An indicator is basically a sign that shows or suggests the condition or existence of something.
The pointer on a dial or scale.
An indicator is a factor or a variable that can be measured objectively. It is used to reliably assess the changes obtained or the progress accomplished by a project or programme in attaining its results and objectives.

Why are they important?
Indicators help us know the scope and magnitude of problems, whether we have enough resources to fix the problem, and whether we are making progress toward solving problems.

Having good indicators can also help to understand where gaps are, particularly in terms of the availability of data, and when we need to go back to the drawing board rethink methodologies or parts of a strategy or plan.

They can also allow us to see where there are convergences, at avoided duplication of efforts and better use of resources.

Dominica is on a trajectory towards becoming the World’s First Climate Resilient Nation. This is a national goal, to which all plans, projects, programmes and policies are aligned.
As such, we have plans and strategies which move across all sectors such as the:
- National Resilience Development Strategy 2030
- Climate Resilience Recovery Plan (2020-2030)
- The Nationally Determined Contributions (2022)
- Public Sector Reform (which is more about human capacity)

And in each sector, there are further plans and policies
And these are in no specific order, nor in any way completely captures everything each sector covers

In Agriculture, there is a draft National Agriculture Policy Framework, and various projects

Forestry recently received approval of the National Forestry Policy

Under Energy, there are Sustainable Resilience Energy Plan, but also a project being implemented by the Ministry of Planning, which looks at creating the enabling environment for Electrical Vehicles, and of course Geothermal

In Environment, we’re looking at phasing out HCFC and also HFCs, which have high global warming potentials, we are also going to be soon revising our national biodiversity strategy and action plan.
We just completed the land degradation neutrality target setting project, and of course in climate change, we look at national communications, nationally determined contributions, and biennial update reports (which will allow us to submit national ghg inventories more regularly and easily)

Under Solid Waste there are projects looking at E-waste, recycling and waster diversion which are also aimed at developing a circular economy within this industry,
Various chemical project under the Basel Convention of transboundary movement of hazardous waste.

Each sector has various policies, programmes and plans

Many of the actions within these policies and plans, are linked to each other. For example
Energy is linked to Solid Waste, if we’re looking at Waste to Energy. Waste is also linked to health.
And If we are looking at developing a circular economy within the waste management sector, Waste is also linked to job creation.

When we look at Biodiversity, we must consider Forestry as well as Fisheries (the forests and the marine environment house our biodiversity) but we also have to consider the Multilateral Environment Agreements that Dominica has signed on to, such as the Convention on Biodiversity and policy documents such as the national biodiversity strategy and action plan which communicates our plans for managing use.
We have to consider the sectors that affect our biodiversity in terms of land use change, such as physical planning, agriculture, public works and bush fires.
We also have to consider the meteorological data and how this links to changes in biodiversity.

Due to the type of tourism product we promote, Tourism is linked heavily to Forestry, but also to Fisheries (diving and other marine recreational activities)
Tourism is linked to agriculture in terms of agro-tourism, and also food security.
We also have to consider transportation, and how the cost of transportation can affect tourism, which affects our economy.
And then
Even the sectors are linked

Tourism can affect waste, which can affect biodiversity, which can affect tourism, because the pristine-ness of our biodiversity is what brings in the tourists.

So in moving forward with prioritizing and developing indicators, we should consider these inter-linkages, and how our work can be better coordinated and similar activities can be monitored more efficiently across line agencies.
Thank you