership with GGGI and UNEP | Supported by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea.



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# How we'll spend the next 30 minutes

Three short parts designed for an introductory audience. The platform demo is the centrepiece — slides only set the frame.

PART 1

≈ 10 min

## Concepts & Rationale

Why WMPSS matters for SIDS, what the tool is, and how it produces actionable evidence for policy.

PART 2

≈ 10 min

## Platform Walk-through

Live navigation through the WMPSS questionnaire, scoring, analytics dashboard and AI recommendations.

PART 3

≈ 10 min

## Open Discussion

Q&A and short interventions from SIDS already onboarded — Dominican Republic, Comoros, Seychelles.

# The power of self-assessment

*“The greatest journey is the one of self-discovery.”* – Lao Tzu

## See the whole picture

A structured view across the chemicals and waste lifecycle — capacity, governance, finance, engagement, monitoring and quantitative status — assembled in a single, comparable snapshot.

## Surface what's hidden

Self-assessment makes visible where data is missing, where mandates overlap and where institutional capacity is thinnest — the starting point for any meaningful reform.

## Align around shared evidence

A common framework and vocabulary brings ministries, agencies and partners onto the same page, replacing fragmented assumptions with a single reference base.

## Build a baseline that grows

Annual re-runs turn one assessment into a trajectory — a longitudinal record useful for ministers, donors and convention focal points alike.

# "We cannot regulate what we cannot measure"

62%

of municipal waste in Oceania (incl. Pacific SIDS) is uncontrolled — open dumping or burning

*GWMO 2024 (UNEP), regional disposal rates*

62%

of municipal waste in Central America & the Caribbean is also uncontrolled

*GWMO 2024 (UNEP), regional disposal rates*

~10 yrs

is the typical age of waste data still relied upon by many SIDS for national policy

*UNEP SIDS Waste Management Outlook & UNSD reporting*

Comprehensive, comparable data is the foundation for effective chemicals and waste policy. WMPSS can help SIDS to produce that evidence — once, in a structured way, and re-use it across reporting, planning and investment.

*Note: regional figures from GWMO 2024 cover MSW;*

# What is the WMPSS?

A collaborative, country-driven self-assessment platform that helps governments benchmark waste and circular-economy policies, practices and data — and turn the results into actionable knowledge.

[wastepolicysupport.org](https://wastepolicysupport.org)

**Built by GGKP / UN-DESA / UNOSD — used by countries, owned by countries**

**Confidential by default** — data is owned and controlled by the country.

**Free to use** for UN Member States; available in multiple languages.

**Tailorable** — questionnaire branches adapt to national context (basic / detailed).

## Self-assessment

412 questions across 6 components, covering the full waste lifecycle.

## Confidential reports

Country-level analytics with colour-coded scoring and radar charts.

## AI recommendations

Contextualised, evidence-based policy guidance tied to identified gaps.

## Annual tracking

Update each year to monitor progress and adapt the strategy.

# From data input to actionable recommendations

*A four-step cycle that countries run annually, building an evidence base over time.*

01

## INPUT

Designated national personnel input data across 6 components and all waste-management stages. Choose basic or detailed questions.

02

## SCORING

Responses scored on a 0–4 scale. Scores aggregate by component and sub-component to produce a comprehensive country profile.

03

## ANALYSIS

Components needing improvement are prioritised. Colour-coded results and radar charts highlight patterns and gaps.

04

## RESULTS

AI-generated recommendations match identified gaps with best practices. A confidential country report is produced.

→ *Annual re-run captures progress and allows trend analysis across years*

# Six components covering the full waste lifecycle

*Each component is evaluated across all stages: Generation → Source segregation → Collection & transport → Sorting → Treatment & disposal*

## 1 Capacity

Human resources · Technology & infrastructure

## 2 Public Governance

National plan & institutional framework · Legal & regulatory framework

## 3 Engagement

Stakeholder consultation · Public awareness

## 4 Finance

Budget · Financing mechanism · Financial incentives

## 5 Monitoring

Data management · Compliance · Evaluation

## 6 Status

Quantitative data: generation, composition, hazardous, e-waste, city data

*→ All six components apply equally to chemicals and hazardous waste streams (POPs, mercury, e-waste) — directly aligned with ISLANDS Programme priorities*

# What SIDS get from joining the WMPSS network

## Country-owned evidence base

Confidential, structured data on waste and chemicals — under your control, re-usable across reporting obligations.

## Compatible with conventions

Can help in and accelerate the reporting to Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, Minamata and SDG 11.6.1 / 12.5.1

## Targeted AI recommendations

Gap-driven guidance with links to UNEP, World Bank and partner resources — not generic best-practice lists.

## SIDS-to-SIDS collaboration

Standardised scoring and recommendations enable peer learning across Atlantic, Caribbean and Indian Ocean regions and with global benchmarks.

## Free and tailorable

No licence cost. Branches adapt to country context; basic and detailed pathways accommodate different data maturity. It can on-board non-government institutions as well (business partners, NGOs).

## Continuity over years

Annual re-runs build a longitudinal record — useful for ministers, donors and convention focal points alike.

*In short: WMPSS turns scattered policy questions into a shared analytical platform — at no cost to participating SIDS.*

# SIDS already in the WMPSS / UNOSD network

## Dominican Republic

Caribbean

Completed national self-assessment; engaged through the LAC regional workshop process.

## Comoros

Indian Ocean

Pilot use under the ISLANDS Indian Ocean component, focused on chemicals & e-waste flows.

## Seychelles

Indian Ocean

Completed assessment supporting the country's circular-economy and waste-policy agenda.

## Joining the network

By onboarding, your country joins a growing network of UN Member States using a common analytical framework — coordinated by UN-DESA / UNOSD with GGKP and UNEP.

### What you get

- Free account & technical onboarding support
- Confidential country dashboard
- Access to the WMPSS community of practice
- Tailored AI policy recommendations
- Recognition as a participating country in regional and global reports

# Live Platform Walk-through

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*Switching to [wastepolicysupport.org](https://wastepolicysupport.org) for a guided tour of the actual tool.*

In this segment we will walk through:

- 1 Logging in and setting up a country team
- 2 Navigating the questionnaire — basic vs detailed pathways
- 3 Reviewing the analytics dashboard, radar charts and colour-coded scoring
- 4 Reading AI-generated recommendations and exporting the country report

# wastepolicysupport.org

*If connectivity allows we'll walk the live site. This screen is a backup reference.*



## Demo flow

1. Public landing → About / Knowledge
2. Login & country workspace
3. Questionnaire — branching by component
4. Saving partial answers, role-based access
5. Analytics dashboard — radar & colour-coded scoring
6. AI recommendations panel
7. Confidential country report (PDF export)

# Open Discussion & Q&A

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*Short interventions from SIDS already using WMPSS, then open Q&A.*

## Voices from onboarded SIDS · ~3 min each

- Dominican Republic — experience completing the assessment
- Comoros — chemicals & e-waste data challenges
- Seychelles — using results for circular-economy planning

## Open prompts for participants

- What policy questions could WMPSS help your country answer first?
- Which data sources or institutions would you involve?
- How could a regional ISLANDS / WMPSS exchange add value?

# Wishing to join the WMPSS community?

# 1

## Express interest

Reach out via the contacts on the closing slide or through your ISLANDS regional team — Atlantic, Caribbean or Indian Ocean.

**CONTACT ISLANDS CCKM global and regional teams**

# 2

## Set up the country team

Identify the lead ministry / agency and a small inter-institutional team (waste, chemicals, statistics, environment).

**CONFIGURE YOUR TEAM ON WMPSS**

# 3

## Run the assessment

Free onboarding session with GGKP/UNOSD; complete basic or detailed questionnaire at your own pace; receive your country report.

**REPLY TO THE SELF-ASSESSMENT AND ENJOY RESULTS**



[wastepolicysupport.org](http://wastepolicysupport.org)

Free for UN Member States · Country-owned data · Multi-language

# Thank you

## Gianguglielmo Calvi

Senior Knowledge Management Systems Expert  
Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP) · UNEP

*ISLANDS Webinar · Policy & Legislation for Chemicals and Waste Management in SIDS*

Led by UNOSD, UN DESA and GGKP | In partnership with GGGI and UNEP | Supported by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea.



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# Open Forum and QnA

## Q&A

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- ISLANDS Atlantic: Can you share any activities that may involve improving policy frameworks and collaboration models for ISLANDS Atlantic? For interested researchers not based in your islands, how can they collaborate with you?
- ISLANDS Indian Ocean: Do you have any additional flagship activities related to policy measures or regulatory frameworks?
- GGKP: How can the WMPSS tool help Sri Lanka balance agricultural productivity with the phase-out of hazardous pesticides?

## Q&A from the audience

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- What are the channels for disseminating knowledge of local initiatives that can build trust and become good practice or good learning?
- What is the current status of policies concerning waste streams from accelerating renewable energy investments, for example, solar panels?
- How to deal with existing plastic pollution/legacy plastics which arrive through ocean currents?
- What are the policy frameworks and collaboration models related to chemicals in Plastics, e.g. PFAS etc?

# Closing and Call to Action

Elena Chernysheva, Communications Specialist, CCKM

# Hear from us

- Check out the **ISLANDS Forum+ page** on [gefislands.org](https://gefislands.org) for updates
- Subscribe to the **ISLANDS newsletter** to receive invitations to the event and the most recent knowledge

Links in the chat!



ISLANDS Forum+ is built to connect, share knowledge, learn together, and engage with global experts and stakeholders. It gives island nations a platform to speak to each other and to the wider world beyond their shores.

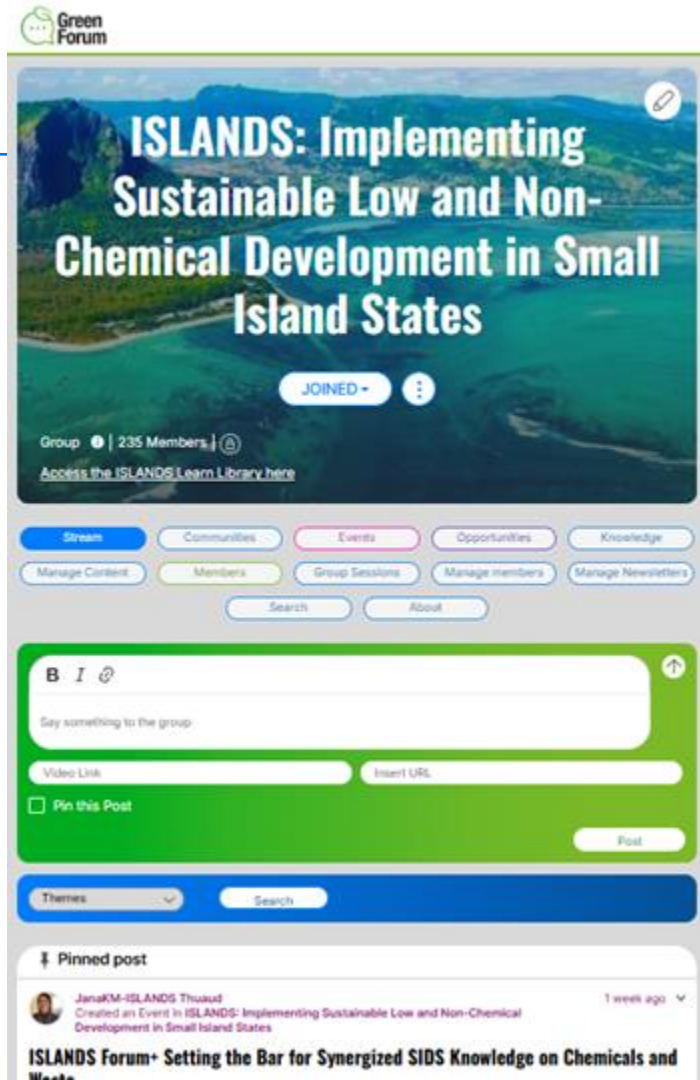
Welcome to ISLANDS Forum+



# Share with us

Join the Green Forum Community to share your knowledge, speak with other experts, and contact the ISLANDS team directly:

- **Nominate yourself or your colleague** as a speaker or panelist (post your suggestion on the Green Library)
- **Share your research, knowledge, case studies** – or ask others for the information you need

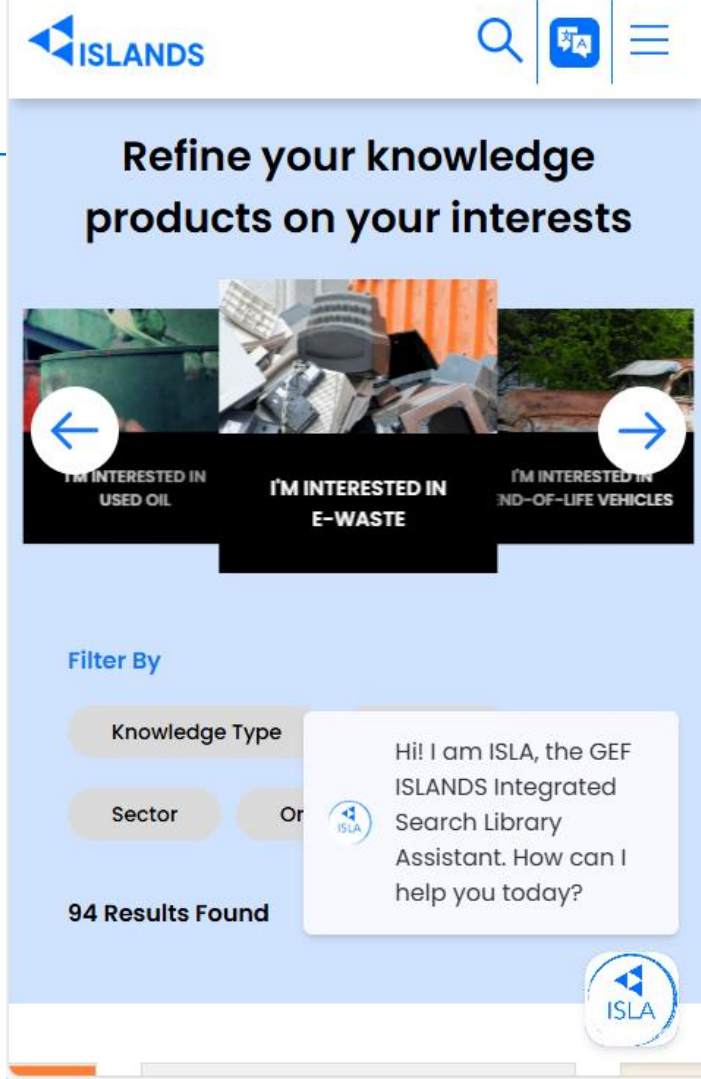


# Learn from us

Explore the ISLANDS Knowledge Hub at **gefislands.org**

- Refine search with your profile and interest
- Ask **ISLA** – AI assistant

[GEFISLANDS.ORG](https://gefislands.org)



The screenshot displays the ISLANDS Knowledge Hub interface. At the top, the ISLANDS logo is on the left, and search, AI assistant, and menu icons are on the right. The main heading reads "Refine your knowledge products on your interests". Below this, three filter categories are shown with images and navigation arrows: "I'M INTERESTED IN USED OIL", "I'M INTERESTED IN E-WASTE", and "I'M INTERESTED IN END-OF-LIFE VEHICLES". A "Filter By" section includes "Knowledge Type" and "Sector" filters. A pop-up window for the AI assistant ISLA is visible, with the text: "Hi! I am ISLA, the GEF ISLANDS Integrated Search Library Assistant. How can I help you today?". At the bottom, it shows "94 Results Found" and the ISLA logo in a circular button.

# Closing and Thanks



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