

UNDP MAURITIUS -
Portfolio Highlights (Jan-Jun 2026)



United Nations Development Programme

Advancing SDGs in Mauritius



DISCLAIMER

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INTRODUCTION



In today's development landscape, enhancing communications for more robust partnerships is crucial, with an emphasis on connection and trust. In the first half of 2026, UNDP Mauritius showcased how strategic communications can bridge development initiatives with both the public and decision-makers. Their efforts encompass a range of programmes, including responsible AI, climate action, and community-driven solutions, highlighting collaboration across various sectors.

This first edition of the UNDP Portfolio Highlights Newsletter underscores integrated solutions that tackle complex challenges, with a focus on tangible impacts in areas such as food systems, gender equality, coral restoration, and sustainable futures. As a Multi-Country Office, UNDP underscores the link between climate vulnerability and social inclusion.

This edition not only reflects on the progress achieved but also invites ongoing partnerships for inclusive and resilient development. Additionally, it highlights the dedicated individuals at the Mauritius Country Office, who serve as the institution's first ambassadors in the country.

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Navigating Global Uncertainty: Implications for Mauritius

Welcome to this first edition of the UNDP Mauritius Portfolio Highlights Newsletter, which emphasizes key initiatives, partnerships, and results from the first half of 2026. Through these pages, I invite you to discover how UNDP, together with Government, civil society, academia, communities and the private sector, is supporting Mauritius in navigating an increasingly complex and rapidly changing world.

Mauritius is living through a period of profound global transformation. Climate uncertainty, economic volatility, technological disruption, evolving trade dynamics and growing development financing pressures are reshaping development pathways worldwide. For Mauritius, these challenges are not distant realities. They are reflected in the country's efforts to strengthen climate resilience, accelerate digital transformation, respond to energy challenges and ensure that economic growth remains inclusive and sustainable.

Yet periods of uncertainty also create opportunities. They encourage countries to rethink development models, strengthen institutions, embrace innovation and build partnerships capable of delivering lasting solutions. Today, resilience is not only about responding to shocks - it is about anticipating change, adapting to new realities and creating systems that continue to improve people's lives. This integrated approach lies at the heart of UNDP's mandate.

Efforts to sustain sustainable development

During the first half of 2026, efforts to strengthen foresight, data systems and artificial intelligence governance supported a future-ready and people-centred digital transformation agenda. Climate and energy initiatives advanced sustainability and implementation readiness, while work on sustainable land management, biodiversity conservation and environmental governance strengthened resilience at both institutional and community levels. Ocean-focused initiatives, including coral reef restoration and blue carbon innovation, further demonstrated the vital connection between healthy ecosystems, livelihoods and prosperity.

The stories featured in this newsletter also include insights from our staff, whose dedication, expertise and commitment drive our work every day. At UNDP Mauritius, we firmly believe that our people are our greatest asset. They are not only the individuals who design and implement our programmes, but also our first ambassadors, bringing UNDP's values to life through their professionalism, innovation and engagement with partners and communities across the country.

What unites all these efforts is partnership. Sustainable development requires collective action, shared responsibility and a commitment to innovation. I invite you to read on and learn more about the people, partnerships and initiatives helping shape a more resilient, inclusive and future-ready Mauritius.



ALKA BHATIA

UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles
Resident Representative

Reinforcing Partnerships Across the UN System



From left to right :
Ms. Adjoo Sika Ahawo, UNV Regional Portfolio Specialist, Dr. Abdou Salam Gueye, WHO Representative; Ms Alka Bhatia, UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles Resident Representative; Toily Kurbanov, UNV Executive Coordinator; Ms. Lisa Singh, UN Resident Coordinator; Ms Alia Hirji, International Organization for Migration Chief of Mission; Ms. Mithulina Chatterjee, Head of UN Resident Coordinator Office and Ms. Prisca Rakotomalala, Coordinator of the UNV Indian Ocean SIDS Multi-Country Field Unit.

Since independence, the United Nations has been a trusted partner of Mauritius. Today, 24 UN agencies work alongside the Government and partners to support national development priorities. Through a collaborative "Delivering as One" approach, UN agencies work together to advance sustainable development and accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By combining their strengths, agencies support initiatives in areas including climate resilience, socio-economic growth, health, gender equality and social inclusion.

Since January 2026, UNDP's collaboration across the UN system remained strong. UNDP contributed to initiatives led by the wider UN system, including consultations on Mauritius' VISION 2050 process, which brought together Government and members of the Development Partners Group (DPG) to support the country's long-term development agenda and future resilience.

In March 2026, UNDP, together with representatives from the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and World Health Organization (WHO) welcomed the First Lady of the Republic of Seychelles, Ms Véronique Herminie. This highlighted regional cooperation on sustainable development, gender equality and environmental resilience. Collaboration was further strengthened through the visit of UN Volunteer Executive Coordinator Toily Kurbanov, whose discussions with the UN Country Team underscored the role of volunteerism, innovation and specialised expertise in advancing sustainable development across SIDS.

To mark International Women's Day, representatives from the UNRCO, WHO and UNFPA joined UNDP for a podcast on women's empowerment and actions needed to accelerate progress in Mauritius. Colleagues from UNRCO and UNFPA also joined UNDP during an outreach at JM Frank Richard SSS, to engage with students on key issues shaping the lives of women and girls today.

The ongoing partnership between the United Nations and Mauritius exemplifies a shared vision for a sustainable future, demonstrating the power of unity and collaboration in overcoming challenges and achieving meaningful progress for all.





UNDP PROJECTS IN MAURITIUS

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO

- **E-health/Digital Transformation Portfolio**–
Project Manager: Vichittra Purdassee
- **Economics Lab** – National Economist :
Jamiil Jeetoo
- **Xport Accelerator Programme** – Focal
Point : SEDU Team Leader Renooka Beejan



ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

- **Mainstreaming Invasive Alien Species: Prevention, Control and Management** –
Project Manager : Sameer Kaudeer;
Project Associate: Kamini Beedasee
- **Restoring Marine Ecosystem Services by Rehabilitating Coral Reefs to Meet a Changing Climate Future** – Project
Manager: Pramod Chumun; National
Project Coordinator: Daig Tony Romain
- **Accelerating the Transformational Shift to a Low-Carbon Economy in the Republic of Mauritius** – Project Manager:
Sajid Mooniaruck; Project Assistant: Marie
Lorena Soulangue
- **Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Management and Biodiversity Conservation in the Republic of Mauritius**
(closed in June 2026)
- **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)** – Project Coordinator: Rayd Mooniaruch
- **Strengthening the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory of the Republic of Mauritius to Improve Climate Reporting and Transparency (CBIT)** – Project Manager: Prakash Juddoo; Project Assistant: Nuzhah Safee
- **Blue Carbon Tech Centre** – Focal Point: National Economist: Jamiil Jeetoo
- **Implementing Sustainable Low And Non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS)**– Focal Point: Environment
Team Leader : Jean Lindsay Azie
- **Promoting Low Carbon Electric Public Bus Transport in Mauritius** – Project Manager: Vincent Chan How; Chief
Technical Advisor: Tony Lee Luen Len
- **Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support** – Focal Point: Environment Team leader : Jean Lindsay Azie
- **Global Biodiversity Framework Project (BIOFIN)** – Focal Point: Environment Team Leader: Jean Lindsay Azie;
Project Associate: Mohamad Irshad Ajeem
- **Realising Energy Savings and Climate Benefits through Implementing Mandatory Energy Auditing in the Republic of Mauritius Project** – Focal Point: Environment Team leader: Jean Lindsay Azie

From Growth to Inclusion: Reimagining Socio-Economic Transformation in Mauritius



RENOOKA BEEJAN
UNDP Socio-Economic
Development Unit
Team Leader

Mauritius has successfully transitioned from a low-income to upper-middle-income country and stands at an important moment in its development journey, aiming to attain high income status. To sustain growth while responding to digital disruption, inequality and changing global markets, UNDP's socio-economic portfolio supports an inclusive, resilient and innovation-driven economy that leaves no one behind. This means moving beyond growth models to focus on quality of growth, ensuring that economic opportunities translate into tangible benefits for women, youth, and vulnerable communities.

Our interventions have focused on strengthening public sector efficiency, advancing gender equality and digital transformation - working in close collaboration with government, private sector, academia, civil society and communities, who are critical to unlocking new pathways for inclusive and resilient development. As of June 2026, we have supported improvements in healthcare quality through the digitalization of health information. This is helping to build more integrated, patient-centred and data-driven health systems. We have also developed the MauStats platform to strengthen data-driven policymaking. Support to the National Assembly is exploring the responsible use of Generative Artificial Intelligence to improve efficiency, knowledge management and citizen-centred governance. In parallel, we are helping SMEs, including women- and youth-led enterprises, access regional markets and drive inclusive growth.

Together, these initiatives form part of a broader transformation. They connect people, policy, innovation and partnerships to accelerate sustainable development. UNDP's role is to convene, connect and co-create solutions. This enables Mauritius to compete, adapt and thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Catalyzing Sustainable Development and Resilience in Mauritius

The UNDP Environment Programme has become a strategic catalyst for Mauritius' transition towards a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future. In alignment with the UNDP Country Programme Document 2024-2028, it supports the national vision of achieving environmental sustainability and resilience while advancing economic opportunity and social inclusion.

This portfolio of interventions is helping Mauritius strengthen climate resilience, conserve biodiversity, accelerate the transition to renewable energy, promote circular economy solutions, and improve disaster risk management. It is also generating new opportunities for vulnerable communities, particularly women, youth, and coastal populations, through sustainable livelihoods and nature-based solutions. Beyond national implementation, these efforts position Mauritius as a regional leader in sustainable development.

Additionally, through South-South cooperation and knowledge exchange, the country is sharing experiences and learning from fellow Small Island Developing States across the Indian Ocean and beyond. Regional initiatives are fostering partnerships, innovation, and collective action on climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, blue economy development, and environmental governance.

By mobilizing finance, strengthening institutions, promoting innovation, and building regional partnerships, this work is helping transform environmental challenges into opportunities for green growth, resilience, and long-term prosperity. It demonstrates that protecting nature is not only an environmental necessity but also a foundation for sustainable economic development and improved well-being for future generations.



JEAN-LINDSAY AZIE
UNDP Environment Unit
Team Leader

Partnerships in Motion

The first half of 2026 was marked by high-level engagements, field missions and partner exchanges that reflected UNDP's role as a connector across institutions, communities and development priorities. From national-level dialogue to field-based learning, these moments demonstrated how partnerships move from meeting rooms to communities, from policy conversations to practical delivery, and from shared ambition to collective action.

Under the leadership of the Resident Representative, Ms. Alka Bhatia, high-level outreach efforts have been prioritised to reinforce partnerships and promote closer alignment with national priorities.

In this context, Ms. Bhatia has undertaken a series of strategic meetings with Government ministers, representatives of Development Partners Group (DPG), and other bilateral and multilateral partners, and members of the United Nations system. These engagements have provided a valuable platform to deepen collaboration, mobilise resources, and identify opportunities for joint programming.

Particular emphasis has been placed on addressing Mauritius' energy challenges, notably through discussions on scaling up climate finance to support the transition towards sustainable and renewable energy systems. Engagements also explored the country's Blue Carbon potential, highlighting opportunities to protect and monetise coastal and marine ecosystems while contributing to climate mitigation and adaptation goals.

Through these targeted efforts, UNDP continues to position itself as a trusted partner, advancing integrated solutions aligned with national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals.



H.E. Kate Chamley, Australian High Commissioner to Mauritius, and Ms Alka Bhatia, UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles Resident Representative.



H.E. M. Oskar Benedikt, Ambassador of the European Union to Mauritius, and Ms Alka Bhatia, UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles Resident Representative.



Ms. Eunice G. Kamwendo, Director of the Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa, and UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles Resident Representative, Ms Alka Bhatia.



From left to right : Ms. Alka Bhatia with Hon. Arvin Boolell, Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries; with Hon. Patrick Assirvaden, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities; with Hon. Aadil Ameer Meea, Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives, and with the Chief Executive Officer of the Economic Development Board, Rajah Ramdaursingh.



From left to right: Ms. Alka Bhatia (UNDP Resident Representative), Ms. Véronique Herminie (Seychelles' First Lady), and Ms. Arianne Navarre-Marie (Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare).

UNDP Engages with the First Lady of Seychelles in Mauritius

During the State Visit of President Patrick Herminie of the Republic of Seychelles for Mauritius' 58th Independence Anniversary, the UNDP team convened with Véronique Herminie, Seychelles First Lady, at UNDP offices in Port-Louis to explore avenues for enhanced collaboration.

The discussions highlighted several key areas of focus, including: strengthening cooperation between Mauritius and Seychelles; promoting environmental sustainability; protecting endemic biodiversity from invasive alien species; and facilitating knowledge sharing across the Indian Ocean region, particularly amongst SIDS.

Representatives from various UN agencies were in attendance, including the United Nations in Mauritius and Seychelles, WHO Mauritius, IOM Mauritius and Seychelles, as well as UNFPA in Mauritius and Seychelles. Hon. Marie Arianne Navarre-Marie, Minister of Gender Equality of the Republic of Mauritius, also participated, emphasizing the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships in addressing shared priorities for SIDS.



In March, the First Lady of Seychelles visited the UNDP Mauritius office in Port Louis with UNDP staff.

Visit of UN Volunteers Executive Coordinator to Mauritius

In March, UNDP supported a high-level mission to Mauritius led by the Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme, Mr. Toily Kurbanov. The delegation included Ms. Adjoa Sika Ahawo, UNV Regional Portfolio Specialist, and Ms. Prisca Rakotomalala, Coordinator of the UNV Indian Ocean SIDS Multi-Country Field Unit.

Throughout the visit, UNDP facilitated strategic discussions for M. Kurbanov with key national and UN partners to explore opportunities to expand the contribution of UN Volunteers in supporting Mauritius' development priorities. Engagements highlighted how volunteerism can bring specialised skills, innovation and community-driven solutions to ongoing programmes in areas such as e-health, environment, and governance.

The mission also provided an opportunity to recognise the contributions of UN Volunteers on the ground and to engage with youth and partners on the importance of civic participation. Taking place in the context of the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development (IVY 2026), the visit underscored the growing role of volunteerism as a catalyst for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and fostering inclusive, resilient development across Small Island Developing States (SIDS).



M. Kurbanov and his delegation engaged with UN Volunteers in Mauritius.



M. Kurbanov with Ms. Vichitra Purdassee, E-Health Project Manager, during a site visit at SAJ Hospital.



M. Kurbanov during a symbolic tree planting event at Bras d'Eau National Park.

Strengthening Local Partnerships In Rodrigues

From 20 to 23 April 2026, UNDP Resident Representative Ms. Alka Bhatia, undertook her first mission to Rodrigues to strengthen partnerships and advance development solutions. The UNDP delegation also included Mr Jean-Lindsay Azie, UNDP Environment Team Leader; Sameer Kaudeer, IAS Project Manager; Kamini Beedasee, IAS Project Assistant; Mohamed Irshad Ajeem, SLM Project Associate, and Stéphane Bellerose, Communications Specialist. Mr Kevin Ruhomaun, Director of the National Parks and Conservation Service; Mrs Marie Anne Janick Jaunbocus, Senior Chief Executive at the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries; and Mr Anoop Khurun, Conservateur des Forêts with the Forestry Services, were also part of the mission.

The 4-day mission combined high-level engagement and field visits, with discussions held with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and key stakeholders to enhance institutional coordination and align efforts with the Sustainable Integrated Development Plan for Rodrigues (SIDPR). Priority areas included climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and energy transition.

Sustainable development grounded in grassroot communities

Field visits highlighted several UNDP-supported initiatives. The Sustainable Land Management (SLM) project is promoting climate-resilient agriculture, restoring degraded land like at Montagne Kali and strengthening food security systems. In Rodrigues, the Invasive Alien Species (IAS) project is supporting national and local partners to prevent and control invasive species, such as “Piquant Loulou” (*Acacia nilotica*), while reinforcing policy frameworks, biosecurity measures and ecosystem protection, including in areas such as Mourouk Valley where the delegation met with project beneficiaries.

In parallel, visits to the Adaptation Fund-supported Coral Reef Restoration Project demonstrated community-led efforts to rehabilitate degraded reefs, strengthen coastal resilience, and support fisheries and tourism.

The mission also showcased innovative Blue Economy solutions under the UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP). Guided by Ms. Pamela Bapoo-Dundoo, Ecocounsellor and National Coordinator, the delegation explored community-driven initiatives, including seaweed farming and processing, which are creating sustainable livelihoods, particularly for women, while strengthening circular economy approaches and value-added production.



Driving Economic Intelligence and Strategic Transformation

In an increasingly complex and interconnected world, economic development extends far beyond monitoring growth rates and public finances. It requires the ability to anticipate emerging risks, identify new opportunities, and translate evidence into policies that improve people's lives. At UNDP Mauritius, the UNDP National Economist serves as the organisation's economic intelligence and strategic advisory function, transforming data into insights, insights into policy, and policy into sustainable development impact.

At the heart of the portfolio is Economic Intelligence, providing continuous analysis of macroeconomic trends, fiscal developments, trade, investment, labour markets and structural transformation. By monitoring national, regional and global developments, the portfolio assesses the implications of geopolitical events, financial market volatility, supply chain disruptions, climate risks and emerging technologies for Mauritius and Seychelles. These timely insights support evidence-based policymaking, strategic planning and UNDP programme development.

A second pillar of the portfolio is Fiscal Intelligence and Public Finance Advisory. Through technical assessments of national budgets, fiscal policy and debt sustainability, the National Economist evaluates how public resources can best support inclusive growth, resilience and long-term economic transformation. This work helps identify opportunities to strengthen fiscal sustainability, improve public investment and maximise development impact while advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Anticipating future trends

Looking beyond immediate policy challenges, the portfolio places strong emphasis on Strategic Foresight and Future Readiness. Governments increasingly face uncertainty driven by rapid technological change, climate change and shifting geopolitical dynamics. Through systems thinking, scenario planning, economic modelling and long-term policy analysis, the UNDP National Economist function supports governments in anticipating future trends, testing policy options and building institutions that are better prepared for tomorrow's challenges.

A flagship achievement has been the establishment of the UNDP Economic Lab for Mauritius and Seychelles, a specialised platform for policy innovation and technical excellence. It brings together advanced economic analytics, forecasting, modelling, policy research and capacity development to generate practical, data-driven solutions for governments. By combining global expertise with country-specific knowledge, the Lab strengthens evidence-based decision-making and supports more resilient and future-ready economies.



JAMIL JEETOO
UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles
National Economist

The portfolio also serves as a catalyst for Development Innovation, identifying emerging opportunities that can shape the next generation of economic transformation. This includes supporting initiatives in sustainable finance, the blue economy, the Blue Carbon Technology Centre, carbon market development, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, trade competitiveness and regional integration through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). By translating innovative ideas into implementable programmes and investment opportunities, the portfolio helps position Mauritius and Seychelles at the forefront of sustainable development.

The UNDP National Economist function also contributes to Thought Leadership, positioning UNDP as a trusted voice on emerging economic and development issues. Through research, flagship knowledge products, policy publications, keynote presentations and participation in national, regional and international forums, the National Economist promotes dialogue and shares evidence-based solutions on topics including sustainable finance, climate economics, carbon markets, the blue economy, regional integration under AfCFTA, economic resilience and structural transformation.

Ultimately, the portfolio serves as a strategic partner to governments, helping transform uncertainty into opportunity, data into decisions, and innovative ideas into lasting development impact. Through economic intelligence, policy innovation and strategic advisory, the role contributes to building more resilient, competitive and future-ready economies for Mauritius and Seychelles.

From Vision to Delivery: Building Island-based Systems

Over the first half of 2026, UNDP Mauritius advanced a broad and integrated development agenda across digital transformation, climate action, sustainable land management, biodiversity finance, ocean governance and inclusive participation. Together, these initiatives reflect a clear direction: supporting Mauritius and Rodrigues in moving from policy ambition to practical implementation. Through technical support, partnerships, capacity-building and innovation, UNDP has continued to work with national institutions, communities, civil society, academia and the private sector to deliver solutions that respond to both immediate needs and long-term development priorities.

Digital Futures and Evidence-Based Governance



Digital transformation remained a central area of progress during the first half of 2026, with UNDP supporting Mauritius in strengthening the foundations of a future-ready and innovation-driven economy.

Through the Mauritius Vision 2050 Foresight Training Workshop, technical workshops and digital governance support, stakeholders were engaged in conversations on how to plan better, use data more effectively and prepare institutions for emerging opportunities and risks. Work around the MauStats platform contributed to strengthening national data systems and improving the collection, analysis and sharing of development data.

Artificial intelligence also emerged as a major area of national focus. Through the AI Landscape Assessment, stakeholders from government, academia, the private sector and civil society contributed to discussions on Mauritius' readiness, opportunities and gaps across key areas, including ecosystem development, government use, ethics and regulation.

This work culminated in the launch of Mauritius' National Artificial Intelligence Strategy and FAIR Guidelines, marking an important milestone in the country's ambition to build a trusted, ethical, inclusive and people-centred AI ecosystem.



Bronwyn Williams explains strategic foresight

In a world shaped by uncertainty, foresight offers a way to move from reaction to preparation. In this [video interview](#), UNDP Strategic Foresight Advisor Bronwyn Williams shares how strategic foresight can help institutions navigate complexity, anticipate change and make better long-term decisions in support of Mauritius' Vision 2050.



Empowering People and Strengthening Partnerships

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2026, UNDP Mauritius actively engaged with young people, students, and communities through a series of inclusive, dialogue-driven initiatives that combined awareness, creativity, and action.

At Jean-Marie Frank Richard State Secondary School, UNDP- together with UN partners such as UNFPA and UNRCO - participated in a vibrant platform for exchange on critical issues affecting women and girls, including gender equality, online safety, and sexual and reproductive health. Through performances, discussions, and student-led exhibitions, young people were not only participants but key contributors, using creative expression to share powerful perspectives on women's empowerment.

Complementing these outreach efforts, UNDP also strengthened youth engagement through collaboration with the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) East and Southern Africa Regional Office during their mission to Mauritius. The Talent Outreach Session brought together youth organisations, academic institutions, and civil society to explore volunteering as a pathway to global impact. Through interactive presentations and firsthand testimonials from UN Volunteers working across UNDP operations, communications, and technical areas, participants gained practical insights into how volunteering contributes to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while building meaningful professional experience.

In July, UNDP, in collaboration with partners, convened the SheTrades Goes Regional workshop to support women-led businesses in leveraging opportunities under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Bringing together policymakers, experts and private sector actors, the programme explored market access, trade intelligence tools, financing solutions, logistics, and export strategies. Through practical sessions and real-world insights, participants strengthened their capacity to identify high-potential African markets and develop actionable export plans, positioning Mauritian entrepreneurs, particularly women, for greater regional trade integration and growth.



International Women's Day 2026



Rights. Justice. Action.
For ALL Women and Girls

International Women Day 2026 Podcast

To mark International Women's Day 2026, UNDP gathered colleagues from across the United Nations in Mauritius for a podcast conversation on women's empowerment, gender equality, and the actions needed to accelerate progress.

Climate Action and Energy Transition

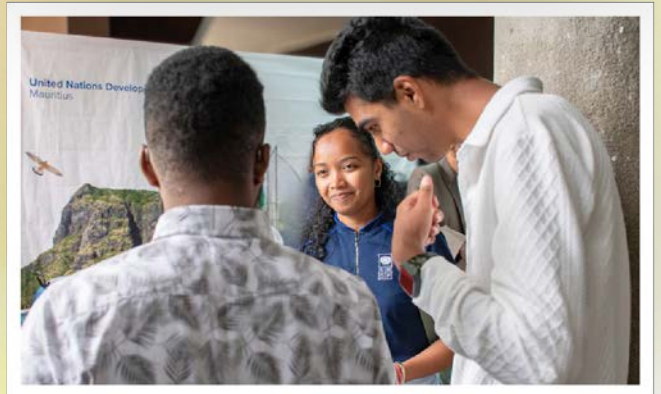
Climate action is not only about ambition. It is about building the systems, skills and partnerships needed to make the transition measurable, inclusive and practical. In early 2026, UNDP supported Mauritius across various connected areas of climate and energy action.

Through the Gender Mainstreaming Workshop under the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Project, Mauritius advanced efforts to ensure that national climate reporting better reflects the different ways women, men and gender-diverse groups experience climate risks.

At the Education and Job Fair for Energy Efficiency, UNDP engaged with students, professionals and energy sector actors on how renewable energy, Energy Service Companies, innovation and green skills can support a just and sustainable energy transition.

This momentum was further strengthened through the launch of a five-year, GEF-funded and UNDP-supported project to advance mandatory energy auditing and energy efficiency in Mauritius, contributing to national climate mitigation efforts and supporting the target of increasing overall energy efficiency by 10% by 2035.

Together, these initiatives show that climate action works best when it is inclusive, evidence-based and grounded in practical solutions that reduce emissions, strengthen energy security and leave no one behind.



THE ENERGY CHALLENGES



- Photovoltaic electricity generation increased by nearly 30% in one year, but still represented only 6.5% of total electricity generation.
- Electricity demand is rising: electricity sold increased by 4.7% in 2025, while per capita electricity consumption rose by 4.9%.
- Peak demand is becoming a pressure point: Mauritius' peak power demand increased by 8% in 2025, showing why demand management and energy efficiency are increasingly important.
- In 2026, electricity tariffs increased by 15% for many consumers, while fuel prices also rose, underlining the importance of reducing energy waste and accelerating cleaner, more resilient energy solutions.

SOURCE : Statistics Mauritius

Financing Nature as a Development Priority

Biodiversity finance (BIOFIN) is increasingly recognised as a core development issue. It is linked to public finance, tourism, fisheries, agriculture, coastal protection, private-sector investment, community livelihoods and national resilience. During the first half of 2026, Mauritius participated in important regional exchanges linked to BIOFIN.

At the Francophone Regional Workshop on Biodiversity Finance in Casablanca, Morocco, countries explored practical solutions to mobilise public and private financing for nature, align national budgets with biodiversity priorities, and translate global commitments into country-level action.

The 12th Regional Dialogue on Biodiversity Finance for Africa and Arab States in Nairobi further reinforced the importance of strong evidence, effective public expenditure, private-sector engagement and practical finance solutions. UNDP Mauritius participated in discussions which covered biodiversity expenditure reviews, financial needs assessments, blended finance, subsidy reform, green finance taxonomies, biodiversity credits, natural capital accounting and community-led conservation models.

UNDP also participated to the high-level Regional Practitioners Forum for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) on Advancing Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Implementation Readiness. Specific breakout sessions on “Building Resilience through the Blue Economy” and “Engaging Local Communities, Policymakers, and Stakeholders in the Co-design and Implementation of Nature-based Solutions” were facilitated respectively by UNDP-Mauritius National Economist, Jamiil Jeetoo, and Environment Team Leader, Jean-Lindsay Azie.

Together, this work reflects a broader shift: nature should not be treated as a cost centre, but as a foundation for resilience, livelihoods and long-term economic development.



Strengthening Governance from Soil to Policy

Sustainable land management has been a key pillar of UNDP's environmental work in Mauritius and Rodrigues. Through the GEF-funded project, Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Project, UNDP supported stakeholder validation workshops and technical sessions bringing together government institutions, academia, research bodies, NGOs and private sector actors.

These engagements focused on Sustainable Land Management and Integrated Landscape Management, with discussions covering soil health, land degradation diagnostics, agroecology, regenerative agriculture, climate-resilient practices and agroforestry.

A major achievement has been strengthening capacity through initiatives such as a 'Training of Trainers' programme and the development of a Training Manual and Toolkit on Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Integrated Landscape Management (ILM), supported by local case studies and knowledge exchange. The project has also validated a national Capacity Building and Awareness Raising Framework and advanced policy dialogue on Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs).

At field level, the project has demonstrated integrated solutions including agroecology, regenerative agriculture, and sustainable livestock practices such as improved fodder systems, rotational grazing, composting, and rainwater harvesting.

UNDP also supported progress towards safer and more sustainable agri-food systems through the ISLANDS project. In May, stakeholders reviewed draft regulations under the Use of Pesticides Act, focusing on safer pesticide use, certification of users, proper disposal of containers and improved residue monitoring for local and imported produce.



“

Overcoming complex implementation challenges, the Sustainable Land Management Project has reached a significant milestone. Through strategic coordination, adaptive management, and strong partnerships, the project has achieved substantial progress and is now well positioned to deliver sustainable outcomes that strengthen ecosystems, improve community livelihoods, and create lasting national impact.

Mohamad Irshad Ajeem
Project Associate SLM Project

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Blue Economy, Ocean Innovation and Marine Resilience

The ocean remains central to the development future of Mauritius, Rodrigues and Seychelles. During the first half of 2026, UNDP's work in Blue Economy continued to bring together innovation, community participation and ecosystem protection.

Coral reef restoration remained a major area of work. Through the Adaptation Fund Portfolio Monitoring Mission, partners and technical experts engaged directly with restoration sites under the UNDP-implemented coral reef restoration project, which is a regional initiative implemented in both the Republic of Mauritius, including Rodrigues, and the Republic of Seychelles.

In Mauritius, the delegation visited coral nurseries and outplanting sites in Blue Bay Marine Park alongside scientific officers and trained community members from Eco-Sud and Reef Conservation. In Rodrigues, the mission reviewed progress under the regional coral restoration project and visited restoration sites managed by Shoals Rodrigues at the South-East Marine Protected Area (SEMPA).

At Ocean Week 2026, UNDP showcased its work in coral reef restoration, artisanal fisher empowerment, and the development of a Blue Carbon Tech Centre. The event also provided a platform for grantees of the UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme, including Fam Unie Foundation, Trou D'Eau Douce Fishermen Cooperative Society Ltd, and Seaweed Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd, to present community-driven ocean solutions.

During the first half of 2026, UNDP also spearheaded the Blue Carbon Tech Centre, an initiative designed to use data and technology to quantify blue carbon, unlock innovative financing, including carbon markets and blended finance, and position Mauritius as a regional leader in blue carbon intelligence.

All these exchanges highlighted the importance of science-based solutions, sustainable financing and community involvement for Mauritius' Blue Economy.

Island Voices for Nature Podcast

For 2026 World Environment Day and World Ocean Day in June, UNDP presented "Island Voices for Nature," a video podcast series featuring conversations with environmental advocates, scientists, and policymakers. Participants to the podcast are: Dr Vikash Tatayah from Mauritian Wildlife Foundation; Hon. Fabrice David, Blue Economy Junior Minister; Sophie Desvaux de Marigny from ER Group; Daniel Marie, MOI Director; Rachele Bhoyroo from Eco-Sud, Krishna Pentayah from Sov Lanatir and Adi Teelock, Civil Society Advocate.



Small Grants Programme: 30 Years in Mauritius

Globally established in 1992 around the Rio Earth Summit, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) was designed around a simple but powerful principle: “thinking globally, acting locally”. It provides financial and technical support to community-led projects that protect the environment while improving livelihoods.

In Mauritius, the Small Grants Programme, which is implemented by the UNDP, began in 1996. It has helped move environmental action in Mauritius from being mainly institution-led to becoming community-owned. SGP has enabled local organisations to test practical solutions, build credibility, and influence national practice. Key milestones include the development of long-term partnerships in Mauritius and Rodrigues, the scaling-up of community innovations into policy, and the increasing integration of livelihoods, inclusion, and climate resilience into conservation. Over these three decades, the programme’s strong catalytic role is reflected in the 207 projects it has supported, the substantial co-financing it has mobilised, and the wide-ranging partnerships it has built.

A Collection of Uplifting Success Stories

Several stories embody “small grants with big impact.” Community advocacy around temporary octopus-fishing closures contributed to legislation and ultimately to two annual closure periods. At Ferney Valley, habitat restoration produced over 35,000 native plants and supported the release of 149 endemic birds. Secret Grand-Mère transformed traditional medicinal-plant knowledge into a women-led social enterprise benefiting 131 people, including women, youth and persons with disabilities. More recently, the Mauritius Plastic Challenge mobilised thousands of citizens, diverted tonnes of plastic and helped inform national planning.

SGP does more than finance activities: it accompanies organisations. It strengthens governance, project management, technical skills and confidence; promotes peer learning; and connects grantees with government, researchers, development partners and businesses. This enables associations and cooperatives to become credible development partners, create green livelihoods, access markets and participate in policy dialogue rather than remaining only beneficiaries.



The UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme has empowered numerous women-led SMEs in coastal communities across Mauritius.



Christopher Colombo is a champion of the plastic challenge at Mission Verte, an NGO supported by SGP that offers solutions for plastic waste disposal.



Members of a women-led weaving association supported by SGP in Vieux Grand-Port, Mauritius.

Partnerships multiply every grant's reach. Government provides policy pathways and technical services; academia contributes research and innovation; private companies bring markets, technology and co-financing; and civil society ensures local ownership. Collaborations with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, University of Mauritius, ministries, tourism authorities, UNDP and private foundations have helped projects progress from pilots to replication, regulation and national visibility.

SDGs in Action

SGP is rightly called “the SDGs in action” because one community project often advances several goals simultaneously, protecting biodiversity while creating income, empowering women, training youth, improving food security, reducing waste and strengthening partnerships. Its portfolio has contributed across goals relating to poverty, education, gender, clean energy, decent work, sustainable production, climate action, oceans, terrestrial ecosystems and partnerships.



Pamela Bapoo-Dundoo, Eco-Counsellor and National Coordinator of the Small Grants Programme in Mauritius.

For Pamela Bapoo-Dundoo: *“The greatest reward has been watching people who began with an idea and limited resources become confident leaders, entrepreneurs and recognised environmental actors. Seeing restored ecosystems, improved incomes and national policies emerge from their commitment is deeply fulfilling”.*

Her vision for the next decade is for SGP to build larger networks of locally led solutions, stronger youth leadership, more green enterprises, and faster replication across Mauritius and Rodrigues: *“SGP has taught me that leadership means listening, connecting people, and persevering through uncertainty. Lasting change does not begin with the size of a grant; it begins with trust in communities and sustained support for their capacity to act”.*



The UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme has established itself as a reliable partner for a variety of private sector stakeholders.



Oyster farming is among the various ocean-centric initiatives that SGP supports in Mauritius.



Members of the Fam-Uni Foundation, NGO supported by SGP.



TEAM PORTRAITS

Martine Chung How: A Decade of Growing with UNDP

Holder of a Master's in Business Administration, Martine Chung How joined the UNDP Human Resources Unit in 2016. Growing up in a business-oriented family nurtured her strategic mindset and appreciation for people-centered leadership. Before joining the United Nations, she built her expertise with leading Mauritian public and private sector companies and through volunteering groups, gaining valuable experience in human resources as well as organizational and strategic management.

When Martine first joined UNDP, she saw it as a diplomatic institution, much like an embassy. She soon discovered the breadth and diversity of the UN system, with UNDP working globally to advance sustainable development.

Her arrival coincided with a significant period of evolution. In 2018, following UN development system reform, leadership roles were separated, with a UN Resident Coordinator and a Resident Representative leading UNDP. Martine witnessed these changes firsthand, working under Resident Representative Simon Springett and later alongside Christine Umutoni. When she became UN Resident Coordinator in 2019, she was replaced by the new UNDP RR Amanda Serumaga.

A witness of UNDP's evolution in Mauritius

Over nearly a decade, Martine has had a front-row seat to the transformation of the Country Office. From the Human Resources Unit, she has seen the organization expand to include specialists in communications, marine biology, and information technology. She also serves as the focal point for UN Volunteers in Mauritius and Seychelles, broadening her engagement across the organization.

Known for her positive outlook, energy, and approachable nature, Martine has built strong relationships with colleagues from diverse backgrounds. Her empathy, professionalism, and commitment to fostering an inclusive workplace have earned the respect of her peers.

Looking to the future, Martine believes UNDP must continue adapting to a rapidly changing world while remaining firmly focused on sustainable development and inclusive growth. She hopes to contribute to initiatives that address emerging challenges and help ensure the organization remains at the forefront of driving positive change and delivering meaningful results for communities. Manpower planning is the key to success in this fast-growing organization.

Outside of work, Martine draws inspiration from Mauritius's rich cultural heritage and natural beauty. A wife and mother of two, she enjoys traveling to visit her children and discovering new places and perspectives with her partner, enriching her outlook on life.



Martine surrounded by UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles colleagues during the 2023 Staff Retreat.



With Fabiani Appavou, UNDP Assistant Resident Representative, and a participant to a UN Volunteer Outreach Session in 2024.

Don Divin Bizimungu: Journey from Burundi to Mauritius

At the age of 28, Don Divin Bizimungu is the youngest staff member at the UNDP Mauritius Country Office, serving as an Operations and Programme Assistant.

The young man was born in Mugara, a small rural village in Rumonge Province, southern Burundi. Mugara is surrounded by beautiful hills overlooking Lake Tanganyika, known for its close-knit communities, agriculture, and rich cultural traditions. Growing up there taught him resilience, hard work, and community service from an early age. He is the eldest of seven children in a family where his mother is a primary school teacher and his father is a secondary school teacher. Their dedication to education inspired him and instilled in him the belief that knowledge is a powerful tool for transforming lives.

Don completed his primary and secondary education in Burundi, majoring in sciences in high school, where he developed a strong interest in analytical thinking and problem-solving. His experiences abroad were through leadership programs and educational opportunities in neighboring countries, where he met young leaders from across Africa, exchanging ideas and gaining a broader perspective on sustainable development and regional cooperation. He came to Mauritius in 2019 after receiving a scholarship through the Tujenge Africa Foundation to pursue a bachelor's degree in Accounting and Finance at the Université des Mascareignes.

Creating positive change worldwide

Don's journey with UNDP began in 2022 as an intern, and he has since grown through different roles before becoming a United Nations Volunteer Specialist. His motivation stemmed from UNDP's commitment to advancing sustainable development and improving people's lives. His work includes supports operational and program activities across the office, including travel management, financial processes, logistical coordination, and administrative support for projects and events.

One of his most memorable experiences was participating in a field mission on Rodrigues Island and supporting activities that brought him closer to the communities we serve. Don likes to see projects move from planning to implementation, and witnessing their real impact on people's lives has been incredibly rewarding. He also greatly appreciates working alongside such supportive and inspiring colleagues, who have made his learning journey both enjoyable and meaningful.

Looking ahead, Don aspires to continue growing professionally in international development, contributing meaningfully to creating positive change worldwide. He hopes to be part of initiatives that improve lives, empower communities, and promote sustainable development, leaving a lasting impact for future generations.



With UNDP colleagues, and collaborators from the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, and the Ministry of Blue Economy, during an outreach session under the Mauritius ECOFISH PROJECT, in Rodrigues in August 2024.



With colleague Manisha Teelockee, Programme Associate, during an outreach session in Rivière du Rempart in 2025.

Inhouse Country Office News



UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles Initiative Shortlisted for Inaugural UN 2.0 Awards

UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles colleague Vathlu Nazombe, eHealth IT Implementation Specialist, has earned global recognition after his [video](#) on the Mauritius National Digital Health Systems Platform was shortlisted for the inaugural [UN 2.0 Awards](#), selected from more than 200 submissions from across the United Nations system.

The UN 2.0 Awards celebrate teams and initiatives that are achieving outstanding results through innovation, digital transformation and new ways of working. Vathlu's project is among just 17 shortlisted initiatives, recognised for demonstrating how innovative approaches can help deliver more effective solutions to real-world challenges.

The shortlisted projects, drawn from headquarters, regional and country offices across the UN system, showcase the potential of data, digital tools, innovation, strategic foresight and behavioural science to accelerate impact and strengthen the UN's effectiveness.

Vathlu's video promotes the eHealth platform aimed to digitize patient journeys. Since launch, it has digitized 213,000 visits and aims for full deployment in 12 months, adding specialized modules for major hospitals.

Vathlu's initiative is featured on the official UN 2.0 Awards platform, where the public can discover the project.

Vathlu Mazombe

E-Health IT Implementation Specialist



UNDP Staff Association: New Leadership Elected



The Staff Association of the UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles Multi-Country Office elected its new leadership team in May 2026. Deepa Seeburn, Procurement Assistant, has been elected as Chairperson; Raksha Ramloll, Programme Associate, as Secretary, and Kelvin Moise, Office Driver, as Treasurer.

The primary aim of the Staff Association is to promote and safeguard the rights, interests, and welfare of UNDP staff members. It serves as a vital channel of communication between staff and the Administration, ensuring that employee concerns are heard and addressed. Additionally, the association seeks to foster collaboration with other UN common system staff associations, particularly on issues related to conditions of service within the United Nations framework.

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I am honored to have been elected President of the UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles Staff Association. I look forward to contributing to the successful implementation of our association's objectives and to supporting good working conditions for all UNDP staff.

Deepa Seeburn

UNDP Procurement Assistant -
Staff Association President

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Farewell Note



United Nations Volunteers - Lyse Aneze and Angel Muzirankoni - joined UNDP as e-health assistants in 2024, and have concluded their tenure in June 2026. They express gratitude for the support and camaraderie received and are wished well in their future endeavors.

"I joined UNDP on 14 November 2024 as an e-Health IT System Assistant under the national E-Health project. During my time with the project, I was exposed to a multi-stakeholder, national-scale initiative that helped me acquire a wide range of skills and a deeper understanding of what truly drives project success beyond theoretical performance indicators. The experience pushed me outside my comfort zone, teaching me patience and the importance of always centring the end user for whom the system is being built.

Mauritius has become a second home to me. The people of Mauritius showed me nothing but kindness, whether I got lost on public transport or was simply learning about their culture and worldview. I always say that in a world that feels very individualistic sometimes, this country still holds a humane quality to it.

One of my most memorable experiences as a UN Volunteer was when the e-Health system first went live during the last quarter of 2025 at SAJ Hospital in Flacq district. It was a hectic and critical moment for the project's success. We spent a full week in the field, and that short-term sacrifice set the tone for what followed. Thanks to the collaboration and commitment demonstrated during that period, the system was adopted quickly in clinics and health centres around the region in a matter of weeks after its launch.

The most important lesson I will carry forward is a spirit of collaboration. Nothing worthwhile and sustainable is achieved alone. It is important to focus on a common goal, communicate throughout the journey, and lean on one another when things get muddy.

As I move on to my next chapter, I would like to thank the team and everyone who made our time and work together so memorable. This experience has meant a lot to me, and I wish the very best to everyone as the work continues to grow and make an impact."

Lyse Aneze



"When I joined in November 2024 as an E-Health IT Systems Assistant, I thought I had a clear picture of what I would be dealing with, but the reality turned out to be completely different from what I had imagined. Looking back, that unexpected turn is exactly what made the journey so interesting and pushed me to learn so much along the way.

Throughout my time in Mauritius, I had the opportunity to interact with a diverse range of people and contribute to different areas, even beyond what I initially expected, including renewable energy-related work. From collaborating with healthcare professionals to being in the same room as ministers, every day brought something new, and that is what kept me most excited about my role.

What I will always value the most, however, is the environment and the people. I truly appreciated how comfortable and welcome I felt sharing ideas with everyone, regardless of their position. That kind of openness is rare, and I feel very fortunate to have experienced it. I also had the privilege of learning from my supervisor, my project manager, and the wider team - lessons that I will carry with me moving forward.

Living and working in Mauritius made this journey even more special. It is something I will always treasure. Being in a place that many people only dream of visiting, and having the ability to step away and recharge - whether at the beach, at the mall, or simply enjoying the surroundings - made even the toughest days feel lighter. That balance meant a lot to me.

Among my most memorable experiences were the team-building activities. They were not only fun but also meaningful, giving me the chance to interact with colleagues across all levels and see how differently we approach challenges. Those moments taught me a great deal and left a lasting impression.

One of the biggest lessons I am taking with me is that things rarely go as planned - and that is okay.

The unexpected often leads to significant growth. Staying open and eager to learn from everyone has been invaluable.

I want to thank the team for their warm welcome and for making me feel like I belonged. Working with all of you has been rewarding, and I will cherish these memories. It has been an honor.

Until we meet again."

Angel Muzirankoni



Communications at Work

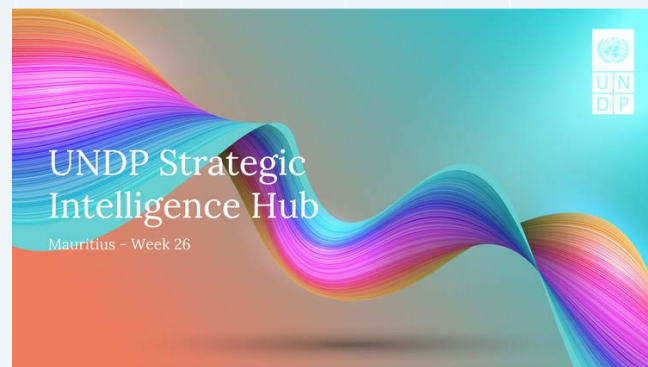
Reframing communications for stronger partnerships has been at the core of UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles' approach in the first half of 2026. The aim was to position development not just as delivery, but as connection, trust and dialogue.

This has translated into a communications strategy bringing development stories closer to people and decision-makers. Across key areas such as responsible AI, climate action and community solutions, the Communications Team has strengthened how UNDP shows impact, highlights partnerships, and engages wider audiences.



Among our in-house innovations, a **UNDP Strategic Intelligence Hub** to make sense of signals and trends to improve the Multi Country Office's strategic focus; a revamped **Gendered Voices Newsletter** to amplify voices and position gender equality as a cross-cutting development priority; a 100% inhouse-designed **2025 UNDP Annual Reports for Mauritius and Seychelles**, and the Portfolio Highlights Newsletter.

These new platforms and publications has been complemented by the launch of podcast series around International Women's Day and World Environment and Oceans Days, creating space for authentic conversations with partners, experts and communities, and expanding outreach to new and younger audiences.



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