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English

**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names**

2025 session

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Item 7 (c) of the provisional agenda *

**Effective work programmes: social and economic benefits
of supporting sustainable development**

**Linking Australian geographical names to the Sustainable
Development Goals utilizing artificial intelligence**

Submitted by Australia **

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Introduction

Geographical names provide orientation and identity to places. They are location identifiers for cultural and physical features of the real world, such as regions, settlements, or any feature of public or historical interest. They are often used as a proxy for other data themes such as Buildings and Settlements.¹

Why are place names important?

Geographical names are used throughout the world as a geographic identification system and have the potential to inter-relate and cross-reference different data sources, both spatial and non-spatial. Standardised geographical names are essential for effective communication between citizens, governments of all levels, decision-makers, and policy-makers.²

Logical geographic names are essential to identify locations for managing emergencies and delivering goods and services across the world.

How can AI help?

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a powerful tool which can support research by reviewing thousands of documents and information available on the internet. AI can streamline the writing process enabling content to be drafted faster, improve writing styles and provide access to information which had not been located using typical internet searches. While the information presented may appear to be authoritative, it is important to check its validity and ensure it is 'fit for purpose' and that appropriate accreditations provided where known.

The AI-generated results in this document have been enhanced by integrating prior work that links names to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This includes specific case studies and years of professional expertise, which further strengthen and validate the connections to the SDGs. The following questions were asked of Chat GPT 3.5 and have been referenced:

- *"build a connection between United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and place naming including road, geographic features and localities"*
- *"majority of the examples provided are commemorative, are there any other options for naming beyond commemorative naming i.e. naming after a person?"*
- *"why should you build a connection to Sustainable development goals?"*
- *"how can we develop place name connections to Sustainable development goals"*

About Sustainable development goals

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a group of 17 goals covering 169 targets. The SDGs are an urgent call for action by all countries, both developed and developing, to act in a global partnership to support global sustainable development.

The goals recognise that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality and promote economic growth. This is all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.



Geographical names and in turn place naming is one of the important ways that naming authorities, government, industry and communities can work together to support the SDGs. Most of the SDGs require standardised names of places and roads to deliver the work needed to achieve the goals, as well as for effective reporting.

How and why should we construct a connection to SDGs?

Geographic names are essential to support the delivery of SDGs. We cannot deliver SDGs without reporting and this in turn cannot be undertaken without an authoritative list of geographic names, including roads, geographic features and localities. This in turn is supported by a suite of authoritative spatial data layers.

With governments, public and private organisation focusing on the environment and making strides to improve the sustainability of communities, the SDGs offer a system for raising mindfulness and advancing local solutions, driving positive change, cultivating collaboration, and increasing the push towards a more economical and impartial future for all.

¹ https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/9th-Session/documents/Fundamental_Data_Publication.pdf

² https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/9th-Session/documents/Fundamental_Data_Publication.pdf

The below steps³ can be used to create a connection with geographical naming:

Step 1 Research: Begin researching the specific characteristics, challenges, and opportunities of the place or places you're interested in naming. Determine the local context, including environmental, social, and economic factors. For example, the site is considered brown field and previously was used for industry, but is not planned to be rezoned for public housing. Proposed names could link to the history of the area.

Step 2 Identify SDGs: By having a good understanding of the site, you may then identify which Sustainable Development Goals are most relevant to the area. Each place will have unique needs and priorities, so the SDGs that are most relevant may vary. For example, the site is planned to have a water treatment works built to support the increase in population, this could link into SDG 3 Good health and wellbeing, SDG 6 Clean water and sanitation, SDG 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure, SDG 11 Sustainable cities and communities and SDG 12 Responsible consumption and production.

Step 3 Mapping: Map out how each SDG relates to the place. For example, if a section of the community is underrepresented in a particular area, that would connect to SDG 10 Reduced inequalities if a name was chosen that recognises the underrepresented community. Similarly, if there is a new school being built or a new road to be named, those would connect to SDG 4 Quality education and SDG 3 Good health and wellbeing, respectively.

Step 4 Engagement: Engage with local communities, organisations, and stakeholders to understand their perspectives on the connections between the place and the SDGs. This can provide valuable insights and help build support for your naming initiative(s).

Step 5 Communication: Once you have identified the connections between the place and the SDGs, communicate them effectively to raise awareness and mobilise action. This could involve creating a communication plan which outlines what educational materials, events, and or using social media and other channels could be used to spread the message. For example if a new commercial area is being developed this will support SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth.

Step 6 Collaboration: Collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including the immediate and extended community, this could also include government agencies, businesses, and community groups, to develop and implement initiatives that address the identified challenges and contribute to implementation of the SDGs.



Step 7 Monitoring and Evaluation: Once the site has been named, monitor how the naming has supported progress towards the SDGs. This will help you evaluate the impact of your initiative(s) and to identify what's working well and what areas may need further attention or adjustment. For example, does the newly named feature meet the communities needs and expectations, does the newly named road provide the benefit to the community that was expected.

Following these steps, you can develop meaningful connections between place names and Sustainable Development Goals, helping to drive positive change and contribute to a more sustainable future⁴.

How can naming build connections to SDGs?

If we want to undertake naming to support SDGs there are several types of naming these include commemorative, descriptive, functional, historical, nostalgic, geographical, symbolic, cultural, environmental, and inspirational⁵. These types of naming can help to build themes for naming in an area. For example, a growing suburb which requires dozens of names, using the types described below can ensure there are multiple names which could be assigned to the site.

³ <https://chatgpt.com/c/b5eff229-9715-48a9-95f8-78cab5b07c00> OpenAI. (2024). *ChatGPT* [Large language model].

⁴ <https://chatgpt.com/c/b5eff229-9715-48a9-95f8-78cab5b07c00> OpenAI. (2024). *ChatGPT* [Large

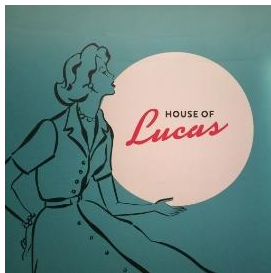
language model].

⁵ <https://chatgpt.com/c/871ae58b-f733-48c4-bce5-01d007efbb42> OpenAI. (2024). *ChatGPT* [Large language model].

The types are further explored below:

Commemorative naming: Using the names of people that have a link to place can help to preserve our cultural heritage by acknowledging a specific person, an important part of a person's life, or link to something they contributed to the wider community through service or sacrifice. Examples include, naming roads and places after fallen soldiers, honouring iconic personalities or members of the community who are locally or nationally significant.

Descriptive naming: Using descriptive names describe the landscape appearance or characteristics, highlights dominant geographic features, other geographic features, or land use of the area. For example, naming a place "[Sunset Lagoon](#)" because the sunsets viewed from the sites, or naming a road "Gum Tree Grove" because of the local trees in the area, or [Safety Beach](#), renamed from Shark Bay to reassure tourists that the area was safe. Often the use of Traditional Owner languages are descriptive names.



Functional naming: Naming places based on their function or purpose can be another approach. For example, naming a road "Main Beach Walk" because it serves as the primary route which leads to the main beach, or naming a locality (suburb) "[Riverside](#)" because it is adjacent to a river.

Historical naming: Revealing the history of a place through naming can be compelling. This could involve naming streets after significant historical events, naming an area after past industries or use of the land, or naming parks after indigenous groups or historical figures associated with the site. For example naming of the suburb "[Lucas](#)" commemorating Mrs Eleanor Lucas, founder of the local textile company Lucas and Co. and the girls who worked there who became known as the Lucas Girls, or "[Lilardia Park](#)" named in honour of Margaret (Lilardia) Tucker, a pioneering Aboriginal activist.

Nostalgic naming: Naming places after memories of homelands, places visited, or places or people that have inspired events of note. For example, [Dartmoor](#), named after an English plateau, known for its beautiful views, landscape characteristics and a wide range of wildlife.

Geographical naming: Naming places after significant geographical features can be both informative and descriptive. For example, naming a mountain "[Snow Hill](#)" because it is in an Alpine area seasonally covered in snow, "Waterside Boulevard, Wollert" as the road runs alongside a creek or naming a locality "[Kangaroo Flat](#)" because of it was seemingly a favourite spot for kangaroos.

Symbolic naming: Using symbolic names to highlight certain values or ideas associated with a place. For example, naming a local garden "[Equality Green](#)" to commemorative marriage equality in Australia, or naming a public space "[Pride Square](#)" to celebrate and acknowledge its local LGBTIQ+ community.



Cultural naming: Acknowledging the cultural history or diversity of an area through naming can be meaningful. This could involve naming streets, suburbs, or landmarks after cultural symbols, traditions, or languages spoken by the local community. For examples, "[Budj Bim](#)" in the local Gunditj Mirring traditional owner language.

Environmental Naming: Focusing on environmental conservation and sustainability through naming can have an impact. This might involve naming parks, trails, or natural reserves after endangered species or ecosystems, or naming eco-friendly buildings after elements of nature. For example, [Watersedge](#); naming the building associated with its location and the nature of the business managing water.

Inspirational Naming: Choosing names that inspire and motivate can also be effective. This could involve naming streets after inspirational quotes or virtues like "Hope Avenue, Donvale" or "Community Lane, Deniliquin" encouraging a sense of positivity, aspiration and connection within the community.

Incorporating various naming approaches, as described above can assist naming authorities to create diverse place names which reflect our communities and enable alignment to SDGs. This integration promotes collective responsibility and commitment towards achieving sustainable development objectives at a local level, fostering well-being and cohesive communities.

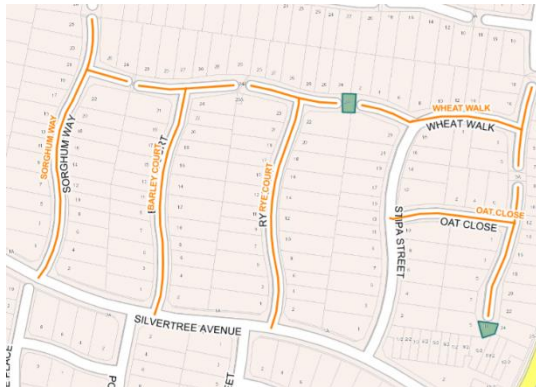
Case studies: Connections to SDGs⁶

A detailed review of the SDGs provides an opportunity to provide examples and specific case studies which can be connected to SDGs.

Goal 1 No Poverty: Naming places after events or individuals that championed poverty alleviation efforts can inspire communities to work towards eradicating poverty. For instance, naming a road after a local philanthropist or a significant poverty reduction initiative can serve as a reminder of the importance of economic inclusivity.



Commemorative case study: Lucas suburb Victoria – named after the ‘Lucas girls’. Eleanor Lucas⁷ was known as an incredibly generous woman and through her works with the Ballarat Churches of Christ (at their Peel Street Church and Dawson Street Church) and charitable donations from the Lucas Clothing Factory Eleanor made a difference in so many people’s lives. For the population of Ballarat she is most fondly remembered as the matriarch of the Lucas Clothing Factory – whose Lucas Girls were the driving force behind the establishment of the Ballarat Avenue of Honour and the Ballarat Arch of Victory. With the creation of Lucas as a suburb, the family name and connection to the area has been preserved. In addition ANZAC soldiers⁸ have been memorialised in the naming of every street within the suburb.



Goal 2 Zero Hunger: Naming agricultural areas, including geographic features, suburbs or food distribution sites after crops or farming practices can promote sustainable agriculture can highlight the importance of food security.

Historical case study: Creating a naming theme to build a connection to historical land use. In this case wheat production is then linked via a theme to other grains. Wheat Walk, Oat Close, Sorghum Way etc

Goal 3 Good Health and Well-being: Naming parks, recreational areas, or healthcare facilities after healthcare pioneers or advocates for public health and or significant milestones in creating healthy sustainable communities can highlight the significance of accessible healthcare services and physical activity for well-being.

Commemorative, symbolic case study: Joan Kirner Women’s and Children’s Hospital – The hospital offers local women and families in Melbourne’s west world-class maternity and paediatric services, honouring the legacy of Victoria’s first female Premier. “Joan Kirner was a tireless advocate for families in Melbourne’s west – and the Joan Kirner Women’s and Children’s Hospital will make sure her legacy lives on in the west for generations to come“.



⁶ <https://chatgpt.com/c/871ae58b-f733-48c4-bce5-01d007efbb42> OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT [Large language model].

⁷ <https://www.ballaratcemeteries.com.au/events-and-history/women-who-shaped-and-built-ballarat/lucas-eleanor/>

⁸ <https://www.lucasballarat.com.au/community/history>



Goal 4 Quality Education: Naming schools, libraries, or educational institutions after notable educators, scholars, or advocates for universal education highlights the importance of quality education for all. These names can inspire a commitment to learning and support education outcomes. An alternative option is to use Traditional Owner languages which builds connections to the land for the local community and encourages language use which is inherently educative.

Functional, geographical, cultural case study: Gilgai Plains Primary School was chosen as the school name following community consultation, taking into account factors including public interest, relevance to the local area, and local Indigenous languages. Gilgai (pronounced gihl-guy) is a Woi wurrung word of the Wurundjeri people meaning small watering hole.

Commemorative, symbolic case study: Edith Cowan University in Western Australia, Edith Dircksey Cowan OBE was an Australian social reformer who worked for the rights and welfare of women and children. She is best known as the first Australian woman to serve as a member of parliament. The commemorative name would also connects to other SDGs including SDG1,3 and 10.

Goal 5 Gender Equality: Naming public spaces, roads or landmarks after women, prominent figures in the fight for gender equality, milestones in the women's rights movement can promote awareness and advocacy for women's rights and address the ongoing struggle for gender equality and the long-associated gender imbalance in the naming of places.



Commemorative, symbolic case study: Amphlett Lane, named after Australia's first lady of rock, Chrissy Amphlett, who passed away on 21 April 2013 after a long battle with breast cancer. Chrissy Amphlett, (1959-2013) was an Australian rock icon, songwriter and actress who in 2006 was inducted into the ARIA Hall of Fame. Chrissy Amphlett's career began in Melbourne in the 1970s and her history with Melbourne and the Palace Theatre is long and colourful.

Commemorative, symbolic case study: Vida Way, Portland, named after Vida Jane Mary Goldstein who was an Australian suffragist and social reformer. She was one of four female candidates at the 1903 federal election, the first of which women were eligible to stand. Goldstein was born in Portland, Victoria.

Goal 6 Clean Water and Sanitation: Naming water bodies, conservation areas, or water treatment facilities after initiatives or environmentalists focused on water conservation highlights the importance of clean water and sustainable water management practices.

Functional, environmental case study: The 'Western Treatment Plan'⁹, located in the western suburbs of Melbourne processes more than 182,500 million litres of sewage each year. The site houses sewage treatment facilities, a working farm and an internationally-recognised bird habitat. Agriculture, biodiversity, resource recovery, education and ecotourism support the circular economy.



Goal 7 Affordable and Clean Energy: Naming energy-efficient buildings, renewable energy projects, including wind and solar farms or sustainable energy initiatives using descriptive, symbolic and or clean energy pioneers can promote the transition to renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures. Additional, naming after the locality can promote the local area.

Cultural case study: The name for Numurkah Solar Farm¹⁰ using the name of the official locality. Numurkah means heavy shield in Yorta Yorta language. Naming the solar farm using the official locality names, gives prominence to the area, highlights clean energy and promotes indigenous languages

Goal 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth: Using cultural, commemorative and or symbolic naming of industrial zones, business districts, or employment centres for example after entrepreneurs, work leaders, or

⁹ <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/water-and-environment/water-management/sewerage/western-treatment-plant>

¹⁰ <https://numurkhsolarfarm.com.au/local-benefits/>

advocates for fair work practices can emphasize the importance of decent work and economic opportunities for all. *Welcome a case study for Goal 8.*



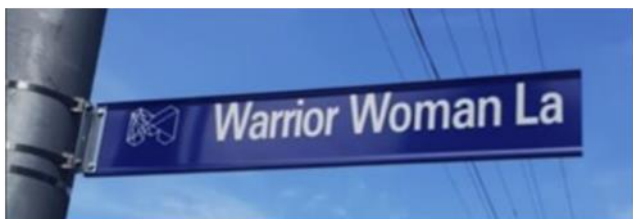
Goal 9 Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure: Naming industrial and technology parks, innovation hubs, or transportation networks after inventors, innovators, or using symbolic or inspirational naming can encourage investment in sustainable infrastructure and technological advancements.

Commemorative, symbolic, inspirational case study: Fisherman's Bend¹¹ which is Australia's largest urban renewal project at 480 hectares. The vision for the area is to be "a thriving place that is a

leading example for environmental sustainability, liveability, connectivity, diversity and innovation." The urban renewal project will offer multiple opportunities to link to multiple types of naming.

Goal 10 Reduced Inequality: Supporting self determination and encouraging the naming of places after women, First Nation, LGBTQIA+, people with a disability and CaLD communities will reduce inequality. The naming of public spaces or community centres through commemorative or symbolic naming including activists or movements dedicated to reducing inequality can foster a sense of solidarity and promote social inclusion.

Cultural, inspirational case study: Woowookarung Regional Park^{12,13} is a 641-hectare park within the traditional lands of the Wadawurrung people. A Wadawurrung name for the park reflects the traditional use and connection that Wadawurrung people have with the area. Woowookarung embodies the spirit and the history of this place which provided resources such as food, medicine, water, shelter, place raw materials for tools and everyday items for Aboriginal people. In Wadawurrung language Woowookarung means 'place of plenty'¹⁴.



Commemorative, symbolic case study: Warrior Woman Lane¹⁵ in the City of Melbourne, named in honour of Lisa Bellair a First Nations activist, photographer, broadcaster, poet, feminist, politician, comedian, academic and performer. Clearly someone worthy of recognition.

Goal 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities: Naming urban development projects, green spaces, or sustainable neighbourhoods using naming themes relevant to sustainability, renewal, inspirational aspirations and or commemorative sustainable development advocates can encourage environmentally friendly urban planning, development and sustainable communities.

Welcome a case study for Goal 11.

Goal 12 Responsible Consumption and Production: Naming recycling, food and goods distribution and mail centres, after sustainability champions, or cultural, symbolic or inspirational can promote responsible consumption and production patterns.

Cultural, symbolic case study: Boorna Wangkiny Mia¹⁶, in the Noongar language means 'home of the message stick' this is the name chosen for the Welshpool, Perth delivery centre which honours one of Australia's oldest forms of communication and cultural diplomacy – the message stick.

¹¹ <https://www.fishermansbend.vic.gov.au/>

¹² <https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/-/media/project/pv/main/parks/documents/visitor-guides-and-publications/woowookarung-regional-park/woowookarung-regional-park-visitor-guide.pdf?rev=e207c9600c2840759a9e41d5f5a22989>

¹³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTpPViTpetE>

¹⁴ Bryon Powell, Elder and Chairperson, Wadawurrung February 2016

¹⁵ <https://www.warriorwomanlane.com/>

¹⁶ <https://nit.com.au/10-12-2022/4492/new-australia-post-processing-facility-unveiled-with-dual-name-in-traditional-language>

The work builds on a First Nation's Gomeroi women who wanted to include Traditional place names on mail ¹⁷. This would see Traditional place names being used in addition to official place names to assist in the delivery of mail and goods.

Environmental, inspirational case study: The naming of Sustainable Drive, in Craigieburn highlights the aspiration of the newly developed estate to be sustainable. Often these types of naming can fit into a naming theme.

Goal 13 Climate Action: Naming landmarks, conservation areas, or green spaces with commemorative, symbolic or inspirational names can raise awareness about climate change and the importance of conservation efforts and encourage climate action.

Commemorative, environmental case study: Annie Forsyth Wyatt Garden - Annie Forsyth Wyatt¹⁸ (1886 - 1961) was a conservationist, writer and historian. She was involved in the Tree Lovers Civic League, Red Cross, Prisoners Aid, United Assoc of Women, Forestry Advisory Council and Aust. Forest League. She worked on the formation of the Nat. Trust of Aust. and in 1960 was awarded the O.B.E.

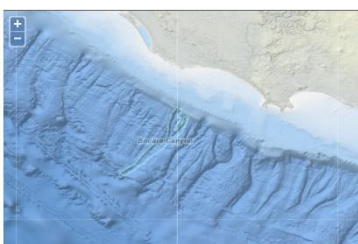


Commemorative, environmental case study: Dot Butler Conservation Reserve - Named after Dorothy (Dot) Butler¹⁹ (1911-2008) who was a well known bush walker, mountaineer and conservationist. She successfully lobbied the Sydney Bush Walkers Club to purchase the property adjacent to this Crown Reserve in 1967 for the purpose of camping and conservation. Source: The Sydney Bush Walkers Inc.



Goal 14 Life Below Water: Naming marine reserves, coastal areas, or underwater landmarks with commemorative names or efforts to protect marine biodiversity highlighting the need for conservation and sustainable management of marine resources.

Commemorative, environmental case study: Rhys Reef²⁰ named in honour of Rhys Gillard a passionate local fisher. The site is a popular recreational fishing reef in Port Phillip. The reef was one of three which provide a habitat for snapper, calamari and other popular recreational species and will over time increase fish habitats and species numbers.



Historical, cultural case study: Bocara Canyon²¹, was named to acknowledge the ancient course of the Glenelg River, which now resides 1,000m below the sea. This type of naming enables greater protection to be afforded as the canyon now has an official name registered with the International Hydrographic Organisation.

¹⁷ <https://nit.com.au/02-12-2022/4418/the-first-nations-women-working-to-establish-aboriginal-place-names>

¹⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annie_Forsyth_Wyatt

¹⁹ <https://www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au/dot-butler/>

²⁰ <https://vfa.vic.gov.au/about/news/reef-renamed-in-honour-of-budding-fisher>

²¹ [https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEB/CO/SCUFN/SCUFN37/SCUFN37_2024_07.2B_EN_Updating_Gazetteer_from_SCUFN36_Actions-Decisions.pdf)

[Regional%20Coordination/GEB/CO/SCUFN/SCUFN37/SCUFN37_2024_07.2B_EN_Updating_Gazetteer_from_SCUFN36_Actions-Decisions.pdf](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEB/CO/SCUFN/SCUFN37/SCUFN37_2024_07.2B_EN_Updating_Gazetteer_from_SCUFN36_Actions-Decisions.pdf)

Cultural, symbolic case study: Liwik Barring Landscape Conservation Area²², Liwik Barring means ‘Ancestors Trail’. Unlike most conservation areas, which consist of one large block of land, the Liwik Barring Landscape Conservation Area will be made up of a network of narrow streamside reserves which link up with a number of existing larger public reserves. Linking these existing reserves through streams and rivers, will allow for greater movement of birds and mammals, and improved land management. It will also allow for the opening up of some areas for activities, such as hiking, fishing and bird-watching.

Functional, geographic case studies: The Bendigo Law Courts has seen the integration of contemporary artwork, cultural themes, and language to celebrate the living culture of the Djaara²³ (Dja Dja Wurrung People), the Traditional Owners of the land. The redesigned building and spaces reflects and supports the tranquil atmosphere

Additionally, as we can see, officially registered place names are required to provide effective reporting against SDGs. GNV works closely with naming authorities, primarily municipal councils (local government) and State government departments and authorities to name roads, features, and localities. This work underpins the creation of addresses, see's schools, infrastructure, rail stations, bridges etc being named. GNV has partnered with gender equality organisations to encourage greater diversity in the names we see. All this work supports reporting against SDGs.

²⁴ <https://www.land.vic.gov.au/place-naming/understand-the-naming-process/international-frameworks>

Connections to sustainable development goals

We know that effective reporting of SDGs requires names to be officially registered²⁵. The below tables show how each SDG can be connected to place naming.

SDG 1: No poverty	
Target / Indicator	Place name connection
Target 1.4 Equal rights to ownership, basic services, technology and economic resources	Location and extent defined through place names. Place names are key to reporting geographic locations (indicator 1.1.1). You can not have access to basic services without an address, which includes a road name and a locality name (indicators 1.4.1 and 1.4.2).
Indicator 1.1.1 Proportion of poverty by geographic location	
Indicator 1.4.1 Access to basic services	
Indicator 1.4.2 Legally recognised land ownership	

SDG 2: Zero hunger	
Target / Indicator	Place name connection
Target 2.3 Double agricultural productivity and ensure sustainable food production	Location and extent defined through place names. Names must be officially registered to enable reporting of food production for a given defined area (indicator 2.4.1). Address is required for a distribution centre, requires a road and locality name.
Indicator 2.4.1 proportion of area under productive and sustainable agriculture	

SDG 3: Good health and wellbeing	
Target / Indicator	Place name connection
Target 3.6 Reduce trafficable deaths by half	Roads and schools named. Roads and schools must be officially named, addresses are needed to support reporting requirements. (indicator 3.6.1, 4.1.1).
Indicator 3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries	
Target 4.1 Ensure children complete school education	
Indicator 4.1.1 Proportion of children attending primary and secondary education	

SDG 4: Quality education	
Target / Indicator	Place name connection
Target 4a Build and upgrade education facilities	Education sites require an address and for facilities to be named.

Indicator 4.2.1 Children under 5 have access to preschool care	Preschool and educational facilities must be officially named, addresses are needed to support reporting requirements. (indicator 4.2.1, 4.3.1).
Indicator 4.3.1 equal access to educational facilities	

SDG 5: Gender equality	
Target / Indicator	Place name connection
Target 5.1. End all forms of discrimination against women.	Naming authorities are encouraged to support the naming of places after women. Increasing the naming of places after women and ensuring databases can report on the number of places named after a specific gender.
Indicator 5c Adopt policies for promotion of gender equality	
Indicator 5.c.1 Countries with systems to track gender equality and women's empowerment	

SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation	
Target / Indicator	Place name connection
Target 6.3 Improve water quality	Location and extent defined through place names. Water bodies and features which support habitats i.e. wetlands, ponds, estuaries are named.
Indicator 6.3.2 proportion of water and with good ambient water quality	
Target 6.6 protect and restore water related ecosystems	

SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy	
Target / Indicator	Place name connection
Target 7.1 Ensure access to modern energy services	Requires a street address which contains place, road, locality names. Addresses are required to ensure populous has energy access.
Indicator 7.1.1 Access to electricity	

SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth	
Target / Indicator	Place name connection
Target 8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all	Requires a street address which contains place, road, locality names. Places to be named to support economic development including cultural landmarks.
Target 8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products	

²⁵ <https://www.land.vic.gov.au/place-naming/understand-the-naming-process/international-frameworks>

<i>Indicator 8.10.2 Number of adults over 15 with access to a bank account</i>	
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SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure	
Target / Indicator	Place name connection
Target 9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure	Infrastructure (including roads) to be named to support economic development and allow innovation.
Indicator 9.1.1 Population living within 2km of an all-season road	

SDG 10: Reduced inequalities	
Target / Indicator	Place name connection
Target 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard	Support and encourage naming of places after minority groups and ensure equality in the naming of places.

SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities	
Target / Indicator	Place name connection
Target 11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums	Addresses required to enable services. Places to be named to enable protection and reporting.
Target 11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage	

SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production	
Target / Indicator	Place name connection
Target 12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources	Regions and forests to be named. Naming cultural sites to support and promote local culture.
Target 12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products	

SDG 13: Climate action	
Target / Indicator	Place name connection

Target 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into (national) policies, strategies and planning	Requires a street address which contains place, road, locality names. Places to be named to monitor the effects of climate change.
Indicator 13.1.3 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies	

SDG 14: Life below water	
Target / Indicator	Place name connection
Target 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 in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans	Features to be named including seas, water courses and water bodies, undersea features. Restoration activities can occur at named sites.

SDG 15: Life on land	
Target / Indicator	Place name connection
Targets 15.1 – 15.5 Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems, all types of forests, mountain ecosystems, natural habitats	Features to be named including forests, deserts, waterways and mountain features.
Indicator 15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area	
Indicator 15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater	

SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions	
Target / Indicator	Place name connection
Target 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	Name, location and extent defined to enable reporting. Parks, roads and other features are named.
Target 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	
Indicator 16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe	

walking alone around the area they live	
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SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals	
Target / Indicator	Place name connection
Target 17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development	Provide authoritative advice and data to Government to enable

Indicator 17.14.1 Number of (countries) with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development	effective reporting and enable global partnerships. Supporting and partnering with organisations that align to SDGs.
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Conclusion

Connecting geographical names to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be a productive and valuable way to raise awareness and promote action towards sustainable development which can be undertaken through a variety of naming approaches. AI has helped build connections to SDGs and provided opportunities for further research and idea creation.

Encouraging naming authorities to use place names that reflect the local history and culture but also promote values aligned with sustainable development and community well-being is important and ensures the liveability of our communities.

As our communities become more diverse, we will see an increase in names that recognise our diversity, the removal of socially unacceptable names which may be deemed offensive and derogatory, supporting First Peoples language amplification and naming more places after women and those from underrepresented portions of our communities. Utilising AI has fast tracked the process of creating a working shell of a document. In some places the words provided by AI have been redrafted, in others the information provided by AI has been succinct enough not to reword. This does raise concerns around plagiarism, though time has been spent to review content and rework to ensure the overarching aim of the paper is achieved. Where text has been used from AI results, this is considered to have been appropriately referenced.

The goal of this paper has supported further research into SDGs and sort to provide appropriate case study examples, it is hoped that readers find the paper useful to assist in supporting SDGs through geographical naming.

The Group of Experts is invited to take note of the efforts to build connections to sustainable development goals and consider case study examples within their Countries – possible there is an opportunity to reshape the paper with a world view.

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Questions asked:

- *“build a connection between United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and place naming including road, geographic features and localities”*
- *“majority of the examples provided are commemorative, are there any other options for naming beyond commemorative naming i.e. naming after a person?”*
- *“why should you build a connection to Sustainable development goals?”*
- *“how can we develop place name connections to Sustainable development goals”*

Chat GPT 3.5 responses:

Connecting place names to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be a creative and effective way to raise awareness and promote action towards sustainable development. Here are some steps you can take to develop these connections:

1. **Research:** Start by researching the specific characteristics, challenges, and opportunities of the place or places you're interested in. Understand the local context, including environmental, social, and economic factors.
2. **Identify SDGs:** Once you have a good understanding of the local context, identify which Sustainable Development Goals are most relevant to the area. Each place will have unique needs and priorities, so the SDGs that are most pertinent may vary.
3. **Mapping:** Map out how each SDG relates to the place. For example, if access to clean water is a challenge in a particular area, that would connect to SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation). Similarly, if there are issues with poverty or inequality, those would connect to SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), respectively.
4. **Engagement:** Engage with local communities, organizations, and stakeholders to understand their perspectives on the connections between the place and the SDGs. This can provide valuable insights and help build support for your initiatives.
5. **Communication:** Once you have identified the connections between the place and the SDGs, communicate them effectively to raise awareness and mobilize action. This could involve creating educational materials, organizing events, or using social media and other channels to spread the message.
6. **Collaboration:** Collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, businesses, and community groups, to develop and implement initiatives that address the identified challenges and contribute to the SDGs.

7. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Continuously monitor progress towards the SDGs in the place and evaluate the impact of your initiatives. This will help you identify what's working well and what areas may need further attention or adjustment.

By following these steps, you can develop meaningful connections between place names and Sustainable Development Goals, helping to drive positive change and contribute to a more sustainable future.

Building a connection to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is crucial for several reasons:

1. **Global Framework:** The SDGs provide a universal framework for addressing pressing global challenges, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, and more. By aligning with the SDGs, you're tapping into a shared agenda that has been adopted by countries worldwide.
2. **Holistic Approach:** The SDGs take a holistic approach to sustainable development, recognizing the interconnectedness of social, economic, and environmental issues. By integrating the SDGs into your work, you're encouraged to address multiple dimensions of sustainability simultaneously, leading to more comprehensive and effective solutions.
3. **Guidance and Direction:** The SDGs offer clear goals and targets, providing guidance and direction for action. By aligning with specific SDGs, you're able to focus your efforts and measure progress towards tangible outcomes, helping to ensure that your initiatives are impactful and accountable.
4. **Partnerships and Collaboration:** The SDGs promote collaboration and partnership at all levels, including governments, businesses, civil society organizations, and communities. By connecting your work to the SDGs, you're joining a global network of stakeholders working towards common objectives, fostering synergies, sharing resources, and multiplying the impact of your efforts.
5. **Mobilizing Resources:** The SDGs serve as a rallying point for mobilizing resources, including funding, expertise, and technology, to support sustainable development initiatives. By framing your work within the context of the SDGs, you're more likely to attract support from donors, investors, and other stakeholders who are committed to advancing the goals.
6. **Communicating Impact:** The SDGs provide a common language for communicating the impact of your work. By explicitly linking your efforts to specific SDGs, you're able to convey the broader significance and relevance of your work to diverse audiences, including policymakers, donors, beneficiaries, and the general public.
7. **Addressing Complex Challenges:** Many of the challenges we face today, such as poverty, climate change, and biodiversity loss, are complex and interconnected. The SDGs offer a comprehensive framework for addressing these challenges in an integrated manner, recognizing the need for systemic change and transformative action across multiple sectors and stakeholders.

Overall, building a connection to the Sustainable Development Goals provides a powerful framework for driving positive change, fostering collaboration, and accelerating progress towards a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

Linking United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with place naming, including road names, geographic features, and localities, can serve as a powerful tool for raising awareness and promoting sustainable development at the local level. Here's how each of the SDGs can be connected to place naming:

1. **No Poverty:** Naming places after individuals or events that championed poverty alleviation efforts can inspire communities to work towards eradicating poverty. For instance, naming a road after a local philanthropist or a significant poverty reduction initiative can serve as a reminder of the importance of economic inclusivity.
2. **Zero Hunger:** Naming agricultural areas or food distribution centers after key figures in the fight against hunger can highlight the importance of food security. Additionally, naming streets after nutritious crops or traditional farming practices can promote sustainable agriculture.
3. **Good Health and Well-being:** Naming parks, recreational areas, or healthcare facilities after healthcare pioneers or advocates for public health can emphasize the significance of accessible healthcare services and physical activity for well-being.

4. **Quality Education:** Naming schools, libraries, or educational institutions after notable educators, scholars, or advocates for universal education underscores the importance of quality education for all. These names can inspire a commitment to lifelong learning and educational equity.
5. **Gender Equality:** Naming public spaces or landmarks after prominent figures in the fight for gender equality can promote awareness and advocacy for women's rights. Additionally, naming streets after significant milestones in the women's rights movement can serve as a reminder of the ongoing struggle for gender equality.
6. **Clean Water and Sanitation:** Naming water bodies, conservation areas, or water treatment facilities after environmentalists or initiatives focused on water conservation highlights the importance of clean water and sustainable water management practices.
7. **Affordable and Clean Energy:** Naming energy-efficient buildings, renewable energy projects, or sustainable energy initiatives after clean energy pioneers can promote the transition to renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures.
8. **Decent Work and Economic Growth:** Naming industrial zones, business districts, or employment centers after entrepreneurs, labor leaders, or advocates for fair labor practices can emphasize the importance of decent work and economic opportunities for all.
9. **Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure:** Naming technology parks, innovation hubs, or transportation networks after inventors, innovators, or infrastructure development projects can encourage investment in sustainable infrastructure and technological advancements.
10. **Reduced Inequality:** Naming public spaces or community centers after activists or movements dedicated to reducing inequality can foster a sense of solidarity and promote social inclusion.
11. **Sustainable Cities and Communities:** Naming urban development projects, green spaces, or sustainable neighbourhoods after sustainable development advocates can encourage environmentally friendly urban planning and community development practices.
12. **Responsible Consumption and Production:** Naming recycling centers, eco-friendly products, or sustainable businesses after sustainability champions can promote responsible consumption and production patterns.
13. **Climate Action:** Naming landmarks, conservation areas, or green spaces after environmentalists or climate action initiatives can raise awareness about climate change and the importance of conservation efforts.
14. **Life Below Water:** Naming marine reserves, coastal areas, or underwater landmarks after marine conservationists or efforts to protect marine biodiversity emphasizes the need for conservation and sustainable management of marine resources.
15. **Life on Land:** Naming nature reserves, wildlife sanctuaries, or conservation areas after conservationists or efforts to protect terrestrial biodiversity highlights the importance of preserving ecosystems and promoting biodiversity.
16. **Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions:** Naming public buildings, judicial centers, or peace monuments after peacemakers, human rights advocates, or champions of justice can promote peacebuilding efforts and strengthen institutions for sustainable development.
17. **Partnerships for the Goals:** Naming collaborative projects, community initiatives, or cross-sector partnerships after sustainable development advocates or initiatives can encourage collective action and partnerships to achieve the SDGs.

By integrating the principles and values of the SDGs into place naming practices, communities can foster a sense of collective responsibility and commitment to achieving sustainable development objectives at the local level.

Absolutely, there are various other approaches to place naming beyond commemorative naming. Here are some alternative options:

1. **Descriptive Naming:** Instead of naming a place after a person or event, descriptive names describe the geographic features, landscape, or characteristics of the area. For example, naming a road "Sunset Boulevard" because of its stunning views during sunset, or naming a park "Oak Grove Park" because of the abundance of oak trees.
2. **Functional Naming:** Naming places based on their function or purpose can be another approach. For instance, naming a road "Main Street" because it serves as the primary thoroughfare in a town, or naming a neighbourhood "Riverside District" because it's located along a river.
3. **Historical Naming:** Reflecting the historical significance of a place through naming can be compelling. This could involve naming streets after significant historical events, naming districts after past industries or settlements, or naming parks after indigenous tribes or historical figures associated with the area.
4. **Geographical Naming:** Naming places after their geographical features can be both descriptive and informative. For example, naming a mountain "Snow Peak" because it's perpetually snow-capped, or naming a valley "Green Valley" because of its lush vegetation.
5. **Symbolic Naming:** Using symbolic names to evoke certain values or ideas associated with a place. For instance, naming a community garden "Harmony Gardens" to symbolize unity and cooperation among residents, or naming a plaza "Liberty Square" to symbolize freedom and democracy.
6. **Cultural Naming:** Reflecting the cultural heritage or diversity of an area through naming can be meaningful. This could involve naming streets, neighbourhoods, or landmarks after cultural symbols, traditions, or languages spoken by the local community.
7. **Environmental Naming:** Emphasizing environmental conservation and sustainability through naming can be impactful. This might involve naming parks, trails, or natural reserves after endangered species or ecosystems, or naming eco-friendly buildings after elements of nature.
8. **Inspirational Naming:** Choosing names that inspire and motivate can also be effective. This could involve naming streets after inspirational quotes or virtues like "Hope Avenue" or "Unity Street," fostering a sense of positivity and aspiration within the community.

By utilizing a variety of naming approaches, communities can create a diverse and meaningful tapestry of place names that not only reflect their history and culture but also promote values aligned with sustainable development and community well-being.
