

At the intersection of global goals and local well-being: A lens from the Pacific Islands

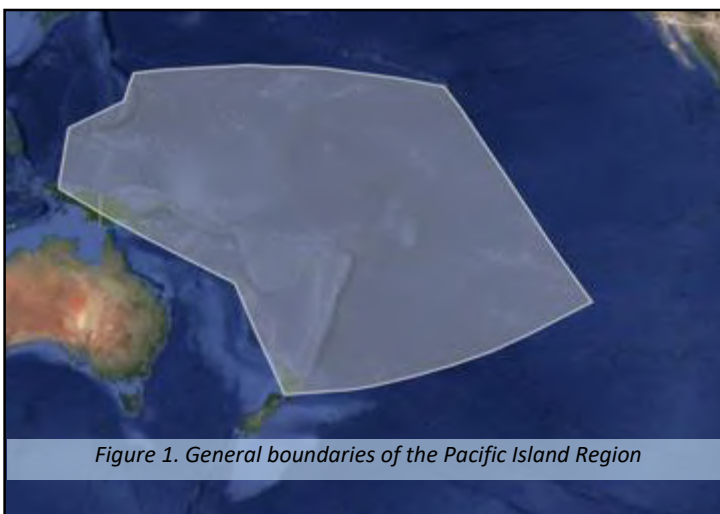
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Pua‘ala Pascua, a biocultural specialist at the CBC, is of Native Hawaiian descent and holds degrees in Hawaiian Studies, Marine Science, and Natural Resource Management. The CBC’s interdisciplinary team explores the junction of research, policy, and resource management in place-based and indigenous communities across the Pacific and around the world.

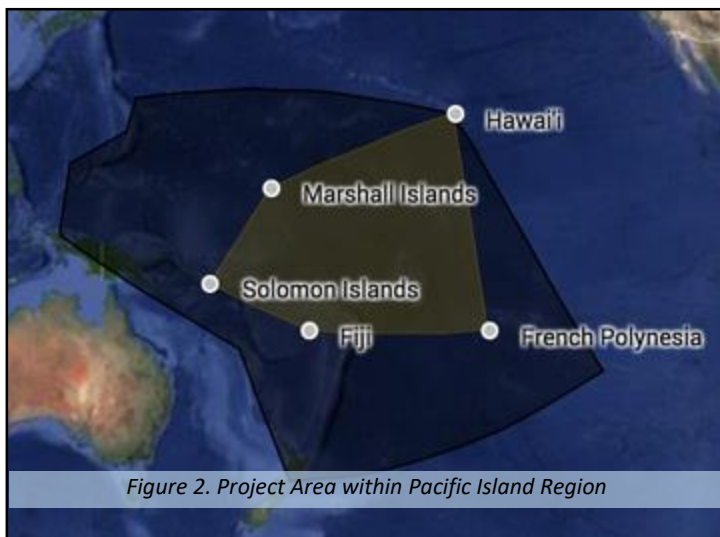


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Geographic and demographic information



Region	Pacific Islands/Oceania ¹
Sub-regions	Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia
Size of geographical area	≈ 45 million km ² (incl. ocean area) ≈ 800,000 km ² (land)
Number of indirect beneficiaries	≈ 18 million persons (total population)
Dominant ethnicity	Pacific Islander ²



Size of project area	≈18 million km ²
Number of direct beneficiaries	N/A; Project area encompasses Hawai‘i, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Fiji, and French Polynesia, but may have broader benefits across the Pacific Islands Region
Geographic coordinates (longitude and latitude)	19.89676, 155.58278; 7.13147, 171.18447; -9.6457, 160.15619; -17.71337, 178.06503; -17.67974, -149.40684
Dominant ethnicity	Pacific Islander ²

¹ The Pacific Islands region, also referred to as the cultural region of Oceania, encompasses Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia. It is generally recognized to include American Samoa, Aotearoa New Zealand, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hawai‘i, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Rapa Nui, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna Islands, and all ocean areas in between.

² A broader grouping encompassing a number of individual ethnicities, for instance Samoan, Tongan, Fijian, etc.

Ecosystem Types

X	Forest	X	Grassland	X	Agricultural	X	In-land water
X	Coastal	X	Dryland	X	Mountain	X	Urban/peri-urban

Important species in the site

English common name (<i>Local name</i>)	Scientific name	Description
Not applicable, this project did not include a species-specific focus.		

General introduction

Global biodiversity and sustainability targets are intended to inform national-level actions. However, their cascading impacts are ultimately realized at the local level through the direction of international aid and related programs. Thus, it's important to understand how global measures to inform sustainable development intersect with local values, priorities, and perceptions of well-being. To do so, we focus on the Pacific Islands, a region characterized by resilient communities and a hotspot for global development projects.

We highlight components from an analysis examining gaps and overlaps between a regionally-derived list of well-being characteristics (the Pacific Island Well-being Elements) and global development targets (the Sustainable Development Goals and Aichi Biodiversity Targets). The Pacific Island Well-being Elements draw from a series of community workshops and were triangulated with an interdisciplinary research team with considerable experience in the Pacific. Together, these 93 elements under 8 dimensions represent critical dimensions of biological and cultural well-being across the Pacific. Results of our coding activity identify the areas where the Aichi Targets overlap and contrast with local-level perspectives of well-being and, presented together with highlights from our complementary efforts, inform recommendations for identifying goals that account for both international and local priorities and outcomes.



Figure 2. Marine and intertidal ecosystems are important natural settings in the Pacific Islands.



Figure 3. Livelihood practices in the Pacific Islands are often characterized by subsistence-based practices.

Contribution to Aichi Biodiversity Targets' Strategic Goal D

	Breakdown Target	How did you measure the outcome?	Result
Strategic Goal D	TARGET 14 Ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded ...	Using a biocultural approach involving a series of community-visioning workshops and triangulation within an interdisciplinary research team, we identified ways ecosystems provide essential services to Pacific Island communities, in particular their contributions to health, livelihoods, and well-being. This information is ultimately intended to inform future restoration and safeguard measures at local to global scales.	Through this iterative process we developed the Pacific Island Well-being Elements, a list of 93 elements grouped under 8 overarching dimensions. Together this list represents critical characteristics of biological and cultural well-being and resilience across the Pacific Islands, which may also have broader relevance in place-based communities around the world. This is described in further detail in Mawyer et al. forthcoming.
	... taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable	Our process uses a systematic approach to understand well-being from a foundation of local priorities and values and uses participatory mechanisms to inform relevance and applicability. As such, this target can be measured through community visioning workshop and interdisciplinary research team participation/representation.	100% of community visioning workshops engaged women, indigenous and local community members, and individuals who either come from, or who work closely with poor and vulnerable populations. Our interdisciplinary research team also included representatives from these demographic groups or those who work closely with these groups. We found that individuals would not typically self-describe as poor/vulnerable, suggesting potential issues with the framing of this target.
	TARGET 15 Ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks have been enhanced through conservation and restoration	N/A	N/A
	At least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems are restored, contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and to combating desertification	N/A	N/A
	TARGET 16 The Nagoya Protocol is in force	N/A	N/A
	The Nagoya Protocol is operational, consistent with national legislation	N/A	N/A

Relations to other Aichi Biodiversity Target & SDGs

Please indicate the Aichi Biodiversity Targets other than the targets your working group focuses and SDGs that your activities contribute to if any. Use “●” and “■” to indicate the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the targets.

CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>)

Strategic Goal A				Strategic Goal B					
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Strategic Goal C			Strategic Goal D			Strategic Goal E			
■	■		●	■			■		

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>)

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■		■	■	■	■	

Any difficulties you found during your assessment

We highlight components of a larger assessment encompassing all of the Aichi Targets and SDGs indicated above (full results forthcoming, Sterling et al. Submitted). True to its intention, we found that many of the existing Aichi indicators focus on characterizing the environmental state (i.e. IUCN Red List), however this focus may preclude important human dimensions. For instance, there are limited indicators on socio-economically and culturally-valued species (i.e. Target 13) and other value-related measures. This was a challenge because as our project describes, environmental state is one dimension in a larger set of characteristics that contribute to biological and cultural well-being.

Key messages for the CBD in planning for the post-2020 Targets

Consistent with the CBD’s desire to use a variety of approaches including quantitative indicators, expert opinion, stakeholder consultation and case studies, we propose that post-2020 targets focus on better integrating the relationship between human and ecological well-being, which has potential to enhance both monitoring and implementation of the Convention. Indicators informed by local and/or cultural relevance may provide strong evidence and can enable and support meaningful on-the-ground actions to address issues and key threats. Acknowledging and more directly incorporating this information would enhance our understanding of linked biological and cultural diversity, highlighting both benefits and trade-offs posed by development goals.