

COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan



United Nations
Climate Change



RCC Asia and the Pacific
Collaboration for Climate Action

IGES



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



**Pacific
Community**
Communauté
du Pacifique

What does mitigation ambition mean for SIDS?

15 November 2024 | 13:30 – 14:30 (GMT+4)

Special Event Room BUTA

Event moderator



Ms. Alana Craigen
UNDP



Welcoming remarks



Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra
Director General, SPREP



Keynote speaker



Ms. Toiata Uili

Assistant Chief Executive Officer -
Renewable Energy, Ministry of Natural
Resources and Environment, Samoa



Context setting



Ms. Juhi Bansal

NDC & LT-LEDS Specialist
UNFCCC RCC Asia Pacific





What does mitigation ambition mean in the Pacific?

Safeguarding 1.5C the Pacific Way

Juhi Bansal
NDC, LT-LEDS Specialist
UNFCCC RCC Asia Pacific

15 November 2024



The Pacific Context

14

14 PICS

Spread across the South-West Pacific Ocean, the Pacific Island Countries comprise of 14 different nations.

<2%

Small Islands, Large Oceans

Their combined land area is 553,000 km² which is less than 2% of the total ocean area under their jurisdiction



Vastly different sizes

PNG is the largest country in terms of land area (462,840 km²), while Nauru (21 km²) is the smallest



Differing populations

Their combined population is 13.2 million, with PNG having over 10 million inhabitants and Niue having less than 2000 people



Remote location

They are geographically dispersed and remote and have fragile environments.

Pacific island countries face existential threats from climate change, despite their negligible contributions to global greenhouse gas emissions, highlighting the urgent need for accelerated climate action to ensure their survival.

Climate Change and the Pacific

1- 2 m This is the average height of Pacific Island atolls above sea level. Rising sea levels threaten to submerge significant portions of these islands, given that most of the PICs are located in a region where the anticipated rise in relative sea levels is expected to be 10–30% greater than the global average.

<0.03% The PICS account for less than 0.03% of global GHG emissions, primarily due to their small populations, limited industrial activity, and underdeveloped energy sector. Yet, they face dire and immediate consequences of climate change that are markedly disproportionate to their GHG emissions.

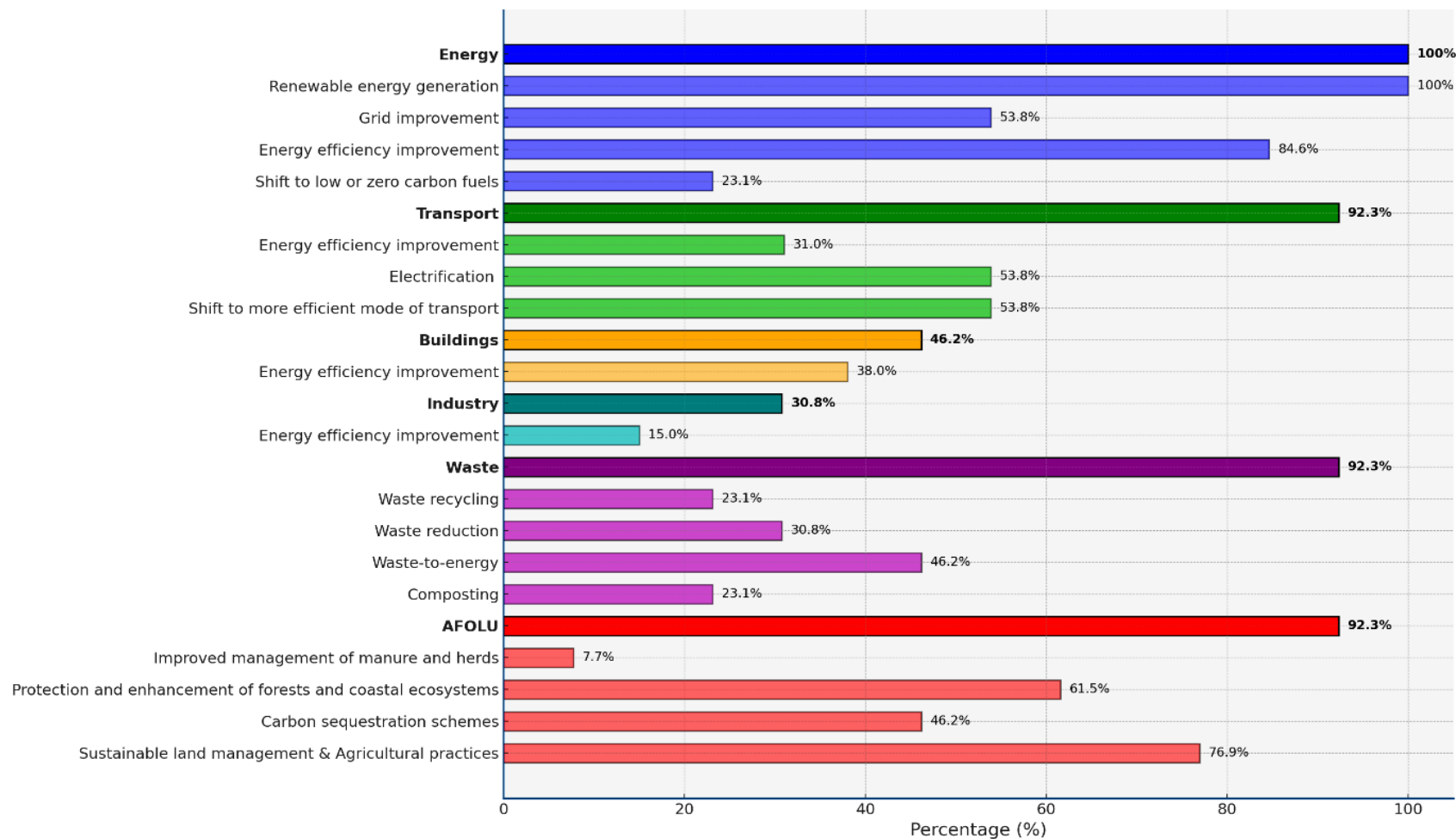
Category 4 and 5 tropical storms in the South Pacific region have doubled since 1970. These are just one example of extreme weather events that have increased in frequency and intensity in recent decades. Others include king tides, wave and storm surges, coastal inundation, droughts and floods.

25 million people in the region were directly impacted by climate hazards in 2023 alone, which also resulted in a total economic damage of close to US\$ 4.4 billion. These hazard events also resulted in over 200 fatalities, most of which were associated with floods, storms, and landslides.

Analysis of Mitigation Action in the PICs



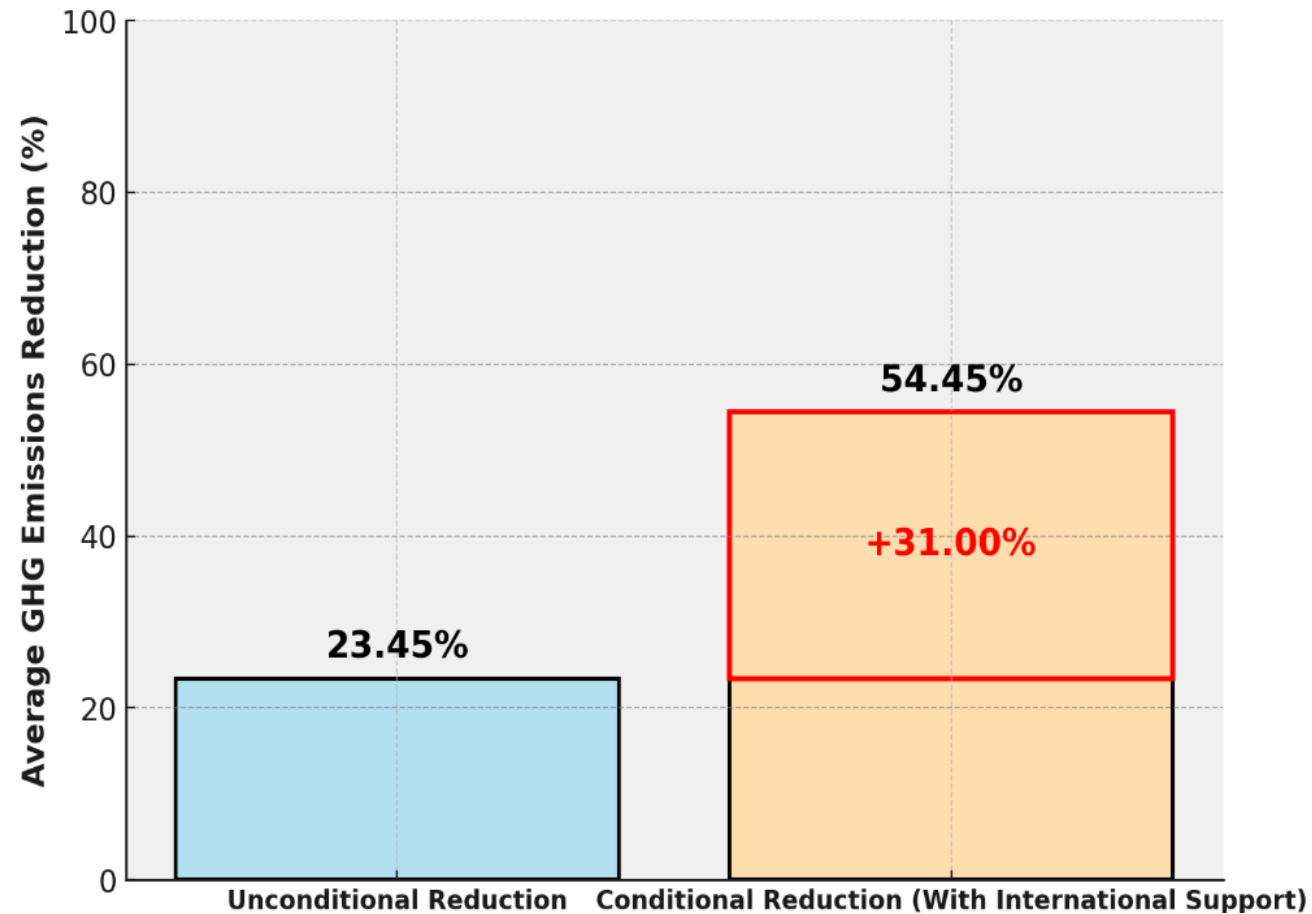
Mitigation Ambition in the Pacific NDCs



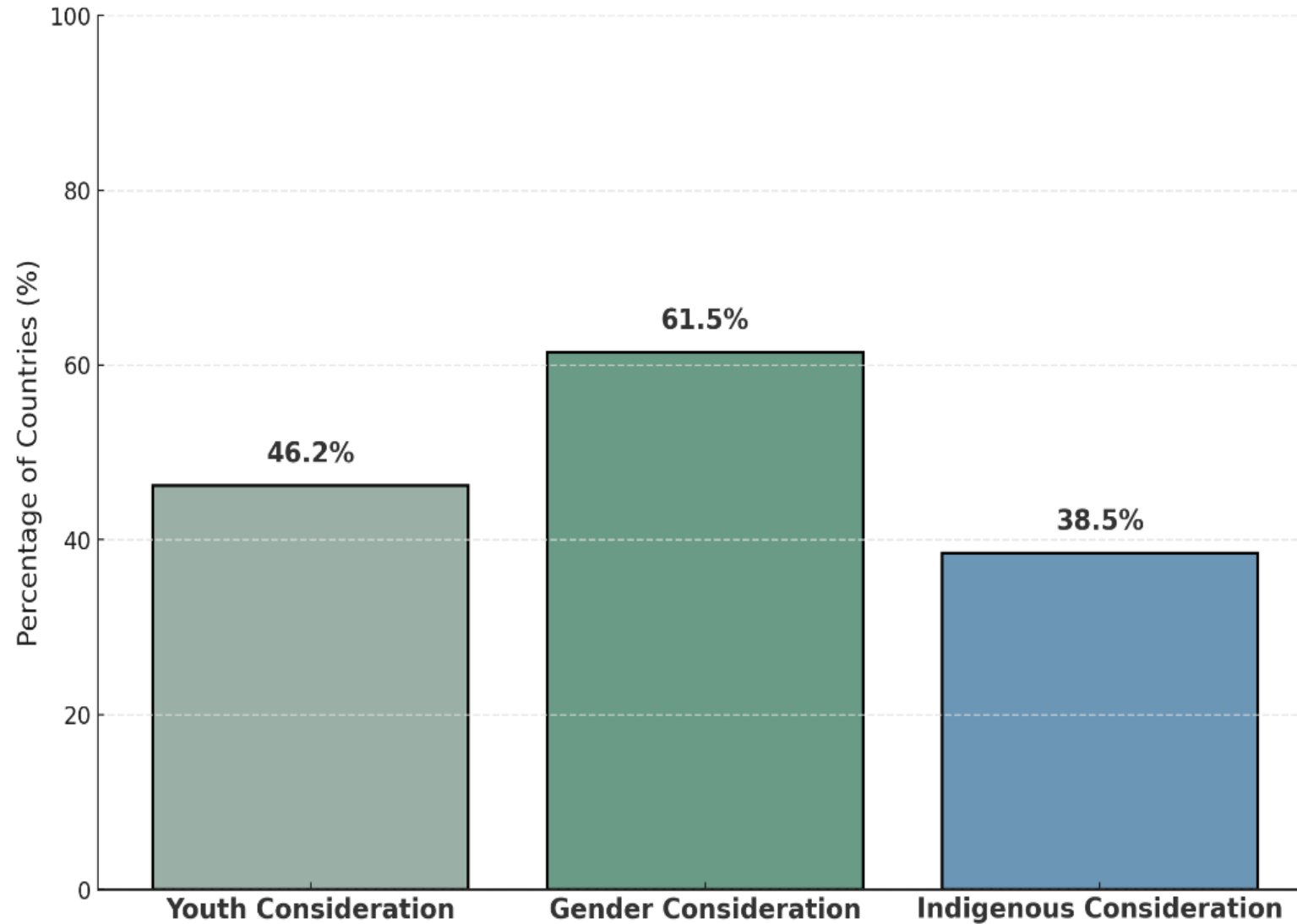
Source: NDCs submitted to the UNFCCC

This chart represents the percentage of Pacific Island Countries (PICs) that have set mitigation targets across different sectors within their NDCs.

Expected GHG Emissions Reduction by 2030 based on Pacific NDCs



Inclusivity Considerations



Mitigation Policy Analysis

Comprehensive Climate Action Plans

Pacific countries have developed long-term, multi-sectoral implementation and investment plans to achieve their NDC targets. These plans address cross-cutting issues and involve stakeholders across different sectors.

Sector-Specific Strategies and Roadmaps

To supplement their overarching plans, Pacific countries have also formulated sector-specific strategies and roadmaps to guide their decarbonization efforts. In many PICs, the outlined NDC targets are bolstered by implementation and investment plans.

Integrated Approaches and Enabling Environments

Pacific countries are moving towards more integrated and long-term approaches that address climate change mitigation alongside other development priorities, creating an enabling environment for implementation.

Leveraging Regional and International Cooperation

Pacific countries are leveraging regional and international cooperation to strengthen their mitigation efforts, including through knowledge-sharing, capacity-building initiatives, and accessing international financial assistance and innovative financing mechanisms.

Article 6 Approaches

Ongoing support is needed in terms of identifying projects to finance through Art.6. Common sectors of interest are energy, transport, the forest sector, sustainable agriculture and in general carbon sinks, which includes ocean-based activities.

Most PICs have limited experience and capacities on Art.6 and engagement in international carbon markets has been relatively low

Vanuatu, Palau, Papua New Guinea and Fiji, are most advanced in Art.6 project development or Art.6 considerations and exploring of opportunities.

Only Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu have nominated a Designated National Authority (DNA) for Art.6.4 so far.

Typology of Mitigation Interventions

Adaptation Interventions with Mitigation co-benefits

Adaptation interventions that also simultaneously advance mitigation objectives

Development-driven strategies

Initiatives aligned with sustainable development of the country while simultaneously mitigating emissions, but which require proactive financial support to be viable

High-impact initiatives

Measures that can yield significant standalone net benefits even in the absence of climate change, and are therefore considered 'no-regrets' investments

Pacific Blue Economy



The Pacific's vast ocean territory, spanning nearly 20% of the Earth's surface, offers significant potential for enhancing mitigation ambition through the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. This blue economy approach can accelerate climate action by leveraging ocean-based renewable energy, sustainable maritime transport, and blue carbon initiatives.

Key Insights

- Country-driven and country-owned policies
- Integrated approaches for mitigation and adaptation
- Linkages with SDGs and whole-economy and all-sector approaches
- Long-term strategies
- Dedicated climate finance
- Private sector and economies of scale
- Capacity-building initiatives, including training programs, knowledge-sharing platforms, and technical assistance
- Deliberative community-based approaches
- Culturally appropriate deliberative decision-making such as Talanoa or Talanga
- Enhanced regional collaboration

Thank you!

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Panel Discussion



Mr. Amit Singh

*Pacific NDC
Hub Manager*



Mr. Antony Garae

*Director, Department of
Energy, Vanuatu*



Dr. Kenel Delusca

*Senior Technical
Advisor, Climate Change,
Haiti*



Dr. Colin Young

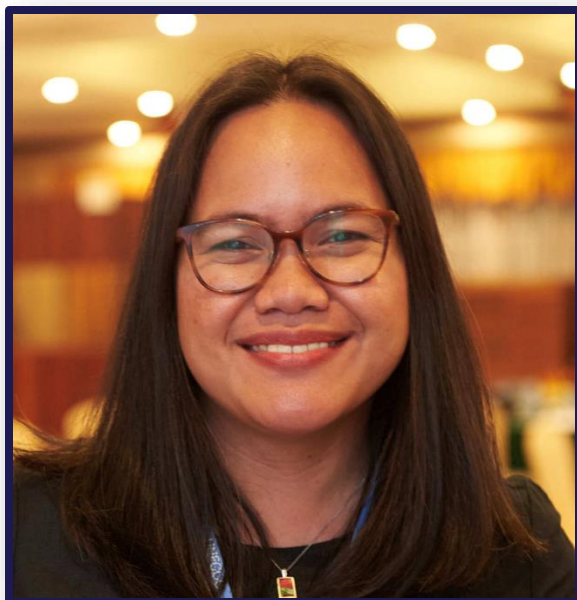
*Director, Caribbean
Community Climate
Change Centre*



Q & A



Concluding remarks



Ms. Julie Amoroso-Garbin

Regional Lead
UNFCCC RCC Asia Pacific



Thank you for joining!



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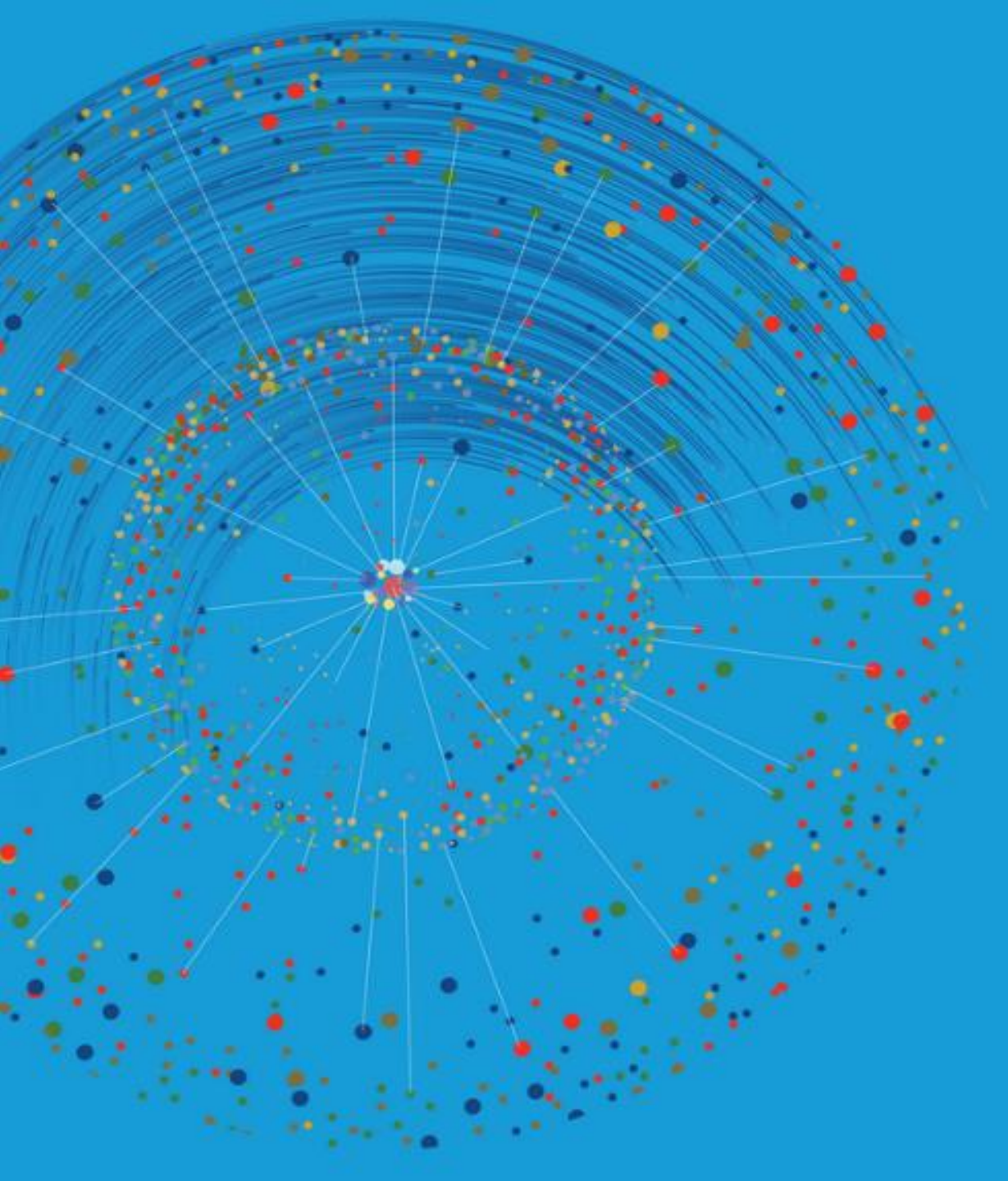
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RCC events at COP 29:
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ask your subsidiary question!





Upcoming RCC Asia Pacific event:

**Sectoral Solutions and Pathways to Raise
Ambition of Nationally Determined
Contribution in Asia and the Pacific**

15 November 2024 | 19:00-20:00 (UTC+4)
Special Event Room Buta