

# UNDP Mauritius Annual Report 2021

## **Building Forward Better**





**Acknowledgement:**

UNDP Mauritius acknowledges the Government of Mauritius, development partners, civil society, the private sector and implementing partners, who play a critical role in the transformational growth of our communities. The support and partnership received contribute towards the delivery of our programmatic interventions and the results captured in this report.

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**Amanda Serumaga,**

*Resident Representative  
UNDP Mauritius and  
Seychelles*

## Foreword

Like the rest of the world, Mauritius has continued to face persistent uncertainties rebuilding the economy since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Although the country had successfully stamped out the widespread community infection from COVID-19 in 2020, the resurgence of local cases resulted in the second national lockdown from 10 March 2021. Government instituted gradual easing until October 1 when the economy was fully reopened. The country was expected to close the year with a GDP growth of 4.4 percent, lower than the 5 percent projected by the IMF. This was not unexpected given the slow recovery of the tourism sector and the pressure imposed on businesses, with 65 percent operating normally as opposed to 78 percent in 2020.

The negative impacts of the pandemic combined with the 2020 oil spill have continued to compound other vulnerabilities faced by the country. In May, Mauritius had 293 reported cases of domestic violence in just 18 days, mostly perpetuated against women - a similar trend registered in 2020.

By virtue of its status as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Mauritius is continually threatened by the impact of climate change which further constrains its ability to withstand other shocks. At the inter-ministerial council meeting of 28 September 2021, the Prime Minister noted Mauritius is in a 'state of climate emergency'. In 2021, Mauritius ranked 51st in disaster risk- a deterioration, after ranking 53rd in 2020.

Despite these challenges, the Government remained proactive in its response, with the 2021-2022 budget announcing a forward-looking agenda focused on boosting investment, shaping a new economic architecture and restoring confidence. The country is also on course to devise comprehensive economy-wide reforms to address pre-existing structural challenges to bounce back better.





Key among these reforms is the re-orientation of the tourism sector to target high value tourism segments such as silver tourists and digital nomads, and expansion of reach beyond the traditional tourism markets; building integrated business continuity systems in the public sector to build system resilience; and systematically attracting private sector investment in priority areas.

Mauritius has also maintained its commitment to mitigate the impact of climate change, in part by aiming to reduce overall GHG emissions by 40 percent in 2030, and laying emphasis on green energy as a new pillar of the economy. Building on the foundation set in 2020, the Government also continued to invest in making health systems stronger and more resilient. In boosting the health response, the Government is also cognizant of the need to integrate health infrastructure with other productive sectors of the economy to achieve impact at scale.

The support of the UNDP in addressing the above development challenges was anchored in the UN-Socio-Economic Response Plan (SERP) for Mauritius, based on which manifold results have been achieved.

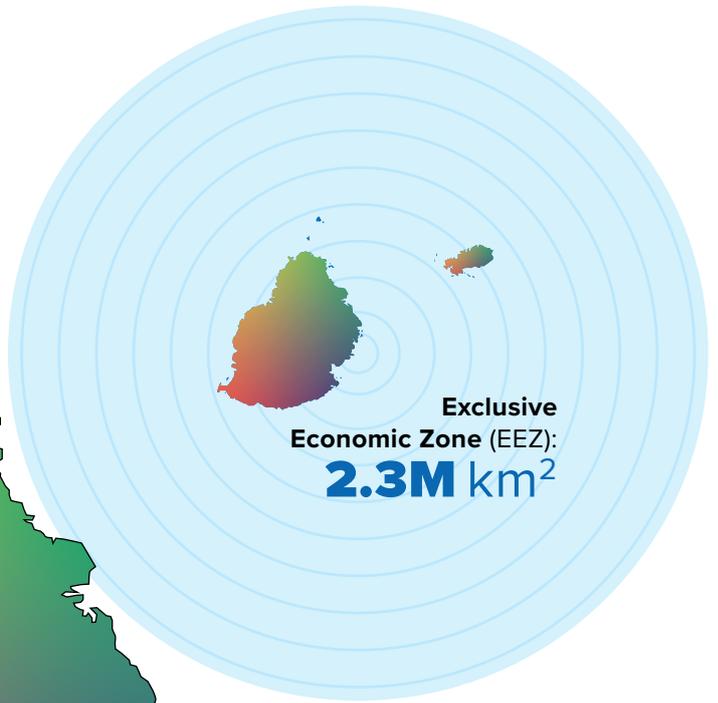




# Overview

The Republic of Mauritius consists of two main islands, Mauritius and Rodrigues, and numerous islets including: Agaléga, Tromelin, Cargados Caragos (St Brandon) and the Chagos Archipelago. The country spans **2,040** square kilometres (790 sq mi) and has an Exclusive Economic Zone covering **2.3** million km<sup>2</sup>.

Source: Government of Mauritius



Combined population  
**≈1.3M**

Port Louis

Port Mathurin

620km

Mauritius:  
Total land area: **1,865 km<sup>2</sup>**

Rodrigues:  
**109 km<sup>2</sup>**



**Economic Freedom Index<sup>1</sup>:**

Overall score:

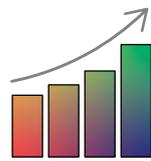
↓ **70.9** (-4.8 compared to 2020)

Global Rank:

↓ **30th** (down 9 places from 2020)

Regional Rank:

◆ **1st** maintained from 2020



**GDP growth<sup>2</sup>:**

2020:

↓ **-14.9%**

2021<sup>2</sup>:

↑ **+4.8%**

**Ibrahim Index of African Governance<sup>3</sup>:**

Overall Governance score:

**77.2/100**

Ranking:

◆ **1st**



Category scores:

Participation, Rights and Inclusion: **77.8/100**

Foundations for Economic Opportunity: **76.0/100**

Security and Rule of Law: **79.5/100**

Human Development: **75.5/100**

<sup>1</sup> Source: <https://www.heritage.org/index/country/mauritius>

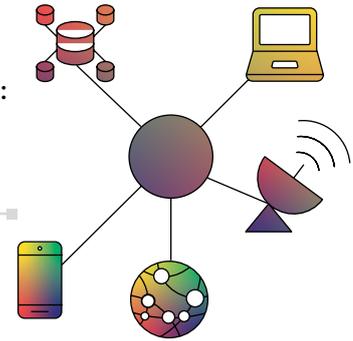
<sup>2</sup> Source: [https://statsmauritius.govmu.org/Documents/Statistics/ESI/2021/EI1628/NAE\\_Dec21\\_231221.pdf](https://statsmauritius.govmu.org/Documents/Statistics/ESI/2021/EI1628/NAE_Dec21_231221.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Source: <https://iag.online/data.html?meas=GOVERNANCE&loc=MU&view=overview>



**E-Government Development Index (EGDI):**

Overall score: **0.72** | Global Rank: **63rd** | Regional Rank: **1st**



**2021-2030 Environmental Commitments – updated NDC targets**

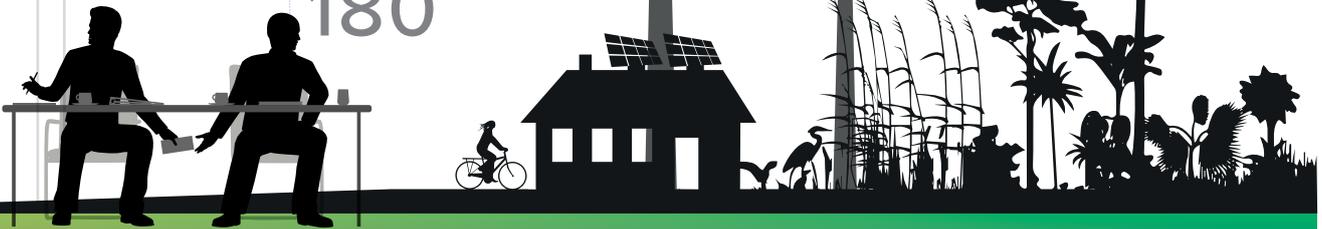
Increase in energy efficiency: **10%**

Energy production from green sources by 2030: **60%**

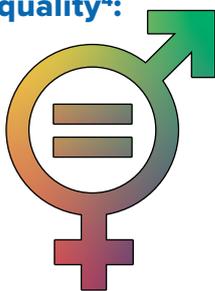
Greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction by 2030: **40%**

**Corruption Perception Index**

Overall score: **54** | Global Rank: **49/180**



**Gender Equality<sup>4</sup>:**



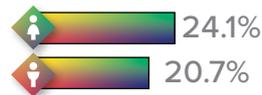
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament:



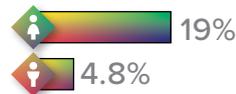
Proportion of women in managerial positions:



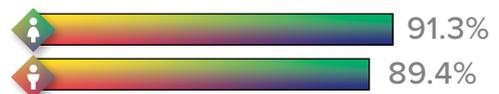
% Prevalence of severe food insecurity in adult population



Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic chores and care work:



Literacy rate, age 15+:



<sup>4</sup> Source: <https://data.unwomen.org/country/mauritius>





## 1.0 Key Results/ Highlights

Following the 2021-2022 budget policy on investing in rebuilding the tourism sector, UNDP's effort has focused on supporting the Government to reconsider the national tourism strategy. This engagement, which will conclude in the first Quarter of 2022, focuses on extensive analysis of market and tourism potential; creating market value; devising strategies for diversification away from traditional markets, and market segments; strengthening inter-sectoral linkages; and strengthening the SME ecosystem to capture the market opportunities.

The UNDP Country Office in Mauritius also invested in enhancing public sector efficiency to build agility and resilience of the country in times of crisis. Within the health sector, several key results were registered in the establishment of a comprehensive integrated e-health system which, if successfully implemented, could position Mauritius as a model country in the sub-region. First, ahead of the official opening of borders on 1 October 2021, the online infrastructure for border opening was improved to facilitate travel, reduce congestion at the airport and track passengers



**Above:**

Port Louis, the capital of Mauritius, is the economic hub and main port of the island.

for testing and follow-up. Second, the testing of COVID-19 has been decentralized while integrating results with the Central Health Laboratory (CHL). In the wider public sector, emphasis has been on the establishment of a work-from-home protocol in the public service, and strengthening IT-enabled business continuity systems to guarantee health and safety and attain organizational resilience.

Actions on gender equality and women's empowerment were sustained at Parliament and the Judiciary levels. The Government was supported to ensure that parliamentary processes including legislative frameworks are engendered through capacity development of legislative members and high-level policy makers. With the increased cases of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), the GBV Mobile Application "LESPWAR" for community safety was also upgraded.

The UNDP strengthened the country's capacity to mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change through several strategic engagements. The Nationally Determined Contributions were updated with support from the UNDP Climate Promise Initiative, with commitment to reduce Green House Gas emissions by 40 percent by 2030. This will entail the production of 60 percent of energy needs from green sources, the total phasing out of use of coal and an increase in energy efficiency by 10 percent. The Country Office also supported the Installation of a 14 MW Grid-Scale Battery Energy Storage System to enable high capacity





storage of renewable energy in the grid. This will enable a smarter, modern and cleaner electricity network.

The engagement of the UNDP in the recovery and development efforts built on lessons learned from the preceding years, and facilitated scalability and sustainability of results. The Mauritius Country Office continued to provide technical leadership to ensure the effective implementation of the UN Socio-Economic Response Plan (SERP) and was engaged at different levels. First, the UNDP participated in several implementation committees- as co-chair (with the Ministry of Finance) of the Coordination Committee, represented by the Resident Representative; co-chair (with the Ministry of Finance) of the sub-committee on Macroeconomy, represented by the Senior Economist, and as a member of the Steering Committee co-chaired by the Resident Coordinator and Secretary to Cabinet in the Office of the Prime Minister. Second, UNDP was involved in the mobilization of resources to support the implementation of the three pillars of the SERP – (i) Health System Strengthening, Prevention and Containment, (ii) Promoting Social Protection for Vulnerable groups, and (iii) Socioeconomic Impact Assessment and Early Recovery Planning. Third, UNDP was also involved in surveys and diagnostic studies to inform engagement across the pillars of the plan.

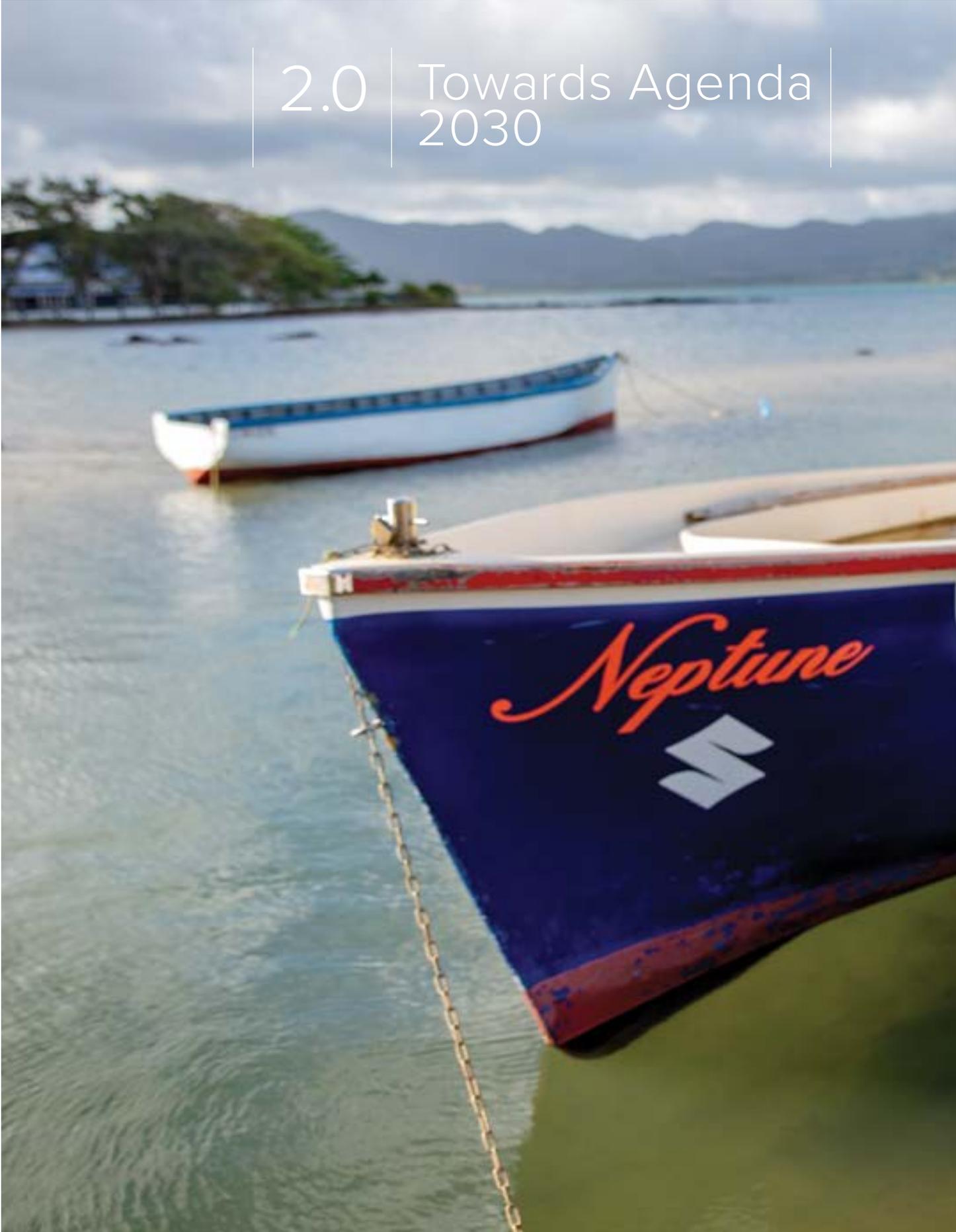
A number of actions have also been taken to support the Government of Mauritius under the Prevention, Response and Early recovery Project (PREP) namely: the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) that has now been rolled out to all regional hospitals and clinics. IT equipment has been purchased and training provided, and the COVID-19 module has now been integrated into the LIMS. The Government has provided an additional USD 290,000 for the PREP, which is also contributing to food security with the implementation of an e-commerce market platform for the agriculture sector.

The PREP initiative has adopted a holistic strategy, and various activities such as the Laboratory Information Management System, the E-Health project, the E-Commerce trading platform for agriculture sector, and the Business Continuity Planning, can positively impact the lives of Mauritians. The project also enables the Government to adopt state of art technologies and be resilient during pandemics while, at the same time, promoting accountability, transparency and efficiency. It has also supported the COVAX Vaccination Programme and setting up of the COVID-19 Testing Centre.





# 2.0 | Towards Agenda 2030







**Above:**

Agriculture is one of the main economic pillars of Rodrigues and many families currently depend on it for their livelihood.

The UNDP Country Office supported the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to prepare its first SDG progress report. This is one of the first subnational reports that provides statistics on each of the goals, highlighting areas of investment to address data gaps. The preparation of the report was overseen by the SDG Committee of the Regional Assembly. It will be published in the first quarter 2022 upon approval by the Assembly.



In an effort to support innovative resource mobilisation to deliver on the SDGs, the UNDP also started the preparation of an SDG investor map for Mauritius, to attract private capital to priority sectors with a high multiplier effect on the achievement of SDGs. Following an extensive consultation held in 2021, the investor map will be concluded in the first quarter of 2022. Drawing on the successes registered in Mauritius, the investor map will be prepared for the Government of Seychelles in 2022.

### UNDP's signature solutions

Working with partners across the UN system and beyond, the UNDP is implementing signature solutions to leverage its strengths and expertise to assist the Government of Mauritius to keep the marginalized and vulnerable section of the population out of poverty, in line with Solution 1. In this context the UNDP Country Office in Mauritius has designed tailor-made activities to initiate a vibrant private sector which will create decent jobs and livelihoods.

UNDP's leadership in the implementation of the UN COVID-19 Recovery plan was aimed at building system resilience to achieve Solution 3. This involved strategic investments to strengthen the health system; establish business continuity systems in the public sector; and support a strategic re-orientation of the tourism sector.

Investments to restore coral reef, reduce the impact of invasive alien species and protect the biodiversity in coastal zones, have been central to the Country Office programme, and are expected to contribute to the sustainability of the ecosystem – Signature Solution 4.

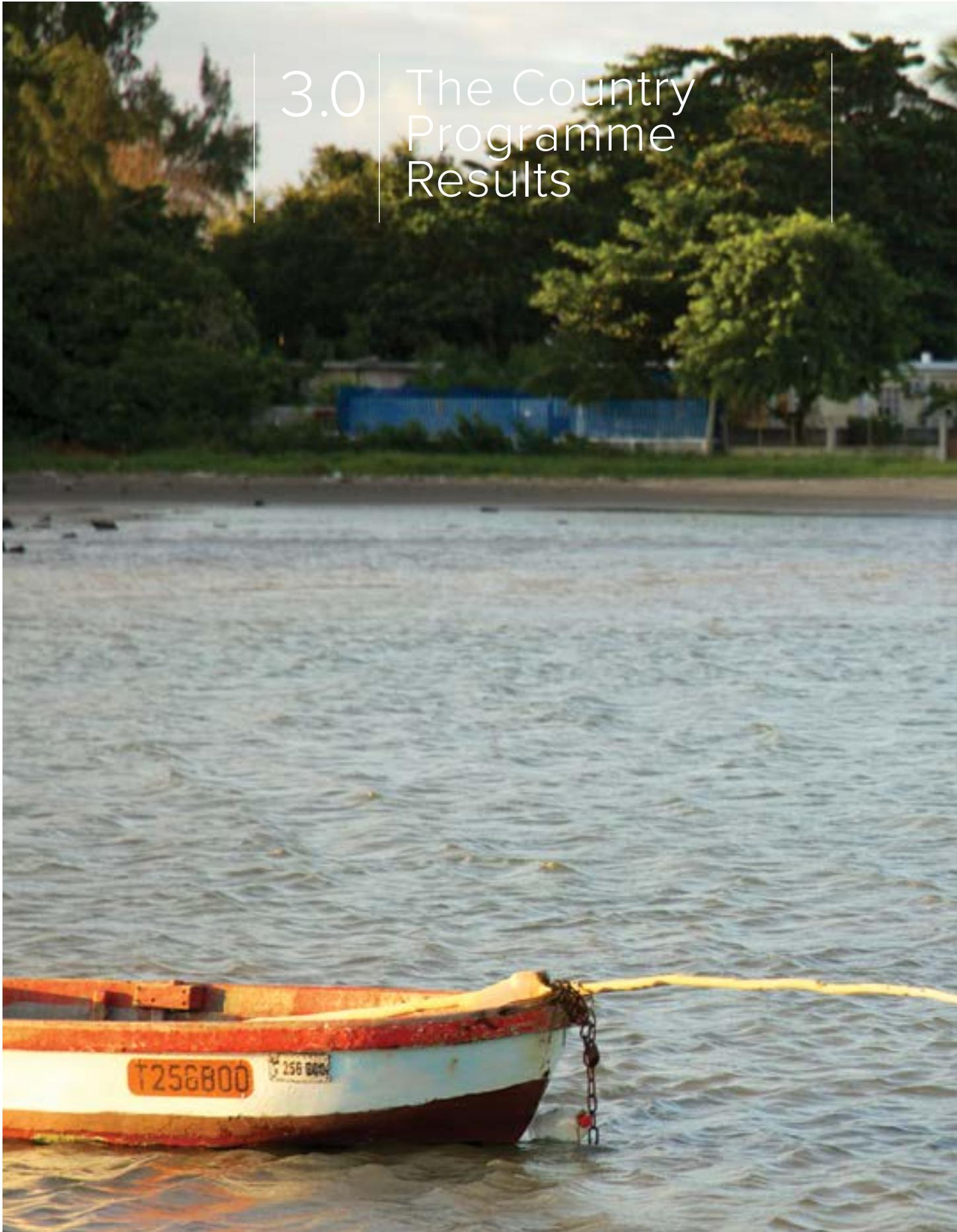
The support to the installation of a 14 MW Grid-Scale Battery Energy Storage System, to enable high-capacity storage of renewable energy in the grid and enhance the clean electricity network, delivers on Solution 5 on energy.

The sustained engagement of the UNDP Country Office in gender mainstreaming in the public and private sector, including strengthening of capacities for women's participation in the AfCFTA, contributes to Signature Solution 6.





# 3.0 | The Country Programme Results







Above:

Women entrepreneurs in the eco-tourism and handicraft sectors contribute actively to the economy of the Republic of Mauritius.

### 3.1 Inclusive Development, Gender Equality and Social Protection, and Public Sector Efficiency

The UNDP played an instrumental role in supporting gender-sensitive COVID-19 recovery efforts through several strategic engagements. First, there was emphasis on supporting reforms aimed at structural transformation to re-orient key sectors of the economy including tourism. This resulted in the development of a strategy and action plan for tourism recovery, currently undergoing approval.

Second, structural constraints to private sector engagement in “building back better” were addressed, as evidenced by the preparation of the



SDG investor map to attract private capital to priority sectors.

In addition, the UNDP programme completed a comprehensive diagnostic study to direct private sector to optimal investments in the circular economy; and a comprehensive follow-up survey on the impact of COVID-19 on the MSMEs, including women-headed businesses, and an interactive dashboard that links businesses to regional markets.

Third, UNDP supported efforts in strengthening an enabling environment for the equal participation of women and men in the structural transformation journey. This entailed:

1. Upgrading a mobile app for survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) to ensure rapid response from police force;
2. Undertaking a feasibility study, and providing a survivor-focused roadmap for the setting up of a model shelter for survivors of GBV;
3. Formulating an animated cartoon for mass sensitization on Gender Equality currently used for information, education and campaigns;
4. Supporting the implementation of an economic empowerment programme for around 36 survivors of GBV leading to the award of a nationally recognized certificate;
5. Conducting information campaigns for community engagement for enhanced livelihoods for more than 5,000 individuals across the island, including domestic violence survivors;
6. Enhancing the capacity of Members of the Parliamentary Gender Caucus and 30 Gender Focal Points to mainstream gender. These interventions are paving the way towards gender-sensitive policy-making at the level of the Legislature and of the Executive.

Fourth, the UNDP contributed to advancing digital transformation in the public and private sector to facilitate a more agile way of working. This was achieved through delivery on catalytic investments for 5 key government services including: (i) a Work-from-Home Protocol,





**Above:**

UNDP Mauritius and the Ministry of Health and Wellness have partnered to develop the E-Health system, which aims at improving the quality of health services across the island.

(ii) initiating the rollout of an E- Health system, (iii) upgrading of the GBV Rapid Response Mobile App, (iv) a National Emergency Operation Command, formulating the e-parliament project, and (v) a Registrar General Department.

Through partnerships with Government ministries, departments, individual women entrepreneurs and agencies such as UN Women and UNFPA, the Africa Regional Bureau and the AfCFTA Secretariat have yielded development impact through sustained collaboration to conceptualize and implement programmes including on the AfCFTA Women in Trade Protocol and GBV programming and reduction. In parallel, the Government of Japan supported the implementation of an economic empowerment livelihood programme of 36 GBV survivors.

To facilitate business linkages between Mauritian businesses and counterparts in the SADC region, the UNDP supported the design of a Business Intelligence Platform. Upgrading and scaling-up of the platform is planned for 2022. The Country office also assisted the National Statistics Bureau in the preparation of its e-business strategy, and to enhance its capacity in terms of digital solutions for data generation and management.

Mauritius has experienced two lockdowns since 2020. This has impeded the implementation of some activities. For instance, the Civil Service College was unable to conduct capacity building exercises for 140 public servants, which was part of UNDP's commitment to support 7 line Ministries to formulate their Business Continuity Plan. A study initiated by the UNDP and the UNFPA on the extent of GBV, to inform future programming at the national level, could also not be completed.



Above:

UNDP Mauritius and the Government of Japan supported two studies commissioned by Business Mauritius and Statistics Mauritius on the impact of COVID-19 on businesses in the country.

### 3.1.1 COVID Response and Economic Recovery

Following the COVID-19 pandemic and the MV Wakashio oil spill, the UNDP Country Office shifted resources and programme priorities to focus on supporting Mauritius to prepare, respond and implement activities to mitigate public health and the socioeconomic crisis. In collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other international development partners, the UNDP supported policy dialogues to develop a forward looking recovery agenda. The implementation of a Joint Programme was adopted with the financial support of the UNDP, Government of Japan and Government of Mauritius. The Country Office established about thirteen partnership agreements with several Ministries, NGOs and other private sector entities while implementing activities under the PREP initiative. It also built on complementarities and added value of the partners in addressing complex development challenges. This also required a commitment from participating organisations to work together, clarity on the roles and responsibilities of each partner, and mutual accountability on the delivery of development results.

The UNDP, in collaboration with the Government of Mauritius, developed the UN Socio- Economic Response Plan which guided the COVID-19 response and recovery. For the effective implementation of the response plan, the UNDP was able to mobilize resources from the Australian High Commission, the UNFPA and the Embassy of Japan, who were also involved in advocacy and in the launch of most activities.

During the first lockdown, seed funding was provided to the COVID solidarity fund and the Ministry of Health and Wellness to support the





vulnerable groups. To further support the Government of Mauritius COVID-19 response, the UNDP in Mauritius has now contributed a total of USD 2 million for the purchase of COVID-19 vaccines for the benefit of the Mauritian population through the COVAX facility.

In partnership with the Ministry of Trade, a diagnostic study on the informal sector in Mauritius was instituted to inform the needs of the country which outlined post-COVID recovery strategy. The final report will guide the implementation of further actions including fund mobilisation.

### 3.1.2 Inclusive Development

#### **Women in Trade Protocol of the African Continent Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA): new opportunities for women entrepreneurs**

As part of efforts to empower women to participate effectively in the regional value chains, the UNDP partnered with the Ministry of Industry, SMEs and cooperatives to establish a consultative platform involving Mauritian women entrepreneurs to inform the AfCFTA protocol of Women in Trade. The Country Office led consultations on the AfCFTA and the Women in Trade Protocol in the Republic of Mauritius, addressing several issues pertaining to constraints on women participation in trade with mainland Africa, opportunities for collaboration and trade, and strategic investments required to empower them to participate.

Throughout the consultations, partnerships between the private and public sector were strengthened, and recommendations have been included in the regional report, capturing key messages prepared by UNDP Regional Service Center for Africa (RSCA), UN Women and the AfCFTA Secretariat. A baseline study on the trade profile of women in the export sector - including challenges identified and recommendations - was submitted to the RSCA as a common regional paper to the AfCFTA Secretariat. These initiatives will guide women on expanded opportunities to engage in international trade across Africa. It is expected that women entrepreneurs will be sensitized on the different opportunities under the Women in Trade Protocol of the AfCFTA.





### 3.1.3 Empowering MSMEs for Tourism Recovery

As part of efforts to empower Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) operating in the tourism sector of the Republic of Mauritius, the UNDP Mauritius Accelerator Lab held two collective intelligence exercises with the collaboration of the Ministry of Tourism. These events gathered various stakeholders, including micro-enterprises, to consider solutions for an inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery for tourism. The multi-stakeholder engagement culminated in an ongoing project with the Ministry of Tourism to devise a roadmap that will enable to explore, test and experiment grassroots solutions in the tourism sector.



Right:

The MSME sector in Mauritius, which includes the sale of local handicrafts, continues to be the backbone of the local economy with a nearly 40 percent share of GDP.





Above:

The Honourable Kalpana Koonjoo-Shah, Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare; the Honourable Pravind Jugnauth, Prime Minister, and Ms. Amanda Serumaga, UNDP Resident Representative, at the commemoration the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

### 3.1.4 Gender Equality and Social Protection

#### Mainstreaming Gender Equality

The UNDP remains a privileged development partner of the Mauritian Government and its stakeholders, including the private sector, especially concerning Gender Equality (SDG 5). The Country Office has established high level and technical working relations at the decision-making and community level. This multilevel engagement ensured policy and community actions were implemented in synergy. For example, the Cybersecurity bill 2021, which is gender sensitive, was debated at parliamentary level with mention made to the impact and importance of cybersecurity on children and gender issues.

The Country Office engaged in a strategic partnership with key institutions such as the Parliament, the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare. Engaging with top-level decision-makers has ensured that gender mainstreaming measures were taken onboard at the highest level of accountability. Through the technical expertise of the Country Office, members of the Parliamentary Gender Caucus were provided with rapid checklists to engender legislation and policies, in line with the Standing Orders of the National Assembly. It is to be noted that the Caucus is a standing committee of Parliament, and is chaired by the Honorable Speaker of Parliament and co-chaired by the Deputy Speaker.



Capacity building of Members of Parliament and Gender Focal Persons on gender mainstreaming has also contributed to the integration of gender issues in different processes including legislative debates.

The UNDP also continued its technical advice to the High-Level Committee on the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence, which is chaired by the Honorable Prime Minister and comprises 15 Ministers and the Commissioner of Police and Prisons. The main outcome was the adoption and present implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan to Eliminate GBV (2019-2024), which provides a succinct blue-print towards a shared understanding of the different outputs to be achieved in line with 4 sub-strategies. These include addressing gendered norms; developing survivor-focused programmes and perpetrator accountability; changing discriminatory laws; and setting up of a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to eliminate GBV. Moreover, in line with engagement supported by the UNDP, there is now a multi-sectoral and standardized approach to address GBV by different ministries. For instance, the National Strategy recognizes GBV as a crosscutting issue across line ministries.

At the same time, the Citizens Support Unit, which has a network of Citizens Advice Bureaus across the island, was supported to ensure that community matters were an integral part of decision making. As part of inclusive community building, 24 radio broadcast programmes involving the Citizen's Support Bureau were organized throughout 2021, leading to the identification of community-based issues and their channelling to the highest level. With the changing social norms, a gender equality cartoon was launched to target different cohorts of the population. The effective use of legal mechanisms to address GBV and a strategic partnership to build capacity were established with the Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies.

A seminar on Gender-Based Violence and the Law, organized in collaboration with the Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies (IJLS) and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution, has contributed to sensitize a pool of 100 lawyers and magistrates on GBV. With skills acquired, it is expected that the magistrates will make gender-sensitive ruling; be guided by the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women; and order social inquiries and reports that are cognizant of women's gendered needs.



The UNDP Country Office also produced the Gender Policy Priority Paper to analyse the gendered implications of the Pandemic. Actions were developed on the evidence contained in the Priority paper which highlighted the rise of GBV, and called upon ensuring gender mainstreaming in all policies and programmes.

Additionally, to contribute to evidence-based decision making, the Country Office mobilised funds from UNFPA to initiate a study on the extent of GBV and field workers trained on GBV issues and gender-sensitive data collection methods. With funds mobilized through the Japan Supplementary Budget (JSB), an economic empowerment programme for GBV survivors was also carried out, enabling beneficiaries to take advantage of a nationally recognised certificate, training, and tools to start up their businesses.

**Below:**

The mobile application application “LESPWAR” allows users to report GBV cases, access information and receive support for psychological counselling.

A Follow-up Survey to assess the impact of the Pandemic on Businesses further highlighted coping strategies adopted by women heads of businesses while identifying the challenges faced by their businesses during the pandemic.



**“LESPWAR” – Addressing Gender-Based Violence via mobile technology**



The mobile application application “LESPWAR” (Mauritian Creole for “Hope”) was developed for survivors of GBV and launched on 25 November 2020, with the support of UNDP Mauritius, as part of the National Strategy on the Elimination of Gender Based Violence (2019- 2024) in the Republic of Mauritius. The application allows users to report GBV cases, access information on GBV and receive referral support for psychological counselling and other services. In 2019, 2022 cases of GBV were reported, and in 2020 reported cases rose to 2425. During the lockdown, women could not go to the police to report GBV and the application was used 945 times for panic alerts.

In 2021, assistance was provided to the High Level Committee to upgrade the app through a geolocalisation feature that would allow a more Rapid Response by the Police. This feature ensures messages are sent to the Control Centre via the GPS of the user’s phone or a free SMS system if internet is unavailable. The updated application has



supported victims and survivors to (i) self-determine if their relationship is consistent with a domestic violence relationship (rate my risk); (ii) find people who can help in their area; (iii) provide information on the nearest Police Station, Citizens Advice Bureau, Police Family Protection Unit, Family Support Bureau or Women Empowerment Centre; (iv) develop a Safety Plan; and (v) self-determine when immediate assistance is required.

As of December 2021, more than 2,000 downloads of the application had been registered from different target groups (disaggregated by age, gender, location), with around 645 interventions for survivor support and follow-ups. Through the upgrade of the GBV application, there are now dedicated Family Protection Officers at the main command centre who follow up with survivors and the Police Response Team on the ground for a more targeted service.

The LESPWAR mobile application was recognised as one of the Champions by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), organised by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). LESPWAR ranked among the top five in its category, which was “Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society”. The Chief Digital Office of the UNDP is now starting to engage with Mauritius to have its source code for replication in other Country Offices as a Digital Public Good.

### Gendered Voices Newsletter

UNDP in Mauritius partnered with the Ministry of Gender and Social Welfare, the Australian High Commission, the Office of the UNRC and UN Women, to support a platform to document women’s COVID-19 stories in Mauritius. The UNDP Mauritius Gendered Voices Newsletter draws on women’s experiences during the lockdown period and in the wake of the ‘new normal’ to highlight the gendered implications of COVID-19 in Mauritius. It also aims to illustrate the intersectionality of women’s identities and experiences; to contribute to our understanding of effective policy responses and to echo their voices in different sectoral matters such as in climate change amongst others.





**Above:**

UNDP supported the operationalization of an All-in-One digital platform to reduce paper use and improve efficiency of incoming passenger control at the international airport.

### 3.2 Improving public services and other government functions through digitalization

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UNDP Country Office in Mauritius has collaborated with the UNDP Global Centre for Technology, Innovation and Sustainable Development and Digital Initiatives Group at the International Training and Education Center for Health, based within the University of Washington's Department of Global Health. This collaboration resulted in the development and implementation of a comprehensive public Laboratory Information Management System



(LIMS) for the Ministry of Health and Wellness using the Open ELIS Global platform. The platform was initially customised to capture and manage data on all COVID-19 tests carried out in the country for the efficient management of local cases.

In 2021, the UNDP supported the upgrading of the Laboratory Management Information Management System (LIMS) into a comprehensive clinical and public health LIMS using digital technologies. Through the implementation of the LIMS, the Central Laboratory has been able to increase the number of COVID tests from 100 per day to 3,000 per day.

The UNDP also supported the operationalization of an All-in-One digital platform at the international airport to ensure a reduction in the use of paper and the filtering of various categories of incoming passengers. The All-in-One digital platform speeds up the verification process by Health Inspectors at the airport. This eases the queuing and facilitates contact tracing through the Power BI Dashboard, not only for COVID-19 but also for other monitored diseases.

The UNDP also assisted in the preparation of Business Continuity Planning (BCP) for 5 key services and is funding the implementation of 3 of these critical services namely: (i) the Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) for the Ministry of Public Service, (ii) the Parliamentary EDMS for the National Assembly as part of the Digital Parliament and (iii) the Process automation of the Registrar General's Department.

With the approval of the Work-from-Home protocol through the support of the UNDP, the Government is gearing towards becoming more resilient in future lockdown situations. This has allowed the Ministry of Public Service to expand the initiative to other Ministries through training and awareness raising exercises. Several key ministries are currently being trained on the protocol.

Following the survey on businesses in collaboration with the Statistics Mauritius and Business Mauritius in 2020, the UNDP provided support to Small and Medium Size Enterprises in terms of Capacity Building on ICT and satisfied their need to better understand and use online marketing tools in a pandemic situation. This project is currently being carried out with the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC).



**Above:**

UNDP supports climate action in Mauritius through projects focusing on electricity production from Renewable Energy sources and ecosystem conservation and restoration.

### 3.3 Climate action, Sustainable management of natural resources and integration of Ecosystem services approaches

The UNDP Country Office for Mauritius provided substantive support to the Government on climate action. The installation and commissioning of the final set of 14 MW of Battery Energy Storage System concluded the phase 1 support from the GCF project, ensuring that the electrical grid is now able to accommodate up to 185 MW of intermittent renewable energy (RE). The latest available data indicates a year-on-year improvement in the reliability of supply for both duration of, and incidence of interruption of electricity supply.

Parallel support was provided to capacitate the Mauritius Renewable Energy Agency (MARENA) and the Utility Regulatory Authority (URA) to provide increased advisory and regulatory assistance to the Government in matters related to energy. Moreover, the Country Office also contributed to the empowerment of women and youth on RE by





supporting awareness and specialised training in collaboration with the Clinton Foundation. Through these efforts, further resources were mobilised from the Australian Government to support additional capacity building targeting unemployed women.

Under the Climate Promise Initiative, the UNDP also played a critical role in supporting the Government to ambitiously ramp up the climate ambitions through the updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Inclusive and multi-sectoral consultations were facilitated and technical assistance was provided in refining the adaptation and mitigation targets in Mauritius. Furthermore, resources for Climate Change Mitigation were mobilised through the Country Office for the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) project (USD 1.2M) and the Low Carbon Economy project (USD 5.6M).

In terms of climate resilience, a first set of Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) maps has been made available online to all government





stakeholders under the “Mainstreaming Biodiversity into the Management of the Coastal Zone of the Republic of Mauritius” project. The project also supported 5 NGOs, namely Eco-Sud, Marine Megafauna Conservation Organisation, Caritas Ile Maurice, Reef Conservation and the Trou d’Eau Douce Fishermen Cooperative Society, to train community members on sustainable livelihoods in the aftermath of the 2020 MV Wakashio oil spill.

Key progress was also achieved under the “Restoring Marine Ecosystem Services by Rehabilitating Coral Reefs to meet a Changing Climate Future” project where enforcement equipment has been procured and agreements were reached with NGOs to undertake community-driven coral restoration activities. The EU-funded “Supporting the Economic Empowerment of Artisanal Fishing Community of the Republic of Mauritius” (EcoFish) project, established key contact with fishing communities in view of sustainably transforming the sector and empowering artisanal fishers around the island.

**Below:**

The Mainstreaming Biodiversity project pivoted its resources to respond to the MV Wakashio oil spill by supporting alternative livelihood projects delivered by local NGOs.





**Above:**

UNDP has been supporting the Government of Mauritius to reduce the share of fossil fuels on the national energy grid and curb greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030.

### 3.3.1 Solutions adopted to achieve universal access to clean, affordable and sustainable energy

The GCF project on “Transformation to a Low Carbon Economy” provided technical and financial support to the Mauritius Renewable Energy Agency (MARENA) in developing (i) the national grid code for Renewable Energy (RE), (ii) standards to regulate the importation and manufacture of RET goods in Mauritius and (iii) regulations and standards for accreditation of operators. These codes, guidelines, regulations and standards will form the basis of an enabling and safe environment for investment in RE technologies and projects in the country. The draft regulations and standards are being amended following views and comments received from various institutions. Additional reports on green jobs framework, funding strategies and incentive schemes, feasibility study for Floating Solar PV, Terms of References and Report on Tariff Guidelines and methodologies were also prepared to enable the development of RE in the country. These would ensure a more transparent and appropriate framework in the electricity sector fit for the Mauritian context.



**Above:**

The Metro Express is part of efforts to modernise and decarbonise the public transport system in Mauritius.

In relation to new intermittent renewable energy capacity, the target was 100 MW installed by year 2020. The timeframe to reach the target has been extended to 2023. The GCF project has enabled the Central Electricity Board (CEB) to increase the number of solar PV power plants on the grid. As at date, a total of 106 MW solar PV have been installed for intermittent renewable energy, thereby exceeding the CPD outcome target. Under the GCF project, Automatic Generation Control (AGC) has been installed at 2 generating power stations. Furthermore, a key aspect of grid strengthening under the project was the installation of 14 MW of Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) on 4 sites of the island namely: La Tour Koenig (2MW), Anahita (4MW), Wooton (4MW) and Jin Fei (4MW). These were inaugurated at an official function held on 16 December 2021.





Above:

Training sessions on entrepreneurship and the basics of photovoltaic (PV) technology were provided to drive more women towards Renewable Energy.

### 3.3.2 Women's empowerment in the field of Renewable Energy

In relation to the number of jobs created for women in the energy sector, the target was to reach 30% (disaggregated by sex) by 2023. In the absence of latest official statistics, it is estimated that the current ratio reached is around 8%, up from the 6.3% baseline. However, the UNDP is supporting MARENA, together with the British High



Commission, in the training of young professionals and graduates, particularly women in the field of renewable energy. The 86-hour course, held over weekdays and Saturdays, is delivered by the University of Mauritius and the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD). A certificate of attendance will be issued at the end of the training program.

The UNDP, in collaboration with MARENA, CEB and the National Women Council, held 22 awareness sessions on RE throughout the country between 2019-2021. More than 1,500 women were informed of the various schemes, opportunities and possibilities related to RE. As a result of these information sessions, women, including entrepreneurs, are now better informed on the possibilities of setting up a business venture in the RE sector or incorporating a source of RE such as solar PV in their household or in their small business.

In partnership with the Australian High Commission, and with support from the GCF project, the Country Office also signed a cost-sharing agreement with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Australian Government in December 2021, for the delivery of technical training targeting 40 women. Women targeted in the first phase include entrepreneurs, school leavers and fresh graduates. A 60-hour course has been developed with the University of Mauritius to that effect. It is expected that the first batch will start the training in early 2022. Some 192 participants, including women and women entrepreneurs, received a short training on basics of solar PV and entrepreneurship skills from the MITD. These participants now have a better understanding of the basic solar PV installations and can apply for one of the solar PV schemes of the CEB or help to disseminate the newly acquired knowledge within local communities.

Due to the restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic in the country, namely social distancing and limit on the number of persons in any gathering including classroom setting, it was difficult to carry out any training and awareness in 2021 as per the initial plan.

As a result, out of the 1000 women who were supposed to be targeted during awareness sessions during the course of this year, less than 100 were reached.



**Above:**

The South East Marine Protected Area (SEMPA) in Rodrigues forms part of efforts to preserve habitats and promote conservation within the Republic of Mauritius.

### 3.3.3 Mainstreaming Biodiversity into the Management of the Coastal Zone in the Republic of Mauritius

The Global Environment Facility (GEF)/UNDP funded 'Mainstreaming Biodiversity into the Management of the Coastal Zone in the Republic of Mauritius Project' is in its final year of implementation. So far, the project successfully installed an online server at the Department of Continental Shelf, Maritime Zone Administration and Exploration. The first set of Environmental Sensitive Areas (ESA) maps has already been uploaded and is available to all government stakeholders. A Geographical Information System (GIS) unit has also been set up at the South East Marine Protected Area (SEMPA) in Rodrigues island. Two officers have been trained in GIS software and maps have been uploaded in the system. This will enhance the mapping and analysis skills of the authorities and thus increase the ability to mainstream biodiversity.

Management and operational plans have been developed to assist biodiversity conservation and ultimately make management of protected areas and Ramsar sites like the Rivulet Terre Rouge Estuary Bird



**Above:**

UNDP has partnered with local NGOs to sensitize communities on the ecological significance of wetlands.

Sanctuary and Pointe d’Esny more efficient. The project has started implementing these management plans by acquiring equipment which will enable the management to have better surveillance. Similarly, equipment has been procured to ease the implementation of the ICZM plans which have been produced during the implementing cycle of the project. The coastal and marine ESAs are in the process of finalization.

The Mainstreaming Biodiversity project ensured that a participatory approach was used in consultation with every stakeholders to find solutions. A Responsible Party Agreement was signed with 4 NGOs, namely SHOALS Rodrigues, Eco-Sud, Oceanyka and Ter Mer Rodriguez to implement four sustainable alternative livelihood projects to the benefit of communities impacted by the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). More than 50 percent of the beneficiaries of these projects were women.

The UNDP has responded to a Social and Environmental Compliance Unit (SECU) Investigation report and to the Administrator’s decision by implementing the SECU management response, which has been discussed and approved by the steering committee.



**Above:**

Artisanal fishing is part of the culture of the Republic of Mauritius and contributes to the economy of coastal villages and local food security.

### 3.3.4 Supporting the Economic Empowerment of the Artisanal Fishing Community of the Republic of Mauritius

The 'Supporting the economic empowerment of the artisanal fishing community of the Republic of Mauritius' (ECOFISH) project forms part of a wider regional ECOFISH Programme financed by the European Union. A Community of Practice has been established which regroups project beneficiaries from a Cross-Regional Initiative that bands 3 Sub-regions namely Eastern Africa, Southern Africa, and the Indian Ocean [EA-SA-IO] region. The UNDP-EU ECOFISH project team has had opportunity to share information with the community of practice and to take stock of other relevant experiences thus advancing south-south cooperation.

The ECOFISH project is implemented using a participatory approach which includes consultations with the fisher community about their concerns during project implementation. Representatives of the fisher community were present during both the Inception Workshop and the first Project Steering Committee. The Project team also held various consultations with fisher representatives to ensure their participation and ownership of the project results. Fisher representatives will continue to be present on the highest platform to ensure a close monitoring of the activities being implemented under the project and to provide their input.



Above:

The ECOFISH (Mauritius) project aims at strengthening the economic, social and environmental sustainability of artisanal fishers while reducing the impact of overfishing on the lagoons.

With the collaboration of the UNDP Accelerator Lab for Mauritius, focus group discussions attended by 124 fishers and fisher relatives (15 women and 109 men) were carried out in Grand Gaube, Trou d'Eau Douce, Mahébourg and Tamarin. In addition, a baseline Gender analysis is being carried out on the four intervention sites of the project in Mauritius, and a gender and youth action plan is being developed to strengthen women and youth participation in the implementation phase.

The ECOFISH (Mauritius) project has embarked on the procurement of single buoy Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) to be deployed in the open sea. Once operational, this device will attract a large biomass of fish around the FADs, which will be communicated to the artisanal fishers through digital technologies. This initiative aims to enable artisanal fishers to shift from fishing in the lagoon to deeper off-lagoon waters. Doing so will reduce exacerbated pressure occurring on the overexploited marine resources in shallow waters and improve the ecosystem. The Mainstreaming Biodiversity project is providing the ECOFISH (Mauritius) Project team further financial resources to meet the initially planned number of single buoy FADs being deployed at sea. The ECOFISH (Mauritius) Project team is also collaborating with the Japan Supplementary Budget 2 project to strengthen the artisanal fisher database and, concurrently, develop a mobile app to enable the artisanal fisher community to have near real-time information about fish concentration around the FADs to be deployed.

Due to travel restrictions pertaining to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, the ECOFISH (Mauritius) project team was not able to travel to Rodrigues in 2021.



Above:

Members of the UNDP IAS Project and of SGS Consulting during a technical inception workshop on the review process of the National Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan.

### 3.3.5 Mainstreaming Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Prevention, Control and Management project

The GEF-UNDP ‘Mainstreaming Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Prevention, Control and Management project’ aims to minimize and eventually nullify the negative impacts of invasive alien species on the biodiversity, health, agriculture and economy of the Republic of Mauritius. Since the recruitment of the project team in February 2021, several project activities have been initiated. The project has launched the procurement of equipment for front-liners regarding the control of IAS. These will be used by the Forestry Service and Veterinary Services and will strengthen these institutions for enhanced pre-border, border and post-border control. The project will also benefit the local livestock sector and contribute to a more resilient ecosystem through restoration work in our forests.

The hiring of a service provider for the update and review of the *National Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan 2010 - 2019* will enable the country to have a Road Map for the next ten years regarding the management and control of IAS.

Under the IAS Project, a gender-sensitive institutional framework is also being developed. It will allow to frame gender issues to support the development of a gender mainstreaming strategy, and strengthen institutional capacity for mainstreaming in all implementing partners and communities.



**Above:**

The Echo parakeet, an endemic bird species, is threatened by the circovirus beak and feather disease caused by a foreign micro-organism.

The Mainstreaming IAS project pursued its activities through partnerships with relevant institutions. The private landowners and government institutions have already started restoration works to build more resilient ecosystems. The University of Mauritius and Government institutions are conducting research and implementing novel technology in controlling invasive species especially in the agricultural sector. The project team successfully hired a Chief Technical Advisor; a Local Biodiversity Expert; Local and International Experts on climate change and cost benefit analysis; and a service provider for the update and review National Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan 2010 - 2019.

The project implementation was impeded by procurement delays concerning the development of a multi-tier costed implementation strategy for the effective control of IAS. The prevailing sanitary conditions regarding COVID-19 in Mauritius also greatly hindered and discouraged experts from applying or bidding.



### 3.3.6 Coral Reef Restoration

Under the UNDP-Adaptation Fund ‘Restoring Marine Ecosystem Services by Rehabilitating Coral Reefs to meet a Changing Climate Future’ project, marine and oceanographic equipment were procured to conduct pattern analysis, surveys and coral reef monitoring in Mauritius, Rodrigues and Seychelles. Consultants from the ‘Institut de Recherche pour le Développement’ were recruited for technical assistance, capacity-building and guidance on the assessment of genetic connectivity of coral species in Mauritius, Rodrigues and Seychelles. In this context, a first mission was carried out in Mauritius and Seychelles involving the collection of coral samples for *Acropora Muricata* and *Pocillopora Damicornis* species. These samples will undergo further assessment.

A Responsible Party Agreement was signed with Eco-Sud Mauritius and SHOALS Rodrigues, which have been contracted to carry out coral restoration related activities, including awareness campaigns, training of local communities, and setting up and maintenance of ocean nurseries.



Above:

The Coral Reef Restoration project aims at increasing the resilience of coral reefs by improving institutional capacity and coral restoration efforts.

The Project Management Team held a consultation meeting in Rodrigues to discuss the project scope with the Commissioner for Environment and his team. A stakeholders' consultative workshop was also held in the presence of the operators involved in tourism alternative livelihood scheme, fishers, and divers. Furthermore, preliminary surveys were conducted for potential sites for ocean-based nurseries by the staff of Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI) and Albion Fisheries Research Centre (AFRC).

The coral restoration activities in Mauritius were delayed due to impediments concerning the awarding of contracts to NGOs, and to setbacks in the procurement and delivery of ocean-monitoring equipment. The main cause of delay for the equipment delivery was freight disturbances due to the pandemic, which also increased the lead time for delivery. For the NGOs, the micro-assessment process took more time than initially planned.





### 3.4 Implementation of Disaster and Climate Risk Management Measures

#### 3.4.1 Review of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP)

Following the UNDP Level 1 Crisis declaration for Mauritius, the Mauritius Country Office worked to support UN coordination efforts and needs assessments; initiate early recovery frameworks and immediate programmatic response interventions, and leverage additional resources for recovery initiatives.

Further to the lessons learned during the response to the MV Wakashio oil spill, it was deemed of national importance to update the National



**Above:**

UNDP supported the review of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan to allow more efficient action in the advent of oil spills such as the MV Wakashio incident which impacted villages of the south-eastern coast of Mauritius in 2020.

Oil Spill Contingency plan. The UNDP recruited the services of an international oil spill specialist to review the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan and to ensure that the roles and responsibilities of all relevant stakeholders were properly defined and their response capacities enhanced.

The review of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) was completed on 12 December 2021. The review process considered the lessons learned following the MV Wakashio Oil Spill in 2020, and the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders have been strengthened to ensure prompt and effective measures in the advent of a future marine pollution event.





**Above:**

UNDP has partnered with 5 NGOs under the Emergency Response to the Wakashio Oil Spill in Mauritius programme

### 3.4.2 Humanitarian Emergency Assistance to overcome the Oil Spill Crisis in Mauritius

Following the MV Wakashio oil spill, communities involved in ocean-based activities on the southeastern coast of Mauritius could no longer earn a living from the lagoon. In the aftermath, the UNDP Mauritius Country Office held consultations with several stakeholders of the region to develop alternative livelihoods programmes for the impacted communities.

Under the 'Humanitarian Emergency Assistance to overcome the Oil Spill Crisis in Mauritius' project, 134 residents of the South-Est received assistance on aquaponics and sustainable farming and fisheries, and were provided starter kits. From July to September 2021, the UNDP also supported 59 women, representing 44 percent of the total beneficiaries living in the region affected by the MV Wakashio oil spill.

Under the Tripartite Funding and Implementation Agreement between the African Development Bank, the Republic of Mauritius, and the



United Nations Development Programme, the country office supported activities to restore livelihoods in areas affected by the MV Wakashio oil spill. In this context, the Food and Agricultural Research and Expansion Institute (FAREI) was entrusted with a Rs 1,75 M grant to encourage the inhabitants of the region to diversify their livelihoods and build capacity regarding organic crop and egg production. This assistance directly benefited 225 households - approximately 1200 persons - from the localities of Quatre Soeurs, Grand River South-East, Grand Sable, Mahébourg, and Vieux Grand Port.

The project 'Conservation of Threatened Marine Megafauna Species in Mauritius' is also aimed at enabling inhabitants of the South-East of Mauritius to earn a living differently. This project, implemented through the Mauritius Megafauna Conservation Organization (MMCO), provided beneficiaries the opportunity to gather practical experience on how to conduct marine research, collect and process data, carry out scuba diving and snorkelling, and develop skills in eco-guiding. By the end of the project, 52% of trainees had secured jobs in new fields

Another project 'Empowering Fishermen through Sustainable Fishing Practice and Value Chain Process' aimed to ensure the implementation of ISO and HACCP certifications for fish and seafood products. Implemented by the Trou d'Eau Douce Fishermen Cooperative Society, this initiative aims to provide assurance that fish coming from the cooperative have been caught through responsible fishing techniques.

The project 'Capacity Building and Economic Empowerment of Wakashio-afflicted Communities through Sustainable Aquaponics' has also been implemented to provide alternative livelihoods to households directly impacted by the Wakashio Oil Spill. Carried out by Caritas Mauritius, this UNDP-funded project is benefitting 7 families of the South-East, and has for long-term aim to give rise to a cooperative for the production and sale of aquaponic products – fish and organic crops.

The capacities of key stakeholders namely the National Coast Guard and the Police Helicopter Squadron were also enhanced by the replacement of the equipment that has been either damaged or worn out post the MV Wakashio oil spill. Following the procurement of around 30 equipment items, these entities were equipped to respond to any eventual oil disaster.



Above:

Grassroot communities are key stakeholders for the achievement of the 2030 SDG Agenda.

### 3.5 Accelerator Lab

The UNDP Accelerator Lab for Mauritius and Seychelles was launched on 21 April 2021. The objective of the Accelerator Lab is to deliver on an unwavering commitment to make sense of a rapidly changing and complex world, while leaving no one behind. Looking beyond the business-as-usual model, and with less than a decade remaining to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda, the Accelerator Lab is meant to test new development approaches, while leveraging grassroots innovations and emerging trends.

In 2021, the UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles Accelerator Lab explored knowledge gaps pertaining to financial literacy, especially for women-led enterprises; led several collective intelligence sessions to map solutions on the future of tourism; and tested different hypotheses about Mauritius' potential to cope with today's development challenges. Cutting across various projects of the Country Office, the action of the Lab also aims at better connecting and enhancing the livelihood of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and at identifying 'unusual actors' of development, particularly in the tourism sector, one of the most exposed economic sectors across Mauritius, Rodrigues and Seychelles.

The Accelerator Lab recruited UN Community Volunteers across Mauritius and Seychelles to support its outreach and contribute to build a Grassroot Innovation Database (GRID) to test new approaches to cope with modern development challenges, together with the younger generation.



### 3.6 UNDP-SGP-GEF

In 2021, the UNDP-SGP showcased projects which tackled GEF challenges and SDGs while addressing the needs of vulnerable communities; gender equality; plastic management; food security; youth re-skilling, and social entrepreneurship, amongst others. It supported grantee networks, promoted peer-to-peer knowledge exchanges, connected grantees with government extension services, well capacitated NGOs, academia, other development practitioners and the private sector. High level Grantmaker+ activities were maintained, channelling call for applications and awards towards grantees/partners/CSOs and proactively supporting them to apply as and when needed.

USD 373,698 were successfully allocated to 9 projects, aimed to assist coastal communities impacted by COVID-19 and the grounding of MV Wakashio. In-cash co-funding of USD 557,378 and in-kind USD 495,007 were obtained from partners for these projects.

The UNDP-SGP's bid for the "Plastic Innovation Programme" for USD 200,000 and Microsoft Project 15 were also successful and implementation is due to happen in 2022.

A private-sector agreement between the UNDP and the MCB Forward Foundation was successfully signed by both parties for Euros 41,040, to support 3 SGP grantees in building resilience against climate change and disaster risk reduction in their fields during flash floods.

The UNDP-SGP also organised an international webinar on "Driving Conservation Through the Community in SIDS" on 30 June 21 with Bureau for Policy and Program Support / Global Policy Network, which featured a grantee from Mauritius and 2 other SGP countries, Cabo Verde and Maldives.

Finally, UNDP SGP presented the COVID-related Ti-Rodrigues Community Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) report prepared by the Mauritius Red Cross Society to the Ministers and Members of Parliament of the region and other stakeholders. It is expected that a project will be approved in 2022 to address some of the challenges in this region.





# 4.0 | Partnerships







**Above:**

In 2021, the UNDP leveraged key partnerships with government agencies, the private sector, and NGOs.

Several partnerships were established and strengthened in 2021. Key partners included Government of Mauritius ministries, departments and agencies including: the Office of Prime Minister; the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development; the Ministry of Health and Wellness; Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms; the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change; the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare; the National Assembly Business Mauritius, and Statistics Mauritius, among others.

♦ Some of the new partnerships included:



**01** The Economic Development Board on the preparation of the SDG investor map

**02** The Ministry of Industry SMEs and Cooperative on analytical work on the informal sector and AfCFTA

**03** The Ministry of Tourism on repositioning the tourism sector to attract new market segments and build resilience to external shocks

**04** Five NGOs, namely Eco-Sud, Reef Conservation, Caritas Mauritius, Mauritius Megafauna Conservation organisation and the Trou d'Eau Douce Fisherman Cooperative organisation, in the implementation of community livelihood interventions for recovery from the Wakashio oil spill

**05** Two NGOs, Eco-Sud and SHOALS Rodrigues, in coral reef restoration

**06** The UNDP Istanbul International Centre for Private Sector Development, the UN SDG Impact Team and the UNDP Finance Sector Hub, on the Investor map.



◆ The partnerships that were strengthened and sustained included engagement with:



**01** The Ministry of Health and Wellness on e-health

**02** The Ministry of Public Service on business continuity systems

**03** The Government of Japan on COVID-19 recovery programme

**04** The Australian High Commission on empowering women in the renewable energy value chain

**05** The University of Mauritius on generating research and evidence on recovery and private sector development

**06** Business Mauritius and the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Business recovery.





Under the PREP initiative, the UNDP entered into strategic partnerships with 13 ministries and institutions to support government containment and social protection strategy and provide guidance on how to address future shocks. These institutions include the (i) Ministry of Health and Wellness, (ii) the Central Health Laboratory, (iii) the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms, (iv) the National Assembly, (v) Statistics Mauritius, (vi) the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security, and (vii) the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute, among others. The project has also started work on the development of an SDG Investor Map for Mauritius in line with its earlier engagements and dialogue with the private sector to facilitate recovery.

The ECOFISH project is financed by the European Union with co-financing from the Government of Mauritius through the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping. The project team worked in collaboration with stakeholders for proposals submitted to the UNDP Ocean Innovation Challenge.

Stakeholders engaged included:

1. The University of Surrey for the detection of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in Mauritius by using multi-source satellite data
2. The University of Portsmouth for increased benefits from fishing access agreements and improve accountability of the environmental costs of fishing in the Western Indian Ocean region



The project is also collaborating with the Mauritius FAO National Correspondent's office, which is implementing another project in the marine environment for the benefit of the local artisanal community.

South-South cooperation between the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Seychelles enabled knowledge exchange between coral restoration specialists in both countries.

For the GCF project, the main partnerships are with the following government agencies: the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development; the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities; the Mauritius Renewable Energy Agency; the Mauritius Institute for Training and Development; the National Women Council; Social Welfare Centres; the National Empowerment Fund; the Utility Regulatory Authority (URA) and the Central Electricity Board (CEB), and the Outer Islands Development Corporation (OIDC). Other donors such as the DBSA and the Clinton Foundation also participated in the project for specific deliverables.



## List of partners:

1. Government of Mauritius
2. Rodrigues Regional Assembly
3. European Union (EU)
4. Government of Japan
5. Australian Government
6. British High Commission
7. AfCTA Secretariat
8. Global Environment Facility (GEF)
9. GEF Small Grants Programme
10. Clinton Foundation
11. The German Cooperation
12. Qatar Fund for Development
13. United Nations
14. UN Women
15. UNFPA
16. UNFCCC
17. World Health Organisation (WHO)
18. African Development Bank (AfDB)
19. Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)
20. Business Mauritius
21. Statistics Mauritius
22. Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI)
23. Albion Fisheries Research Centre (AFRC)
24. Food and Agriculture Research and Expansion Institute (FAREI)
25. Outer Islands Development Corporation (OIDC)
26. Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies
27. Mauritius Renewable Energy Agency (MARENA)
28. Central Electricity Board (CEB)
29. Mauritius Institute for Training and Development (MITD)
30. Utility Regulatory Authority (URA)
31. Mauritius Commercial Bank (MCB)
32. National Women's Council
33. Eco-Sud
34. Marine Megafauna Conservation Organisation (MMCO)
35. Caritas Ile Maurice
36. Reef Conservation
37. Trou d'Eau Douce Fisherman Cooperative Society
38. SHOALS Rodrigues
39. Oceanyka
40. Ter-Mer Rodriguez
41. University of Washington
42. University of Surrey
43. University of Portsmouth





## 5.0 Programme Delivery and Resource Mobilization





## Programme delivery (Mauritius and Seychelles)

2021 target:  
USD 12.27M

Actual Delivery:  
USD 11M



For the Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Management project, which started implementation in 2021, USD 1.6 M was received from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the project period of 4 years. The GEF-funded regional ISLANDS project on Chemicals and Waste was endorsed for implementation. Mauritius will receive USD 4M for the implementation of this project over the next 5 years.

The in-kind contribution to the Mainstreaming Biodiversity project has been tracked since 2016. 17 stakeholders have committed around USD 17M up to December 2021, and about USD 18M have been additionally mobilized. The UNDP has contributed about USD 326,000 as cash to the project mostly to activities carried out in Rodrigues.



The Coral Restoration project benefitted from Government assistance of around USD 1.4M for the setting-up of land-based coral nurseries and a sea-water pumping system. This will enable large scale restoration of corals through the propagation of thermal resistant corals at the Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI) and sexual reproduction of corals at Albion Fisheries Research Centre (AFRC).

The UNDP Country office contributed USD 66,000 to the review of the NOSCP which included a simulation exercise and a validation workshop. While the communities from the MV Wakashio affected regions were supported from the UNDP (USD 130,000), further assistance was also provided from the African Development Bank through a grant of USD 500,000 to enable the restoration of the livelihoods of these communities via sustainable and alternative livelihoods programme.

Under the Climate Promise initiative, the UNDP contributed USD 250,000 for the update of the NDC document (under the 2015 Paris Agreement) and for awareness workshops.





The UNDP Mauritius Country Office leveraged existing partnerships to mobilise resources that enabled the implementation of recovery programmes. A total of USD 4.4 million was mobilised for COVID-19 response. This included USD 1.2 million from the Government of Japan (JSB 2), USD 550,000 from UNDP TRAC 2 Resources, and USD 2.2 million from the UNDP COVID 2.0. About USD 40,000 mobilised from the Australian High Commission has empowered women in the renewable energy sector. USD 1.5 million was mobilised from the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping to set up a land-based coral nursery.

The resource mobilization strategy was to utilise these resources to catalyse cost sharing financing from the Government to implement strategic investments at scale. Having demonstrated successes in the health sector with USD 905,000 mobilised from the Government of Japan (JSB 1), the Government of Mauritius provided a further USD 1.6 million for the implementation of the LIMS, including airport use, surveillance, the Outbreak Management System, an Autoclave, and the digital Health Law.





The Government also made a commitment to mobilise an additional USD 1.5 million to implement an e-Health project for Mauritius. A catalytic investment of USD 100,000 in the preparation of the e-business plan for Statistics Mauritius is also envisaged to mobilise an additional USD 500,000 to implement the plan. These efforts have been facilitated by the strong collaboration of UNDP with the Government and other development partners and agile implementation arrangements that have enabled the achievement of timely development.





Above:

The UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles team, December 2021.

## 6.0 | Operations

The UNDP Country Office for Mauritius continues to provide a range of administrative, operational and project services to the Government. These include the design, delivery and review of activities and initiatives. These services have greatly improved the organizational efficiency and agility of various government departments. One of the main partners was the Ministry of Health and Wellness, where a number of initiatives illustrate that UNDP's procurement systems have contributed to save time and money. These include the delivery of various technical and administrative services that have furthered national priorities in support of Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS) and E-Health.

Internally, the Country Office continued to pursue efficiency and acceleration of program delivery through the use of global and regional Long-term agreements (LTAs) to procure emergency COVID-19 related supplies such as ventilators, and sensitive services such as HACT financial audits and spot checks. The use of the local LTAs shortened procurement timelines and enabled the UNDP to meet the various



deadlines for projects. The Mauritius Country Office collaborated with technical units such as the Digital Office and the Regional Bureau of Africa (RBA) in reviewing solicitations documents and being in the evaluation for high value and complex services/goods.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the immediate need to move to teleworking also made the office adjust quicker and experiment with new ways of working.

### **Implementation of the United Nations Strategic Development Corporation Framework (UNSDCF)**

The UNDP Country Office engaged in several programming initiatives within the UN system as part of efforts to implement the United Nations Strategic Development Corporation Framework (UNSDCF). With the leadership provided by the RCO, a UN joint project on SDGs was developed, in collaboration with UNFPA, ILO, UNEP and ECA, with expectation of funding in 2022. Effective engagement in this partnership was enhanced by a participation in the Programme Management team where the UNDP plays a key role as an integrator within the UN system.





## 7.0 | Communications

The Communications Unit contributed to increased corporate visibility through 17 blogs, 25 news releases, 3 videos and a series of 14 short video messages produced in the context of COP-26. To improve social media visibility, the Country Office created a LinkedIn page. The UNDP Mauritius Instagram page was also reactivated to connect to a wider audience.

The Communications Unit assisted the ECOFISH project team in the organization of an awareness raising campaign targeting artisanal fishers across Mauritius and aimed at increasing the visibility of the project among the community.

The Country Office also linked UNDP's initiatives to Mauritius national priorities like the NDC review in line with COP-26.



Through the Climate Promise initiative, the Communications Unit facilitated a series of technical working sessions in collaboration with various ministries to disseminate the NDCs among the community. Under the same project, 6 videos were produced, the NDC documents were translated in Mauritian Creole, and the Mission 1.5 game was launched in Mauritius.

The Communications Unit also assisted the Accelerator Lab team in organizing its virtual launch with the participation of key local and foreign stakeholders. Pre-launch communication materials were designed to inform the public of the upcoming launch.

The unit also facilitated various publications, including the second edition of the Gendered Voices Newsletter, the UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles Annual Reports for 2020, and 6 technical and strategic research papers.



# The UNDP Mauritius Team 2021



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**Project Key:**

- IAS = Invasive Alien Species
- GCF = Green Climate Fund
- PPG = Project Preparation Grant
- JMA = Joint Management Area
- SGP = Small Grants Programme





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