

## QUESTIONNAIRE

### Follow-up to and implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States (ABAS)

Please note that strict word limits have been established for each question. The Secretariat is unable to consider any information beyond these established word limits. You are requested to report only on new or updated information. Information conveyed in previous surveys or Secretary-Generals' reports will not be considered.

#### PART A - FOSTERING RESILIENT PROSPERITY IN SIDS

##### 1. Enhanced UN System Support for achieving Resilient Prosperity in SIDS (FOR the UN system)

*Using the UN implementation Matrix<sup>1</sup> (attached) to guide feedback, briefly elaborate on any resilience building interventions or strategies (proactive or preventative) that were/are being implemented during the reporting period at national or regional levels aimed specifically at improving resilience in SIDS. Please include indications of resource allocations, if available (600 words).*

UNEP's support to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) has evolved to align with the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS). UNEP has scaled up its support to deliver measurable results under ABAS through an integrated approach spanning policy advisory, science-based programming, and supporting mobilising catalytic financing.

##### ***Climate adaptation and restoration:***

- UNEP's adaptation portfolio in 14 SIDS has mobilized over USD 150 million to advance ecosystem-based and nature-based solutions (NbS). The Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR), co-hosted by UNEP, has invested in 8 reef-positive enterprises across the Bahamas, Fiji, Maldives, Micronesia, Palau, and Papua New Guinea, covering over 663,000 hectares of reef. Seychelles and Solomon Islands are onboarding.
- Through the SIDS Restoration Flagship, UNEP is supporting the restoration of 110,000 hectares across Comoros, Saint Lucia, and Vanuatu. Activities include coastal ecosystem assessments and sustainable blue economy rapid readiness work, underpinning resilience, biodiversity protection, and a sustainable blue economic transition.
- In the Pacific, UNEP supported the creation of 17,000+ hectares of new terrestrial protected areas and improved the management of 5,700 hectares of landscapes, benefiting 124,000 people. The Caribbean BlueFin initiative, a \$6 million GEF-backed project, is strengthening marine protected areas (MPAs) across five Caribbean SIDS, enhancing management effectiveness across over 1 million hectares.

##### ***Pollution reduction and freshwater resilience:***

UNEP continues to apply a Source-to-Sea lens to tackle marine and land-based pollution in SIDS. UNEP has delivered over USD 100 million in pollution-related projects.

- The PROMAR initiative is operational in five Caribbean SIDS to implement circular economy solutions, map waste flows, and pilot Extended Producer Responsibility schemes. Through the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative, UNEP supported Mauritius in plastic ban enforcement by training 30 national trainers and mobilizing the tourism sector to shift away from single-use plastics.

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<sup>1</sup> accountability framework developed to promote and monitor progress with implementation of ABAS

- UNEP's wastewater and nutrient management support through CReW+ (USD 14.9 million) led to regulatory reform in six countries and enhanced compliance and monitoring systems. In parallel, UNEP advanced integrated water resource management in Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago, and Saint Lucia under the SDG 6.5.1 Support Programme.
- UNEP's e-mobility projects in Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu secured USD 4.4 million to reduce transport-sector GHGs, scale electric public transport, and develop sustainable urban mobility plans.
- In the energy and cooling sector, UNEP supported SIDS engagement in the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC). This included technical assistance on short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs), the development of national methane strategies (e.g. Dominican Republic), and the advancement of NDC 3.0 implementation and MRV systems.

***Prosperous societies in harmony with nature:***

- UNEP supported sustainable blue economic transitions with over USD 75 million invested in this endeavour across SIDS. The Sustainable Blue Economy Transition Framework underpins this support, enabling inclusive, ecosystem-based marine planning and investment. The PROCARIBE+ initiative helps SIDS enhance ocean governance, strengthen MPA networks, and align with the GBF Target 3.

***Environmental governance and ocean law:***

- UNEP continues to support SIDS to strengthen their capacity to implement MEAs, with support through the ACP MEAs Programme and regional legal training. In the Pacific, UNEP trained judges from nine SIDS under the Environmental Law Programme, promoting rule of law and enforcement.
- UNEP supports capacity building towards the ratification and implementation of the BBNJ Agreement, delivering training under the Regional Seas Conventions and preparing national BBNJ profiles in 14 Pacific SIDS to map cross-sectoral capacity gaps.

***Data, science, and innovation:***

- UNEP is enhancing digital and data capacity in SIDS through platforms like the Freshwater Ecosystems Explorer and the GFCR Monitoring and Evaluation Toolkit. These tools empower real-time, data-driven decision-making on ecosystems, water quality, and restoration.
- Collectively, these integrated efforts reflect UNEP's commitment to delivering whole-of-society and science-backed solutions for resilient prosperity in SIDS.

**2. Enhanced and Tailored Development Cooperation for SIDS (For Development Partners, IFIs and SIDS Governments)**

Successful ABAS implementation will require improved, tailored development cooperation approaches and financial resources, calibrated to the specific needs, capacity constraints, and economic challenges facing SIDS. It will also require that relevant national/regional plans programme and policies are implemented. Briefly elaborate on:

- any planned or ongoing strategies/approaches to improve and deliver on more tailored development support to SIDS. What are the expected results from these interventions in the targeted countries Please include indications of resource allocations if available (600 words)*

UNEP continues to deliver tailored development cooperation to SIDS by aligning its support to SIDS in science-policy integration, environmental governance, and innovative financing with SIDS-led priorities under ABAS. UNEP's support leverages a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

- The SIDS Restoration Flagship is UNEP's first global programme dedicated to ecosystem restoration in SIDS. All 3 target country's national workplans were co-developed through inclusive multistakeholder processes, including governments, communities, youth, and civil society. National coordinators are embedded within each government's lead ministry to ensure embedded technical support, policy coherence, and tailored implementation aligned with national blue economy ambitions.
- In the Caribbean, UNEP delivers technical assistance through the Cartagena Convention and its three Protocols (SPAW, LBS, Oil Spills). Under this umbrella:
  - The ACP MEAs III programme supports legal and institutional reform and the strengthening of regional MEA compliance;
  - The CReW+ project (USD 14.9 million) delivers integrated wastewater management and national regulatory reforms in countries such as Trinidad & Tobago, Belize, and Panama;
  - The PROCARIBE+ initiative advances marine spatial planning and sustainable finance, particularly in Dominican Republic and Eastern Caribbean SIDS;
  - The PROMAR project provides capacity support for circular economy pilots, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), and marine litter reduction in five Caribbean SIDS.
- In the Pacific, UNEP works with Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Pacific Community (SPC), and national governments to deliver:
  - Biodiversity planning support to 12 SIDS, helping countries update their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and associated monitoring frameworks;
  - Joint programming with FAO and UNDP to combat invasive species and improve ecosystem governance;
  - Ocean-climate data integration for resilience building, including early warning systems, coral reef protection, and digital environmental monitoring.
- UNEP's support also includes legal capacity-building. For example, under the Pacific Judges' Environmental Law Programme, UNEP has trained judicial leaders from nine Pacific SIDS to support enforcement of environmental rule of law, drawing links to land use, pollution, and biodiversity protection.
- Across regions, UNEP engages in joint frameworks like the Ocean Coordination Mechanism, ICRI, UN-Water, and Regional Seas Conventions to ensure policy alignment and information exchange. UNEP also contributes to joint UN programming in multi-country cooperation frameworks, such as the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the Pacific (2023–2027).
- Expected outcomes across UNEP's SIDS work include:
  - Improved institutional and technical capacities at the national and regional levels;
  - Strengthened environmental governance and MEA implementation;
  - Scalable models of nature-based solutions and ecosystem finance;
  - Enhanced access to restoration, pollution control, and ocean data for informed policymaking.

ii) any planned or ongoing national programmes to develop more resilient SIDS economies. What are the expected results from these interventions. Please include indications of resource allocations if available (600 words)

UNEP is supporting Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in developing more resilient economies through national and regional programmes that integrate environmental sustainability with inclusive economic transformation. These programmes align closely with the ABAS priority areas of fostering prosperity, promoting sustainable blue economy models, and reducing vulnerability to climate shocks.

One of UNEP's key economic resilience programmes is the SIDS Restoration Flagship, currently being implemented in Comoros, Saint Lucia, and Vanuatu. Restoration activities are coupled with sustainable blue economy readiness assessments that identify nature-based enterprise opportunities, resource gaps, and financing needs.

UNEP is also a founding partner of the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR), a blended finance mechanism active in 10 SIDS, including Maldives, Fiji, Bahamas, Seychelles, Palau, and Papua New Guinea. The GFCR supports the incubation and scaling of reef-positive businesses, unlocking investment into enterprises such as sustainable aquaculture, coral farming, eco-tourism, and resilient coastal infrastructure. UNEP leads the Fund's monitoring and evaluation framework and facilitates regional capacity-building workshops focused on data collection and impact tracking. As of 2024, over 663,000 hectares of coral reefs are under improved management through GFCR-supported programmes, contributing directly to both environmental and economic gains.

To support inclusive blue economy development, UNEP has mobilized USD 75.6 million across multiple SIDS. Guided by the Sustainable Blue Economy Transition Framework, these investments promote ecosystem-based marine planning, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable value chains in fisheries and tourism. In the Caribbean, the PROCARIBE+ initiative is helping countries integrate marine protected areas (MPAs) into national planning processes, develop sustainable financing mechanisms, and align marine governance with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

In the transport and energy sectors, UNEP's e-mobility programmes in Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu have secured over USD 4.4 million in GEF funding. These initiatives aim to reduce GHG emissions and fossil fuel dependency through the electrification of public transport, piloting of electric government fleets, and the development of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP). The expected outcome is improved energy security, lower operational costs, and enhanced air quality in urban centres.

UNEP is also contributing to strengthening economic and social resilience through clean air strategies. Under the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), UNEP supports the Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, the Maldives, and Fiji in reducing short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) like methane and black carbon. This includes the development of National Methane Roadmaps, MRV systems, and integration of air quality objectives into national planning and NDCs.

In Mauritius, UNEP delivered targeted support through the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative (GTPI), helping the government implement its national plastic ban in the tourism sector. This included the development of localized tools, training of 30 national trainers, and engagement of tourism SMEs to transition toward circular economy models. The outcome is a more resilient tourism industry with reduced dependence on imports and enhanced waste management.

Finally, UNEP is advancing the development of the One Ocean Finance facility, a proposed blended finance mechanism co-created with Global South partners under the GFCR framework. Currently in

the design phase, this facility aims to unlock large-scale capital for ocean-positive investments across SIDS, including reef restoration, coastal infrastructure, and nature-based enterprises. Early consultations with AOSIS and other island governments are underway to inform its governance and future rollout.

Collectively, these programmes contribute to long-term economic resilience by strengthening ecosystems, diversifying income streams, reducing risk exposure, and enabling SIDS to access scalable investment opportunities aligned with their ABAS and SDG targets.

## **PART B - COHERENT AND EFFECTIVE UN SYSTEM WIDE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES TO SIDS**

Paragraph 36 of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) requests the UN Secretary-General: *"..... within his annual report to the General Assembly for the 80th Session on the implementation of the ABAS, to present proposals to ensure a coordinated, coherent and effective UN system wide capacity development approach to SIDS and to enhance the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the ABAS, including a potential single SIDS dedicated entity at the UN Secretariat."*

At the global level, the UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) oversees UN efforts for sustainable development in 162 countries and territories, guiding, supporting, tracking, and overseeing the coordination of development operations. The UNSDG derives its mandate from the Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, which serves as an important instrument for the monitoring and the assessment of UN development operations. The integrated nature of ABAS calls for a UN Development System that works in a coordinated and coherent manner while preserving each entity's mandate and role and leveraging each entity's expertise.

### **1. Coherent and effective UN system support to SIDS (For UN System Responses, 750 words)**

- i. What challenges are encountered by UN agencies, to deliver a 'whole-of-system response' in addressing the needs, risks, and vulnerabilities and to provide development programmes that address the underlying drivers of needs in SIDS?*

While significant strides have been made under regional frameworks and interagency platforms, UN agencies still often operate in silos, resulting in fragmented support and duplicative programming. This is compounded by:

- Limited in-country capacity in SIDS to coordinate or absorb support from multiple agencies;
- High staff turnover in government ministries, leading to discontinuity in programme oversight and engagement;

- ii. What percentage of your entity's programming expenditures on development activities in SIDS in 2024 were allocated to joint programmes? What percentage will be allocated in 2025?*

UNEP continues to participate in multi-country frameworks, joint programmes, and regional coordination mechanisms. In 2024, 3%<sup>2</sup> of UNEP's development-related programming in SIDS was delivered under joint or co-executed arrangements. A subset of projects include (as a sample):

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<sup>2</sup> UNEP Budget 2024 allocated to SIDS: 49.4 million USD (out of 1,361.6 million USD) = 3.5%  
Expenditure 2024 in SIDS: 16.9 million USD (out of 544.1 million USD) = 3%

- PROCARIBE+, with UNDP and GIZ in the Wider Caribbean;
- CReW+, co-implemented with IDB;
- Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR), with UNDP, UNCDF, and UNEP;
- Numerous UNEP-led GEF projects, in collaboration with FAO, UNDP, and regional bodies like SPREP and SPC.
  - E.g. Strengthening national-level institutional and professional capacities of country Parties towards enhanced UNCCD monitoring and reporting
- SIDS Restoration Flagship, with FAO (in Vanuatu, St. Lucia, and Comoros)
- OzonAction, with UN-DESA and other partners across SIDS globally.
- ONE UNEP Plastic Project

iii. What are the lessons learned, challenges and best practices of the UNSCDF (including multi-country frameworks) and their respective Country Implementation Plans (CIPs) in promoting joint programming?

Key lessons include:

- Flexibility and co-ownership are critical: Plans must adapt to SIDS-specific priorities and allow for inclusive consultation.
- Clear division of labour and roles among agencies prevents overlap.
- The UNSCDF must be backed by long-term funding and joint resource mobilization strategies - without which implementation remains fragmented.
- UNEP notes that the CIPs are most effective when designed with strong government leadership, backed by data, and linked to measurable outcomes aligned with the ABAS, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs, international agreements, including multilateral environmental agreements and frameworks.

iv. What improvements would you recommend to enhance the UN's system-wide approach to capacity development in SIDS?

To improve UN system-wide capacity development for SIDS:

- At regional level, the Issue Based Coalitions could substantively contribute to look at specific SIDS challenges.
- Establish via DCO and UNInfo thematic experience sharing avenues to support peer-to-peer learning in designing SIDS CFs
- Work through existing centralised donor platforms to enhance coordination of financing for SIDS, for example, the GEF, GCF, and the Joint SDG Fund which has a dedicated programme on SIDS (<https://www.jointsdgfund.org/small-island-developing-states>)
- Enhance transparency and data-sharing between agencies to support joint planning and reduce duplication.
- Invest in long-term capacity support for SIDS institutions, including civil service retention strategies, digital transformation, and regional training hubs.

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[UNEP UNCT Engagement Network](#)

- Adopt results-based planning across the UN system, linking joint outcomes to ABAS indicators and national planning cycles.
- Prioritize regional and inter-regional South-South cooperation, allowing SIDS to exchange lessons, innovations, and success stories through peer learning frameworks, with SIDS better connected to the OSSTC.

*v. How can the UN better partner with regional development stakeholders e.g. CARICOM Secretariat, SPC, PIF, SPREP etc to improve programme delivery, improve coherence and avoid duplication*

To enhance impact and coherence in SIDS, the UN system must strengthen its partnerships with existing regional intergovernmental organizations that are deeply embedded in national development contexts. Greater strategic alignment with entities such as the CARICOM Secretariat, Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), SPREP, and SPC would ensure that UN interventions are responsive, regionally owned, and mutually reinforcing.

UN agencies should actively and consistently participate in the governance bodies, technical committees, and annual coordination meetings of these regional organizations-not only to align on priorities, but also to jointly identify capacity gaps and co-create solutions. Where possible, joint programmes should be designed from the outset in partnership with these entities, rather than inviting participation at later stages of implementation. This will foster true co-ownership, reduce redundancy, and strengthen delivery across shared mandates.

To that end, the UN system should also make more systematic use of existing regional mechanisms that already support cross-sectoral collaboration. These include:

- The 18 Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs), which offer legally binding and voluntary platforms for marine and coastal governance, pollution control, and restoration. Many of these are administered or co-led by UNEP and provide an underutilized entry point for joined-up programming.
- UNEP's Regional and Subregional Offices, which are well-placed to support coherence by offering contextual knowledge, real time policy advice, and trusted partnerships with government and civil society stakeholders.

Finally, regional bodies should be fully integrated into the development and oversight of ABAS implementation and monitoring frameworks. Embedding regional perspectives from the outset-rather than treating them as afterthoughts-will ensure that ABAS is not only globally endorsed but regionally grounded, with mechanisms tailored to the distinct geographies, vulnerabilities, and governance arrangements of SIDS.

*E.g. From UNEP Asia Pacific:*

- Strengthened UN Resident Coordinator offices and UN Country Teams (UNEP is a member of UNCTs) have facilitated the development of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the Pacific 2023-2027 is the third multi-country compact between the UN and the governments of the 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs).
- In the Pacific, the United Nations system, together with the 14 PICTS, resolved to develop an overarching UNSDCF and the Country Implementation Plans in line with regional strategies, particularly the most recent 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, which guide and coordinate implementation of both Sustainable Development Goals and the SAMOA Pathway activities at the national level.

- The longstanding partnership between the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been further consolidated with the renewal of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two organizations in 2022. The new MOU allows the UNEP and SPREP to support the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste.
- UNEP has been working with other Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (SPC, PIF, USP) to support Pacific Island Countries on Food System, One Health, Environment Right, Climate Change Loss and Damage, Montreal Protocol and Tide Turners Plastic Challenge focuses on Youth.

#### For Governments

- vi. How would you assess the current level of coordination among UN agencies in supporting capacity development for SIDS at the national, regional, and global levels? What challenges do you believe hinder effective coordination among UN entities in providing support to SIDS? What mechanisms would you suggest to improve the coordination, coherence and effectiveness of UN support for SIDS? (600 words)

## 2. Interagency Mechanisms for improved coherence

Under the chairmanship of the UN Secretary-General, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) provides broad guidance, coordination, and strategic direction for the UN system in the areas under the responsibility of Executive Heads. Focus is placed on inter-agency priorities and initiatives while ensuring that the independent mandates of organizations are maintained. One particular focus of the CEB is system-wide coordination and policy coherence in the programme areas. The CEB has to date created three inter-agency mechanisms to increase coherence across the United Nations system in addressing urgent development challenges. These are UN-Water, UN-Oceans and UN-Energy.

- vii. *As there is no single entity in the United Nations system that has sole responsibility for SIDS, do you see value creating a UN-SIDS to serve as the primary agent for promoting system-wide collaboration on SIDS issues, and to promote coherence in the UN system's multi-disciplinary response to SIDS? (500 words)*

UNEP recognizes the unique vulnerabilities, constraints, and leadership of SIDS and supports the call for more effective system-wide coordination to deliver tailored, coherent, and impactful support. In order to strengthen the UN-SIDS interagency coordination, a review of the Interagency Task Force on SIDS, as the dedicated coordination platform, could be beneficial, mandated to:

- Promote system-wide policy coherence in UN support to SIDS across all ABAS priority areas;
- Facilitate joint programming and financing, aligned with national and regional priorities;
- Streamline reporting, monitoring, and data-sharing across agencies to reduce the administrative burden on SIDS;
- Serve as a central knowledge hub on best practices, capacity gaps, and peer learning within and across SIDS regions;
- Interface with regional bodies such as SPREP, PIF, CARICOM, OECS, and Indian Ocean Commission, ensuring stronger alignment and ownership of UN-supported programming.

The Interagency Task Force on SIDS should coordinate with other UN platforms at global and regional levels, for instance the UNSDG, and MCOs.



UNEP also sees potential for the Interagency Task Force on SIDS to work in close synergy with the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, many of which UNEP administers or co-coordinates. These regional platforms already bring together governments, technical partners, and UN agencies to address cross-border environmental challenges, and could serve as technical working groups for ABAS-related implementation.

### **Executive Committee of Economic and Social Affairs Plus (ECESA Plus)**

Coordination of UN System actions for the implementation of politically agreed documents e.g. ABAS takes place through the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs (ECESA Plus). Its over fifty members have developed a matrix for the follow up to ABAS, focusing on mandates specifically directed at the United Nations system as well as on areas where the UN system is already engaged through its programmatic work. The UN Implementation Matrix, which is being continuously updated, serves as an accountability framework and as a working tool to promote and monitor progress. ECESA Plus meets regularly to *inter alia* SIDS related matters and is convened by the Under Secretary General of DESA.

#### *viii How can ECESA Plus be used to more effectively harness UN agency contributions and to amplify systemic synergies?)*

From UNEP's perspective, the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs Plus (ECESA Plus) plays an important convening role in promoting coherence across the UN system for the implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS). The development of the ABAS Implementation Matrix is a commendable step toward strengthening transparency and collective accountability.

To further enhance its utility as a system-wide coordination mechanism, ECESA Plus is well suited to enhance its tasks, including consulting with one another on work programmes as well as other substantive and administrative matters of collective concern to facilitate greater complementarity and coherence. In this regard, UNEP respectfully suggests the following areas for consideration:

- Clearer mapping of responsibilities within the ABAS Implementation Matrix, with accompanying mechanisms to periodically track progress and share lessons. This would encourage greater ownership and promote joint action where appropriate.
- Regular, focused exchanges on ABAS priority areas--could help agencies surface technical innovations, identify delivery gaps, and build synergies across mandates.

UNEP remains committed to working collaboratively through ECESA Plus and other interagency platforms to ensure that SIDS receive coherent, effective, and well-coordinated support from across the UN family. We welcome continued dialogue on how ECESA Plus can best support SIDS' ambitions in this critical implementation decade.

### **3. HLPF**

#### *ix. How should the HLPF SIDS session be structured to effectively monitor progress to scale up implementation of the SDGs while at the same time driving implementation of ABAS? What role should the monitoring and evaluation framework of ABAS play in this? (250 words)*

UNEP welcomes the growing momentum around the ABAS and sees the HLPF as a strategic platform to elevate its implementation alongside the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs progress tracking. While the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and ABAS are mutually reinforcing, they are distinct frameworks—with ABAS offering a more tailored, context-specific roadmap that reflects the lived realities and ambitions of SIDS.

To strengthen coherence and accountability, the SIDS sessions during the HLPF should consider the ABAS implementation. This would provide space for a substantive discussion on priority themes under ABAS, including climate resilience, ocean governance, biodiversity, and access to finance.

UNEP supports the alignment of ABAS monitoring and evaluation indicators with relevant SDG targets and MEA frameworks such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Harmonising these indicators would help streamline national reporting, reduce duplication, and enable clearer tracking of progress toward global and SIDS-specific goals.

The HLPF could also serve as a platform to highlight barriers to ABAS implementation, including institutional capacity gaps, financing constraints, and climate-related vulnerabilities. By doing so, it would not only monitor delivery but also catalyse the international support SIDS require to meet their commitments.