



### Progress Towards Environmental Sustainability

In Mauritius, efforts are being made to conserve the remaining proportion of forestland. There was no reduction in the 30.4% of land area covered by forest between 1990 and 2000. According to official figures obtained, in 1997, 13,000 hectares of land were protected to maintain biological diversity

The use of energy in Mauritius is increasing at a faster rate than the rate of energy efficiency. Therefore, with a continued growth of the economy, energy use will increase, leading to a simultaneous increase in the emission of greenhouse gases, unless nuclear energy and solar energy are used as substitutes to greenhouse gases. In 1990, the carbon dioxide emissions per capita amounted to 0.9 tonnes. There is a marked increase of 59% in the emissions of carbon dioxide for the year 2000, where carbon dioxide emissions amounted to 2.2 tonnes per capita. Mauritius will therefore have to take important steps to curb the emission of greenhouse gases.

90% of the population had piped water and 62% had flush toilets in 1990. The proportion of people with improved sanitation increased further in 2000, where 98.5% of the population had access to individual piped water within their premises and 87% of the people had access to flush toilet systems.

Storage of water to ensure year round supply remains a critical concern. As at 2001, only 50% of the demand for water is being met. The Government of Mauritius has set a target to ensure satisfaction of 75% of water demand by 2005, and 100% by 2015.

## QUICK FACTS

### CURRENT PORTFOLIO BUDGET

<b>Total UNDP-GEF and Co-Finance:</b>	\$4,623,538
<b>Total UNDP and Co-Finance:</b>	\$86,000
<b>Total MPU and Bilateral:</b>	\$215,995
<b>Total:</b>	\$4,925,533

**Cumulative Total ODS Phased-Out:** 29.7 ODP tonnes

Mauritius has a very high percentage of households that are owner-occupied. In 1990, 76% of households were owner-occupied. This figure sharply increased by 10.5% to reach 86.5% in 2000.

The Second National Environmental Strategies lays down Mauritius's strategy for the decade 2000-2010 for the protection and the preservation of the environment. It contains a number of recommendations and carries forward and extends the achievements of the First National Environmental Strategies initiated in 1988, which was developed to deal with the effects of economic growth on the environment.<sup>1</sup>

## SPOTLIGHT

### National Capacity Self-Assessment for Environmental Management<sup>2</sup>

As one of the world's Small Island Developing States, the Seychelles is characterized by the inherent vulnerabilities linked to its small land area and population, remoteness from major markets, limited natural resources, and fragile environment. Further development of economic sectors such as tourism, agriculture, manufacturing and other industries must therefore always be balanced against conserving the terrestrial and marine environment.

With initial grant funding of US\$ 200,000 from GEF in 2003, a project to undertake a National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA), completed in 2004, assessed the Seychelles' priority needs, taking into account existing documents such as the country's Environment Management Plan, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and Initial Communications to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which identified a number of critical capacity development needs.

Based on the findings of the NCSA, the project is now developing an Action Plan to build national capacity to meet the country's commitments to global environmental management. The Plan will be implemented through, firstly, informing capacity-strengthening activities supported under current and future GEF-funded projects in the Seychelles, secondly, re-orienting public sector financing to address priority capacity needs in a cost-effective manner, and thirdly, securing new funding and technical assistance, including from non-traditional sources.

Discussions are now underway with government institutions and the donor community to ensure that key recommendations of the NCSA are implemented through planned environment initiatives, ensuring synergies between activities to fulfil the Seychelles' international environmental commitments, and refining and pursuing long-term objectives to ensure sustainability and reliability of earlier initiatives, such as treatment of wastewater and engineered landfills, and more effective training for national parks personnel. This process will significantly contribute to sustainable development at national and global levels, increasing the country's voice at treaty negotiations and ensuring increased eligibility for support under the financing body of each of the Rio Conventions.



The Energy and Environment Programme is a chief area for UNDP's support to Mauritius both in terms of financial resources allocation and number of partnerships. The support to Mauritius in Energy and Environment is mainly concerned with the formulation of medium-size projects and implementation of medium-size and large-scale initiatives through GEF project development funding.<sup>3</sup> The biodiversity in Mauritius' many lagoons have been depleted. UNDP's efforts to protect and regenerate the marine eco-system are providing economic benefits and new employment possibilities for local fishery communities.

**Aase Smedler, Resident Representative**

## PORTFOLIO

### FSSD\*

To support the Government in developing a strategic approach to sustainable development, UNDP is implementing the Environmental Management and Sustainable Development project. Examples of the many initiatives being undertaken include marine protected areas management with community stakeholder participation, terrestrial biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation options, promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency in the transport sector.

In the Seychelles, UNDP is supporting the GEF-funded NCSA process, which assesses existing capacity and identifies the needs and priorities to meet its obligations under multilateral environmental conventions. Further details are provided in the Spotlight.

### ENERGY

In Mauritius, UNDP is implementing a GEF-funding project to support the removal of barriers to energy efficiency and energy conservation in buildings in Mauritius. The project takes a holistic approach, through horizontal integration of energy, engineering, economics, environment and ethics, and vertically integrating national and cross-sectoral policies.

### LAND

UNDP is supporting the adoption of sustainable land management (SLM) practices in Mauritius. For example, a project is working to strengthen the capacities of existing and new institutions at the local and national levels, develop policy and planning tools, integrate land management priorities into national physical development plans, build partnerships and heighten awareness of SLM. The project is funded by GEF.

### BIODIVERSITY

Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity is a major area of UNDP's support to Mauritius terms of financial resources and partnerships. For example, the GEF-funded project, "Partnerships for Marine Protected Areas in Mauritius and Rodrigues" is establishing a system of marine protected areas to ensure the conservation and protection of critical and unique marine biodiversity in the area.

### CHEMICALS

Building on the successful cooperation established during the implementation of five projects funded by the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol in the refrigeration and aerosol sectors, the Government of Mauritius is now working with UNDP to further develop sustainable capacity to enable the country to meet its obligations under the Stockholm Convention on POPs. The enabling activity to prepare a National Implementation Plan for sound management of POPs is funded by GEF.

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### PARTNERS

**Some of our Partners working with UNDP and the Government in Mauritius**

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**Some of our Partners working with UNDP and the Government in Seychelles**

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<sup>1</sup>MDGR 2004 [http://www.undg.org/documents/2746-MDR\\_on\\_Mauritius.pdf](http://www.undg.org/documents/2746-MDR_on_Mauritius.pdf); <sup>2</sup>UNDP, 'UNDP in Mauritius and Seychelles'; UNDP Seychelles Questionnaire response; GEF Online database: <http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetails.cfm?projID=174>; <sup>3</sup>[http://un.intnet.mu/UNDP/html/mauritius/energy\\_env.htm](http://un.intnet.mu/UNDP/html/mauritius/energy_env.htm); \*Frameworks and Strategies for Sustainable Development