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ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Biodiversity and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Biodiversity and the SDGs

- What are the **Sustainable Development Goals?**
- How are **biodiversity priorities integrated** into the draft SDGs?
- How are the draft SDGs linked to the **Aichi Targets?**
- What are potential **future implications** for conservation efforts in the Pacific?

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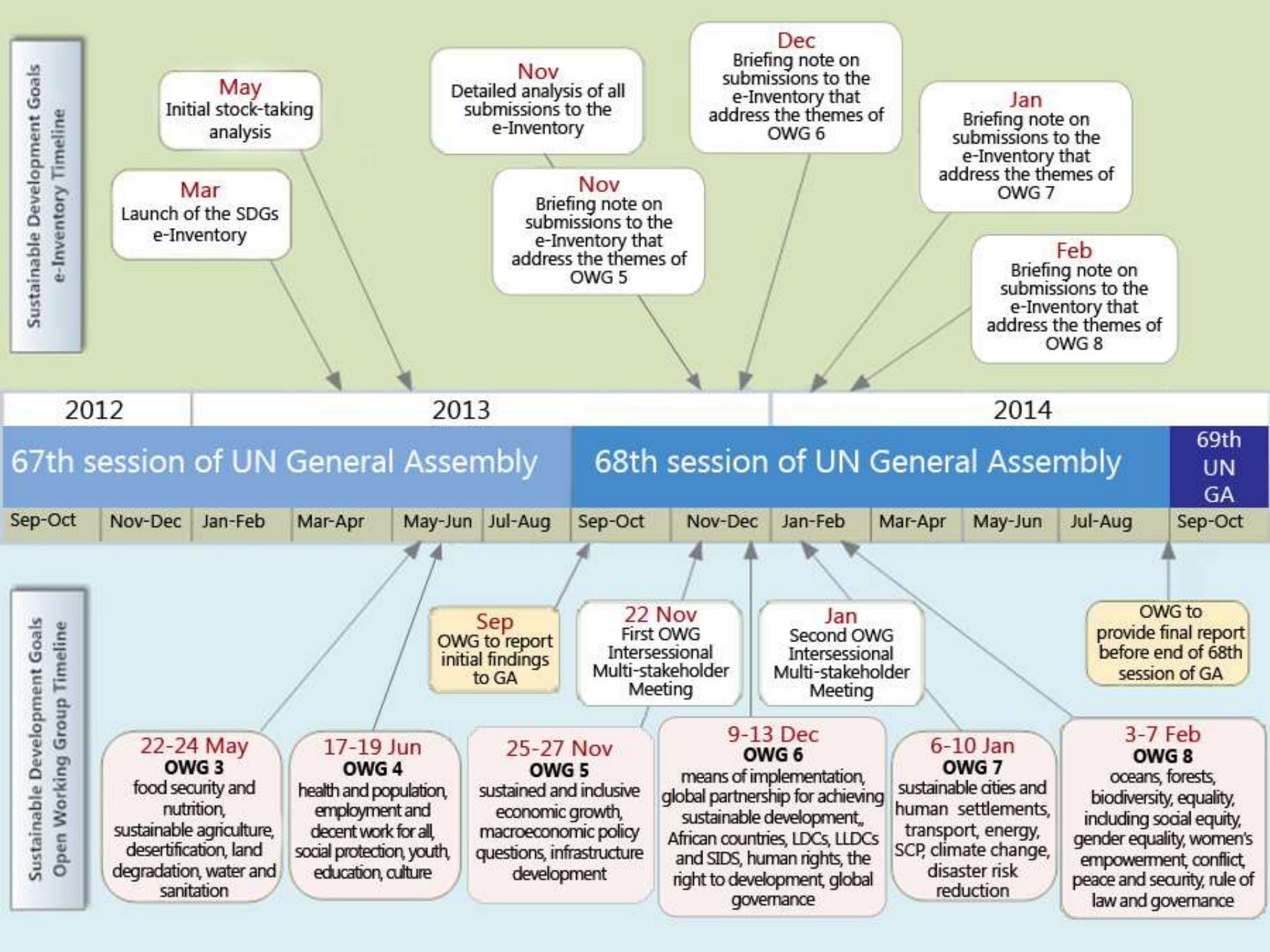
Sustainable Development Goals

- Mandated through the 2012 Rio+20:

  "… the SDGs should be action-oriented, concise, easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, global in nature and universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities"

- An Open Working Group of UN members states established to come up with a draft set of goals and targets.
- Pacific members of the Group: Nauru, Palau, PNG.

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Sustainable Development Goals e-Inventory Timeline
May
Initial stock-taking analysis
Mar
Launch of the SDGs e-Inventory
Nov
Detailed analysis of all submissions to the e-Inventory
Nov
Briefing note on submissions to the e-Inventory that address the themes of OWG 5
Dec
Briefing note on submissions to the e-Inventory that address the themes of OWG 6
Jan
Briefing note on submissions to the e-Inventory that address the themes of OWG 7
Feb
Briefing note on submissions to the e-Inventory that address the themes of OWG 8
2012
2013
2014
67th session of UN General Assembly
68th session of UN General Assembly
69th UN GA
Sep-Oct
Nov-Dec
Jan-Feb
Mar-Apr
May-Jun
Jul-Aug
Sep-Oct
Nov-Dec
Jan-Feb
Mar-Apr
May-Jun
Jul-Aug
Sep-Oct
Sustainable Development Goals Open Working Group Timeline
22-24 May
OWG 3
food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, desertification, land degradation, water and sanitation
17-19 Jun
OWG 4
health and population, employment and decent work for all, social protection, youth, education, culture
Sep
OWG to report initial findings to GA
25-27 Nov
OWG 5
sustained and inclusive economic growth, macroeconomic policy questions, infrastructure development
22 Nov
First OWG Intersessional Multi-stakeholder Meeting
9-13 Dec
OWG 6
means of implementation, global partnership for achieving sustainable development,, African countries, LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, human rights, the right to development, global governance
Jan
Second OWG Intersessional Multi-stakeholder Meeting
6-10 Jan
OWG 7
sustainable cities and human settlements, transport, energy, SCP, climate change, disaster risk reduction
OWG to provide final report before end of 68th session of GA
3-7 Feb
OWG 8
oceans, forests, biodiversity, equality, including social equity, gender equality, women's empowerment, conflict, peace and security, rule of law and governance



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GOAL 14

CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

More at sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsproposal


GOAL 15
PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
More at sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsproposal

Goal 14 - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

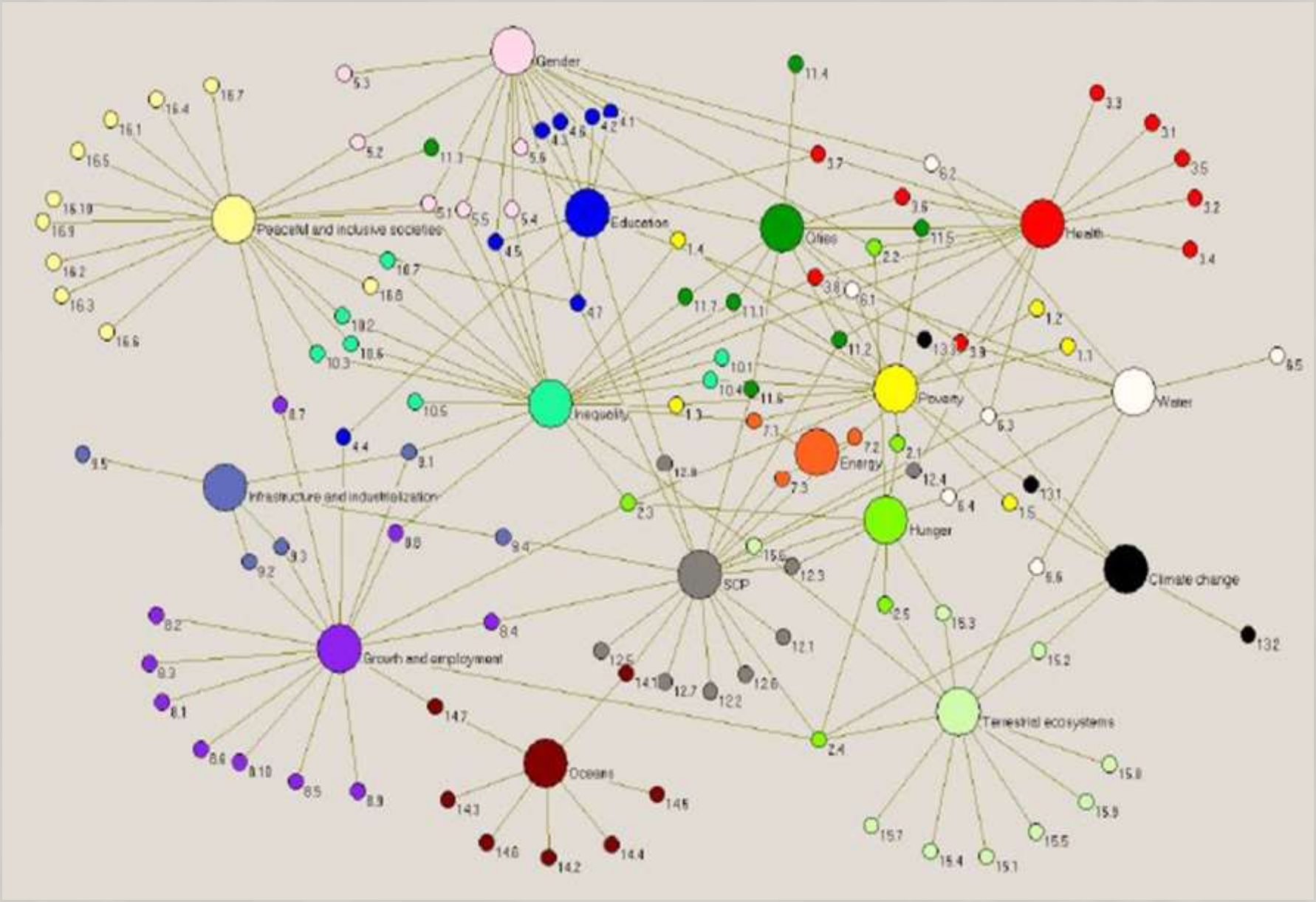
- 14.1 by 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution
- 14.2 by 2020, sustainably manage, and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience and take action for their restoration, to achieve healthy and productive oceans
- 14.3 minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels
- 14.4 by 2020, effectively regulate harvesting, and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics
- 14.5 by 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on best available scientific information
- 14.6 by 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing, and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the WTO fisheries subsidies negotiation
- 14.7 by 2030 increase the economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism

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Goal 15 - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

- 15.1 by 2020 ensure conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements
- 15.2 by 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, and increase afforestation and reforestation by x% globally
- 15.3 by 2020, combat desertification, and restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land-degradation neutral world
- 15.4 by 2030 ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, to enhance their capacity to provide benefits which are essential for sustainable development
- 15.5 take urgent and significant action to reduce degradation of natural habitat, halt the loss of biodiversity, and by 2020 protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species
- 15.6 ensure fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, and promote appropriate access to genetic resources
- 15.7 take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna, and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products
- 15.8 by 2020 introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems, and control or eradicate the priority species
- 15.9 by 2020, integrate ecosystems and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes and poverty reduction strategies, and accounts

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Source: UN-DESA (2015)

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	SDG target	Aichi target(s)
Agriculture and ecosystem maintenance	2.4	7
Genetic diversity	2.5	13
Freshwater eco-systems	6.6	11, 14
SCP and natural resource use	12.2	4
Marine pollution	14.1	8
Marine and coastal eco-systems	14.2	11
Climate change	13.2	10
Ocean acidification	14.3	10
Fisheries management	14.4	6
Harmful subsidies	14.6	3
Terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems	15.1	14
Combat desertification	15.3	15
Prevent extinction	15.5	12
Benefits from genetic resources	15.6	16
Invasive alien species	15.8	9
Integration into national and local planning	15.9	2

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The good: A ‘transformative’ agenda

- Biodiversity and protection of ecosystems have dedicated goals and are mentioned across a range of targets.
- Attempt to align objectives of biodiversity related Conventions into SDG targets (e.g. CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC, CITES).
- Should help integrate biodiversity objectives into national planning, budgeting and reporting processes.
- An additional opportunity to strengthen political commitment to conservation of biodiversity.
- Universally applicable.
- Emergence of systems thinking.
- Development of measures of progress beyond GDP (Target 17.19)
- Focus on rule of law and access to justice (Target 16.3), accountable institutions (Target 16.6) and participatory decision making (Target 16.7)

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Some gaps and challenges

- Gaps include:
  - Awareness of biodiversity value (Aichi Target 1)
  - Protected area targets (Aichi Target 11)
  - Traditional and indigenous knowledge for biodiversity (Aichi Target 18)
- Some habitats have been singled out for mention, whilst others have not (e.g. Grasslands).
- The wording of the Goals and Targets make measurement difficult.
- The wording of the Goals and Targets could show stronger convergence with MEA processes.
- Potential tension with other Goals and Targets (e.g. GDP growth, industrial development)

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Future implications

- Which should/will governments pay most attention to?
- Pacific countries, especially small ones, will face a challenge in prioritising the SDGs and dealing with tracking and reporting on so many goals and targets.
- We need to focus attention on translating the political aspirations of the Goals and Targets into measurable indicators at the national and local levels by which to assess the status of biodiversity
- Opportunity to strengthen 'environmental rule of law'
- SDG monitoring and reporting can inform policy.
- Localising the SDGs and building ownership by governments and communities key to their success.

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Thank you
www.unescap.org/subregional-office/pacific