



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

OPERATIONAL PHASE 5

COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY

2011-2014

REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

October 2011

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CBOs	Community-based Organizations
CC	Climate Change
CPMT	Central Program Management Team (For the SGP)
CPS	Country Program Strategy
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NAPA	National Action Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCs	National Coordinators
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
NSCs	National Steering Committees
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
SGP	Small Grants Programme
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
UNCBD	UN Convention on Biodiversity
UNCCD	UN Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDAF	United National Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Contents

1.	SGP Country Programme - Background	3
1.1	History of the SGP Country Programme in the Republic of Mauritius	3
1.2	Key baseline considerations for the SGP Country Programme Strategy	5
2.	SGP Country Programme Niche	8
2.1	Ratification of relevant Rio Conventions and relevant national planning frameworks	8
2.2	Support to national priorities in relation to GEF-5 Strategic Priorities	10
	Thematic Focus	11
	SGP Niche	13
2.3	SGP Niche for grant-making in relation to the national priorities and the OP5 project objectives	14
3.	Capacity development, poverty reduction and gender results for SGP.....	17
3.1	Achieving and sustaining local and global environmental benefits	17
4.	OP5 country outcomes, indicators and activities.....	18
5.	Monitoring & Evaluation Plan	21
5.1	Monitoring & Evaluation plan for the portfolio of individual SGP projects	21
5.2	Method and periodicity of participation of local stakeholders in setting project objectives and outputs and in monitoring.....	21
5.3	Strategy for aggregating the results of SGP individual projects at the country programme portfolio level.	23
6.	Knowledge Management Plan	23
6.1.	Plans for capturing, sharing, and disseminating the lessons learned and good practices.....	23
6.2	Information and policy influence at local, regional and national levels.....	24
6.3	Replication and up-scaling of good practices and lessons learned	24
7.	Resource Mobilization Plan.....	24
7.1.	Plan to enhance sustainability of the SGP Country Programme:	24
i)	Diversification of funding sources to achieve greater impact.....	24
ii)	Cost recovery policy to co-finance a share of the SGP country programme management costs.....	25
7.2.	Outline of possibilities to develop strategic partnerships.....	25
	Major partnerships and existing sources of co-financing	25
8.	Annex 1: GEF SGP OP 5 Project level indicators.....	28
8.	Annex 2: Maps of the Republic of Mauritius.....	28

Country: MAURITIUS

Resources to be invested: US\$ 1, 700,000¹

Category: I

1. SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME - BACKGROUND

1.1 History of the SGP Country Programme in the Republic of Mauritius

The Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) was launched in the Republic of Mauritius in April 1995. Mid 1992 to December 1995 was a Pilot Phase which was devoted to preparing ground for initiating the Programme on a sound footing. April 1995 to May 1996 was a challenging transitional period which resulted in moving the Programme from a host NGO to the UNDP Country Office. Mid 1996 to December 1998 saw the implementation of the First Operational Phase during which period, the Programme was successfully expanded to Rodrigues Island, 1500 km north east of the mainland. In September 1998, a planning grant was allocated in view of reaching and expanding the Programme to Agaléga Island, 1000 km north of Mauritius, but to date, even after a visit by an SGP team, this has not materialized in any project and this is largely due to the difficulty in establishing long-term and cost-effective communication facilities with this remote island of the Republic. Subsequently from January 1999 to February 2005, the Second Operational Phase was implemented followed by the Third Operational Phase from March 2005 to June 2007 and the Fourth Operational Phase from July 2007 to December 2010. The country dashboard as of October 2011 shows a total grant allocation of US \$ 3 376 273 with a total amount of co-financing of US \$ 7 255 923 segregated into in-cash co-funding of US \$ 4 278 075 and an in-kind co-funding of US \$ 2 977 848.

The analyses of the GEF Small Grants Programme programming have shown that the working-context has changed significantly over the years and many changes have brought further support to SGP while others have brought challenges. The grant allocation process has responded closely to strategic country planning, being in recent years very much in advance and in line with the poverty eradication target and the “Maurice Ile Durable” (Mauritius Sustainable Island) concept of the Government of Mauritius, as well as the UN Millennium Development Goals. GEF SGP has built very significant capacity in its partners both directly and through project implementation. The support of national experts, from institutions and NGOs, is felt to have been fundamental to the success of this capacity building. Over these 16 years of presence, the Programme has achieved solid reputation amongst the civil society and has built high visibility amongst key policy makers as well as other donors and CSRs who have become strong advocates of the Small Grants approach. Some projects have reputedly led to a clear increase in public awareness of global environmental problems and solutions. Other projects have had significant policy influence on government actions. New endemic species of fish and corals have been discovered and one of the world’s most threatened parrots has been saved from extinction. Grantees have won 17 awards in recognition of their SGP funded projects, 6 of which are prestigious international ones, including the Whitley Foundation Award, the Energy Globe Award and the AGFUND Prize.

¹ The level of SGP OP5 resources is an estimated total of the GEF core grant allocation, anticipated STAR resources, as well as other sources of third party co-financing.

The GEF Political Focal Point is the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development which consults with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development on issues pertaining to the GEF and the GEF Small Grants Programme. These two Government institutions as well as the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly have woven strong collaboration with the GEF Small Grants Programme since its inception, through the participation of a high-level representative on the National Steering Committee (NSC) and/or through co-funding of projects and cost-sharing of management costs.

The Small Grants Programme would not be the unique programme that it is without the National Steering Committee. Over the years, in the Republic of Mauritius, NSC members have provided their guidance showing strong dedication and commitment that has made it possible for SGP to overcome numerous challenges with confidence.

NGOs that have received funding from the GEF Small Grants Programme form a large family which, through SGP, networks and shares information even years after their project is over as they are still on the grantee mailing list since the Pilot Phase. It is their relentless work, commitment and dedication that is the essence of the GEF SGP.

The Small Grants Programme is proof that non-governmental organizations can embark on environmental conservation and policy influence successfully. There are so many big and small wonderful achievements of the GEF Small Grants Programme in the Republic of Mauritius.

*In 1996, there were only 9 endemic echo-parakeets, *Psittacula eques*, one of the world's rarest parrots, left in the wild. With support and co-funding from the Small Grants Programme, the Mauritius Wildlife Foundation saved these birds from possible extinction by developing captive breeding techniques which are used today for many other endangered birds around the world. An intensive conservation program involved breeding wild caught birds in captivity, plus pulling selected wild eggs from nests. The project also involved habitat regeneration and research into field techniques to improve the breeding successes of wild birds. In 2007 the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) announced its move from Critically Endangered to Endangered, saying this shows that with funding and dedicated fieldworkers, species can recover from the brink of extinction. Some 500 echo-parakeets are now present in the Mauritian forests.*

*In 2004, two new endemic fishes, *Pomacentris rodriguesnsis* and *Chlidichthy foudioides* as well as one new endemic coral, *Acropora rodriguensis* were discovered during a marine scientific survey undertaken by Shoals Rodrigues Association in a Small Grants Programme project in Rodrigues. These have since been acknowledged in international scientific journals.*

The present Country Programme Strategy (CPS) puts emphasis on mainstreaming projects in line with the national strategies especially the "Maurice Ile Durable" concept of the Government of Mauritius which encompasses environmental, social, economic and cultural issues, in order to achieve local and global benefits. The OP 5 CPS builds on the solid basement and fortifications of the programme to continue bringing coherent and meaningful demonstration projects which will consolidate civil

society's participation in the nation building and in the protection of the fragile environment of Mauritius as a Small Island Developing State. It also focuses on higher visibility of the Programme in the country and in the region, which would increase the possibility of resource mobilization at the same time.

1.2 Key baseline considerations for the SGP Country Programme Strategy

Mauritius is an island nation located off the coast of Africa in southwest Indian Ocean, about 800 kilometers east of Madagascar and about 3,940 kilometers southwest of India. The Republic of Mauritius comprises the islands of Mauritius, Rodrigues, St. Brandon and the Agalega Islands and outlying small islets². It encompasses a total land area of around 2045 km² (mainland Mauritius: 1865 km²; Rodrigues 110 km², Agalega 70 km²) and a marine exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of around 1.9 million km². As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Mauritius is especially vulnerable to external shocks, particularly as it is a volcanic island with a narrow natural resource base. The NSC has debated and agreed that in view of the relatively small size of the country, the Programme will not have any specific geographic focus but will encompass the terrestrial zones, including the coastal areas, of the Republic of Mauritius as well as, where appropriate, part of its marine zones and its offshore islets.

Only 2% of the island is left covered with native forest and scrubland and the rich biodiversity of the island has undergone dramatic decline due to direct exploitation since the colonial period. Many species have already gone extinct (e.g. the famous Dodo bird) and there are many others which are either on the brink of extinction or are severely threatened. It's no wonder that Mauritius is high on the world's list of countries for plant and bird species threatened by extinction. There are some 900 species of indigenous plants and a high proportion of them are endangered by invasive exotic species competing in their natural habitats. Management measures have been initiated by local authorities to protect threatened species through establishment of Conservation Management Areas (CMAs), captive breeding of endangered bird species, and several other projects are being executed through technical and financial assistance from international donor agencies, especially the GEF. Rising population and economic development continue to exert increased pressure on the environment and natural resources such as land, biodiversity, water and marine fisheries among others, leading to environmental degradation and depletion of the very resources on which economic and social development depend. Domestic fish catches have been declining below the maximum sustainable yield during the past decade due to overexploitation of lagoonal fish stocks.

As a SIDS the country is prone to natural disasters and climate extremes. Long-term time series of rainfall amount over the past century (1905 to 2008) show a decreasing trend in annual rainfall over Mauritius. With the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme natural events (cyclones, storms and droughts), coupled with the rise in sea level and inappropriate construction of hard structures along the seafront, many beaches continue to erode, some very popular ones in a dramatic manner. The country's reliance on imports and its low adaptive capacity will increase its vulnerability and reduce its resilience to climate variability and change. Between 1998 and 2007, local mean sea level rose by 2.1 mm per year.

² Maps of the islands of Mauritius, Rodrigues, St. Brandon and Agalega are available at Annex 1.

With agriculture, industry, and tourism (mainly marine-based) as its principal economic bases, Mauritius has enjoyed two decades of rapid development, but now the natural resource base of the coastal zone is increasingly being degraded by terrestrial inputs (dyestuff, heavy metals and complex chemical compounds, sewage) from intensified urbanization. Such degraded lagoon not only exhibits poor diversity and become unsightly to visitors but also greatly reduces the resilience and natural capability of the coastal system to adapt to climate change. The general indication is one of an incessant increase in the accumulation of pollutants with development of anthropogenic activities, pointing towards a model of dynamic contamination of the coastal environment despite the much lower intensity of industrial rather than marine tourism development on the island. This demonstrates an unbearable and an unsustainable pressure on coastal resources, with most lagoons being dreadfully (hopefully not irreversibly) damaged. Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) constitutes a real challenge for Mauritius not only to protect its marine biodiversity but also to safeguard and promote sustainable tourism.

Solid waste management is fast becoming a critical issue and a major challenge for such a small territory. According to the 2011 Mauritius Environment Outlook Report, (MEO), the volume of waste is ever growing, with limited disposal capacity and current low rates of recycling. 416,000 tons of wastes were disposed into the landfill in 2009 and the average annual increase is estimated to be around 2%. The only waste disposal facility on the island is nearing saturation. Presently, there is no integrated policy or specific legislation for waste segregation, recycling, and reuse. Sorting and recycling initiatives have been initiated by SGP grantees but there is a need for a real policy decision. The sanitary landfill is being extended to accommodate more waste. A national composting plant and a project for converting landfill gas to energy have recently started.

As Mauritius has a limited land area and is one of the most densely populated countries in the world, pressures on land resources will continue to increase with a population projected to increase by a further 160,000 people by 2030. Already these pressures along with unsustainable practices have led to overuse and degradation, especially in Environmentally Sensitive Areas such as wetlands and mountain slopes. So far a series of initiatives have been taken to control land use. These include a framework legislation on land use planning, the National Development Strategy, together with local development plans and planning guidelines for residential, commercial, industrial and hotel development. In addition, the Environmental Impact Assessment mechanism, the Study on Environmentally Sensitive Areas and the development of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Framework provide necessary tools for development control.

Mauritius is surrounded by 49 offshore islets that are ecologically sensitive and are of international reputation for their natural biodiversity. The flora and fauna of some of these islets are characterized by rich, diverse and high endemism, but are at risks from introduction of invasive alien species and problems of littering, illegal landing, irresponsible camping, lighting of fires and bird poaching. Low-lying islets are vulnerable to sea level rise.

The different islands forming part of the Republic of Mauritius have sustained considerable damage. Rodrigues in particular has a serious land degradation and water provision problem that is affecting the livelihood of the people, who are highly dependent on agriculture. Overgrazing, droughts and erosion are some of the other problems that Rodrigues has to contend with. 2011 MEO reports that "Sustainable management of solid waste, coastal and marine resources, land, agriculture and water is

primordial for the economic and social progress of Rodrigues. Recycling rates have to be increased and can be done mainly through composting. The physical development strategy and the local plan must be implemented to control land use. Soil erosion needs to be further controlled as this is affecting marine ecosystems and biodiversity.

Water storage, distribution and management need to be improved urgently. Legislation needs to be strengthened and effectively enforced for better protection of marine resources. The entire lagoon is considered as environmentally sensitive due to the vulnerability of coral reef, sea-grass and algae beds. However, serious environmental damage is being done to the coastal and marine ecosystem through inadequate conservation of marine resources, poor fishing practices, land degradation, siltation of the lagoon and degradation of the coral reef. Fish stocks and octopus catch are dramatically declining, while outer reef fishery is not well exploited despite its potential. Sand extraction is being carried out at a rate of 25,000 tons a year with illegal extraction around the islets. There is a lack of capacity for management of fishing reserves". It is hoped that a management plan which is currently being prepared through SGP funding will be endorsed by authorities. Rodrigues is also not spared from the threat and impacts of climate change and a general warming trend has been recorded.

In 2007 in Rodrigues, four marine reserves were proclaimed by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly following a successful Small Grants Project by Shoals Rodrigues Association. A Management Plan for these marine protected areas is currently being prepared by the grantee with further SGP funding. This would be the first management plan prepared by locals including fishers and local fisheries authorities.

As for Agalega and St. Brandon islands, the 2011 MEO reports that isolation, climate change, fragile ecosystems and improvement in basic services to support economic development are the major challenges they are facing. Environmental data on the Outer Islands is poor principally due to lack of facilities for frequent visits and their remoteness. There is no integrated land management plan. Water collection, storage, wastewater and solid waste management are also inadequate. Loss of terrestrial biodiversity has been exacerbated by the introduction of invasive species due to lack of quarantine measures. Climate change and sea level rise pose critical risks for these low lying territories. Fishing is a main activity in St. Brandon, with two major fishing grounds. However, fish stocks are declining in St. Brandon, indicating unsustainable fishing practices. Land, biodiversity, solid waste and wastewater management plans should be developed for the Outer Islands. The opportunities for sustainable development on the Outer Islands are immense and should be fully tapped.

In 2008, under the impetus of the Prime Minister, Mauritius launched the concept of Maurice Ile Durable (MID) as a long term vision for the sustainable development of the country. The main objective of the MID concept is to make Mauritius a world model of sustainable development, particularly in the context of SIDS. With support from the UNDP and Agence Francaise de Developpement, a comprehensive consultative process was led in 2010 and a subsequent Green Paper was published in April 2011 which summarizes Phase 1 of the policy process. A comprehensive and overarching National Policy for a Sustainable Mauritius is currently being prepared, with the aim of developing a MID Policy and Strategy which is meant to be validated by the end of the 2011. A MID

action plan will then be produced in early 2012. The UN system in general, including SGP is involved at varying levels in the whole process and there might be a need to review the CPS once the MID action plan is published. An MID Fund has also been set up by the Government but to date it has only been made available to government and some private initiatives. It is not foreseen however that these funds would be made available to NGOs and CBOs.

The National Empowerment Foundation (NEF) is a Government Programme which aims at economic empowerment with a view to democratize the economy by broadening the circle of opportunities to each Mauritian citizen, create employment and bring social justice. The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy has been revamped in 2010 to put more emphasis on poverty alleviation, with 50% of CSRs to be spent on that particular theme. Both funds are potential sources of co-funding and resource mobilization for the SGP which has always had support from these institutions even before they were formalized under the current structure. However SGP remains the major funding source for NGOs and CBOs in the country to tackle strictly environmental challenges and this puts much pressure on the ever decreasing management budget and small SGP country team and resources. It is a fact that GEF SGP and other new funding mechanisms are complementary finance sources.

Mauritius has been identified to receive the Australian Aid Programme (AusAID) which will provide grants to support the implementation of Community-Based Adaptation through SGP in some SIDS of the Indian Ocean. It is expected that a further US \$ 150,000 would be channeled through SGP for grant making for climate change resiliency activities under this mechanism.

The UN System in Mauritius in consultation with all UN agencies and the relevant Governments is embarking on a Common Country Framework of Assistance for Mauritius and Seychelles. 5 thematic areas have been identified: Green Economy, Education, Health, with Social Inclusion and Gender cross-cutting. Linkages are being developed with the other UN agencies such as ILO, UNESCO, UN Habitat and IOM. In this context SGP's best practices and lessons learned are being considered for mainstreaming, replication and upscaling by other agencies and/or programmes for increased impact. Joint programming is also being encouraged.

2. SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME NICHE

2.1 Ratification of relevant Rio Conventions and relevant national planning frameworks

Mauritius is a signatory to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); (ii) the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); (iii) the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); and (iv) Stockholm Convention on the reduction and elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants.

The **National Biodiversity Strategic and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2006-2015**, approved by the Government of the Republic of Mauritius, sets out the prioritized activities for the country, which are based on the development of representative and viable protected area networks, the control of invasive alien species, the management of key components of biodiversity, the enhanced identification (particularly of freshwater ecosystems) and monitoring of biodiversity and mechanisms to enable sustainable use through ecotourism development and sound management of natural

resources. Emphasis is also placed on agro-biodiversity and encouraging the use of local varieties and breeds.

The **National Climate Change Action Plan** defines the system to monitor progress of global warming and to prepare for adaptation in line with the recommendations of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. Mauritius submitted its Second National Communication (national inventory of sources and sinks of greenhouse gases) to the UNFCCC secretariat in 2010. Mauritius being a non-Annex 1 country has no obligations to reduce green house gases but as a signatory of the UNFCCC, the following mitigation and adaptation measures in line with the objectives of the UNFCCC objectives are being taken: coastal protection works, mangrove propagation programme, monitoring and protection of coral reefs; promotion of the use of solar water heaters and of energy efficiency and energy conservation in buildings. Production of energy through renewable sources is also promoted.

Mauritius is a party to the **Stockholm Convention on POPs** since 2001. The Mauritius signed the Convention on 23 May 2001, ratified it on 13 July 2004 and is committed to comply with its provisions. The Government of Mauritius has developed, with assistance from the GEF and UNDP, a National Implementation Plan (NIP) for the Republic of Mauritius with regard to Enabling Activities for the Stockholm Convention on POPs, including strategies for clean-up and prevention of future accumulation of POPs stocks. The NIP suggests a number of priority interventions. From these priority interventions, a number of themes emerge and it was agreed that the first capacity building efforts for the management of POPs in Mauritius will be concentrated around these themes. Identified priorities for POPs themes are:

- POPs waste and contamination.
- Switch to non-POPs alternatives in vector control.
- Medical waste management.
- Research into PCCD/Fs' emissions from bagasse burning and monitoring and analysis capacities of POPs.

NGOs could play an active role in the implementation of NIP, in particular in public awareness-raising campaigns among specific groups and the population in general regarding open waste burning, which is a major source of dioxins and furans releases in Mauritius and Rodrigues. Assistance from related international NGOs such as IPEN (International POPs Elimination Network) could also be sought to sensitize the various local NGOs and CBOs and in the development of sensitization materials.

Mauritius ratified the **International Convention to Combat Drought and Desertification** in 1996. Land degradation in Mauritius is caused by three main factors: deforestation, unsustainable agriculture and recurring wildfires on grass-covered mountain slopes. Data on recent deforestation is very limited. Government owns 47% of all forested land (57,000 ha). The Forestry Services reports that one third of the privately owned area is under serious threat of being cleared for other uses. Private forest owners freely convert their forestland to other land uses, even river and mountain reserves because of lack of monitoring, control and enforcement of law by the government. Hill and mountain slope clearing for agriculture promotes erosion of the fertile topsoil as well as contamination of run-off into the lagoons. Intensive deer ranching in forestlands, vegetable and crop farmlands without soil conservation measures and land conversions have greatly contributed to exacerbate terrestrial ecological impacts in Mauritius. The EU sugar reforms are also adding pressure on marginalized sugarcane-covered land which is being transformed into resort schemes or cultivation is simply being abandoned. Sugarcane is considered as an excellent temporary carbon sink (although there is a possibility of leakage) but no incentive is presently given to small-holders of marginalized land to keep it under sugarcane cover or to cultivate other similar carbon sinks.

In response to land management issues, in 2004, the UNDP-GEF initiated a project on ‘Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management’ with the aim to maintain ecosystem productivity and ecological functions while contributing directly to the environmental, economic and social well-being of Mauritius and Rodrigues. There is a huge potential for SGP projects as many stakeholders have raised the issue targeted by many SGP projects, i.e. composting and communal pasture management as being of direct relevance to Sustainable Land Management for both vegetable planters and herders.

Table 1: List of relevant conventions and national/regional plans or programmes

Rio Conventions and National Planning Frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	17 August 1992
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	(NBSAP) 2006-2015
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	17 August 1992
UNFCCC National Communications (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd)	28 May 1999 (first NC); 31 December 2010 (second NC)
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	Not yet
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	11 January 1996
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	Under preparation
Stockholm Convention (SC)	13 July 2004
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	10 October 2006
World Bank Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	N/A (middle income country)
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	October 2005
GEF-5 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	Not carried out
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies	Being finalised (Joint Submission for the extended Continental Shelf in the Mascarene Plateau Region)

2.2 Support to national priorities in relation to GEF-5 Strategic Priorities

The NSC has debated and agreed that geographic focus does not apply in a SIDS like Mauritius and that indeed the whole Republic of Mauritius is considered for funding purposes, namely mainland Mauritius, Rodrigues Island and Agalega Island.

The national priority is encased in the MID concept, the main objective of which is to make Mauritius a world model of sustainable development, particularly in the context of SIDS. The pro-poor reform is

also high on the Government agenda. The GEF OP5 priorities aim to secure global environmental benefits through community-based initiatives and actions.

Thematic Focus

Taking into account the national and GEF OP5 priorities, the NSC agreed that Biodiversity and International Waters will remain two key focal areas of the Programme with thematic focus on coastal zone management, resource management, sustainable agricultural practices, sustainable land management and POPs. Climate change will as well remain a key focal area of the Programme with thematic focus on building resilience to climate change, renewable energy and conservation of energy projects. Financial and technical assistance will be provided to NGOs and CBOs by the GEF SGP which will facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the projects addressing but not limiting to the following issues:

Coastal Zone Management: The coastline of the island of Mauritius is 322 km long and is almost completely surrounded by fringing coral reefs enclosing a lagoon area totaling 243 km. The volcanic nature of the island's origin, the existence of coral reefs and the access to the lagoons of more than 50 rivers and rivulets, determine the diversity of the coastal habitats, flora and fauna. The island has several sandy beaches, protected bays and calm lagoons - factors that have favoured a prosperous tourism industry. Economically, the coastal zone is by far the most valuable segment of the Mauritian territory. Located here are the tourist facilities, secondary residences, ports, fisheries infrastructure and public beaches. In this zone billions of rupees are being invested in the form of hotels, infrastructure, water sport facilities, biodiversity conservation, coastal protection and coastal developments in general. Addressing environmental problems which affect the coastal zone is therefore of a very high priority.

Resource Management: (land, forestry, mountain ecosystem, fresh and sea water): As an island ecosystem, Mauritius ranks very high among global conservation priorities. Its indigenous forests occupy only 2.5 % of the total land area (the largest being Black River Gorges National Park). Today, this native forest provides the last habitats for the Mauritian endemic flora.

The water resources of Mauritius comprise four main underground aquifers, 47 watersheds and associated river diversions, and 9 storage reservoirs. These rivers and fresh water bodies support a unique, though somewhat degraded, native flora and fauna. The main environmental problem facing the sector is the pollution of surface and ground water from effluent from dye houses and from processing industries. The other sources are from sewage, wastewater from sugar mills and hotels, agricultural run-off, infiltration from solid waste dumps and excessive chemicals (fertilizer) and pesticide use in the agricultural sector. Sustainable agricultural practices as well as watershed and rainwater harvesting initiatives will be supported.

Land degradation, increasing urbanization and competition for land, are the principal concerns that should be addressed in terms of land resources. Challenges are: watershed management, control of invasive alien species which have a direct influence on the population of native species; more collaboration and partnership strategies among the various institutions/stakeholders in the protection and conservation of biodiversity resources; capacity building and training in the field of biodiversity,

more so, in specialized areas, islets management, public awareness and education; financial resources to undertake long term projects in biodiversity areas; the need to rationalize and update all the legal frameworks dealing with biodiversity, and sensitization strategies at grass root levels.

POPS and Chemicals (which could be tackled under multiple focal area and under coastal zone management and resource management above): The National Implementation Plan (NIP) of the Republic of Mauritius with regard to the Enabling Activities for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants has identified that NGOs could play an active role in the implementation of NIP, in particular in public awareness-raising campaigns among specific groups and the population in general regarding open waste burning which is a major source of Dioxins and Furans releases in Mauritius and Rodrigues. Solid waste management is a major priority in SIDS and waste burning is a continued practice in many households of mainland Mauritius, and is a regular practice at the Roche Bon Dieu dumping site in Rodrigues Island.

The tropical climate of Mauritius provides a milieu conducive to the proliferation of pests and diseases, which obliges Mauritian farmers to use pesticides on their crops. However, producers have to be careful in the safe use and handling of pesticides and disposal of related waste so as to abide to the requirements of national legislation and to the exigencies of export markets which require farmers to adopt farming practices that are safe for consumers, socially-responsible and environmentally-friendly. A first set of organic certification projects has been supported by SGP during OP4 and during OP5 it is proposed to replicate and upscale these initiatives in view of achieving visible and tangible impacts. Opportunities for a **Strategic Project** on organic farming will be explored.

Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation: The expanding Mauritian economy is an increasing user of energy and especially electricity. In the 1990s, more than 70% of the country's energy requirements were met from oil. This is main source of concern for the country as the world market prices are influencing the economy at such an alarming rate that alternative sources of energy, especially renewable energy is high on the government agenda. At present, the main source of generation is from diesel engine plants, with some input from gas turbines, hydro plants and bagasse facilities. To date, Mauritius produces about 22% of its electricity from renewable resources namely hydro and sugar cane bagasse. Mauritius has recently engaged into the Small-Scale Independent Power Producer Scheme which allows domestic (and industrial) production of electricity from renewable energy sources with the possibility to sell the excess power produced to the grid. A key aspect of the Green economy for SIDS is the transition to renewable energy. This is crucial in terms of eliminating vulnerability to price fluctuations of fossil fuels and dependency on costly imports, reducing negative environmental impacts as well as creating economic opportunities. GEF SGP aims to provide access and technical assistance for small-scale generation of electricity from renewable energy sources to communities.

International Waters:

The beaches of Mauritius, which are highly acclaimed for their high tourism potential, have been sustaining considerable degradation and erosion due to the increased frequency and intensity of cyclones, lagoonal sand extraction over several decades and inappropriate construction along the seafront. There is continued contamination of water resources and the lagoon, through the use of pesticides, nitrates and phosphate fertilizers. The island's sewage network (composed mainly of small-scale soak-aways and 'storm canals') is designed to dispose of household and municipal wastes,

but is now often overloaded by industrial discharges. The rapid development of the island has exerted enormous pressure on coastal resources, leading to severe degradation of their ecosystems, and thereby reducing their resilience and undermining their capability to adapt to climate change. Avenues will also be sought to further target mainland and coastal area projects towards building resilience to climate change.

2.3 See annexes for a map of the region

In view of the relatively small size of the country, the NSC took the decision that the Programme will not have any specific geographic focus but will encompass the terrestrial zones, including the coastal areas, of the Republic of Mauritius as well as, where appropriate, part of its marine zones and its offshore islets.

SGP Niche

In line with the above context, SGP has to consider in its funding strategy not only the support to awareness raising campaigns on the conservation of biodiversity but also the introduction of small-scale financially self-sustaining and income-generating projects, which would allow for protecting the species while communities capture the added value. As per past best practices, SGP will continue to support projects in the area of biodiversity which can produce a set of baseline data on critically endangered useful endemic plants, trials or adaptations of techniques and technologies on forest conservation management, village-based conservation nurseries and proposals for community-managed marine reserves. It will also support the development of education techniques targeting the youths and vulnerable groups of the country. Along with new projects, SGP aims to replicate and/or upscale successful projects during GEF5.

On the poverty front, various programmes have been put in place with funds from local and other international organizations in support of the Government's comprehensive poverty alleviation strategy to stimulate diversified and sustainable economic development for low-income households, specifically women-headed ones. Their focus is on the implementation of activities relating to social infrastructure, community development, income-generating activities and educational and technical assistance to empower the poorest segments of society for their social upliftment. SGP will target specific components of such projects in order to encourage the social, economic and political empowerment of women. Emphasis will be set on capacity building.

2.3 SGP Niche for grant-making in relation to the national priorities and the OP5 project objectives

Table 2. Consistency with national priorities

OP5 project objectives	National priorities	SGP niche
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 1:</u> Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas through community-based actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MID: conservation of local natural resources with a view to achieving sustainable development • Ecosystem conservation through establishment and management of protected area networks. • Increasing the size of the forest estate, protection of watersheds and replacement of harmful invasive exotic species by native species. • Development of eco-tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-based biodiversity conservation. • Maintain eco-system services, protect watersheds and soils by increasing forest cover • Promote public awareness and community participation in conservation efforts • Promote sustainable livelihoods projects such as eco-tourism • Promote coral gardening
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2:</u> Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection and sustainable use of productive natural resources. • Development of eco-tourism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support measures to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity in economic/ productive sectors, species while communities capture the added- value (linked to poverty alleviation, green economy, empowerment and capacity building). • Enable sustainable small-scale aquaculture/ mariculture projects
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3:</u> Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MID priorities: Promotion of sustainable consumption and production, including efficient use of resources, cleaner production, sustainable public service practices and increase in the use of sustainable products • MID priorities: Explore and harness potential sources of renewable energy and reduce dependency on imported fossil fuels • MID priorities: Promotion of energy conservation and energy efficiency • MID priorities: Encourage the production of energy from renewable energy sources on a small scale by any individual, household, business or group and for the sale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote sustainable consumption projects • Support small-scale production of electricity from renewable energy • Support biogas projects • Carry out energy audits activities • Promote energy conservation and energy efficiency • Adopt renewable energy technologies

	of any surplus to the national grid	
OP5 project objectives	National priorities	SGP niche
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 4:</u> Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MID priorities: Sustainable transportation which promotes environment friendly and low emitting fuel-efficient motor vehicles, including buses • MID priorities: Foster research, development and innovation with a view to promoting sustainable development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support fuel efficient policy dialogue and/or small-scale sustainable transport project
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 5:</u> Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MID priorities: mitigation against, adaptation to, and increase of resilience to, climate change • Promote Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies and Action Plans to ensure sustainable development, poverty eradication and to safeguard economic growth. • Increasing the size of the forest estate (carbon sinks), protection of watersheds and replacement of harmful invasive exotic species by native species. • Protection conservation of coral reefs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote restoration and enhancement of forest and non-forest lands. • Promote watershed management • Promote minimum tilling agricultural projects • Promote projects to build resilience in land and at sea • Promote eradication of invasive species • Promote coral gardening
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6:</u> Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food security. • Protection and sustainable use of productive natural resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote sustainable agriculture and encourage the use of local varieties and breeds (agro-biodiversity) • Improve agricultural land and water management practices and increase rain harvesting capacity. • Enhance carbon sinks
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8:</u> Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop a comprehensive legislative and institutional frameworks to protect and enhance environmentally sensitive areas such as rivers, wetlands, beaches, lagoons and coral reefs on which the country's development model is highly dependent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote sustainable fisheries management • Promote conservation and sustainable management of seagrass beds • Promote conservation or rehabilitation of corals reefs • Promote sustainable mangroves forest management • Decrease land-based pollution intrusion

<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9:</u> Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MID priorities: Decrease land-based pollution as well as pollution in rivers and marine areas • MID priorities: Encourage and promote sustainable waste management through waste reduction, reuse and recycling • MID priorities: Encourage efficient and responsible use of water resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote sustainable agriculture and alternatives to pesticides • Promote alternatives to chemicals • Promote alternatives to waste burning • Promote sensitization on U-POPs, (unintentional POPs), including e-wastes, mercury and lead reduction and management
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 10:</u> Enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs (particularly community-based organizations and those of indigenous peoples) to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate information flows, implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MID priorities: Educate people and raise awareness on sustainable development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote policy dialogue projects which have a high component of training and capacity building • Promote sensitization and awareness raising projects especially at the level of schools and communities
<p><u>Cross-Cutting Results:</u> Poverty reduction, livelihoods and gender</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To eradicate absolute poverty and social exclusion and to mobilize support to empower the vulnerable and deprived with a view to improving their quality of life in a sustainable manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to poverty eradication through replicable livelihoods demonstration projects which are gender sensitive and responsive.

3. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT, POVERTY REDUCTION AND GENDER RESULTS FOR SGP

3.1 Achieving and sustaining local and global environmental benefits³

SGP in the Republic of Mauritius will continue to apply a systematic procedure for identification and approval of projects. A call for concept ideas outlining the eligibility criteria and country programme strategy will be launched at the national level. This will be sustained with public dissemination of the criteria and selection process. Projects that are subsequently found eligible will be pre-selected and pre-feasibility visits and meetings will be held with the pipeline proponents in order to ascertain community consultation and participation. Capacity-building needs and recommendations will be included and budgeted in the proposals with specific emphasis on women and vulnerable people empowerment, income generation and poverty alleviation. Based on experience learned in previous projects, a mandatory training component on marketing and small business management will be included in all income generating projects. In order to retain the capacity developed in the projects, a larger pool of beneficiaries, including as much as possible, young people, will be trained so as to cater for fall-outs and those who will move on. Lessons learned also indicate that allocation of stipend or some form of small remuneration to these beneficiaries during their training is a strong incentive. It is proposed to link up with the National Empowerment Foundation which has such a scheme for trainees whenever possible.

As per the adopted practice, NSC members will be pre-assigned with specific projects to review and visit during proposal development stage along with the NC. Once projects have been approved by the NSC, regular monitoring will be carried out by NC and assigned NSC member (this will however depend on country budgetary allocations). NC and NSC members will continue to act as facilitators between government institutions, the private sector and the grassroots communities to ensure support of local authorities and mainstreaming of activities.

Additionally the UN System has begun consultations with all UN agencies and the relevant Government agencies to embark on a Common Country Framework of Assistance for Mauritius and Seychelles. 5 thematic areas have been identified: Green Economy, Education, Health, with Social Inclusion and Gender cross-cutting. Through its involvement in these consultations, SGP will ensure that additional technical and institutional support would be directed to grantees, especially on components which are not eligible under SGP criteria but which are crucial to project success.

³ During OP5, the SGP capacity development outcome is cross-cutting and relates to interventions corresponding with each of the relevant GEF focal areas.

4. OP5 COUNTRY OUTCOMES, INDICATORS AND ACTIVITIES

Table 3. Results Framework

SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 1: Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas (ICCAs) through community-based actions			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
SGP BD Outcome 1.1: Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts on biodiversity resources in and around protected areas, and indigenous and community conservation areas	At least 2 hectares of community conserved areas (ICCAs) and protected areas influenced	GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits SGP case studies	<i>At least 4 projects⁴</i>
SGP BD Outcome 1.2: Benefits generated at the community level from conservation of biodiversity in and around protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas	At least 2 hectares of significant ecosystems with improved conservation status.		
SGP BD Outcome 1.3: Increased recognition and integration of indigenous and community conservation areas in national protected area systems as appropriate	At least 2 significant species with maintained or improved conservation status		
SGP BD Outcome 1.4: Increased understanding and awareness at the community level of the importance and value of biodiversity	At least 50 community members with improved livelihoods related to benefits from protected areas		
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2: Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
SGP BD Outcome 2.1: Improved Community-level sustainable use of biodiversity in production landscapes /seascapes through community-based initiatives, frameworks and market mechanisms, including recognized environmental standards that incorporate biodiversity considerations	At least 3 hectares of production landscapes / seascapes under improved sustainable use practices, leading, where possible, to certification through recognized environmental standards that incorporate biodiversity considerations (supported by SGP)	GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits SGP case studies	<i>At least 4 projects</i>
SGP BD Outcome 2.2: Increased understanding and awareness of sustainable use of biodiversity	At least 4 significant species with maintained or improved conservation status		
	At least 2 hectares of significant ecosystems with maintained or improved conservation status		

⁴ The estimated number of OP5 projects should distinguish between the utilization of core grants (which can apply across GEF focal areas) and non-core GEF resources (which need to be directly linked to the relevant GEF focal areas). In accordance with the GEF Steering Committee decision (March 2010), up to 20% of non-core GEF resources mobilized may be used for secondary focal areas.

SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3: Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level

Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
SGP CC Outcome 3.1: Innovative low- GHG technologies deployed and successfully demonstrated at the community level SGP CC Outcome 3.2: GHG emissions avoided ⁸	At least 4 demonstration projects addressing community-level barriers to deployment of low GHG technologies	GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits SGP case studies	<i>At least 4 projects</i>

SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 5: Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry

Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
SGP CC Outcome 5.1: Sustainable land use, land use change, and forestry management and climate proofing practices adopted at the community level for forest and non-forest land-use types SGP CC Outcome 5.2: Restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks in forests and non-forest lands SGP CC Outcome 5.3: GHG emissions avoided	At least 2 hectares under improved sustainable land management and climate proofing practices At least 2 hectares of forests and non-forest lands (including wetlands and or mangroves) with restoration and enhancement initiated	GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits SGP case studies	<i>At least 2 projects</i>

SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem⁹ and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities

Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
SGP LD Outcome 6.1: Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts on agro-, and forest ecosystems and ecosystem services demonstrated to sustain ecosystem functionality SGP LD Outcome 6.2: Community-based models of sustainable forestry management developed, and tested, linked to carbon sequestration for possible upscaling and replication where appropriate, to reduce GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and enhance carbon sinks from land use, land use change, and forestry activities	At least 2 national and international agencies or partners are aware of successful SGP demonstrations and innovative approaches At least 1 national/local governments or international policy making processes with SGP influence	GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits SGP case studies	<i>At least 2 projects</i>

SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8: Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives

Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
SGP IW Outcome 8.1: Effective and climate resilient community-based actions and practices supporting implementation of SAP regional priority actions demonstrated	Number of SAPs to which SGP is providing implementation support Number of regional transboundary water management processes to which SGP is contributing good practices and lessons	GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits SGP case studies	<i>At least 1 project provided the SAP is finalized</i>

SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9: Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
SGP CH Outcome 9.1: Improved community-level initiatives and actions to prevent, reduce and phase out POPs, harmful chemicals and other pollutants, manage contaminated sites in an environmentally sound manner, and mitigate environmental contamination	At least 10 tons of POPs waste avoided from burning At least 10 tons of harmful chemicals avoided SGP is contributing to the implementation of national plans and policies to address POPs, harmful chemicals and other pollutants	GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits SGP case studies	<i>At least 2 projects</i>
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 10: Enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs (particularly community-based organizations and those of indigenous peoples) to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate information flows, implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
SGP CD Outcome 10.2: Improved information flows to/from CBOs and CSOs in SGP countries regarding good practices and lessons learned, and application of such practices SGP CD Outcome 10.3: Increased public awareness and education at the Community-level regarding global environmental issues SGP CD Outcome 10.6: Evaluation of SGP projects and programs against expected results strengthened, including increased capacity of CBOs and CSOs to apply relevant evaluation methodologies	At least 2 SGP representatives (e.g., NSC members) participating in national GEF coordination meetings At least 1 knowledge fair, 3 conferences, 10 publications. At least 3 participatory evaluations carried out with NGOs and CBOs demonstrating understanding of the role of evaluation through application of relevant evaluation methodologies	SGP case studies	<i>At least 1 knowledge fair and 2 Participatory Evaluations</i>
Cross-Cutting Results: Livelihoods and Gender			
Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
SGP's Results Framework for OP5, as approved by the SGP Steering Committee, does not include specific objectives on livelihoods and gender. Nonetheless, SGP does produce positive results in these areas, which contribute to the overall achievement of Global Environmental Benefits through sustainable development. Generally, SGP seeks to improve livelihoods through increasing local benefits generated from environmental resources, and mainstream gender considerations in community-based environmental initiatives.	At least 50% of projects with appropriate gender balance of participants and target beneficiaries At least 50 community members with sustained livelihood improvement resulting from SGP support	GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits SGP case studies	<i>At least 4 projects</i>

5. MONITORING & EVALUATION PLAN

5.1 Monitoring & Evaluation plan for the portfolio of individual SGP projects

Monitoring and evaluation field visits: Monitoring and evaluation of all projects will be carried out in keeping with the established practices of the GEF SGP in the Republic of Mauritius and with a view to incorporate lessons learned and best practices from previous years. M&E processes as usual will be implemented by grantees and the National Coordinator as planned in all projects according to their approved work plans and monitoring schedules. In this context, the development of baseline data and indicators will be incorporated as far as possible in each project.

Project implementation's success will be assessed using a two-pronged approach: continuous progress monitoring and participative evaluation involving various stakeholders. At this stage it is very difficult to detail the frequency of visits to each project as this will depend largely (i) on the project itself, (ii) on the capacity of the proponents and (iii) most importantly on the country budgetary allocation. Typically there is a need of contact time between grassroots grantees with low capacity and NC at least once every two months and in some cases this can raise up to one meeting per month. Based on previous 16 years of implementation of the Programme in Mauritius, it can be said that M&E is crucial to the success of a project and the cost cuttings in the budgetary allocations since the beginning of GEF 4 have been detrimental to the projects M&E and to the full scale participation of NSC members. In view of further cost cuttings during GEF 5, it is proposed to have only one visit per year for each project and to increase this frequency to a maximum of two visits in case of needy grantees. Beyond this, there would be a need to increase the travel budget. Creative solutions such as using other donors co-financing transport arrangements may have to be found.

End-of-project reports: Periodic progress and financial reports will continue to represent a key tool for the project monitoring process. Grantee NGOs and CBOs will also be required to submit final reports and assessment of lessons learned for projects. GEF SGP Mauritius will moreover rely on regular updates with grantees through meetings in SGP office (to cut cost, bearing in mind that monitoring is more effective through field visits). Monitoring and evaluation field visits will be undertaken by NC and NSC members to assess the project implementation results and the challenges experienced as far as country budget will allow. The now established practice of SGP Mauritius to make use of internships to carry out free- of- charge assessments and project evaluations reports will be maintained as a best and cost effective practice. These reports will be posted on the SGP database and assessment of lessons learned circulated to all relevant stakeholders in the country and at CPMT, with the main objective of knowledge management, and promoting the sustainability of projects.

Additionally Biennial Programme Reviews will be undertaken if necessary and when a budget provision is made. This will allow for country-level portfolio review and assessment of lessons learnt.

5.2 Method and periodicity of participation of local stakeholders in setting project objectives and outputs and in monitoring.

All SGP proposals will be developed by the proponents with participation of the end-beneficiaries who will themselves work on the setting up of their project objectives and outputs as per usual

practice during on-site consultative meetings. Planning grants will be allocated to NGOs and CBOs that do not have the capacity to help them develop their proposals with technical assistance if needed. NC will hold information and project write-up working session as per request/needs. SGP proposal documents have always included a workplan and monitoring schedule with measurable indicators and timeframe. Notwithstanding the assessment of lessons learned report, at least 3 progress reports are mandatory in all projects according to the disbursement schedule in the Memorandum of Agreement to be signed by the grantees. The periodicity will be determined by the exigencies of each particular project. Progress will be reported as per above. Site visits will be maintained as far as budget allows. Ideally, a participatory evaluation and assessment meeting involving the beneficiaries, community members, NGOs, independent assessor, should be held at the end of each project. Given the budgetary and human resources constraints, this will be kept to a minimum.

Table 4. M&E Plan at the Project Level

SGP Individual Project Level		
M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
Participatory Project Monitoring	Grantees	Duration of project
Baseline Data Collection ⁵	Grantees, NC	At project concept planning and proposal stage
Two or Three Project Progress and Financial Reports (<i>depending on agreed disbursement schedule</i>)	Grantees, NC, PA	At each disbursement request
Project Workplans	Grantees, NC, PA	Duration of project
NC Project Proposal Site Visit (<i>as necessary / cost effective</i> ⁶)	NC	Before project approval, as appropriate
NC Project Monitoring Site Visit (<i>as necessary / cost effective</i>)	NC	On average once per year, as appropriate
NC Project Evaluation Site Visit (<i>as necessary / cost effective</i>)	NC	At end of project, as appropriate
Project Final Report	Grantees	Following completion of project activities
Project Evaluation Report (<i>as necessary / cost effective</i>)	NC, NSC, External party	Following completion of project activities
Prepare project description to be incorporated into global project database	PA, NC	At start of project, and ongoing as appropriate

⁵ Capacity-development workshops and M&E trainings may be organized in relation to innovative techniques for community monitoring, including new technologies (i.e. GPS-enabled cameras, aerial photos, participatory GIS, etc.); as well as in response to guidelines for “climate proofing” of GEF focal area interventions; REDD+ standards; and/or other specific donor/co-financing requirements.

⁶ To ensure cost-effectiveness, project level M&E activities, including project site visits, will be conducted on a discretionary basis, based on internally assessed criteria including (but not limited to) project size and complexity, potential and realized risks, and security parameters.

5.3 Strategy for aggregating the results of SGP individual projects at the country programme portfolio level.

Table 5. M&E Plan at the Programme Level

SGP Country Programme Level		
M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
Country Programme Strategy Review	NSC, NC, CPMT	Start of OP5
Strategic Country Portfolio Review	NSC, NC	Once during OP5
NSC Meetings	NSC, NC, UNDP CO	Minimum twice per year
Performance and Results Assessment (PRA) of NC Performance	NC, NSC, UNDP CO, CPMT, UNOPS	Once per year
Country Programme Review resulting in Annual Country Report ⁷	NC presenting to NSC and CPMT	Once per year
Financial 5-in-1 Report	NC/PA, UNOPS	Quarterly

6. KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

6.1. Plans for capturing, sharing, and disseminating the lessons learned and good practices

SGP in Mauritius will continue to promote the sharing of lessons learned through assessment of lessons learned from each project and incorporation of best practices in development of subsequent projects. It will also:

- Continue to seek media coverage for the programme so as to share best practices but also to create a base of public support
- Develop awareness of the programme through its community base (i.e. Village Councils, grass roots groups, CBOs, ...)
- Report the SGP activities, sharing SGP experience and networking through the mailing list and through the multi-media website created by one grantee, MRU2025
- Communicate effectively 'lessons learned' and 'best practices' through newspaper articles, multi-media website, radio and TV programmes
- Continue to invite journalists to all project and programme activities.
- Organise annual SGP press conference or press article over-viewing achievements and activities,

⁷ The annual Country Programme Review exercise should be carried out in consultation with the national Rio Convention focal points and the associated reporting requirements.

including promotion of a media article on project outcomes, BPR results, etc.

- Support grantee in organizing highly visible project launching
- Find cost effective ways to advertise call for project proposals.
- Update newsletter, or local brochure, on national SGP projects
- Target further groups for local/global state of environment and SGP info sessions.
- Raise awareness amongst grantees that communication with public should highlight “lessons learned”.
- Encourage grantees to promote their project, the SGP, and public awareness of global threats and solutions.
- Develop systematic case studies and fact sheets on strategic best projects to share with Government, CSRs and other donors for replication
- Continue to facilitate site visits of SGP projects by other donors, CSRs and Government partners.
- Support grantees in developing photo-stories of their respective projects, information materials for NGOs and CBOs, focusing on ‘lessons learned’ and ‘best practices’
- Post regular updates on the SGP website
- Organize and/or participate in at least one knowledge fair during OP5. Encourage grantees to participate in such fairs.

6.2 Information and policy influence at local, regional and national levels

- Lessons learned, best practices, knowledge material and products from GEF SGP supported projects will be shared with the high-level Strategic Committee of the MID, of which NC is an appointed member as well as with the other relevant Government institutions.
- Knowledge sharing material, case studies and SGP products will be sent to the Knowledge Manager at CPMT, the Global Manager, the GEF CEO and GEF Secretariat.
- Best practices will be shared with SGP colleagues especially in the Indian Ocean region to open up scope for replication and up-scaling through Strategic projects.

6.3 Replication and up-scaling of good practices and lessons learned

- Best practices will be shared with the UN Country Team for possible mainstreaming and replication/up-scaling.
- Continue to share best practices for replication and up-scaling with other donors and CSRs in the country.

7. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION PLAN

7.1. Plan to enhance sustainability of the SGP Country Programme:

i) Diversification of funding sources to achieve greater impact

The objective is to increase the Programme’s leverage by generating additional financial support for the GEF SGP core programme and projects. This will be achieved through the following:

- Identify other potential national sources of support for SGP

- Explore funding possibilities by international Aid Agencies (bi- and multilateral) and other facilities available in the country such as CSRs
- Explore funding possibilities by international NGOs
- Explore funding partnership with the MID Fund.
- Explore linkages with other facilities available from Bilateral/Multilateral agencies, including UN agencies
- Develop linkages with the National Empowerment Programme
- Continue to liaise with the Mauritius Research Council, Mauritius Oceanography Institute and the University of Mauritius for technical support
- Continue to develop contacts and relationships with the staff of donor agencies, private sector and charitable foundations through reciprocal participation in activities (with NSC support where appropriate).
- Make further exploration of potential liaison with international NGOs, which work approximately along the same priorities and guidelines as the SGP.
- Proactively support NGOs resource mobilization for parallel and co-funding of SGP projects.

ii) Cost recovery policy to co-finance a share of the SGP country programme management costs.

SGP in Mauritius has always received a fair amount of co-funding or parallel funding for projects. However the funds have rarely transited through SGP. Given the local context, and based on previous SGP's resource mobilization experience, it will be a challenge to enlist a donor or CSR that will entrust part of its funds to SGP to manage. There are instances where SGP Mauritius has been the mechanism through which UNEP/WioLab funds or currently IOM and AAP funds have been or are being channeled. However these have remained small amounts and recovering management fees from small amounts is costly as several agencies might be involved and each might need to charge a fee, and it is also time consuming and has sometimes intricate legal implications.

In order to skirt away from the above situation and to respond to the local context, it is proposed to explore the possibility of creating a local Trust with legal support from UNOPS and CPMT. In recent years some donors and private sector companies have signified that they prefer to donate small grants for a project to NGOs and CBOs through the GEF Small Grants Programme (recent cases of Mauritius Ports Authority, IOM, and AAP). Legal support will be needed in assessing how these small amounts can be pooled into a Trust and be disbursed through the SGP mechanism, thus earning SGP a fee for management cost.

SGP Mauritius has also been identified to manage AusAid grant support towards Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change. This will bring an additional share to management cost for a short period during OP5.

It is expected that the regional authorities will continue to contribute towards travel cost of the programme during missions (namely in Rodrigues Island). On specific occasions as per past practices venues and outreach are also expected from other sponsors during knowledge fairs, Project Coordinator's meeting and other such activities.

7.2. Outline of possibilities to develop strategic partnerships

Major partnerships and existing sources of co-financing

Mauritius launched the concept of Maurice Ile Durable (MID) in 2008 as a long term vision for the sustainable development of the country. The main objective of the MID concept is to make Mauritius a world model of sustainable development, particularly in the context of SIDS. With support from the UNDP and Agence Francaise de Developpement, a comprehensive consultative process was led in 2010 and a subsequent Green Paper was published in April 2011 which summarizes Phase 1 of the policy process. A comprehensive and overarching National Policy for a Sustainable Mauritius is currently being prepared, with the aim of developing a MID Policy and Strategy which is meant to be validated by the end of the 2011. A MID action plan will then be produced in early 2012. The UN system in general, including SGP is involved at varying levels in the whole process and there might be a need to review the CPS once the MID action plan is published. An MID Fund has also been set up by the Government but to date it has only been made available to government and some private initiatives. It does not seem that these funds would be made available to NGOs and CBOs.

The National Empowerment Foundation (NEF) is a Government Programme which aims at economic empowerment with a view to democratize the economy by broadening the circle of opportunities to each Mauritian citizen, create employment and bring social justice. The goals are (i) to secure viable employment for currently unemployed and those who lose their jobs due to industry restructuring;(ii) to encourage entrepreneurship and improve the capacity and competitiveness of small entrepreneurs, especially in the global market; (iii) to provide transitional support to low-income and vulnerable households for housing; and (iv) to enhance education of the children in the most vulnerable households. The Programme is endowed with US \$ 110 M for 2010 to 2013. On average for each financial year, Government allocates around Rs750m to initiate the various components of the Programme.

The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy has been revamped in 2010 to put more emphasis on poverty alleviation, with 50% of CSRs to be spent on that particular theme. The established CSR policy has an overall objective of mandating registered companies to pay 2% of their book profit towards programmes that contribute to the social and environmental development of the country. Resources available amount to US \$ 27 M each year.

The NEF and the CSR funds are potential sources of co-funding and resource mobilization for the SGP which has always had support from these institutions even before they were formalized under the current structure. However SGP remains the major funding source for NGOs and CBOs in the country to tackle strictly environmental challenges and this puts much pressure on the ever decreasing management budget and small SGP country team and resources. It is a fact that GEF SGP and other new funds are complementary finance sources.

Since 2008, IFAD is engaged in a joint collaboration with SGP Mauritius and other local and international organizations, under its Marine and Agricultural Resources Support (MARS) Programme in order to support the pro-poor reform of the Government. This collaboration would continue during OP5.

The International Office of Migration (IOM) and the African Adaptation Programme (AAP) funded by Japanese Aid and the UNDP are both supporting SGP projects. The IOM has indicated interest in continuing the collaboration during OP5.

Mauritius has been identified to receive the Australian Aid Programme (AusAID) which will provide additional funds to support the implementation of Community-Based Adaptation through SGP in some SIDS of the Indian Ocean. It is expected that SGP would receive a further US \$ 150,000 for grant making under this mechanism.

The UN System in Mauritius in consultation with all UN agencies and the relevant Governments is embarking on a Common Country Framework of Assistance for Mauritius and Seychelles. 5 thematic areas have been identified: Green Economy, Education, Health, with Social Inclusion and Gender cross-cutting. Linkages are being developed with the other UN agencies such as ILO, UNESCO, UN Habitat and IOM. Furthermore SGP's best practices and lessons learned are being considered for replication and upscaling by other agencies and/or programmes.

8. ANNEX 1: GEF SGP OP 5 PROJECT LEVEL INDICATORS

The following represent the core set of project level indicators for OP5:

SGP OP5 results indicators	
Biodiversity (BD)	
BD1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hectares of indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs) influenced ○ Hectares of protected areas influenced ○ Hectares of significant ecosystems with improved conservation status
BD2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hectares of production landscapes / seascapes applying sustainable use practices ○ Number of significant species with maintained or improved conservation status ○ Total value of biodiversity products/ecosystem services produced (US dollar equivalent)
Climate Change (CC)	
CCM1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tonnes of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Renewable energy measures (please specify) ▪ Energy efficiency measures (please specify) ▪ Other (please specify) ○ Number of community members demonstrating or deploying low-GHG technologies ○ Total value of energy or technology services provided (US dollar equivalent)
CCM4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tonnes of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Low carbon transport practices (please specify) ○ Total value of transport services provided (US dollar equivalent)
CCM5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hectares of land under improved land use and climate proofing practices ○ Tonnes of CO2 avoided through improved land use and climate proofing practices
Land degradation (LD) & Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)	
LD1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hectares of land applying sustainable forest, agricultural and water management practices ○ Hectares of degraded land restored and rehabilitated
LD3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of communities demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices
International Waters (IW)	
IW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hectares of river/lake basins applying sustainable management practices and contributing to implementation of SAPs ○ Hectares of marine/coastal areas or fishing grounds managed sustainably ○ Tonnes of land-based pollution avoided
Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	
POPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tons of solid waste prevented from burning by alternative disposal ○ Kilograms of obsolete pesticides disposed of appropriately ○ Kilograms of harmful chemicals avoided from utilization or release
Capacity Development, Policy and Innovation (all focal areas)	
CD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of consultative mechanisms established for Rio convention frameworks (please specify)

SGP OP5 results indicators	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of community-based monitoring systems demonstrated (please specify) ○ Number of new technologies developed /applied (please specify) ○ Number of local or regional policies influenced (level of influence 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5) ○ Number of national policies influenced (level of influence 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5) ○ Number of people trained on: project development, monitoring, evaluation etc. (to be specified according to type of training)
Livelihoods, Sustainable Development, and Empowerment	
Cross-cutting	<p>Livelihoods & Sustainable Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of participating community members (gender disaggregated) (Note: mandatory for all projects) ○ Number of days of food shortage reduced ○ Number of increased student days participating in schools ○ Number of households who get access to clean drinking water ○ Increase in purchasing power by reduced spending, increased income, and/or other means (US dollar equivalent) ○ Total value of investments (e.g. infrastructure, equipment, supplies) in US Dollars (Note: estimated economic impact of investments to be determined by multiplying infrastructure investments by 5, all others by 3). <p>Empowerment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of NGOs/CBOs formed or registered ○ Number of indigenous peoples directly supported ○ Number of women-led projects supported ○ Number of quality standards/labels achieved or innovative financial mechanisms put in place

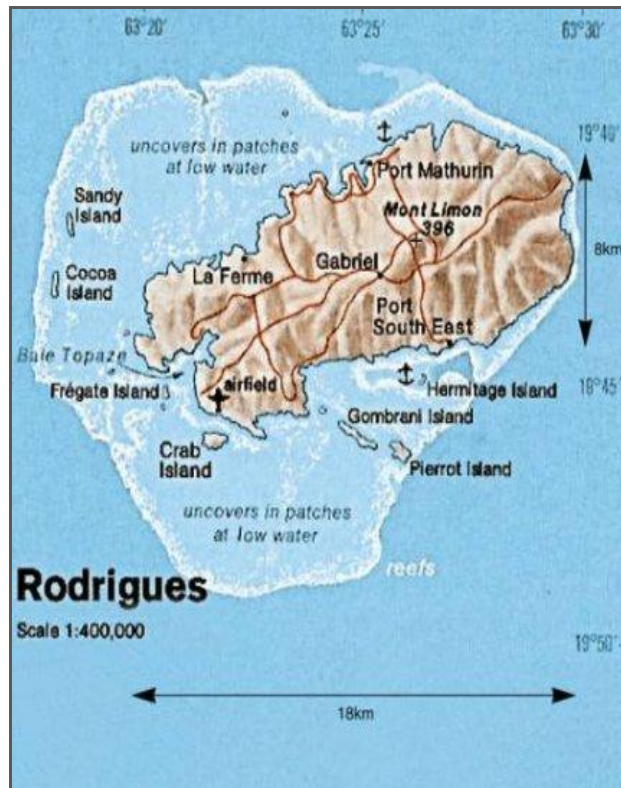
ANNEX 2:

Maps of the Republic of Mauritius

Mainland Mauritius



Rodrigues Island



Agalega and St. Brandon islands

