

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITY SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

OPERATIONAL PHASE 6

COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY 2015-2018

REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

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Under supervision of GEF SGP Office and NSC Members

LIST OF ACRONYMS

APEDED	Association Pour L'Education des Enfants Defavorisés
CBOs	Community-Based Organisations
CC	Climate Change
CEB	Central Electricity Board
COP21	21st Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
CPMT	Central Program Management Team (For the SGP)
CPS	Country Program Strategy
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DOWA	Deep Ocean Water Applications
EEMO	Energy Efficiency Management Office
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FORENA	Fondation Ressources et Nature
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IW	International Waters
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MPA	Marine Protected Areas
MOI	Mauritius Oceanography Institute
MSB	Mauritius Standard Bureau
NAPA	National Action Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCs	National Coordinators
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NGPF	National Gender Policy Framework
NPFE	National Portfolio Formulation Exercise
NSCs	National Steering Committees
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
RRA	Rodrigues Regional Assembly
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SGP	Small Grants Programme

SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
UNCBD	UN Convention on Biodiversity
UNCCD	UN Convention to Combat Désertification
UNDAF	United National Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VAT	Value Added Tax

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1. SGP Country Programme - Background

1.1. SGP national results and accomplishments

The implementation of the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) in the Republic of Mauritius since the year 1995 through 158 projects has successfully addressed pressing issues of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in relation to biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, international waters, chemicals (POPs) and capacity development. Grantees have won a record number of 33 awards in recognition of their SGP funded projects, 13 of which are prestigious international awards, including Whitley Foundation Award, Energy Globe Award, the Golden Jubilee Marine Environment Award, the Arab Gulf Programme for Development (AGFUND) Prize and the 1st Island Bright Spot Award.

The GEF SGP has contributed to address the challenge for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity/genetic resources and reversing the trend of biodiversity loss and forest genetic erosion through its collaboration with the Mauritius Wildlife Foundation and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. In the promotion and the use of clean energy, as well as, in the reduction of the consumption of fossil fuel, GEF SGP Mauritius has actively participated in National and Regional Policy Frameworks for Renewable and Energy Efficiency in Small Island States (SIDS) by pioneering small-scale photovoltaic production of electricity (APEDED: 14 500 kWh per annum) and biogas production through the treatment of livestock wastes. The 'Association Pour L'Education des Enfants Defavorisés' (APEDED), an SGP grantee engaged in small-scale production of renewable electrical energy received 8 awards amongst which the Green Africa Award in the category of Highly Commendable Award – African Women for Change". In Rodrigues projects related to sustainable reef fisheries management in Rodrigues lagoon have led to the policy decision to close octopus fisheries 2 months per year and this has now been replicated in the mainland of Mauritius. The Mauritian Wildlife Foundation restored more than 50 ha. of forest over the years providing habitat for reintroduced endemic birds and native wildlife. It is estimated that a total of 500,000 plants have been propagated from seedlings over 20 years. Several rare endemic plants (*Pisonia costata*, *Bremeria landia* var. *Holoserica*, *Poupartia pubecens*, *Sideroxylon sessiliflorum*, *Eugenia elliptica* and others) have been discovered in the wild and a gene bank was created, while areas of forest rich in endemic species have been identified. In Rodrigues, dams and reservoirs were rehabilitated by farmer communities to stop and prevent land degradation and soil erosion into the feeder canals thus increasing resilience to climate change. The "Sustainable Management of Dolphin Watching project in Mauritius through Training and Public Awareness" by Mauritius Marine Conservation Society has influenced the Government to pass a regulation on dolphin and whale watching in the country. The first organic agriculture certification for smallholders in Mauritius based on international standards was obtained by SGP grantees in 2012 in collaboration with *Fondation Ressources et Nature* (FORENA). GEF SGP projects have built capacity and empowered thousands of community members including youths, women, prisoners, street children, civil society organisations and promoted eco-citizenship at national level through the development of a comic play, green products and green jobs for the unemployed and vulnerable groups of people throughout the country.

SGP has also been a successful delivery mechanism for UNEP WioLab Programme and for the Australian Government's Community-Based Adaptation Programme for SIDS.

1.2. Overall situation analysis for the SGP country programme in OP6

Unlike many funding programmes, SGP projects are not of a one-off nature. They are integrated in the country's development process, while being innovative, flexible and adaptable to both partners and Community Based Organizations. They promote participation at grass root level and are inclusive of

livelihood strategies for grantees. SGP grantees are supported throughout the whole project cycle from inception, project write-up, and implementation. The SGP Office also conducts regular follow-ups for some years even after the completion of the SGP grantees' projects. The lessons learnt are shared and incorporated in new project cycles and/or in the replication of projects and micro projects that can have a high economic leverage at macro-level. Foreign governments, UN agencies, international funders such as the Durrell Wildlife Fund, Multi-National Corporations, the private sector (banks, hotels and major stakeholders in the service and manufacturing industry), several ministries, academic and research institutions at national level, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, district councils and municipalities are the partners of the GEF SGP Mauritius. Partnership is sought for the preparation of the country's participation at international meetings such as COP21; for the design of national and SIDS policies; for the capacity building of the civil society; for the sensitization of Mauritian citizens on issues related to the local and global environment as well as to the SGP mandate. The SGP Mauritius National Coordinator has contributed on several high-level committees at national level. In line with the pro-poor Government policy, SGP has focused its funding on the introduction of green jobs and small-scale financially self-sustaining and income-generating projects. It has supported projects which have enhanced the welfare and capacity building of women, youth, farmers, prisoners, disabled individuals and fishers. The project approach, partnerships to scale up innovative approaches, the sustainability of projects undertaken and the capacity to engage with local communities for empowerment, coalition building and networking will make SGP Mauritius a credible, trustworthy and an efficient partner in the strategic initiatives to be undertaken under its Operational Phase 6 (OP6).

1.3. Experience and resources

The Prime Minister's Office, as well as high level ministries namely: the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (RRA), has partnered with the GEF SGP in the Republic of Mauritius through their participation as high-level representative on the National Steering Committee (NSC) and/or through co-funding of projects and cost-sharing of management costs. The collaboration between the Regional Assembly and SGP as compared with District Councils and Municipalities in Mauritius provides demonstration projects and more leeway and flexibility to initiate other development projects. In other words a collaboration with SGP allows the implementation of the principle of devolution of powers in the development strategy of the country.

Over the years, the visibility of the GEF SGP has increased in the Republic of Mauritius through the coherent and meaningful demonstration of GEF SGP projects which has consolidated and deepened the society's participation in the nation building and in the protection of the fragile environment of Mauritius as a Small Island Developing State. The contribution of GEF SGP members in national committees, in the media and their engagement in issues related to the protection of the environment together with the civil society and the private sector, has built their credibility with proven results. These results have encouraged other countries such as Australia and France to identify the GEF SGP as a delivery mechanism for their grants to support the implementation of Community-Based Adaptation Projects through SGP in some SIDS of the Indian Ocean and to organize a pre-convention open dialogue forum with the civil society in view of the 21st Conference on climatic change (COP21) respectively. UNEP's Poverty Environment Initiative, the Indian Ocean Commission, and many other funding agencies have consulted with, have adapted and/or used SGP's experience and mechanism to build their own programme. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has also expressed interest to partner again with SGP Mauritius.

2. SGP Country Programme niche

2.1. Country 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 (UNCBD); (iii) the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); (IV) Stockholm Convention on the reduction and elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants; and (v) Minamata Convention on Mercury.

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

Rio Conventions + 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
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	Ratification and accession 17 December 2012; Party 12 October 2014*
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
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA)	No project
UN Convention to Combat Désertification (UNCCD)	11 January 1996
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	Under preparation
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	13 July 2004
SC National Implémentation Plan (NIP)	10 October 2006
Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	N/A (middle income country)
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	October 2005
GEF-6 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	Being finalised
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies	Existing IW regional projects and the regional SAPs adopted by countries in Western Africa have been identified as mentioned below.
Minamata Convention on Mercury	Signed 10 October 2013**

Additionally, the existing International Water (IW) regional projects and the regional SAPs adopted by countries in Western Africa that have been identified are:

- Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Protection of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-based Sources and Activities (2018);
- Expanding Coverage and Strengthening Management Effectiveness of the Terrestrial Protected Area Network on the Island of Mauritius (2017);
- Restoring marine ecosystem services by rehabilitating coral reefs to meet a changing climate future (endorsed in 2015).

2.2. Country environmental priorities

Mauritius being a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and its adverse impacts on socio-economic development, which has been manifested in several ways, including among others, intense cyclones, abnormal tidal surges, prolonged droughts, flash floods and increase of sea surface temperature. SIDS contributes to only 1% of the global GHG emissions and is the most prone to adverse impacts of climate change. Mauritius is ranked as the 14th country with the highest

disaster risk and ranked 7th on the list of countries most exposed to natural hazard according to the World Risk Report (2014). Further compounding the situation are existing unsustainable practices and environmental problems. The Initial National Communication (INC) of The Republic of Mauritius (1999) identified the following important sectors as most likely to be affected by the abovementioned climate change impacts: i) coastal resources; ii) agriculture; iii) water resources; iv) fisheries; v) health and well-being; vi) land-use change and forestry; and vii) biodiversity.

For the Republic of Mauritius, the projected climate changes are expected to pose significant and interlinked risks to communities and ecosystems, namely:

- The capacity of ecosystems to adapt will be exceeded, with negative consequences such as an increased risk of extinction of species.
- Fisheries and aquaculture will be adversely affected as the marine ecosystem fall prey to rising temperatures.
- Coastal areas will be exposed to increasing risks of coastal erosion and flooding during cyclones and tidal surges, due to sea-level rise. An increase in 5 cm in the sea level may translate into the effect of an increase of one meter during cyclones or tidal surges. Coastal ecosystems such as coral reefs, wetlands, and mangroves will be negatively affected.
- Traditional and present crop varieties will suffer, impacting severely on food security.
- Coastal settlements and infrastructure will be affected.
- Erosion from increasingly erratic rainfall will pose significant risks to mangrove ecosystems and to near-shore corals.
- Damage to coastal ecosystems, from sedimentation as well as coral bleaching, will increase vulnerability to cyclones, large waves, and storm surges. Cyclones, large waves and storm surges have the potential to damage and salinize community water resources and agricultural land.
- Human health and well-being will be negatively affected by rising temperatures.
- Increased incidence of diseases is very likely together with more extensive proliferation of infectious diseases

National level consultations held in the context of the preparation of the present Country Programme Strategy have led to the identification of the following environmental priorities: marine and terrestrial biodiversity conservation, coastal zone management including coral farming, energy conservation, energy efficiency measures (expansion in solar, wind and biomass energy production and other renewable energy sources), sustainable consumption and production, sustainable transportation, climate smart agriculture including bio-farming and sustainable waste management, including waste to energy, sustainable land management, (land degradation and community forest especially in Rodrigues Island) and reduction of POPs, mercury and other chemicals, as well as, education and awareness raising in sustainable development, which are of global concern. Through the implementation of these national and SGP priorities, the Sustainable Development Goals that would be addressed are: [Goal 1: end poverty in all its forms everywhere; Goal 2: end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; Goal 5: achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; Goal 7: affordable and clean energy; Goal 8: promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable growth economic growth; full and productive employment and decent work for all; Goal 12: responsible consumption, production; Goal 13: climate action; Goal 14: life below water and Goal 15: life on land.]¹

¹ United Nations. 2015. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015

2.3. Complementary and synergy of selected OP6 strategic initiatives

Table 2. SGP contribution to national priorities / GEF-6 corporate results

SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	National priorities/other agencies	SGP Country Programme niche relevant to national priorities/other agencies	Complementation between the SGP Country Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
Community landscape/seascape conservation	<i>Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPCS – Removal of Invasive Alien Species and restoration of degraded forest • Mainstreaming biodiversity into the management of the coastal zone in the Republic of Mauritius (2015 UNDP GEF) • Rodrigues Regional Assembly (RRA) – Integrated Resilient Approaches • UNEP Green economy Action Plan for Mauritius • UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative: “Addressing Poverty-Environment issues in Rodrigues through the blue print to achieve a high income economy vision in Mauritius August-September 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing competitive organic agriculture • Promotion of fisheries management • Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in economic/ productive sectors to capture the added- value, which is linked to poverty alleviation, green economy, empowerment and capacity building • Promotion of sustainable small-scale aquaculture/ mariculture projects • Protection of watersheds and soils by increasing forest cover • Increasing public awareness and community participation in conservation efforts • Promoting sustainable livelihoods projects in eco-tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating biodiversity and ecosystem management into development planning and production sector activities to safeguard biodiversity and maintain ecosystem services that sustain human wellbeing.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero budget farming (Ministry of Agro industry) • Development of a Rodriguan Label “Label Rodriguais” • Rodrigues Fisheries Management (octopus closure)(Rodrigues budget 2016-2017) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fostering coral farming • Promoting international certification 	
	<p><i>Promotion of collective management of trans-boundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Project on “Restoring marine ecosystem services by rehabilitating coral reefs to meet a changing climate future” (2015 Adaptation Fund Board pre-concept approval for Mauritius and Seychelles) • « 11^{eme} Commission mixte conjointe de coopération entre Maurice et les Seychelles. Nouvel accord de projet pour l’emploi la protection de l’environnement, consolidation du tourisme et gestion conjointe d’une zone continentale sur le plateau des Mascareignes » • Forestry Services – Reforestation and rehabilitation of natural reserves • Expanding Coverage and Strengthening Management Effectiveness of the Terrestrial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SGP as an implementing agency (delivery mechanism for community-based coral farming) • Sharing of best practices among countries in the region • Promoting organic certification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance for integrated water resources management and efficient use of water • Efforts to protect and restore health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems

		Protected Area Network on the Island of Mauritius (UNDP GEF)		
Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology; Community landscape/seascape conservation	<i>Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Agro-Industry: Strategic Plan For The Food Crop, Livestock and Forestry Sectors (2016 - 2020) FAREI – Improving climate change resilience, enhance productivity and mitigating land degradation MAURIGAP/GLOBAL GAP (good agricultural practices)- MSB (Ministry of commerce and industry) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging agro-ecological practices and the use of local varieties and breeds through agro-biodiversity Sustainable agricultural land and water management practices Building resilience of threatened coastal communities Improving carbon sinks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing the likelihood of conflict and lowering the risk of natural disasters, including from climate change Efforts to protect and restore sustainable land management and degraded land
Energy access co-benefits	<i>Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Accelerating the transformational shift to a low-carbon economy in the Republic of Mauritius” CEB/UNDP concept submission to the Green Climate Fund. People cooperatives renewable society ltd Energy Efficiency Management Office (EEMO) – Promotion of Energy Efficiency in different sectors Materializing the Energy-Saving Benefits of Mauritius’s New Mandatory Energy Audit Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging energy efficiency and conservation measures Encouraging small-scale electricity production from renewable sources such as photovoltaic and wastes Replicating renewable energy technologies such as biogas production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable access to energy and improved energy efficiency through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Policy, legal and regulatory frameworks ➤ Private-and public-sector capacities for investment Increasing access to sustainable energy at national and sub-national levels by finding and scaling-up inclusive market-based solutions for affordable and clean energy access especially to off-grid sources of renewable energy

Local to global chemicals coalitions	<i>Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid Waste Management Division: “Sound management of hazardous wastes” • Impacts of pesticides on farmers’ health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging sustainable agriculture by finding alternatives to pesticides and other chemical products • Finding environmentally safe solutions for chemical wastes burning • Sensitization campaigns on U-POPs, (unintentional POPs), including e-wastes, mercury and lead reduction and management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts to protect and restore management of chemicals and waste
CSO-Government dialogue platforms	<i>Enhance capacity of civil society to contribute to implementation of MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and national and sub-national policy, planning and legal frameworks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government’s Participation to COPs and other international fora 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting CSO-government dialogue platforms prior to COPs and other international and national conferences. • Encouraging sensitization and awareness raising projects related to environmental and energy sustainability at community level while targeting especially youths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger systems for democratic governance for achieving citizen expectations for voice, development, the rule of law and accountability • Strengthening of institutions to progressively deliver universal access to basic services
Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples)	<i>GEF Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Gender Equality Action Plan and GEF Principles for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDG Report 2015 for Mauritius 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of replicable livelihoods, demonstration projects for poverty eradication while targeting gender equality, youths and disabled as far as possible. • Encouraging social entrepreneurship for a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporating productive capacities for the creation of employment and livelihoods for the poor and excluded • Reducing gender inequality and promoting women’s empowerment

			diversified and sustainable economic development for vulnerable and low-income households	
Contribution to global knowledge management platforms	<i>Contribute to GEF Knowledge Management efforts</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution of best practices and lessons learnt on communities platforms shared within and outside the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advancing South-South and triangular cooperation through the utilization of institutional capacities and resources Assisting countries to play an active role as global citizens

NOTE: Table 2 has been modified as per NSC guidance and for easier reference to include a column on baseline identified projects at governmental level, NGOs, GEF-funded (NPFE) and other donors.

3. OP6 Strategies

3.1. Cross-cutting OP6 grant-making strategies

Three critical cross-cutting OP6 projects areas have been identified that can be supported at national level outside of the country national priorities as identified in Table 2.

The government intends to transform Mauritius into a SMART island, with the implementation of mega projects involving Smart Cities and new Cyber Cities. For a Cleaner, Greener & Safer Mauritius, environmental guidelines for smart cities have been elaborated. Environmental parameters (namely Land Use Planning, Green Buildings and Energy Conservation, Disaster Risk Reduction, Water efficiency, re-use and recycling, Waste Management, Sustainable Transport, Greening and Biodiversity, Community) have been set to ensure a low carbon, a low water and a low ecological footprint with infrastructure designed to adapt to the present and future impacts of climate change. SGP can empower stakeholders in the design implementation and monitoring of these parameters.

There are about 30,000 ships passing by Mauritius annually, out of which about 3000 call at Port Louis². The Mauritian government is actively working to attract a substantial number of these vessels for bunkering and other related services in order to transform Port Louis into a leading regional petroleum hub. Ports are also sites of environmental pollution originating from land-based activities, ship movements and ports' own activities that impact on the ecology. It is increasingly recognized that economic growth in ports must be balanced with environmental protection and social progress. With increasing international and regional regulations to control port pollution and intensified public debates, port communities can no longer avoid environment concerns. The pressures to integrate with the global supply chain, the demand for greater port expansion, the urgent requirement to conserve natural resources, and increasingly stringent international regulations necessitate that ports not just declare their intentions for environmental sustainability but also concretize and demonstrate innovative and sustainable practices. SGP Mauritius can support initiatives to address the concept of sustainable development and innovative sustainable coastal practices in the Port area or maritime transport sector in Port Louis.

The Mauritian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) was significantly expanded to 1.9 million square kilometers following the adoption of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1982. The co-management of 396 000 square kilometers of the continental shelf, with the Republic of Seychelles, enables the Republic of Mauritius, henceforth, to rank among the largest economic territories in the world with a total EEZ area of 2.3 million square kilometers. Seven clusters of activity have been identified as possible priority areas, namely Seabed Exploration for Hydrocarbon & Minerals; Fishing, Seafood Processing and Aquaculture; Deep Ocean Water Applications (DOWA); Marine Services; Seaport-related Activities; Marine Renewable Energies and Ocean Knowledge. The development of the Mauritian Ocean Economy is an investment in the future of generations to come. This development should be in accordance with fundamental principles of economic efficiency, equity, ecology, social partnership, safety and compliance with international instruments. Particularly, the core asset of the Mauritian Ocean Economy rests in the protection of its maritime health and the preservation of its biological diversity. Furthermore, climate change and the various ways that global warming may affect the Oceans, include rise in sea level, ocean acidification, as

² Speech of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius: Achieving the second economic miracle and vision 2030 August 2015 p19.

well as, changes impacting various species in our region, amongst others. SGP Mauritius can contribute to monitor the sustainable development of our oceans through initiatives pertaining to capacity development, knowledge management and CSO-government dialogue platforms.

3.2. Landscape/seascape-based OP6 grant-making strategies

A consultative workshop was organized on the 22nd of September at the Conference Room, 5th Floor UNDP Country Office, Anglo Mauritius House, in view of developing the Country Programme Strategy (CPS) for the Operational Phase 6 for Mauritius GEF SGP. This consultation process involved the National Coordinator of GEF SGP UNDP, the project team from University of Mauritius and different stakeholders from Mauritius and Rodrigues, namely: Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, FORENA, APEDED, Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (Mauritius and Rodrigues), Eco-Sud, Shoals Rodrigues Association, Air Mauritius Corporate Sustainability & Social Responsibility, Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute, National Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Centre, Mauritius Oceanography Institute and the Mauritius Marine Conservation Society. A meeting was also held with Mr Henri Agathe Advisor to the RRA Chief Commissioner and Head of the Economic Planning Monitoring Unit (EPMU), Rodrigues on the 23rd of September 2015 for further discussion on national priorities and on-going projects in relation to Rodrigues Island. The aims of these CPS consultations were to identify the priority directions for programming in OP6 in line with the country's national priorities and GEF 6 programming direction and to identify with the participants on the landscape/seascape areas for achievement of greater strategic impact for the SGP. The participants unanimously proposed that it is more strategic to consider the Republic of Mauritius as one landscape/seascape in order to achieve greater impact given that The Republic of Mauritius is a small island state with a total land surface of 2,040 km², encompassing the main island of Mauritius (1,865 km²), Rodrigues (109 km²) and other outer islands.

Participants identified the following national challenges and priorities: climate change, biodiversity, ocean economy (including marine conservation and protection), sustainable land management, poverty alleviation, employment creation and Sustainable Development through Innovation. The seven strategic initiatives of the SGP 6th Operational Phase were presented to the participants. An open and objective discussion was carried out to encourage the different stakeholders to identify the potential projects which could be integrated in the seven strategic initiatives of SGP OP6 and which are of national priorities. More details of the discussion are found in Annex 1.

See also Annex 3 for the geographic focus encompassing the terrestrial zones, including the coastal areas of the Republic of Mauritius and Rodrigues, as well as, where appropriate, part of its marine zones and its offshore islets.

OP6 strategic initiatives

During the consultative and the National Steering Committee (NSC) validation meetings, it was agreed that all the seven strategic initiatives of OP6 namely: (1) Community landscape/seascape conservation; (2) Climate smart innovative agro-ecology; (3) Low carbon energy access co-benefits; (4) Local to global chemical management coalitions; (5) CSO-government policy and planning dialogue platforms; (6) Promoting social inclusion; (7) Global reach for citizen practice based knowledge programme, should be considered as the focal areas for the Republic of Mauritius given the national and SGP OP6 priorities. It was agreed that synergy and greater impact will be achieved in OP6 by funding projects that address two or more of the seven strategic initiatives.

During OP6, the GEF SGP will continue to provide the financial and technical assistance to NGOs and CBOs and will facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the projects addressing but not limiting to the following issues:

Community landscape/seascape conservation

Careless coastal developments lead to reduction and degradation of natural habitats, and cause land degradation, while undermining ecosystem functionality and resilience, especially in sensitive lagoon areas. These threats are compounded by other anthropogenic pressures that exacerbate degradation (i.e. land-based pollution, climate change).

The coastal zone and inshore waters of the Republic of Mauritius are of vital importance for socio-economic development, protecting the island from the natural forces of the ocean, providing income through tourism and fisheries, and as the focus of many leisure and other activities. The promotion of fisheries management and sustainable small-scale aquaculture/mariculture projects will help in the implementation of marine conservation in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), marine monitoring, fisheries monitoring, and sensitization on marine issues. A project document was developed by United Nations Development Programme, the Government of Mauritius and the Global Environment Facility in 2013 on: *Mainstreaming biodiversity into the management of the coastal zone in the Republic of Mauritius* for five years. [The project aims at conserving and sustainably managed land across six multi-use coastal and marine landscapes in the Republic of Mauritius (five in Mauritius Main Island and one in Rodrigues): (1) Balaclava – Pointe aux Piments; (2) Le Morne; (3) Vieux Grand Port; (4) Poudre d'Or - Ile d'Ambre - Roche Noire; (5) Northern Islets; (6) Rivière Coco-SEMPA-Mourouk Landscape. The project covers some 150,000 hectares of land- and seascapes and harbour within this area sites that are rich in biodiversity values and important for the generation of ecosystem services (e.g. shoreline maintenance, storm protection, soil formation and retention, water provision and flood control).]³

The Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI) is currently preparing to undertake new projects, targeting other groups of commercially important marine organisms and the development of a database for regrouping different marine species for Mauritius and Rodrigues in view of identifying marine macro-organisms using DNA-based technique. In order to identify focus areas for environmental action in the country, GEF SGP will support the replication of community-based coral farming, integrated coastal zone management, as well as, resilience building to climate change. The conservation and the sustainable use of marine and terrestrial biodiversity will also contribute to poverty alleviation, green economy, empowerment and will facilitate capacity building in endemic and native plant propagation, SGP as a delivery mechanism will provide support to implementing entities such as government bodies and other NGOs.

Climate smart innovative agro-ecology

In line with the UNDP CO strategic programming⁴ for reducing the risk of natural disasters and for the protection and restoration of sustainable land management and degraded land, SGP will aim at encouraging sustainable agriculture and the use of local varieties and breeds through agro-biodiversity. The GEF SGP will also aim at promoting sustainable water management practices, soil conservation,

³ United Nations Development Programme, Government of Mauritius, Global Environment Facility. Mainstreaming biodiversity into the management of the coastal zone in the Republic of Mauritius. Project Document.

⁴ UNDP Strategic Plan, 2014-2017

improved breeding practices and productivity (development of pastures for farmers to adopt the cut and carry system) as well as the production of more resistant crop. Capacity building on bio-farming would be carried out on the possibility of new agro-ecology concept and incentives for the use of bio-products. These will follow the “International Organic Certification for crop production” project which succeeded the first organic agriculture certification for smallholders in the Republic of Mauritius based on international standards for SGP grantees in 2012. This organic certification process was a long and tedious journey for these grantees who are the pioneers embarking on this new concept with expertise from ‘Fondation Ressources et Nature’ (FORENA). Today there exist a small but growing network of organic producers and friends of SGP who are convinced that sustainable agriculture practices are not only possible in Mauritius but also imperative for a healthier lifestyle.

Low carbon energy access co-benefits

Mauritius is heavily reliant on fossil fuels to power its economy. From the budget of 2015-2016 as announced by the Minister of Finance, [a new dynamism in the renewable energy sector and the base to achieve a renewable energy production exceeding 35% of the electricity generation mix by 2025 will be installed. Moreover, a Mauritius Renewable Energy Agency for the promotion of the renewable energy sector will be implemented so as to open up the electricity generation sector to small energy producers. It has also been specified that companies investing in solar and renewable energies will benefit from seed capital, increased VAT registration threshold and exemption from corporate tax as per the SME scheme. Households will also be encouraged to produce their own renewable energy, which will directly impact on their monthly electricity bill and contribute to the national target for renewable energy. In this angle, the proposed SGP project will build on the upcoming “Green Climate Fund project⁵ for the “Transformational shift to a low carbon economy in the Republic of Mauritius”⁶ and will support community-based energy efficiency and conservation measures, small-scale electricity production from renewable sources such as solar and biogas in line with the UNDP CO strategic programming to increase access to sustainable energy at national and sub-national levels by finding and scaling-up inclusive market-based solutions for affordable and clean energy access especially to off-grid sources of renewable energy.

Local to global chemical management coalitions

In Mauritius, there are no established procedures on the safe management of chemicals and associated wastes. The agricultural sector in the country comprises around 23,000 planters, who are high consumers of pesticides given the existing favorable climate to pest development. The country imported 27 tons of pesticides in year 2014, which represented an 11 tons increase from the preceding year (CSO, 2014)⁷. It is estimated that about 200,000 containers are used and disposed of by farmers annually. These containers are either burnt, creating highly toxic fumes (Persistent Organic Pollutants, POPs) or left in the field or stored. Chemical waste containers management are regulated under the Environment Protection (Standards for hazardous wastes) Regulations 2001 of the Ministry of Environment where pesticide containers are classified as hazardous wastes as per the First Schedule of the regulations (contaminated packaging and containers from the manufacture, formulation, supply and use of biocides and phyto-pharmaceuticals).

⁵ UNEP. Green Economy Action Plan for Mauritius (Draft Report). July. University of Mauritius

⁶ <http://www.investmauritius.com/budget2015/Default.aspx>

⁷ CENTRAL STATISTICS OFFICE MAURITIUS (2014). Statistics Mauritius. Digest of external merchandise trade statistics

SGP will aim at encouraging sustainable agriculture and supporting alternatives to pesticides and other chemical products, as well as environmentally safe solutions to prevent chemical wastes burning. Awareness campaigns, training, workshops will be supported by GEF SGP on U-POPs, (unintentional POPs), including e-wastes, mercury and lead reduction and management. SGP would also support project activities that would survey planters so as to identify whether they are suffering from any health problems as a result of chemical products utilization.

CSO-government policy and planning dialogue platforms

The Government of Mauritius recognizes the importance of a conducive business environment to attract more investment and achieve higher growth rate. A series of measures, such as, the facilitation of setting up of companies, trade and commerce, small enterprises licences etc. have been announced in the 2015-2016 government budget to streamline procedures and allow for fast decision making. With the purpose of establishing stronger systems for democratic governance to achieve citizen expectations and to strengthen institutions to progressively deliver universal access to basic services, SGP will promote CSO-government dialogue platforms to enhance policy dialogue projects for the integration of training and capacity building and to encourage sensitization and awareness raising projects related to environmental and energy sustainability at community level while targeting especially youths. With the leveraging of one of the largest asset of the Exclusive Maritime Economic Zone to develop our Ocean industry, research collaborations will be sought from the University of Mauritius through the new Faculty of Ocean Studies.

Promoting social inclusion

A series of measures to boost entrepreneurship have been announced in the 2015-2016 budget. [By encouraging the conditions in which the rapid-growth companies of the future can thrive, the measures are aimed at helping to spark innovation, create jobs and improve the long-term national growth prospects. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurship development already represent 40 percent to GDP and employ over 280,000 people in some 108,000 establishments]⁸. Following the incorporation of productive capacities for the creation of employment and livelihoods for the poor and the reduction of gender inequality in promoting women's empowerment, various programmes have been put in place with funds that have been obtained from local and other international organizations to alleviate poverty and to stimulate a diversified and sustainable economic development for low-income households. The focus will be 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 through capacity building.

Global reach for citizen practice based knowledge programme

In order to support partnerships with communities, the civil society and the private sector to support funding and improve chances of success, the contribution of best practices and lessons learnt will be made available on regional and international communities' platforms. SGP will also disseminate information from global platforms and networks to grantees.

⁸ <http://www.investmauritius.com/budget2015/Default.aspx>

3.3. Grant-maker + and strategies

3.3.1. CSO-Government Dialogue Platform

The Mauritius SGP programme has a rich past experience in promoting open dialogue forums with civil society representatives, several ministries (including the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development) the Board of Investment, the private sector and the University of Mauritius. The CSO-Government Dialogue Platform provides the opportunity for stakeholders to engage dialogue between policy makers and grassroots movements to discuss the implementation of environmental conventions, to facilitate the uptake of good practices and to promote communication among stakeholders. In the wake of 21st, the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP21), the Mauritius SGP programme in collaboration with the French embassy organised an open dialogue forum with civil society and other stakeholders in the Republic of Mauritius on energy, agriculture, waste, climate change and biodiversity. Such CSO-Government Dialogue Platform will continue to be organized by the Mauritius SGP programme to link up and network with other SGP programmes in the region to promote dialogue as and when required to address strategic initiatives under OP6.

3.3.2. Policy influence

SGP will continue to pioneer innovative/demonstrative projects and will share the following:

- Lessons learned, best practices, knowledge material and products from GEF SGP supported projects with relevant partners and stakeholders and on social network.
- Knowledge material, case studies and SGP products to the Knowledge Manager at CPMT, the Global Manager, the GEF CEO and GEF Secretariat.
- Best practices with SGP colleagues especially in the Indian Ocean region to open up scope for replication and up-scaling through Strategic projects.

3.3.3. Promoting social inclusion, including gender dimensions considerations

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 for reskilling and the empowerment of the poorest segments of society for their social upliftment.

The Government of Mauritius adopted a rights-based National Gender Policy Framework (NGPF) in 2008, which stipulates that Ministries, Departments and Agencies develop their own specific gender policies to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment in their sectoral mandate areas⁹. The NGPF promotes decentralised, context-specific, participatory local development and social mobilisation to achieve gender-responsive social transformation and innovation. All Ministries have such gender policies

⁹ National Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (2009-2014) p41

and are currently developing action plans for implementation. The RRA has developed its Gender Policy, as required by the NGPF. It highlights how women's livelihoods have become vulnerable to climate change and environmental degradation and need to be a key focus of policy and planning measures.

SGP has over the years generated relevant knowledge and knowhow to foster entrepreneurial activities involving both men and women while paying special attention to gender imbalances. SGP will target specific components of larger projects in order to encourage the social, economic and political empowerment of men, women and youth. Specific emphasis will be laid on gender sensitive capacity building. In line with the Government policies and UN SDGs, gender-responsive monitoring indicators will be developed, used and regularly assessed for their continued relevance. Care will also be taken to ensure that the funded projects do not take advantage of gender biases in income to offer women benefits that are lower compared to men. SGP projects will promote and enhance alternative livelihoods that benefit women, young unemployed men and/or those engaged in vulnerable and/or precarious jobs, and other marginalised groups and that reduce pressure and damaging impacts on selected landscape and seascapes.

3.3.4. Knowledge management plan

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 each project implemented and the 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 based project (i.e. Village Councils, grass roots groups, CBOs,)
- Report the SGP activities, sharing SGP experience and networking through the mailing list and through its Facebook page.
- 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.
- Organize final workshops at the end of projects and press article overviewing achievements and activities, including promotion of a media article on project outcomes.
- Support grantee in organizing highly visible project launching
- Find cost effective ways to advertise call for project proposals.
- Target further Government-CSO dialogues on local/global state of environment and SGP information sessions.
- Raise awareness amongst grantees that communication with public should highlight "lessons learned".
- 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 and Facebook page.

- SGP will encourage grantees to participate in knowledge fairs to promote SGP and grantee products.
- SGP will upload as and when required case studies and information in the global digital library (refer to section 6.1).

3.3.5. Communications Strategy

SGP Mauritius will continue to engage and communicate with key stakeholders and CSOs in the country namely using the above strategy of communicating lessons learned and best practices. Launch of OP6 call for proposal will be advertised through articles in the press. Press conferences, participation in radio and TV programmes, will be maintained. Audio-visual programmes such as Eco-TV, 100% challenge and “Vie de Femme” will be encouraged. The SGP office conference room will be made available for end of project restitution workshops by grantees and case studies will be a mandatory feature of completed projects. These will be shared and disseminated widely.

3.3.6. Capacity building of stakeholders

The present Country Programme Strategy identifies the following environmental priorities for Mauritius: community landscape/seascape conservation, innovative climate-smart agro-ecology; energy access co-benefits, local to global chemicals coalitions, CSO-Government dialogue platforms, social inclusion (gender, youth, and indigenous peoples) and Contribution to global knowledge management platforms. Column 3 in Table 2 indicates the SGP contribution to national priorities / GEF-6 corporate results (refer to pages 10-13) and provides a short description of SGP OP6 niche programmes. Implementing these niche programmes entails capacity building activities with several stakeholders.

As at now SGP projects have consolidated and deepened society’s participation in the protection of the fragile environment of Mauritius as a Small Island Developing State through the engagement of local stakeholders at grassroots level, advocacy in the media and partnership with the private sector. SGP OP6 will continue to operate on the premise that when local people are empowered to protect the environment, when they are organized to take actions, when they hold the necessary information and knowledge on their social and economic well-being, sound long-term natural resource management will be achieved.

Capacity building activities will focus on empowering local communities, NGOs and civil society at large by raising public awareness, holding of workshops with relevant stakeholders, building partnerships, and promoting policy dialogue. Furthermore, depending on the nature and issues involved in the environmental priorities identified at community level, the “learning by doing” approach will be implemented to try out concrete and innovative efforts directed at local sustainable development concerns. Besides, gender issues will cut across capacity building activities.

SGP OP6 also intends to empower GEF SGP CBO/NGO grantees to establish wider linkages with the GEF NGO Network and with international NGOs and networks involved in active negotiations on GEF-related Conventions. In this way, GEF SGP partner CBOs and NGOs would be able to provide stronger local links for lessons sharing and help broaden grassroots representation in critical global discussions and South-South exchanges of knowledge.

4. Expected Results Framework

Table 3. Consistency with SGP OP6 global programme components

1 OP6 project components	2 CPS targets	3 Activities	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 1:</u> <i>Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation:</i></p> <p>1.1 SGP country programmes improve conservation and sustainable use, and management of important terrestrial and coastal/marine ecosystems through implementation of community based landscape/seascape approaches in approximately 50 countries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Establishing competitive organic agriculture</i> • <i>Promotion of fisheries management</i> • <i>Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in economic/ productive sectors to capture the added- value, which is linked to poverty alleviation, green economy, empowerment and capacity building</i> • <i>Promotion of sustainable small-scale aquaculture/ mariculture projects</i> • <i>Protection of watersheds and soils by increasing forest cover</i> • <i>Increasing public awareness and community participation in conservation efforts</i> • <i>Promoting sustainable livelihoods projects in eco-tourism</i> • <i>Fostering coral farming.</i> 	<p>4 projects Multi focal area projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>At least 3 hectares of land allocated to sustainable agricultural practices with reduced pesticides and chemical fertilizers consumption</i> • <i>At least 3 hectares of seascape allocated to sustainable marine conservation and protection</i> • <i>At least 4 significant species with maintained or improved conservation of the ecosystem</i> • <i>At least 10 green jobs created</i> • <i>At least 1000 people reached through visibility and awareness sessions</i> • <i>At least 2 projects addressing coral farming in Mauritius and Rodrigues</i> 	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p> <p>GEF SGP database, project reports and monitoring visits SGP case studies</p>

	<p><i>SGP as an implementing agency (delivery mechanism for community-based coral farming)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sharing of best practices among countries in the region</i> • <i>Promoting organic certification</i> 			
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 2:</u> <i>Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology:</i></p> <p>2.1 Agro-ecology practices incorporating measures to reduce CO2 emissions and enhancing resilience to climate change tried and tested in protected area buffer zones and forest corridors and disseminated widely in at least 30 priority countries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Encouraging agro-ecological practices and the use of local varieties and breeds through agro-biodiversity</i> • <i>Sustainable agricultural land and water management practices</i> • <i>Building resilience of threatened coastal communities</i> • <i>Improving carbon sinks</i> 	<p>4 projects <i>Multi focal area projects</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>At least 4 ha of land under agro-ecology practices such as, rehabilitation of degraded land and fostering capacity development among farmers.</i> • <i>At least 2 projects certified with international standards</i> • <i>At least 1 coastal community targeted for resilience building and disaster risk reduction training</i> 	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p>
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 3:</u> <i>Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits:</i></p> <p>3.1 Low carbon community energy access solutions successfully deployed in 50 countries with alignment and integration of these approaches within larger frameworks such as</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Encouraging energy efficiency and conservation measures</i> • <i>Encouraging small-scale electricity production from renewable sources such as photovoltaic and wastes</i> • <i>Replicating renewable energy technologies such as biogas production</i> 	<p>1 project <i>Multi focal area projects</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>At least 1 project producing electricity through photovoltaic cells</i> • <i>At least 1 project producing and using biogas</i> 	<p>Special country studies</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p>

SE4ALL initiated in at least 12 countries				
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 4:</u> <i>Local to Global Chemical Management Coalitions:</i></p> <p>4.1 Innovative community-based tools and approaches demonstrated, deployed and transferred, with support from newly organized or existing coalitions in at least 20 countries for managing harmful chemicals and waste in a sound manner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Encouraging sustainable agriculture by finding alternatives to pesticides and other chemical products</i> • <i>Finding environmentally safe solutions for chemical wastes burning</i> • <i>Sensitization campaigns on U-POPs, (unintentional POPs), including e-wastes, mercury and lead reduction and management</i> 	1 project Multi focal area projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>At least 10 tons of POPs waste avoided from burning</i> • <i>At least 10 tons of harmful chemicals avoided</i> • <i>SGP is contributing to the implementation of national plans and policies to address POPs, harmful chemicals and other pollutants</i> 	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p>
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 5:</u> <i>CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms (Grant-makers+):</i></p> <p>5.1 SGP supports establishment of “CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms”, leveraging existing and potential partnerships, in at least 50 countries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Government’s Participation to COPs and other international fora</i> 	2 CSO-Government Dialogue sessions	At least 100 CSO members targeted in open dialogue sessions.	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p>
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 6:</u> <i>Promoting Social Inclusion (Grant-makers+):</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Implementation of replicable livelihoods, demonstration projects for poverty eradication while targeting</i> 	All Multi focal area projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>One NSC gender focal point and one NSC youth focal point appointed</i> • <i>All projects incorporate gender</i> 	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams

<p>6.1 Gender mainstreaming considerations applied by all SGP country programmes; Gender training utilized by SGP staff, grantees, NSC members, partners</p> <p>6.2 IP Fellowship programme awards at least 12 fellowships to build capacity of IPs; implementation of projects by IPs is supported in relevant countries</p> <p>6.3 Involvement of youth and disabled is further supported in SGP projects and guidelines and best practices are widely shared with countries</p>	<p><i>gender equality, youths and disabled as far as possible.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Encouraging social entrepreneurship for a diversified and sustainable economic development for vulnerable and low-income households</i> 		<p><i>mainstreaming, youths and disabled as far as possible and eligible</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>All projects consider social entrepreneurship or employability/jobs creation for vulnerable citizens</i> • <i>1 national externally-funded scholarship to be considered if possible in relation to SGP projects requiring in-depth scientific research</i> 	<p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p> <p>ICCA criteria</p>
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 7:</u> <i>Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge program (Grant-makers+):</i></p> <p>7.1 Digital library of community innovations is established and provides access to information to communities in at least 50 countries</p> <p>7.2 South-South Community Innovation Exchange Platform promotes south-south exchanges on global environmental issues in at least 20 countries</p>	<p><i>Contribution of best practices and lessons learnt on communities platforms shared within and outside the region, particularly through the global or national digital libraries to be established and through a south-south exchange strategy when opportunities are identified</i></p>	<p><i>SGP website and Facebook page, case studies, videos uploaded on youtube, photo album</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>At least 3 country innovations will be shared and disseminated at the global level and on SGP Facebook page</i> • <i>At least 2 videos on SGP projects shared widely across all media and in the Indian Ocean Region</i> • <i>At least 10 local or national project restitution workshops</i> • <i>At least 2 participations in local, national and international forum to share SGP best practices</i> 	<p>SGP Global Database</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p>

5. Monitoring & Evaluation plan

5.1. Monitoring and evaluation of field visits

The monitoring and evaluation of field visits acts as a participatory process, which enables capacity building and understanding and applying lessons learned from the projects' experiences as per the established practices of the GEF SGP in the Republic of Mauritius. Project monitoring and evaluation serves several purposes, such as, facilitating the identification and resolution of problems; enhancing project performances and ensuring congruence with the GEF SGP criteria; providing the basis for technical and financial accountability; building local capacity to implement and manages projects successfully and promoting the identification and dissemination of lessons learned by participants themselves.

GEF SGP carries out the assessment of the project implementation's achievements through two-pronged approach, namely: continuous progress monitoring and participative evaluation involving various stakeholders. The current practice is to have periodic progress and financial reports and this will continue to represent a key tool for the project monitoring process. In addition, final reports and assessment of lessons learned for projects will also have to be submitted by Grantee NGOs and CBO. The reports will have to incorporate indicators for measuring the progress towards the objectives set out; the effectiveness of processes; gender and participatory aspects of the project and the impact of the project. The measurable GEF SGP Project Indicators which will help capture the achievement of project results include: biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, chemicals, capacity development, policy influence & innovation, livelihoods & sustainable development, community-based adaptation and empowerment. These indicators are aligned with the SGP Country Programme Strategy (CPS) as outlined in Table 3 and may be refined in consultation with the NC and or NSC. A description of the GEF SGP Project Indicators is found in Annex 4.

Monitoring involves the collection and analysis of data about project activities. The data should be easy to understand and it allows project participants to keep track of project activities to determine whether project objectives are being achieved and to make whatever necessary changes to improve the project performance. Meetings will thus have to be organized between GEF SGP Mauritius and in SGP office in order to provide regular updates associated to cost-cutting.

5.2. Frequency of monitoring visits and plans

It should be pointed out that monitoring is usually more effective through field visits. The frequency of visits will be project specific and will depend on the capacity of the proponents as well as on the country budgetary allocation. In order to ensure the success in project implementation especially with grassroots grantees, the NC will undertake visit at least once every two months and in some cases this can raise up to one meeting per month. Experiences of GEF SGP in Mauritius have shown that M&E contributes to the success of a project while reducing unnecessary costs associated to poor project management. The participation of NSC members at least to one visit will have to be considered when needed. It is crucial that OP6 integrates a budget line for travel costs for the regular monitoring visits for individual project.

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

It has been the normal practice that all SGP proposals are being developed by the proponents together with the participation of the end-beneficiaries. The setting up of the project objectives as well as the expected outputs are carried out during on-site consultative meetings. For NGOs and CBOs that will require external technical assistance and expertise for the elaboration and writing up of their project proposals, planning grants will be allocated to them. In addition, NC will hold information and project write-up working session as per request/needs. The SGP proposal documents have always included a work plan 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 the monitoring and evaluation plan. Site visits will be incorporated in the budget. Ideally, a participatory evaluation and assessment meeting involving the beneficiaries, community members, NGOs, independent assessor, should be held at the end of each project.

5.4. Strategy for aggregation SGP individual projects at the country programme portfolio level

Table 4 provides the monitoring and evaluation plan of the country programme level.

Table 4. M&E Plan at the Country Programme Level

M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible parties	Budget source	Timing
Country Programme Strategy elaboration	Framework for identification of community projects	NC, NSC, country stakeholders, grantee	Covered under preparatory grant	At start of operational phase
Annual Country Programme Strategy Review	Learning; adaptive management	NC, NSC, CPMT	Covered under country programme operating costs	Reviews will be conducted on annual basis to ensure CPS is on track in achieving its outcomes and targets, and to take decisions on any revisions or adaptive management needs

NSC Meetings for ongoing review of project results and analysis	Assess effectiveness of projects, portfolios, approaches; learning; adaptive management	NC, NSC, UNDP	Covered under country programme operating costs	Minimum twice per year, one dedicated to M&E and adaptive management at end of grant year
Annual Country Report (ACR)	Enable efficient reporting to NSC	NC presenting to NSC	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per year in June
Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) Survey (based on ACR)	Enable efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF; presentation of results to donor	NC submission to CPMT	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per year in July
Strategic Country Portfolio Review	Learning; adaptive management for strategic development of Country Programme	NSC	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per operational phase

6. Resource mobilisation plan

6.1. Sustainability of the SGP Country Programme grant making and grant-makers+roles

Given the established legitimacy, the open communication practiced with internal and external stakeholders in the country, the clear vision, mission and strong accountability principles (including low cost fee for management of funds) established by the SGP will aim at playing a “*grantmakers+roles*” and will position itself as a delivery mechanism for strategic initiatives identified under OP6. Through stewardship, solicitation, networking, SGP will prospect funding agencies, donor countries and international foundations, the CSR Love Bridge project in the Republic of Mauritius. Plans to enhance sustainability of the SGP Country Programme are as follows:

- 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 and proposal to act as a delivery mechanism.
- Explore funding possibilities by international Aid Agencies (bi- and multilateral) and other facilities available in the country such as the CSR Love bridge project in the Republic of Mauritius.

- Make further exploration of potential liaison with international NGOs, which work approximately along the same priorities and guidelines as the SGP. Explore linkages with other facilities available from Bilateral/Multilateral agencies, including UN agencies.
- Continue to maintain 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).
- Proactively support NGOs resource mobilization for parallel and co-funding of SGP projects.

ii. “Grantmakers+roles” and tracking

The Mauritius SGP programme will support NGOs and CSOs in accessing other donor funding and to link up and network with other development programmes. SGP will act as a facilitator and when required will support project write up and submission. SGP will also help relevant grantees, NGOs and CSOs in getting recognition for their work by supporting their submission to “Call for Applications for Awards” (Equator Initiative, SEED Award, etc.). SGP will keep track of their progress on application regularly until the deadline.

iii. SGP as a delivery mechanism

SGP Mauritius has successfully acted as a delivery mechanism in the past years for other donor funding/programme: UNEP/WioLab funds, IOM, AAP and more recently Australian Aid for SIDS-CBA. Based on this past experience, during OP5, SGP was called upon during UNDP/GEF, GEF NPFE, AFB, GCF and other Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) meetings in view to be considered as a delivery mechanism for community-based activities of large projects. Table 5 gives an indication and level of commitment of pipeline projects where SGP is considered as a potential partner. It is considered premature to give an indication of amount of funding at this stage:

Table 5. Level of commitment of pipeline projects

Donor	Project Name	Project description	Comments
GEF	Mainstreaming biodiversity into the management of the coastal zone in the Republic of Mauritius	The project aims to conserve and sustainably manage coastal and marine biodiversity in the Republic of Mauritius, using the proxy of Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) identified through the study commissioned by the government of Mauritius in 2008 and completed in 2009.	Project submitted for CEO endorsement. Activity 2.1.3 aims at developing livelihood opportunities for local communities to reduce pressure on lagoon resources and demonstrate the benefits of MPAs. The GEF SGP will be used as the delivery mechanism for 1 to 2 livelihood projects to be undertaken on Mauritius and 1 to 2 on Rodrigues.
Adaptation Fund Board	Restoring marine ecosystem services by rehabilitating coral	The proposal seeks to upscale and mainstream the rehabilitation of	Pre-concept note submitted. Executing Entities include: Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and

	reefs to meet a changing climate future	degraded coral reefs in Mauritius and Seychelles in order to restore essential ecosystem services in the face of climate change threats and to compile and disseminate lessons learnt.	Energy, Nature Seychelles and Seychelles National Parks Authority; Ministry of Ocean Economy & MRSOI, Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI), Albion Fisheries Research Centre, UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme
Green Climate Fund	Accelerating the transformational shift to a low-carbon economy in the Republic of Mauritius	Project will address energy access and power generation as well as Low emission transport	No clear indication of partnership to date

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

Most donors and private sector companies in the country prefer to donate small grants for a project directly to NGOs and CBOs. Thus it is not foreseen to receive support for management cost from them. It is expected that the regional authorities will continue to contribute towards travel cost of the programme during missions (namely in Rodrigues Island). It is also hoped that the Sugar Industry Pension Fund (landlord) and FORENA will continue to cost-share office management fees. On specific occasions as per past practices venues and outreach are also expected from other sponsors, the UNDP CO and bilateral agencies during restitution workshops, knowledge fairs, Project Coordinator's meeting and other such activities.

7. Risk Management Plan

7.1. Identification of key risks

The Republic of Mauritius, including Rodrigues, St Brandon and Agaléga are very much concerned with the impacts of climate variability and extreme weather events. The small island states are affected by large ocean-atmosphere interactions and by tropical cyclones and other extreme weather. For instance, Saint Brandon or the Cargados Carajos Shoals and Agaléga Islands are threatened by sea-level rise. [The warming of the climate in Mauritius and its effects on the natural and ecological system are unavoidable and already palpable. An average temperature rise of 0.74 – 1.2 °C per decade has been recorded. Rising of sea levels by around 3.8 mm/year, warming of the atmosphere, decreasing annual rainfall of around 8% over Mauritius since the 1950s, coastal erosion, increase food insecurity and lengthening of the intermediate dry season are among the numerous impacts of climate change in Mauritius.]¹⁰

¹⁰ <http://metsservice.intnet.mu/climate-services/climate-change.php>

Table 6. Description of risks identified in OP6

Identified risk	Degree of risk (low, medium, high)	Probability of risk (low, medium, high)	Risk mitigation measure foreseen
For SGP to act as a delivery mechanism during OP6, funds serviced by other partners should be timely provided.	High	High	There is a high risk that these funds are not timely provided as they are independent of SGP control
When acting as a delivery mechanism, disbursement of funds may not be under SGP control	High	High	Funds could be directly given to SGP to manage. Familiarize with disbursement mechanism of the implementing agencies or partners in order to anticipate issues
High number of funding requests in the perspective of very low country allocation provided under OP6	High	High	SGP as a delivery mechanism and other resource mobilization Request for additional core funds
Impacts of climate change leading to degradation of conservation value of existing protected areas and those targeted to be protected areas	Low	Medium	To integrate the protected area system into the country's evolving climate change adaptation strategy
Increase rehabilitation costs	Medium	Medium	
Social and Environmental Standards might be neglected in energy production and the Smart cities project	Medium	Medium	The CSO-Government Dialogue Platform used to raise awareness on the need for these projects undertaken by the government to take into account environmental sustainability
Climate change may exacerbate extreme weather events, increasing the risk of high-impact disasters	Medium	Medium	Partner with the National Disaster Management Centre under the aegis of the Ministry of the Environment to train communities on "Community Risk Reduction Preparedness"
The setting up of smart cities will accelerate urbanization and may be in contradiction with The Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency Standard	High	High	The CSO-Government Dialogue Platform used to raise awareness on the need for these projects undertaken by the government to take into account environmental sustainability
Increase in food insecurity	High	High	Use of Integrated Pest Management technologies focusing on all food crop growers Micro-irrigation focusing on small scale growers of horticultural crops.

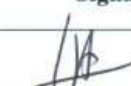
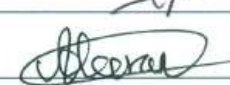
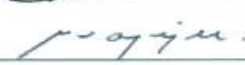
Coastal degradation	High	High	Dune and vegetation restoration Rock Revetments Wetland Protection Coral farming Sustainable marine conservation
Energy insecurity	Medium	Medium	Photovoltaic implementation Biogas production

7.2. Tracking of risks

SGP is proposed to act as a delivery mechanism for community-based activities so as to address the risks associated with each project for the vulnerable groups. The tracking and identification of these risks will be undertaken through the implementation of restitution workshops, consultative meetings as well as vulnerability reduction assessment (VRA) prior to the submission of project proposals. Project managers, consultants and project evaluators will likely be the most appropriate individuals to conduct the tracking of the above-mentioned risks, in collaboration with other members of the project team, since they would be most knowledgeable about the project. Tracking Tool as well can be used for risks tracking, for instance, the tool can contain a set of questions that is designed to be easily answered by project staff and project evaluators. For example, this assessment can be made by assigning a simple score ranging between 0 (poor) to 3 (excellent) in response to a series of questions that measure progress in the following: 1) National Coordination; 2) Project Implementation; 3) Policy Framework; and 4) Strategy Implementation: Prevention, Early Detection, Assessment and Management. Furthermore, in order to help project planners and managers to design activities that foster adaptation to climate variability and change, the Community-based Risk Screening Tool – Adaptation and Livelihoods (CRISTAL) could be used to assess the impacts of a project on some of the local determinants of vulnerability and exposure.

8. National Steering Committee Endorsement

See attached endorsement of NSC for the final CPS duly reviewed by the NSC and agreed as the guide to the implementation of OP6 by the SGP Country Programme.

NSC members involved in OP6 CPS development, review and endorsement	Signatures
Lynn van Arman	
Anooradiah Pooran	
Manoj VAGHJEE	
(Add more rows as necessary)	

Henri AGATHE
 Adviser on Economic Development
 Rodrigues Regional Assembly



Annex 1: OP6 landscape/seascape baseline assessment

1. Introduction

A consultative workshop was organized on the 22nd of September at the Conference Room, 5th Floor UNDP Country Office, Anglo Mauritius House, in view of developing the Country Programme Strategy (CPS) for the Operational Phase 6 for Mauritius GEF SGP. This consultation process involved the National Coordinator of GEF SGP UNDP, the project team from University of Mauritius and different stakeholders from Mauritius and Rodrigues, namely: Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, FORENA, APEDED, Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (Mauritius and Rodrigues), Eco-Sud, Shoals Rodrigues Association, Air Mauritius Corporate Sustainability & Social Responsibility, Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute, National Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Centre, Mauritius Oceanography Institute and the Mauritius Marine Conservation Society. A meeting was also held with Mr Henri Agathe Advisor to the RRA Chief Commissioner and Head of the Economic Planning Monitoring Unit (EPMU), Rodrigues on the 23rd of September 2015 for further discussion on national priorities and on-going projects in relation to Rodrigues Island. The aims of this CPS consultation were to identify the priority directions for programming in OP6 in line with the country's national priorities and GEF 6 programming direction and to identify with the participants on the landscape/seascape areas for achievement of greater strategic impact for the SGP. The participants unanimously proposed that it is more strategic to consider the Republic of Mauritius as one landscape/seascape in order to achieve greater impact given that The Republic of Mauritius is a small island state with a total land surface of 2,040 km², encompassing the main island of Mauritius (1,865 km²), Rodrigues (109 km²) and other outer islands. Participants identified the following national challenges and priorities: climate change, biodiversity, ocean economy (including marine conservation and protection), sustainable land management, poverty alleviation, employment creation and Sustainable Development through Innovation. The seven strategic initiatives of the SGP 6th Operational Phase were presented to the participants. An open and objective discussion was carried out to encourage the different stakeholders to identify the potential projects which could be integrated in the seven strategic initiatives of SGP OP6 and which is of national priority.

2. Objective of SGP 6th Operational Phase- CPS

The objective of SGP 6th Operational Phase is to support the creation of global environmental benefits and the safeguarding of the global environment through community and local solutions that complement and add value to national and global level action. The SGP 6th Operational Phase will be focusing on seven strategic initiatives which are namely:

1. Community landscape/seascape conservation
2. Climate smart innovative agro-ecology
3. Low carbon energy access co-benefits
4. Local to global chemical management coalitions
5. CSO-government policy and planning dialogue platforms
6. Promoting social inclusion:
 - a. Gender mainstreaming
 - b. Youth involvement
 - c. Indigenous People fellowships

7. Global reach for citizen practice based knowledge programme
 - a. Digital library of community innovations
 - b. South-South community innovation exchange

3. Discussion Forum

3.1 Selection of landscapes/seascapes

[The Republic of Mauritius covers a total land surface of 2,040 km², including the main island of Mauritius (1,865 km²), and Rodrigues (109 km²) and two groups of outer islands, St. Brandon Archipelago (3 km²) and Agalega (21 km²).]¹¹ Given that the country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) extends over an area of more than two million square kilometres, all the participants of the CPS workshop agreed that it is more strategic to consider the Republic of Mauritius as one landscape/seascape so as to achieve greater impact.

The UNDP GEF project on “Mainstreaming biodiversity into the management of the coastal zone in the Republic of Mauritius” refers to six Government selected non-contiguous coastal and marine landscapes, covering some 150,000 hectares as the main focal areas based on their biodiversity significance, level of threat, importance of the ecosystem services rendered and the opportunity for sustainable management. The land scapes will also be considered while supporting SGP projects. [These are: (1) Balaclava-Pointe aux Piments; (2) Le Morne; (3) Vieux Grand Port; (4) Poudre d’Or - Ile d’Ambre - Roche Noire; (5) Northern Islets; and (6) Rivière Coco-SEMPA-Mourouk. These landscapes consist of a large proportion of the Environmental Sensitive Areas (ESAs) under the Coastal Wetlands, Shore and Offshore categories. More than 1,300 ESA locations were identified, mapped and assessed in Mauritius and Rodrigues and are classified according to 14 different ‘ESA Types’ that are grouped under five ‘ESA Systems’: 1) Wetlands; 2) Shore; 3) Offshore; 4) Forests; and 5) Stable Supply (of Water). The ‘land- and seascape wide’ integrated management approach based on ESAs inventory and assessment will promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services into coastal zone management and into the operations and policies of the tourism and physical development sectors. All of the targeted landscapes have considerable tourism attractions and tourism development is a major driver of land use change. The North, Le Morne, Mahébourg and Blue Bay are the major tourism destinations, while new developments are rapidly taking place on the eastern side of Mauritius Island.]¹⁰

[The Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) cover some 6,000 hectares in Mauritius. In 1980, the six fishing reserves were established and are managed mostly with a view to production. Two Marine parks (proclaimed in 1997 with regulations passed in 2001) are managed for conservation and sustainable use (Balaclava and Blue Bay). Blue Bay has an approved management plan devised under the previous UNDP-GEF MSP “Partnerships for Marine Protected Areas in Mauritius and Rodrigues” (864 “Mauritius MPAs”). In Rodrigues, the South East Marine Protected Area or ‘SEMPA’, was proclaimed as a multi-use MPA with 4,343 hectare (3,604 ha inside the lagoon 738 ha outside) in the year 2009.]¹⁰

[Mauritius is one of the 25 internationally recognized biodiversity ‘hotspots’, consisting of a diverse biota with a high degree of endemism. Around 46% of all higher plants, 80% of birds, 94% of reptiles and

¹¹ United Nations Development Programme, Government of Mauritius, Global Environment Facility. Mainstreaming biodiversity into the management of the coastal zone in the Republic of Mauritius. Project Document.

40% of the bat species are endemic. Terrestrial biodiversity is forest-dependent and much forest has been lost due to land clearance and forest degradation, which has impacted more than 90% of Mauritius Island's land surface. Extensive reef systems surround all of the islands of the archipelago. A total of 290 marine families comprising 1656 species have been recorded within the inshore area and around 50 species are of economic importance including fish, molluscs, lobsters and shrimp. The marine fish fauna is exceptionally rich with 786 species. The coral diversity is also significant with 159 species of scleractinians. Mauritian seascapes and coastal areas are particularly important for a number of migratory species such as tuna and other bony fish, cartilaginous fish, marine turtles, whales, dolphins and many species of sea birds. St. Brandon Island in the Cargados Shoals is the nesting ground for two species of endangered marine turtles (*Chelonia mydas* and *Eretmochelys imbricate*) and is an important breeding ground for numerous seabird.]¹⁰

Following the consultative meeting, the national priorities identified were: climate change, biodiversity, ocean economy (including marine conservation and protection), sustainable land management (land degradation), poverty alleviation, employment creation and Sustainable Development through Innovation.

3.2 Thematic Focus of SGP 6th Operational Phase

3.2.1 Community landscape/seascape conservation

Under this thematic focus, terrestrial restoration and conservation in reserves (Nature, River, Mountain, Forest & Private), community forest, endemic, native gardens, and botanical gardens, Islet restoration, Capacity building in endemic and native plant propagation, sensitisation in terrestrial issues, monitoring of terrestrial habitats and fauna, marine conservation in MPAs, marine monitoring, fisheries monitoring, sensitisation on marine issues need to be addressed in OP6.

3.2.2 Climate smart innovative agro-ecology

It was proposed that climate smart innovative agro-ecology should consider reducing the utilization of chemical products (for instance, pesticides, chemical fertilizers etc.). It would be interesting to develop more resistant crops so as to decrease the use of these chemical products. The excessive use of chemical products will not only affect crops but will also be harmful to growers who are exposed to these products. It is believed that surveys should be conducted among planters so as to identify whether they are suffering from any health problems. Capacity building on bio-farming should be carried out on the possibility of new agro-ecology concept and incentive package, for example, providing loans at 5% for the use of bio-products. FAREI is moving towards a project on 'agriculture raisonnée': so as to decrease the use of pesticides and going towards sustainable agriculture and Global Gap (which is an EU standard). The Strategic Plan 2016-2020¹² of the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security has been formulated to take Mauritius to a higher level of food security whilst respecting the need for safe food and better nutrition of the population. The Plan also caters for the need of sustainable agricultural development in a climate-friendly mode as well as safeguarding farmers' livelihoods. This Ministry has also made provision for a Green Certification Scheme of growers' production through a local standard called MAURIGAP, which is a minimum quality assurance programme that focuses on food safety while ensuring sustainable production practices. Moreover, this Strategic Plan 2016-2020 emphasizes on

¹² Strategic Plan (2016 - 2020). For The Food Crop, Livestock and Forestry Sectors. January 2016

extending training beyond the traditional themes into entrepreneurship, climate-smart practices, traceability, food safety and quality, post-harvest management, MauriGAP and global GAP certification amongst others. MauriGAP has been introduced with its Level 1 (Basic) and Level 2 (Advanced) to serve as steps towards Level 3 which corresponds to GLOBALGAP certification.

Eco-tourism activities result in impacts on the coastal and marine environment, such as impacts on islets. The sustainable eco-tourism activities should limit number of boats going to islets thus preserving the eco system of the islets-impacts on islets; introduce a code of conduct and integrate a coastal zone management. These activities could be implemented to build resilience to climate change through capacity building on coastal areas. Also, the analysis of seawater will be required for coral cultivation and a database should be developed for the different marine species for Mauritius and Rodrigues so as to identify the DNA bar that can be cultivated. It was gathered that the Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI) wish to carry out further scientific research on coral farming, for instance, conducting water quality assessment such as heavy metals, pesticides and other toxins. Currently, only nutrients analysis is being conducted by MOI. The limitations being faced are: no access to the required equipments; impact of land-based activities on the sea, which has been identified by MOI for the cultivation of corals.

Under this thematic, watershed management and soil retention (via reforestation-community forest approach), balance between human and environment, removal of invasive species, alternative livelihoods, mangrove plantation, soil conservation, improved breeding practices and productivity (development of pastures for farmers to adopt the cut and carry system), marine conservation through prevention of siltation of the lagoon due to soil erosion, sea urchins control and management of proliferation due to over fishing (potential Shoals project in collaboration with Rodrigues Regional Assembly (RRA)), aquaculture(sea pearl); rain water harvesting for agricultural farming will mainly be of concern for Rodrigues.

3.2.3 Low carbon energy access co-benefits

The promotion of photovoltaic and other forms of renewable energies among SGP grantees, fuel efficient vehicles (movement sustainability), offshore renewable energy (government project), wave energy, desalination for fresh water and production of electricity (RRA), production of biogas from agricultural and domestic wastes will lead to the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions. UNDP has already sent a concept note to the government for the implementation of renewable energies. For the Green Climate Fund, the proponent will be the Central Electricity Board (CEB): a MUR 45 million project out of which 7 million will be allocated to renewable energy system in households etc.). SGP has proposed to CEB to act as the delivery mechanism for such funding.

3.2.4 Local to global chemical management coalitions

In Mauritius, there are no established procedures for the control of chemicals. As such, awareness campaigns, training, workshops will have to be organized for chemical risk assessment and chemical management. Mauritius is signatory of the Chemical Weapon Convention. Also, the detection of heavy metals in pesticides, for example, mercury will have to be carried out. The effect of the application of ash on sugar cane field to be will have to be investigated. FAREI introduced the zero budgets farming so as to produce pesticides from local organic materials.

3.2.5 CSO-government policy and planning dialogue platforms

The smart cities in Mauritius should address the following: 1) Efficient water management, 2) Urban heat island, 3) Exploitation of new land affecting the environment, and 4) CSO-government policy and planning dialogue. There should be a balance between human and environment. Sensitisation campaigns on the use local building materials (*architecture bio-climatique*) that are sensitive to climatic conditions will have to be integrated in the construction of individual houses.

3.2.6 Promoting social inclusion

This thematic will focus on: (1) Gender mainstreaming, (2) Youth involvement and (3) Indigenous Peoples fellowships. The objective is to build resilience to climate change; offer scholarships; foster joint University-SGP collaborative projects; provide training by MITD and *Ateliers de Savoir* in use of local materials specially wood (management of forest/commercial exploitation of timber).

3.2.7 Global reach for citizen practice based knowledge programme

This includes: (1) Digital library of community innovations and (2) South-South community innovation exchange. Two projects will be identified for the digital library. Collaboration of project will be encouraged for developing alternative livelihoods for communities, for example, sea pearl culture, by identifying potential resource persons from other projects.

Annex 2: OP6 donor partner strategy annexes

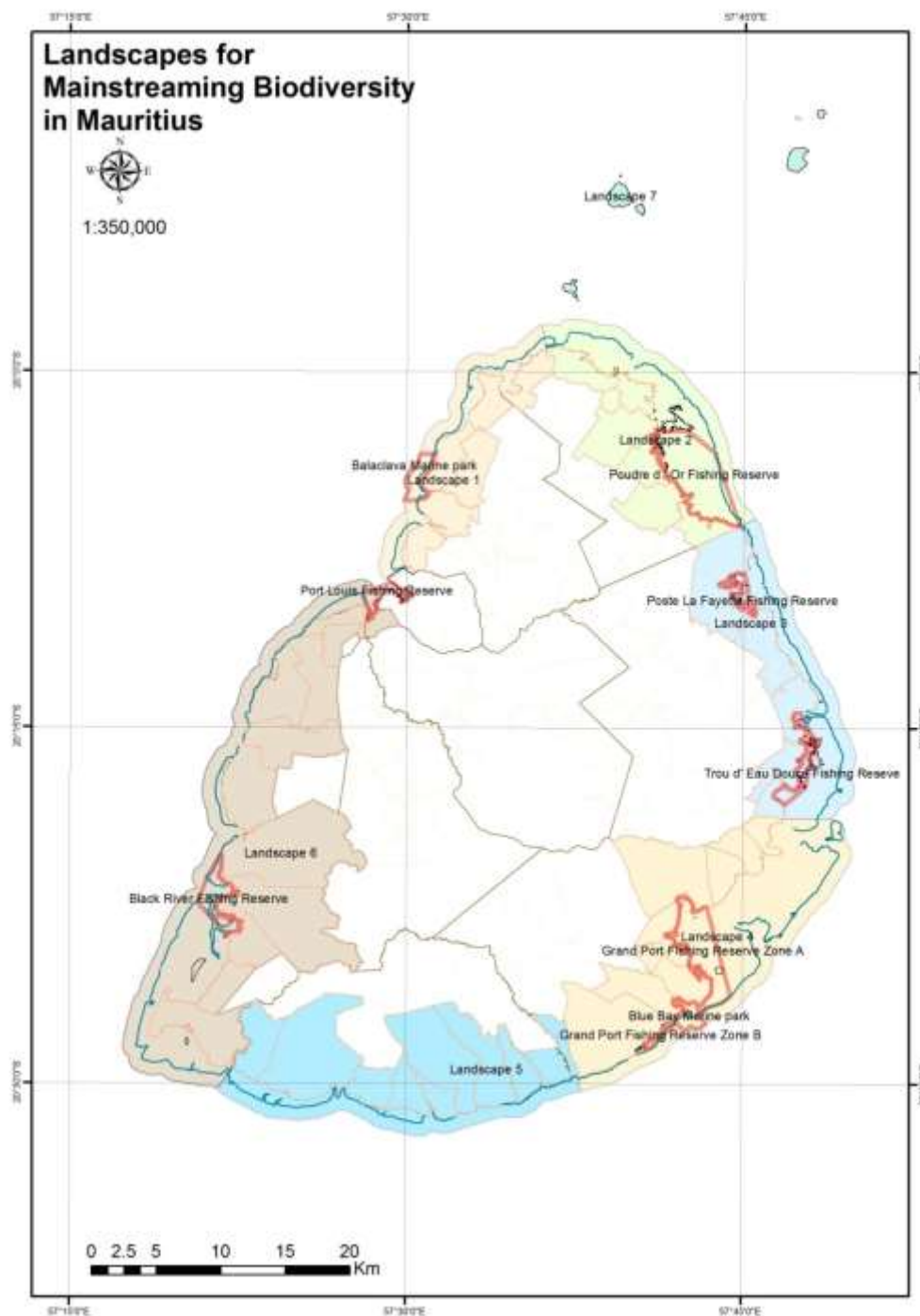
Strategic initiatives	SGP Country Programme niche	Specific partnership with donor partners
<p>1 Community landscape/ seascape conservation</p> <p>Output <i>Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish competitive organic agriculture • Promotion of fisheries management • Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in economic/ productive sectors to capture the added- value, which is linked to poverty alleviation, green economy, empowerment and capacity building • Promotion of sustainable small-scale aquaculture/ mariculture projects • Protection of watersheds and soils by increasing forest cover • Increasing public awareness and community participation in conservation efforts • Promoting sustainable livelihoods projects in eco-tourism • Fostering coral farming • Promote international certification 	<p>- The Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS) Project implemented by UNDP can be contacted to fund projects which aim to promote the Satoyama Initiative, (promote sustainable use and management of natural resources in socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes with the aim of maintaining, rebuilding and revitalizing them).</p> <p>-Partnership established with Save Our Species(SOS) to provide strategic assistance to engage non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community groups, and other civil society partners in conserving Earth's Species.</p>
<p>2 Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology; Community landscape/seascape conservation</p> <p>Output <i>Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging agro-ecological practices and the use of local varieties and breeds through agro-biodiversity • Sustainable agricultural land and water management practices • Building resilience of threatened coastal communities • Improving carbon sinks 	<p>-Funds from The Small Island Developing States Community-Based Adaption (SIDS CBA) Project can be mobilized for projects having as objective to improve the adaptive capacity of communities and to reduce their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>-The three Implementing Agencies for GEF: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank contacted for assistance on projects relating to</p>

<p>3 Community landscape/seascape conservation</p> <p>Output <i>Promotion of collective management of trans-boundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SGP as an implementing agency (delivery mechanism for community-based coral farming) • Sharing of best practices among countries in the region • Promoting organic certification 	<p>the three international conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).</p> <p>-Additional finance for GEF projects can be mobilised from the seven Executing Agencies (ExAs) under the GEF's policy of Expanded Opportunities (the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Inter-American Development Bank (IAD), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).</p>
<p>4 Energy access co-benefits</p> <p>Output <i>Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging energy efficiency and conservation measures • Encouraging small-scale electricity production from renewable sources such as photovoltaic and wastes • Replicate renewable energy technologies such as biogas production 	
<p>5 Local to global chemicals coalitions</p> <p>Output <i>Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging sustainable agriculture by finding alternatives to pesticides and other chemical products • Finding environmentally safe solutions for chemical wastes burning • Sensitization campaigns on U-POPs, (unintentional POPs), including e-wastes, mercury and lead reduction and management 	

<p>6 CSO-Government dialogue platforms</p> <p>Output <i>Enhance capacity of civil society to contribute to implementation of MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and national and sub-national policy, planning and legal frameworks</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting CSO-government dialogue platforms prior to COPs and other international and national conferences. • Encouraging sensitization and awareness raising projects related to environmental and energy sustainability at community level while targeting especially youths 	<p>Resource mobilization from The EU-NGOs <i>Strengthening Environmental Governance by Building the Capacity of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)</i> Project can be undertaken for projects which contribute to (a) enhance the capacities of stakeholders to engage in national or sub-national policy analysis and dialogue processes related to environmental governance and management and (b) to strengthen capacities for development of or influence on strategy, policy and legislative frameworks.</p>
<p>7 Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples)</p> <p>Output <i>GEF Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Gender Equality Action Plan and GEF Principles for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of replicable livelihoods, demonstration projects for poverty eradication while targeting gender equality, youths and disabled as far as possible. • Encouraging social entrepreneurship for a diversified and sustainable economic development for vulnerable and low-income households 	<p>-Partnership with The Global ICCA Support Initiative will be envisaged for Projects which fall under the Targets 11, 14 and 18 of the CBD Aichi 2020 framework.</p> <p>-Partnership with national stakeholders such as the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family welfare, Love bridge project and National Empowerment Foundation</p>

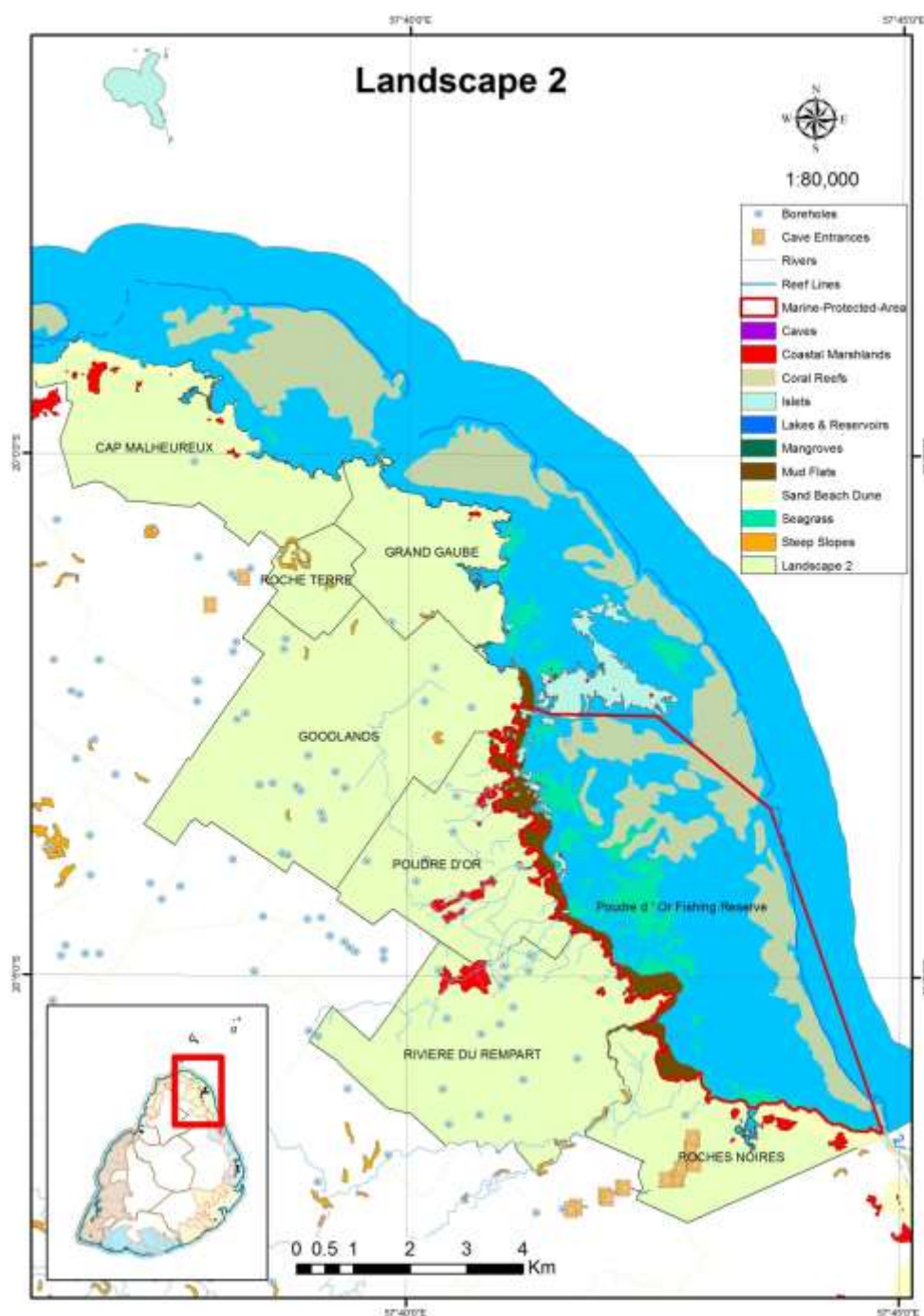
Annex 3: Maps

Map 1. Mauritius - District land- and seascapes proposed as planning areas



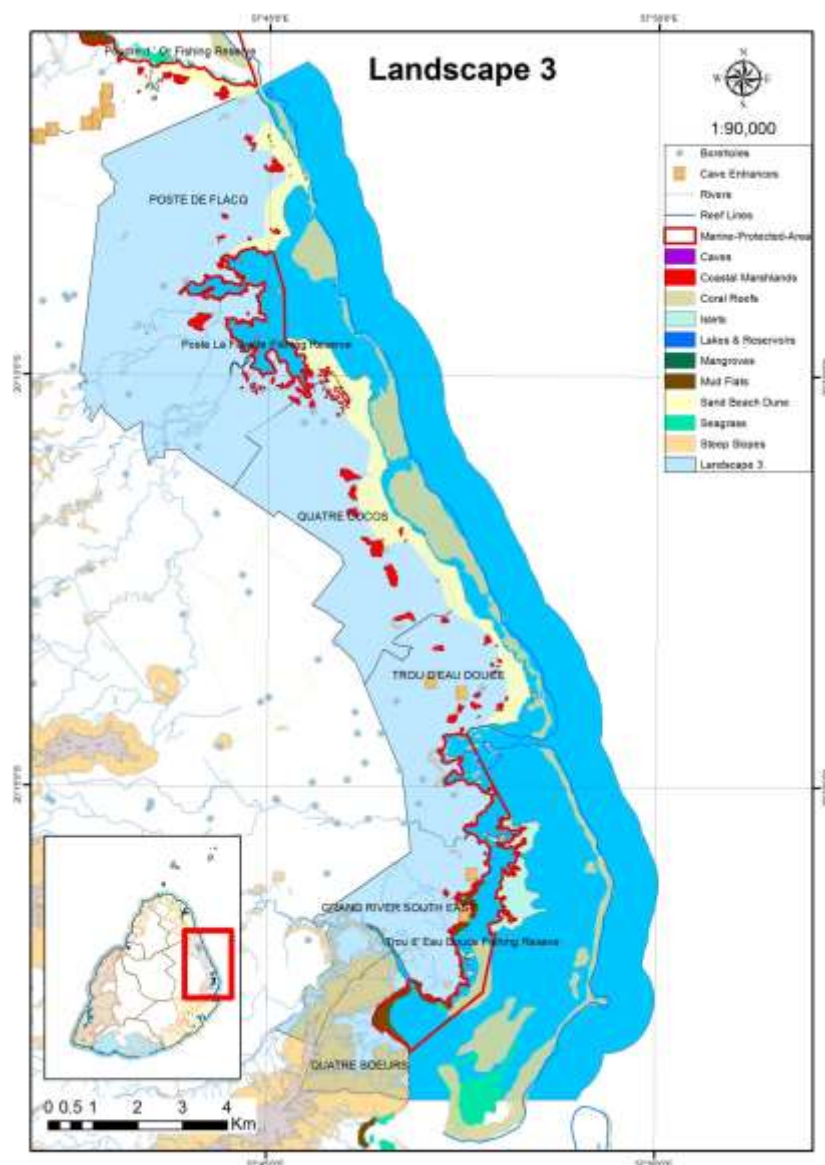
Source: United Nations Development Programme, Government of Mauritius, Global Environment Facility. Mainstreaming biodiversity into the management of the coastal zone in the Republic of Mauritius. Project Document.

Map 3. Marine and coastal ESAs in Riviere du Rempart



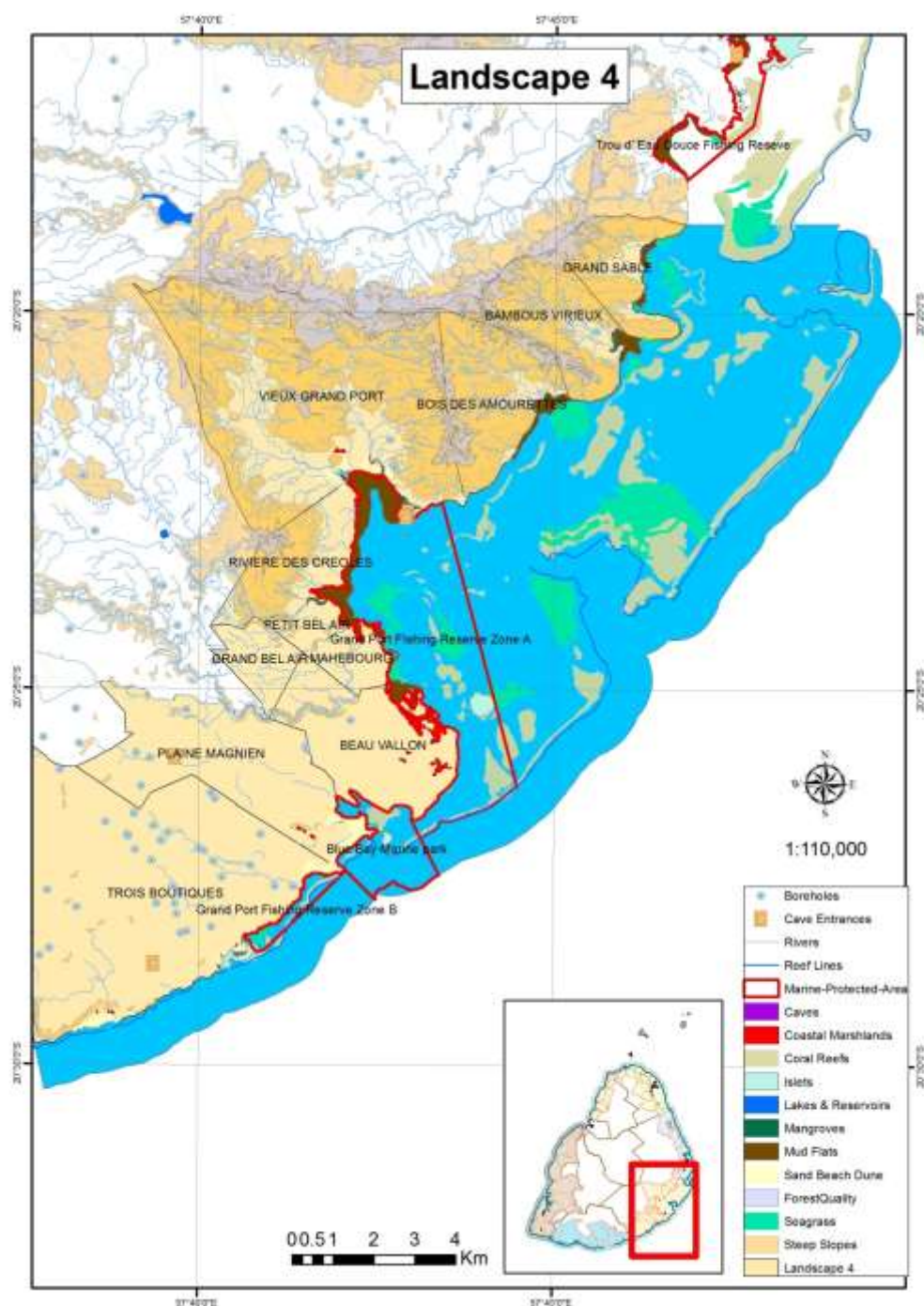
Source: United Nations Development Programme, Government of Mauritius, Global Environment Facility. Mainstreaming biodiversity into the management of the coastal zone in the Republic of Mauritius. Project Document.

Map 4. Marine and coastal ESAs in Flacq District



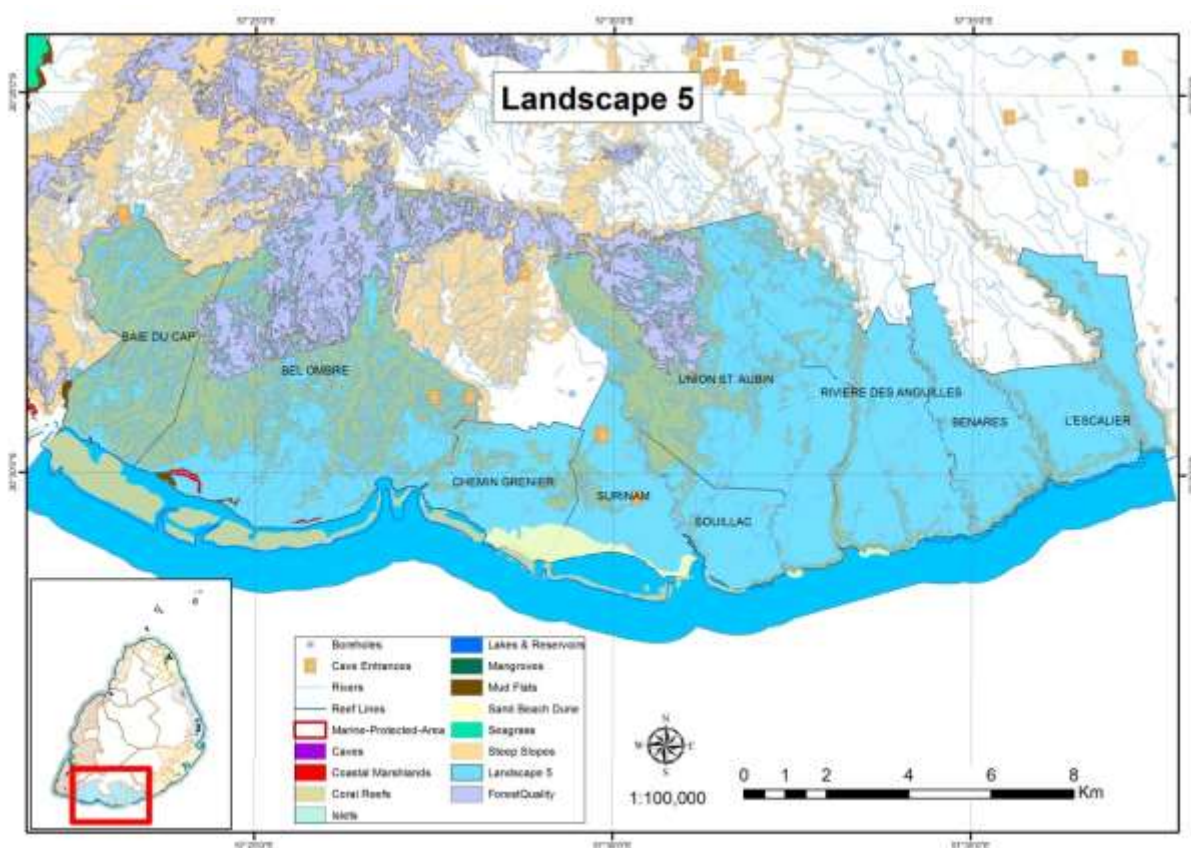
Source: United Nations Development Programme, Government of Mauritius, Global Environment Facility. Mainstreaming biodiversity into the management of the coastal zone in the Republic of Mauritius. Project Document.

Map 5. Marine and Coastal ESAs in Grand Port District



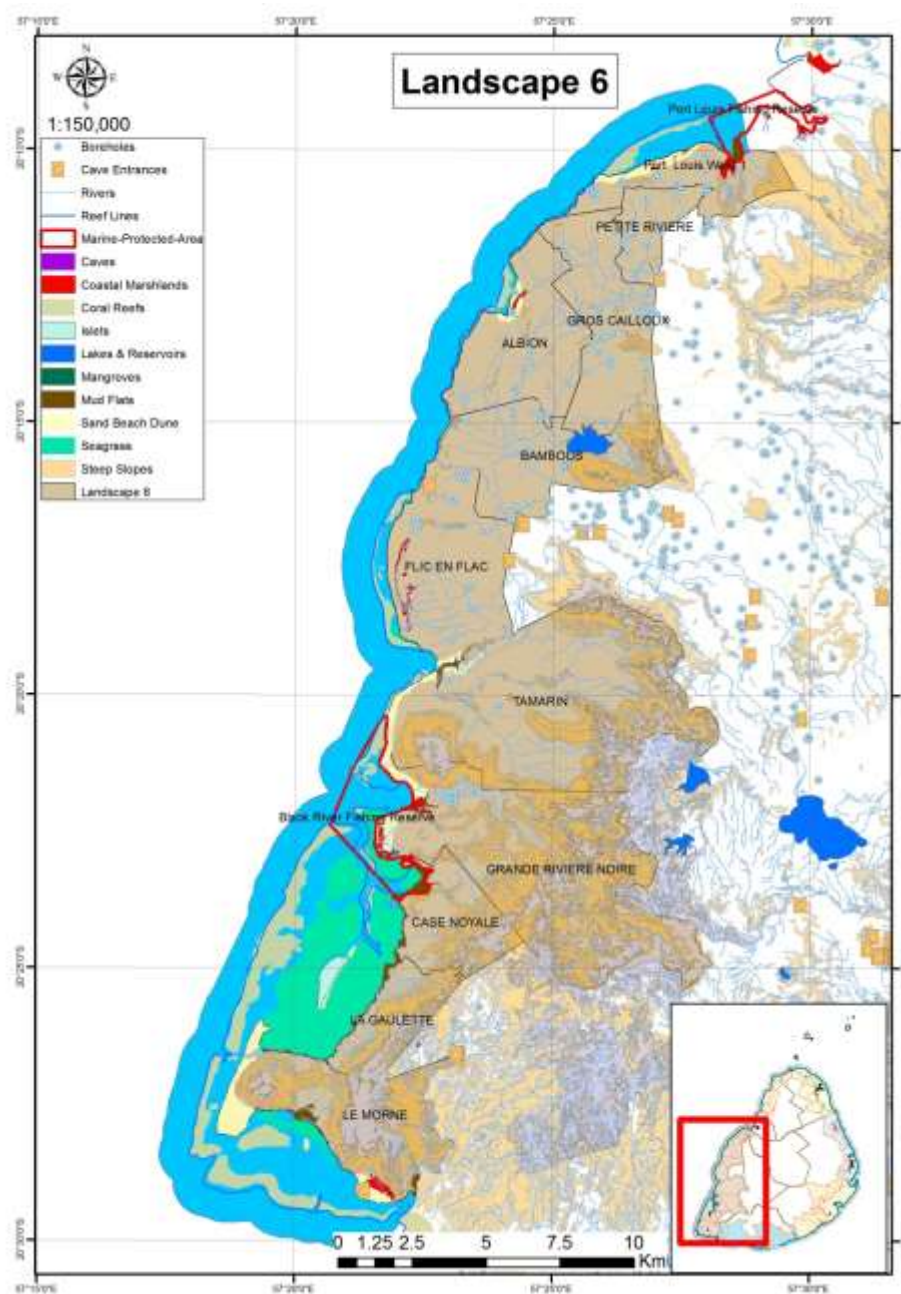
Source: United Nations Development Programme, Government of Mauritius, Global Environment Facility. Mainstreaming biodiversity into the management of the coastal zone in the Republic of Mauritius. Project Document.

Map 6. Marine and coastal ESAs in Savanne District



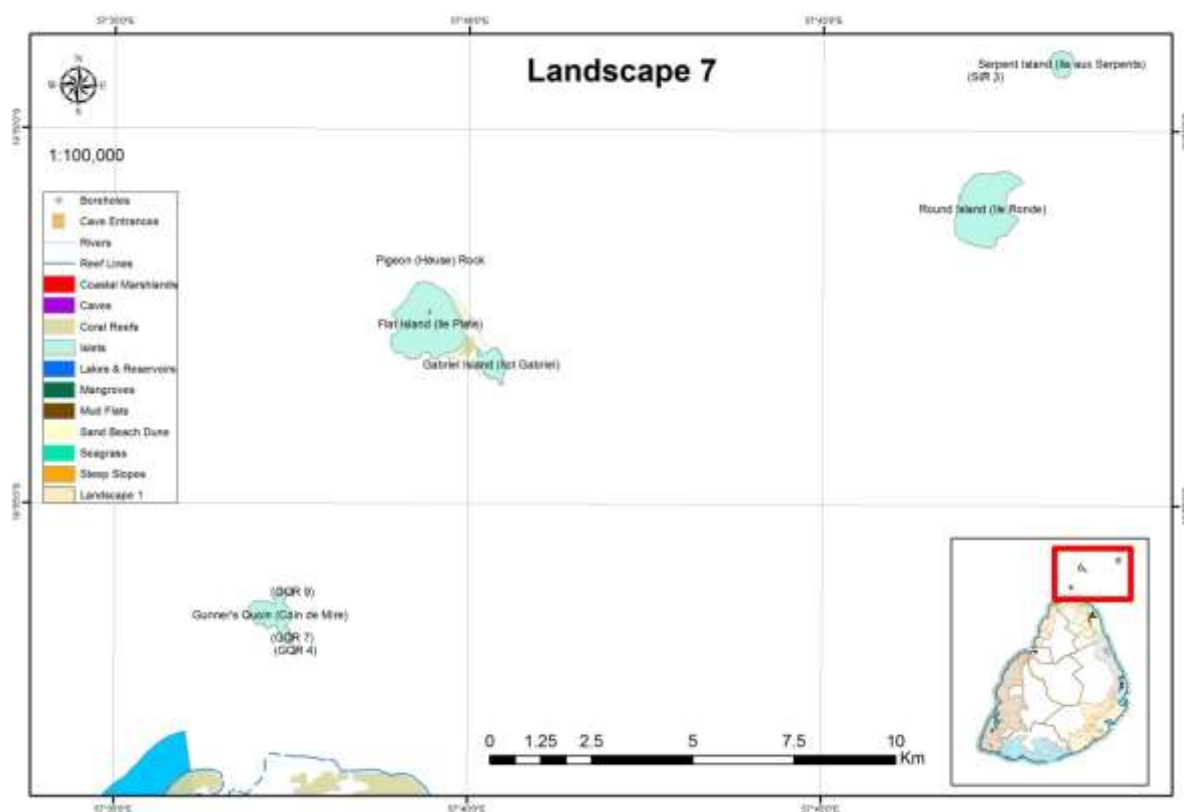
Source: United Nations Development Programme, Government of Mauritius, Global Environment Facility. Mainstreaming biodiversity into the management of the coastal zone in the Republic of Mauritius. Project Document.

Map 7. Marine and Coastal ESAs in Black River District



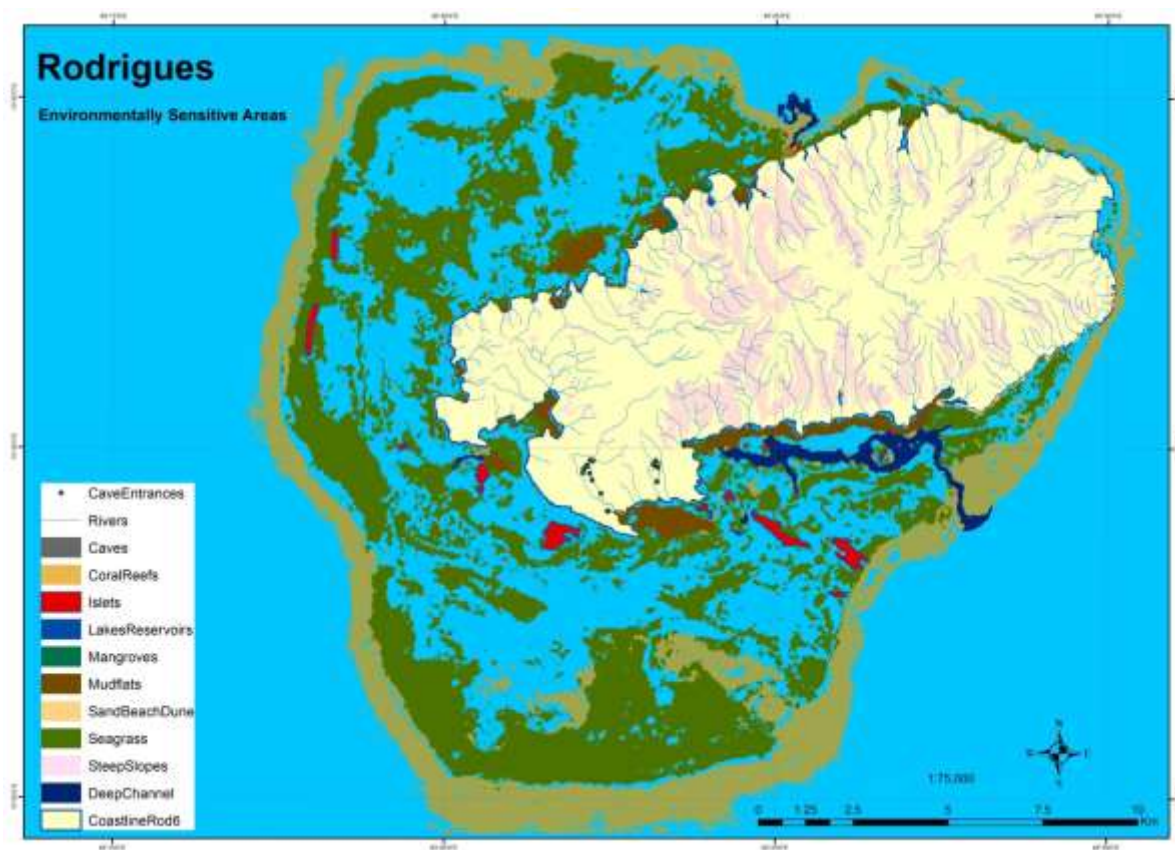
Source: United Nations Development Programme, Government of Mauritius, Global Environment Facility. Mainstreaming biodiversity into the management of the coastal zone in the Republic of Mauritius. Project Document.

Map 8. Marine and Coastal ESAs in Northern Islets



Source: United Nations Development Programme, Government of Mauritius, Global Environment Facility. Mainstreaming biodiversity into the management of the coastal zone in the Republic of Mauritius. Project Document.

Map 9. ESAs in Rodrigues



Source: United Nations Development Programme, Government of Mauritius, Global Environment Facility. Mainstreaming biodiversity into the management of the coastal zone in the Republic of Mauritius. Project Document.

Annex 4: GEF SGP Project Indicators

GEF SGP OP6 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)	
LD1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hectares of land applying sustainable agricultural management practices ○ Hectares of degraded land restored and rehabilitated
LD2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of communities demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices
Chemicals (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) ○ Number of community-based monitoring systems demonstrated (please specify) ○ Number of new technologies developed /applied (please specify)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 (all focal areas)	
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
Community Based Adaptation (CBA)	
CBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of households, businesses engaged in vulnerability reduction or adaptive capacity development activities, as a proportion of households in the community or region targeted by the project. ○ Percent change in stakeholders' behaviors utilizing adjusted practices or resources for managing climate change risks. ○ Number of beneficiaries of project receiving training in implementation of specific adaptation measures or decision-support tools ○ Number of CBA "lessons learned" from the project