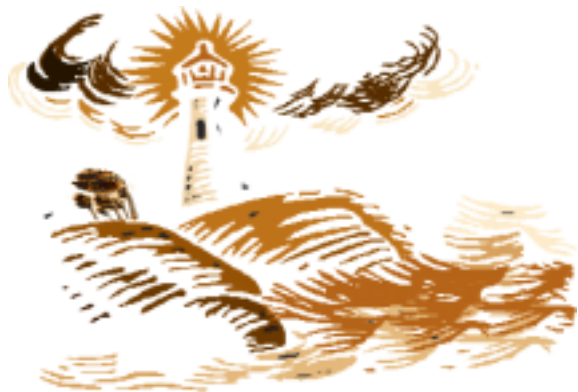


# A strong voice for small islands

**Small islands** are, by their very nature, limited in size and relatively isolated. They are also particularly vulnerable to natural disasters and global economic events, making the problems they confront especially challenging



**Despite their isolation** and vulnerability, small islands can contribute to and benefit from the 'information age', which may provide a means to battle environmental degradation and growing poverty at home, and serve as an example to the rest of the world.



**'The world's small island developing states are front-line zones where, in concentrated form, many of the main problems of environment and development are unfolding'..**

*(United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Kofi Annan, New York, September 1999)*

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# Small islands' voice





# People talking across the waves

**Small Islands' Voice** is being launched from three small islands in the Caribbean, Indian Ocean and Pacific.

Small Islands' Voice is all about:

- providing people from small islands the opportunity to voice their opinions on environment–development issues
- making sure that these opinions are included in the 10-year review of the 'Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States', adopted in Barbados in 1994
- encouraging people to get involved in environment–development issues up to and beyond 2004

## Communication is key

**Small Islands' Voice seeks to assist** small islands to overcome their isolation by building capacity and strengthening internal, regional and inter-regional communication.

### Training and capacity building

- In each island the key environment–development issues important to islanders will be determined through various activities involving all major groups (women, men, young people, local leaders, private sector, governmental and non-governmental agencies) and supported by radio, television and print media



- The debate on local issues will then be widened to national, regional and ultimately inter-regional levels, through Internet-based discussions



- A young islanders Internet-based discussion on environment–development issues will be started



- Key issues of the environment–development debate will be identified through continual feedback from and interaction between the on-the-ground and Internet levels
- Islanders' views and opinions will contribute to the review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (2004)
- Pre- and post-project attitude surveys will be conducted to evaluate the activities

