

# Conclusion

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The world is slowly moving away from the grips of the COVID-19 pandemic while inching closer to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2030. In this edition of the Annual Report on Global Islands, we again attempted to underscore the impacts of the pandemic on several developmental indicators and on hindering progress towards the SDGs. In this regard, we were able to make a few initial, but tentative conclusions on such impacts, including on GDP/capita and unemployment, especially in tourist-centric island states. However, in this edition, the theme has shifted away to two interrelated themes: the 'blue economy' and 'tropical agriculture.' Both themes woven together, are hinged on building back our economies, societies, and ecosystems, post-pandemic, and will contribute to bringing us closer to meeting the SDGs. Cutting through the themes is the critical role of international cooperation, especially in our small island states and jurisdictions. The chapters, therefore, considered in the sections of blue economy and agriculture will hopefully help our island policymakers and other key stakeholders address issues such as food security, health, and blue financing, as they seek to build back and move towards reaching the SDGs.