



OPERATIONAL PHASE 8 (OP8)

SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY (CPS)

MAURITIUS – December 2024





Contents

1.	INTRODUCTION	3
2.	COUNTRY PROGRAMME SUMMARY: Key results and achievements	3
3.	COUNTRY PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT	6
	3.1 Alignment with national priorities	6
	3.2 Gaps and opportunities	7
	3.3 OP8 strategic priorities of the SGP Country Programme	12
4.	OP8 PRIORITY LANDSCAPES/SEASCAPES & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	17
	4.1 Grantmaking within the priority landscape/seascapes	17
	4.2 CSO-government-private sector dialogue platforms	22
	4.3 Promoting social Inclusion, including gender equality and women's empowerment	22
	4.4 Knowledge Management	25
5.	COMMUNICATION PLAN	25
6.	RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND PARTNERSHIP PLAN	26
7.	PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES	27
8.	RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN	27
9.	MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN	29
	9.1 Monitoring approaches at project and country levels	29
	9.2 CPS Results Framework	32
	SGP Country Programme Strategy (CPS) for GEF-8 will not be an isolated process and will reflect alignment with UNDP CPD, which in turn is linked to UNDP Strategic Plan and related Integrated Results and Resources framework (2024-2028) and Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs). It also highlights the specific SDGs that it will be contributing to as part of its alignment with UNDP CPD.	32
10.	NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT	37
11.	ANNEXES	38
	Annex 1: Consultative/Landscape baseline assessment process	38
	a. Summary	38
	b. Baseline Assessment	39
	c. Selection of landscapes/seascapes	40
	d. Selection of OP 8 Strategic Initiatives	41
	ANNEX 2: MAPS	42
	ANNEX 2: REFERENCES	56



OP8 Financial Resources - SGP Country Programme (estimated US\$)¹

Total SGP Grants to date since Country Programme start date (1995)	USD 6,851,273
OP8 GEF Core Funds	USD 600,000 TBC
OP8 GEF STAR Funds	USD 0
Other funds (secured)	USD 0
Other funds (expected/to be mobilized)	USD 600,000

1. INTRODUCTION

The Eighth Operational Phase of the Small Grants Programme (SGP OP8) builds on 30 years of successful experience in empowering local civil society organizations (CSOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) in designing and leading community driven initiatives that have enhanced household wellbeing, increased awareness and resilience regarding environmental threats, and generated global environmental benefits. With economic development pressures intensifying in many parts of the developing world and the associated rising inequalities, local communities, particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged groups are becoming more and more marginalized, unable to cope with threats associated with ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change. Lessons learned and experience gained in previous SGP Operational Phases have demonstrated that integrated, landscape-seascape approaches are effective in mobilizing multiple stakeholder collaboration, linking local CSOs/CBOs with enabling partners and achieving mutually supportive livelihood and environmental outcomes at scale.

The objectives of the SGP OP8 is to engage local CSOs/CBOs in landscape-seascape approaches across the world, providing them access to knowledge and information, capacitating them through learning-by-doing, skills development, and delivering technical and grant assistance for interventions that enhance wellbeing and socioeconomic conditions and generate global environmental benefits.

The OP8 objectives reflect the key features of GEF Small Grants Programme 2.0, including new approaches to support youth, women and Indigenous Peoples, linking up with complementary mechanisms, such as the Microfinance Initiative and CSO Challenge Programme, cooperating with other GEF Agencies, and leveraging opportunities with GEF strategies, including the delivery of the GEF-8 Integrated Programmes. In addition, OP8 will facilitate opportunities for innovation and scaling up, catalyze multi-stakeholder alliances to test new approaches through CSOs, and leverage its dialogue platforms towards greater impact. OP8 will also align and contribute to the UNDP Strategic Plan 2024-2028 and UNSDCF 2024-2028.

2. COUNTRY PROGRAMME SUMMARY: Key results and achievements

Since 1995, the GEF Small Grants Programme in the Republic of Mauritius has successfully supported 199 projects, addressing critical issues faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including biodiversity

¹ The level of SGP OP8 resources is an estimated total of: (a) the GEF8 core grant allocation; (b) approved STAR resources; as well as (c) other sources of cost sharing & co-financing (country, regional and/or global levels). SGP countries with remaining OP7 balances that have not been pipelined will be expected to use these balances in line with the OP8 strategic approach in order to be coherent in terms of SGP programming and results expected.



conservation, climate change adaptation, land degradation, management of international waters, chemical and waste management, and capacity development. To date, USD 6,851,273 has been allocated, with a total co-financing amount of USD 14,308,930 contributed by various donors and partners.

The programme is integrated into the country's development process, providing innovative and flexible support to grantees throughout the entire project cycle. In line with Government of Mauritius pro-poor policy, it prioritizes funding for green job initiatives and small-scale financially self-sustaining and income-generating projects that enhance the welfare and capacity building of women, men, youth, farmers, prisoners, disabled individuals, and fishers.

Project key results include the discovery of new species and the rescue of several of the world's rare species. *Psittacula eques*, Echo Parakeet, one of the rarest parrots in the wild, was saved from extinction by developing captive breeding techniques that are used today around the world. It is regarded as the most successful parrot conservation programme in the world, and much is due to the seed funding obtained from the UNDP GEF SGP at a crucial point in the recovery of the species. In 2004, two new endemic fishes, *Pomacentris rodriguensis* and *Chlidichthys foudioides*, as well as an endemic coral, *Acropora rodriguensis*, were discovered in an SGP funded project. Between 2012 and 2014, during implementation of an SGP project, two critically endangered insects, *Metioche payendeei* and *Metioche surperbus* were re-discovered in the Nature Reserve of Grande Montagne. Since then, they are being conserved and safeguarded through the recreation of their native habitat arboretum. Projects have restored over 2,000 hectares of degraded land, implemented climate change adaptation strategies, such as reforestation, agroecology and renewable energy projects, protected critical biodiversity hotspots, the breeding and release of over 100 endemic birds in critical native forests. Another noteworthy achievement is the first-ever translocation of the endemic Mauritius Cuckoo-shrike, marking the first such effort for a true shrike species globally.

SGP Mauritius has successfully implemented several Innovation Programmes. South-South Cooperation was achieved under the Seaweed Innovation Programme between Belize and Rodrigues Island, empowering local communities through sustainable seaweed farming, providing alternative livelihoods, and enhancing marine biodiversity. These initiatives support ecosystem restoration, help mitigate climate change, and offer economic opportunities, contributing to long-term environmental and community resilience.

Under the Women-Led Innovation Programme, SGP Mauritius supported five social enterprises, including a project which developed four key pillars: technology, logistics, capacity building, and research to tackle food waste and climate change. During the course of the project, surplus food from over 200 companies were redistributed to 120 NGOs, benefiting more than 71,000 individuals, including youths. The project developed an innovative digital platform to track donations, saving 703,098 kilos of food—equivalent to 2.8 million meals—and reducing 1133 tons of CO₂ emissions, aligning with the Mauritian government's goal of reducing CO₂ emissions by 30% by 2030, and highlighting the impact of women-led innovation in climate action and social inclusion.

Under the Plastic Innovation Programme, two impactful projects were supported. One focused on developing research-driven solutions exploring innovative sustainable alternatives through biomass, while involving students and researchers in practical initiatives. The other project aimed at increasing community engagement through Plastic Ambassadors collecting wastes on solar bicycles, establishing plastic collection points, and engaging long-term involvement of the private sector on waste segregation and recycling. Both initiatives have played a significant role in reducing plastic waste, promoting circular economy and sustainable production and consumption.



On the socio-economic front, the SGP has directly benefited more than 50,000 individuals by improving livelihoods and providing capacity-building opportunities for several women-led enterprises in ocean-based economies, and value chain enterprises. Over 200 civil society organizations (CSOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) have been empowered through funding and technical support, enabling them to lead and sustain vital environmental projects within their communities. These efforts have contributed to the reduction of carbon emissions, combating land degradation and the preservation of endangered species and ecosystems.

The SGP's achievements extend to broader adoption, with several successful projects being scaled up, replicated, and integrated into national policies. For instance, the temporary closure of octopus fishing, initially a pilot project in Rodrigues Island, has been adopted as a national strategy due to its success in allowing marine populations to recover and in turn has improved the income of local fishers. Aside from the environmental aspect, these projects place a strong emphasis on capacity building, social inclusion, and income generation. Project results also include support to a variety of successful social entrepreneurship endeavours, ranging from the launch of a popular juice bar to reuse ugly fruits and vegetables to avoid food wastage and decrease carbon footprint, to value-added niche products for economic empowerment such as half-pearl jewellery, turmeric capsules and herbal teas, the latter which has accessed international markets.

The projects have also contributed directly to national policy on waste management and circular economy, with particular focus on control of food wastage, plastic pollution, composting, coral farming, oyster farming, organic farming, and dolphin and whale watching regulations. To date, SGP Mauritius grantees have won a record number of forty awards in recognition of their projects, nineteen of which are prestigious international awards.

Its grassroots and community-based approach to partnership has made SGP Mauritius a credible, trustworthy, and efficient partner in national strategic initiatives undertaken under all operational phases of the GEF. It continues to emphasize community empowerment, coalition building, and networking, and incorporates lessons learned into new project cycles. SGP Mauritius projects are scalable for high economic leverage at the macro-level, working with development partners, the private sector, national academic and research institutions, and regional and national government.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, SGP Mauritius quickly adapted to support communities in addressing the social, economic, and environmental challenges exacerbated by the crisis. The programme focused on initiatives that enhanced food security, such as promoting local agriculture and food redistribution systems to support vulnerable populations. SGP also backed projects aimed at improving health and sanitation, providing support to community-led efforts for producing protective equipment like masks and hand sanitizers. These interventions helped mitigate the pandemic's impact while fostering resilience and sustainability in local communities.

During OP7, emphasis was laid on consolidating progress on achieving the SDGs through community-based projects. Significant milestones were achieved that align with the key messages outlined in the 2024 UNDP TRI-COP messaging, particularly regarding local action as a driver for global environmental solutions. The SGP's results demonstrated the importance of integrating community-led initiatives to address the interconnected crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and ecosystem degradation, as emphasized in the document's call for inclusive, context-specific strategies.

The reef restoration project following the 2020 MV Wakashio oil spill exemplified community-based conservation, preserving 10,000 coral fragments and supporting alternative livelihoods, thereby embodying



SGP's role as an incubator of local innovation. This initiative aligns with the document's focus on maintaining ecological balance as essential for climate stability and sustainable development. Projects such as the community aquaponics initiatives and sustainable oyster aquaculture reinforced the document's emphasis on social inclusion and sustainable livelihoods. By empowering families and women with new technical skills and income opportunities, these projects showcased how local actions can build resilience against climate impacts while enhancing food security and fostering equity.

The restoration of the Anse Quitor River system, with its large-scale replanting efforts, mirrored the TRI-COP's message about the critical need for land and ecosystem restoration to slow global warming and support biodiversity. Additionally, training 250 youth in renewable energy and sustainable agriculture responded to the need for building technical capacity and promoting sustainable land management practices.

Overall, OP7's achievements demonstrated the SGP's integrative approach, bridging local and national efforts to contribute to the broader objectives of the UNDP TRI-COP strategy—fostering systemic change, enhancing resilience, and aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals through innovative, locally-driven projects. Private sector-NGO-Government partnership was enhanced during the same period.

3. COUNTRY PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

3.1 Alignment with national priorities

Mauritius is signatory to the several international conventions as can be seen in Table 1 below.

The Government's vision 2030 is to transform the country into a sustainable, vibrant and innovative nation with modern infrastructure, global connectivity, high skills and technology. In its first updated NDC dated 1 October 2021, Mauritius raised ambition to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% in 2030 compared to business-as-usual, instead of the initial NDC target of 30%.

To contribute to this vision, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2024-2028 articulates three outcome areas. Outcome 1 prioritizes a youth- and gender-responsive environment that ensures equitable and inclusive access to services and economic opportunities. Outcome 2 aims to deliver a resilient, sustainable, inclusive and innovation-driven blue economy, fostering opportunities and enhancing food security. Outcome 3 seeks to achieve integrated, gender-sensitive systems for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. It emphasizes strengthening policies and regulations to accelerate climate change mitigation and adaptation actions, promoting nature-based solutions, facilitating access to climate finance, safeguarding biodiversity and curbing ecosystem pollution.

The UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD) for Mauritius, 2024-2028 will adopt a comprehensive development approach, capitalizing on its integrator role and comparative advantage, to contribute directly to outcomes 2 and 3 of the UNSDCF. Under outcome 2, UNDP's emphasis will be on strengthening the capacities of the private sector and economically and socially empowering women, youth and other vulnerable populations through value chains to harness the potential of the blue economy. The UNDP contribution to outcome 3 is premised on consolidating investments to enhance national capacities for institutional sustainability and resilience. At its core are initiatives aimed at promoting the adoption of green



energy, conservation and restoration of vital natural resources, safeguarding biodiversity and establishing nature-based solutions that integrate ecological, social and economic considerations. The UNDP programming will be clustered around two complementary areas (a) socioeconomic transformation; and (b) environmental sustainability and resilience.

The present SGP Country Programme Strategy for GEF-8 reflects alignment with the above national, UN, and UNDP priorities, which are all in turn linked to Sustainable Development Goals. It aims to promote and support meaningful involvement of communities and civil society organizations to further implement these national priorities.

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

Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
GEF-8 National Dialogues	13-14 November 2018
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	September 1992
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	2017 – 2025
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	12 October 2014
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	4 September 1992
UNFCCC National Communications (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd)	28 May 1999 (first NC) 9 November 2011 (second NC) 20 January 2017 (third NC)
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	23 March 2017 9 May 2018 December 2021 First Biennial Report
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA)	No project
Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Paris Accord	22 April 2016
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	23 January 1996
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	Under process
Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	13 July 2004
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	11 October 2006
Minamata Convention (MC) on Mercury	21 September 2017
UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	25 September 2015
Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) for the UN SDGs	July 2019
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international waterbodies (IW)	No information
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)	Signed: 10 December 1982 Came into force: 16 November 1994
Convention on the Protection, Management and Development of the marine and coastal environment of the Eastern African Region and related protocols (Nairobi Convention 1985)	Acceded: July 2000
Convention on Fishing and Conservation of Living Resources of the High Seas	1982
United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2024-2028	6 November 2023.
UNDP Mauritius Country Programme Document (CPD) for 2024-2028	22 May 2024

3.2 Gaps and opportunities

Mauritius is exposed to various hazards, and climate change is exacerbating the risk that the country will confront a catastrophe. Like other small island states, Mauritius is already experiencing more extreme



events even as it works to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of both extreme events and slow-onset hazards like rising temperatures and sea levels. The projected climate changes are expected to pose significant and interlinked risks to communities and ecosystems, namely²⁵:

- 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.
- Traditional and present crop varieties will suffer, impacting severely on food security.
- 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, sustainable consumption and production, climate smart agriculture and food security, sustainable waste management, sustainable land management, and reduction of POPs, mercury and other chemicals, sustainable cities, as well as, education and awareness raising in sustainable development. SGP Mauritius is committed to continue its long-standing work with Government, CSOs, NGOs and the private sector to embrace innovation, inclusion and impact for the achievement of the country priorities and the sustainable development agenda. As part of OP8, the SGP aims to promote and support innovative and scalable initiatives and foster multi-stakeholder partnerships at the local level to tackle global environmental issues in the landscapes and seascapes. It would also support projects that would serve as “incubators” of innovation, with the potential for broader replication or upscaling of successful approaches through larger projects supported by other institutions or partners. SGP will continue to build partnerships and foster synergies with the business community to advance the focal areas outlined in the GEF-8 Programming Directions, including biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, international waters, and the management of chemicals and waste, all in support of achieving global environmental goals. In alignment with the strategic priorities of GEF-7, the OP8 landscape/seascape approach will be integrated with GEF’s key focus areas by harmonizing results across the portfolio, connecting the objectives of the Rio Conventions with the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and addressing priority needs for social inclusion. During GEF-8, efforts will focus on linking biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods, food sovereignty, universal access to sustainable energy, land degradation neutrality, and community resilience to shocks and disasters.

3.3 OP8 strategic priorities of the SGP Country Programme

In alignment with the SGP Country Programme's priorities, the following OP8 three strategic initiatives were selected during the stakeholders' consultative meeting, namely:

- community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species
- sustainable agriculture, fisheries and food security
- catalyzing sustainable urban solutions

Based on needs and opportunities identified at the country level, the potential for complementarity and synergy of the selected OP8 Strategic Initiatives, with GEF, UNDP Country Office and Government priorities, are captured in the table below.

Table 2. SGP Country Programme's alignment with SGP OP8 Strategic Initiatives and country priorities/projects/programmes

SGP OP8 Strategic Initiatives - Global	SGP Country Programme's OP8 Priorities	SGP Country Programme's complementarity with GEF, UNDP, and other projects and programmes
<i>Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species</i> 1) Improve the effectiveness of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and management through equitable governance systems by recognizing and respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. 2) Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy approaches (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.).	1) Improve the effectiveness of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and management through equitable governance systems by recognizing and respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. 2) Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy approaches (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.).	1) <i>Mauritius National Vision of GoM Preserve the country's unique biodiversity</i> ○ <i>Preserve 47,000 ha of forests and natural parks and unique biodiversity</i> ○ <i>Prevent coastal erosion, protect and rehabilitate beaches</i> 2) <i>Strategic Goal A of NBSAP "Addressing the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society"</i> 3) <i>Strategic Goal B of NBSAP "Reducing the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use":</i> ○ <i>National Target 6: By 2025, the sustainable management, harvesting and/or recovery of priority marine and freshwater resources is achieved (contribution to Aichi Target 6)</i> 4) <i>Strategic Goal C of NBSAP "to improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity":</i> ○ <i>National Target 11: By 2025, at least 16 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and</i>

agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.). 3) Enhance community led actions for protection of threatened species.	3) Enhance community led actions for protection of threatened species. National Priorities 4) Food loss and waste to be reduced across the full value chain, including agricultural production, post-harvest handling and storage, processing and packaging, distribution and retail, as well as at consumer level.	<i>seascapes (contribution to Aichi Target</i> 5) <i>UNSDCF (2024-2028)</i> ○ <i>Capacity building, policy support and pilot initiatives for conservation and preservation of forests and marine areas.</i> 6) <i>UNDP CPD (2024-2028)</i> ○ <i>Innovative solutions for the conservation and restoration of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems.</i> 7) <i>SIDPR (2023-2032)</i> ○ <i>Investments in infrastructure and natural assets to promote the green economy in Rodrigues.</i> ○ <i>Designing and implementing decarbonization programs.</i> ○ <i>Cross-cutting approach to formulate an integrated blue-economy policy.</i> ○ <i>Facilitate expansion of native, endemic and surrogate flora and fauna.</i> ○ <i>Continue expansion of terrestrial protected areas.</i> 8) <i>Roadmap and action plan for circular economy in the Republic of Mauritius</i> ○ <i>Empower communities to manage marine resources, establish no-fishing zones, and practice sustainable fishing techniques to protect marine biodiversity.</i> ○ <i>Introduce sustainable farming practices and integrating forestry with agriculture reduces land degradation, encourages biodiversity, and ensures ecosystem services remain intact.</i> ○ <i>Educate community members on the importance of biodiversity, sustainable livelihoods and environmental conservation practices.</i> 9) <i>GEF ongoing Environment projects</i> ○ <i>Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Management and Biodiversity Conservation in the Republic of Mauritius.</i> ○ <i>Mainstreaming Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Prevention, Control and Management.</i> ○ <i>Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support.</i> ○ <i>Umbrella Programme to Support Development of Biodiversity Finance Plans.</i> ○ <i>Mauritius Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2017-2025</i>
<i>Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security</i> 1) Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including in vulnerable ecosystems (mountains, island ecosystems, etc.). 2) Increase diversification and livelihood improvement. 3) Remove deforestation from supply chain and expand restoration of degraded lands.	1) Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including in vulnerable ecosystems (mountains, island ecosystems, etc.). 2) Increase diversification and livelihood improvement. 3) Remove deforestation from supply chain and expand restoration of degraded lands.	1) <i>Mauritius National Vision of GoM:</i> ○ <i>Boost import-substituting production</i> ○ <i>Increase agricultural exports and production of high-value crops</i> ○ <i>Improve national food security level</i> 2) <i>Mauritius National Vision of GoM :</i> ○ <i>Maximise value from marine sector through sustainable economic diversification</i> ○ <i>Contribute significantly to food security through sustainable utilisation and management of marine resources</i> 3) <i>UN SDCF (2024-2028)</i> ○ <i>Transitioning food, water and energy systems towards sustainability.</i> 4) <i>UNDP CPD (2024-2028)</i> ○ <i>Investment in green and blue economy in emerging sectors in coastal communities.</i> ○ <i>Identify and pilot sustainable nature-based livelihoods and food security models focused on</i>

		vulnerable women and youth in fishing communities 5) <i>SIDPR (2023-2032)</i> ○ <i>Prioritise sustainable blue economy in unused EEZ resources.</i> ○ <i>Diversify the range of sustainable practices.</i> 6) <i>Strategic Plan Agro-Industry and Livestock (2024-2030).</i> ○ <i>Increase contribution of agriculture in the economy to strengthen food security.</i> ○ <i>Promote sustainable and resilient production.</i> ○ <i>Encourage entrepreneurship and agro processing.</i> 7) <i>UNDP/GEF Indian Ocean ISLANDS-Mauritius Project:</i> ○ <i>Plastics/Solid Waste Management and Circular Economy: Establishes mechanisms to control chemical imports and hazardous waste generation, promoting circular and life-cycle management systems.</i> ○ <i>Reduce/Remove Chemicals in Agriculture: Engages stakeholders to promote safer alternatives and prevent harmful material build-up through effective life-cycle management.</i> 8) <i>Roadmap and action plan for circular economy in the Republic of Mauritius</i> ○ <i>Digital access to agricultural land through digital platforms - such as the Centralized Digital Land Bank – to support local food production and reduce import dependence.</i> ○ <i>Establish an electronic farmer registry to track farm activities and connect producers with government programs.</i> ○ <i>Implement capacity-building programs and guidelines to encourage sustainable practices in farming, including polyculture and agroforestry.</i> ○ <i>Encourage sustainable agriculture by prioritizing sustainably produced foods in public procurement.</i>
Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions 1) Improve capacities to promote community-driven, socially inclusive and integrated solutions to address low-emission and resilient urban development. 2) Demonstrate innovative socially inclusive urban solutions/ approaches (including waste and chemical management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity).	1) Promote plastics/solid waste management and circular economy. 2) Reduce/remove use of chemicals in agriculture. 3) Optimising existing construction practices and processes 4) Expansion of the range of products subject to EPR 5) Improve markets for recycled commodities 6) Improve capacities to promote community-driven, socially inclusive and integrated solutions	1) <i>Mauritius National Vision of GoM</i> ○ <i>Promote sustainable solid waste management.</i> ○ <i>Increase the contribution of renewable energy technologies and implement energy efficiency measures.</i> 2) <i>UN SDCF (2024-2028)</i> ○ <i>Strengthen pollution reduction measures and waste management.</i> ○ <i>Foster government and private sector partnerships to accelerate the blue, green, circular, and digital economies.</i> 3) <i>UNDP CPD (2024-2028)</i> ○ <i>Invest in initiatives for a circular economy, reducing chemicals and toxic waste.</i> ○ <i>Promote innovation and experimentation for integrated solutions and inclusive digital transformation.</i>

3) Implement public-private partnership approach for low carbon energy access for marginalized urban communities.	to address low-emission and resilient urban development. 7) Demonstrate innovative socially inclusive urban solutions/ approaches (including waste and chemical management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity). 8) Implement public-private partnership approach for low carbon energy access for marginalized urban communities.	○ <i>Raise awareness about investment opportunities related to SDGs.</i> ○ <i>Invest in community-level projects for climate mitigation and adaptation to strengthen national capacities.</i> ○ <i>Build capacity for circular economy and waste management.</i> ○ <i>Promote green investments, value chains, and job creation potential.</i> ○ <i>Leverage public-private partnerships to mobilize finance for green recovery efforts.</i> 4) <i>SIDPR (2023-2032)</i> ○ <i>Implement a comprehensive solid waste management plan.</i> ○ <i>Promote digitalization.</i> 5) <i>Green Climate Fund (GCF) Project: ‘Accelerating Transformational Shift to a Low Carbon Economy in Mauritius’</i> ○ <i>Aim to reduce carbon emissions by 4.27 million tonnes from 2017 to 2025.</i> 6) <i>Roadmap and Action Plan for Circular Economy in the Republic of Mauritius</i> ○ <i>Establish a digital platform to store, verify, analyze, and provide data on waste flows.</i> ○ <i>Provide fixed and mobile Civic Amenity Centres (CACs) to facilitate disposal of specific waste types by households and small businesses.</i> ○ <i>Define criteria for secondary raw materials to help remove the waste stigma and encourage recycling.</i> ○ <i>Introduce Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes to support social economy actors (e.g., waste pickers) in waste collection and recycling activities.</i> ○ <i>Develop national building codes incorporating green and circular principles to promote sustainable building practices.</i> ○ <i>Support urban farming projects (e.g., vertical farms, aquaponics) to enhance local food production and reduce transportation needs.</i> ○ <i>Implement pre-demolition waste audits and create material passports for construction projects to manage and recycle construction and demolition waste efficiently.</i> ○ <i>Encourage public procurement policies that prioritize sustainable products and support circular supply chains in urban settings.</i> 7) <i>GEF Ongoing Environment Projects</i> ○ <i>Indian Ocean Regional Project - Mauritius (ISLANDS):</i> ○ <i>Implement sustainable low and non-chemical development strategies for SIDS.</i> ○ <i>Establish mechanisms to control chemical imports and hazardous waste generation, promoting circular and life-cycle management systems.</i> ○ <i>Promote safer agricultural alternatives to prevent harmful material build-up.</i> ○ <i>Strengthen regional collaboration among 33 SIDS, including Mauritius, for harmonized waste and chemicals management.</i>
--	---	---

		Review and update the national implementation plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).
CSO-government-private sector policy and planning dialogue platforms 1) Promote/enhance community voices and participation in global and national policy, strategy development related to global environment and sustainable development issues.	1) Promote/enhance community voices and participation in global and national policy, strategy development related to global environment and sustainable development issues National Priorities 2) increase access to financing for circular business models.	1) <i>Reinforcing programming approach of GoM</i> - Sustain the mutual commitment of the Government and the UN system agencies to the partnership outcomes, in close collaboration with civil society, the private sector, local and international NGOs and regional development institutions 2) <i>UN SDCF (2024-2028)</i> - Engage in partnerships and platforms with the private sector, civil society and communities that promote information and education on sustainability.
Enhancing social inclusion (mandatory) 1) Promote inclusive targeted initiatives. 2) Mainstream social inclusion in all projects. (e.g. women/girls, Indigenous Peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities).	Enhancing social inclusion 1) Promote targeted inclusive initiatives. 2) Mainstream social inclusion in all projects. (e.g. women/girls, vulnerable peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities)	1) <i>Mauritius National Vision of GoM:</i> - Empower poor and vulnerable groups and promote social inclusion - UNDP CPD (2024-2028) - Reduce systemic challenges to inclusion of women and youth through skills development, market inclusion and promoting affirmative action. 2) <i>UN SDCF (2024-2028)</i> - Engage with the diaspora and leverage their competencies and resources to support sustainable development.
Knowledge Management (KM) (mandatory) 1) Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities. 2) Improve capacities of CSOs/CBOs. 3) Conduct South-South Exchanges to promote technology transfer and replication of good practices.	Knowledge Management 1) Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities. 2) Improve capacities of CSOs/CBOs. 3) Conduct South-South Exchanges to promote technology transfer and replication of good practices.	1) <i>UNDP CPD (2024-2028)</i> - Leveraging Networks and Partnerships: utilize its expanding network of stakeholders and actors to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration. - Promoting South-South and Triangular Cooperation: collaboration with other SIDS and developing states and countries in mainland Africa to share experiences, best practices, and innovative solutions to common challenges. - Integrating Knowledge Management into Programme Implementation: embed knowledge management practices within its programme areas, ensuring that lessons learned and best practices inform ongoing and future initiatives.
Results Management, Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) (mandatory) 1) Administer new M&E strategy in Country Programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms.	Results Management, Monitoring & Evaluation 1) Administer new M&E strategy in Country Programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms.	1) <i>Monitoring And Evaluation (M&E) Plan28 of GEF UNDP</i> - Project-level monitoring and evaluation will comply with UNDP requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP and UNDP Evaluation Policy - The GEF Operational Focal Point will strive to ensure consistency in the approach taken to the GEF-specific M&E requirements (notably the GEF Tracking Tools) across all GEF-financed projects in the country. 2) <i>GEF ongoing Environment projects</i> - Strengthening the national greenhouse gas inventory of the Republic of Mauritius to improve climate reporting and transparency. - Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support

4. OP8 PRIORITY LANDSCAPES/SEASCAPES & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

4.1 Grantmaking within the priority landscape/seascapes

a) Process for selecting priority landscapes and seascapes

Two consultative workshops were organized in Rodrigues in view of developing the Country Programme Strategy for Operational Phase 8 for Mauritius GEF SGP. The first one took place on 14 October 2024 at the Centre Cardinale Jean Margeot (Port Mathurin, Rodrigues). This consultation process involved the National Coordinator, 2 NSC members and 10 members of 3 NGOs, namely JL Renewable Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd, Association pour l'Autosuffisance Alimentaire et le Développement Durable (AAADD) and Association des Parents D'Elèves et Instituteurs de L'Ecole Ste Famille. The second one was a meeting with the Chief Commissioner Rodrigues Regional Assembly involving the National Coordinator and 2 NSC members.

A third consultative workshop was held in Mauritius on 29 October 2024 with 4 members of the National Steering Committee (NSC) and 14 representatives from the UNDP, MCB Forward Foundation, Caritas, Mauritius Wildlife Foundation (MWF), Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI), MADE IN MORIS, Center of Indo-oceanic Territorial Development Studies (CEDTI), EcoMode Society, Fondation Ressources et Nature (FORENA), Service d'Accompagnement, de Formation, d'Insertion et de Réhabilitation de l'Enfant (SAFIRE), Tourism Authority, Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change.

The objective of these CPS consultations was to identify priority programming directions for OP8, aligning with the country's national priorities and GEF-8 programming goals. The consultations also aimed to determine key landscape and seascape areas for achieving greater strategic impact for the SGP. Participants unanimously recommended treating the Republic of Mauritius as a single landscape/seascape to maximize impact, given its status as a Small Island Developing State.

Key national challenges and priorities identified during the consultations include:

- Marine and terrestrial biodiversity conservation
- Coastal zone management
- Sustainable consumption and production
- Climate-smart agriculture and food security
- Sustainable waste management
- Sustainable land management
- Reduction of POPs and other chemicals
- Plastic management
- Sustainable cities
- Circular economy
- Education and awareness raising in sustainable development

Participants emphasized the need to reduce food loss and waste across the entire value chain—from agricultural production and post-harvest handling to storage, processing, packaging, distribution, retail, and consumer levels. Discussions also highlighted the importance of optimizing existing construction practices and processes, expanding the range of products covered under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), improving markets for recycled commodities, and increasing access to financing for circular business models.



The six strategic initiatives of the SGP 8th Operational Phase were presented to the participants. An open and constructive discussion was held to encourage stakeholders to identify potential projects. Following this dialogue, four strategic initiatives were selected but as per CPS guidance, only three were finally retained:

- **Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species**
- **Sustainable agriculture, fisheries, and food security**
- **Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions**

The selection was guided by their alignment with national priorities and their designation as funding priorities under the GEF SGP. Participants also agreed that the Strategic Initiative on "Low-carbon energy access co-benefits" should be incorporated under the broader initiative of "Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions." The SGP results framework will be aligned with the GEF-8 results framework, as detailed in Table 5. More details of the discussion on baseline assessment are found in Annex 1.

b) Selected landscapes/seascapes for OP8

The Republic of Mauritius (ROM) 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 (Agalega, Tromelin, Cargados Carajos (St Brandon) and the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia)⁵. Mauritius possesses immense maritime zones⁵ of approximately 2.3 million km² and it also exercises jurisdiction jointly with Seychelles over 396,000 km² of Extended Continental Shelf (ECS) in the Mascarene Plateau Region (Joint Management Area).

Mauritius has designated 25 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), with an average coverage of 10.1% by reported Protected Areas (PAs) and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs). Notably, 12 of these KBAs lack any protection from reported PAs and OECMs. The Republic of Mauritius (ROM) has identified 17 KBAs critical for biodiversity conservation: one in St. Brandon, three in Rodrigues Island, and thirteen on the Island of Mauritius.

The completed UNDP GEF project, "Mainstreaming Biodiversity into the Management of the Coastal Zone in the Republic of Mauritius," focused on six government-selected, non-contiguous coastal and marine landscapes totalling approximately 150,000 hectares. These areas were chosen based on their biodiversity significance, threat levels, ecosystem service importance, and sustainable management opportunities. The targeted landscapes were Balaclava-Pointe aux Piments, Le Morne, Vieux Grand Port, Poudre d'Or; Ile d'Ambre - Roche Noire, Northern Islets and, Rivière Coco-SEMPA-Mourouk. These landscapes encompass a significant portion of the Environmental Sensitive Areas (ESAs) in Mauritius. Over 1,300 ESA locations have been identified, mapped, and assessed across Mauritius and Rodrigues. These ESAs are categorized into 14 types, grouped under five systems, Wetlands, Shore, Offshore, Forests, and Stable Water Supply.

Implementing a 'land- and seascape-wide' integrated management approach, based on the ESA inventory and assessment, aims to incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable ecosystem



service use into coastal zone management. This strategy also seeks to integrate these considerations into the operations and policies of the tourism and physical development sectors.

Recent updates indicate that Mauritius has 44 protected areas covering 97 km² of land and 50 km² of ocean. Additionally, Mauritius has been identified as a "Centre of Plant Diversity" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and is included in the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands biodiversity hotspot.

Despite these efforts, challenges remain. Mauritius has lost much of its natural forest cover, with less than 1.3% of indigenous forest remaining. Furthermore, the country faces significant environmental risks, being classified as the 51st most exposed to natural hazards according to the World Risk Report 2021. To address these challenges, Mauritius has been focusing on the restoration of native forests and has established a large system of marine protected areas, including fishing reserves, marine parks, and marine reserves around Mauritius and Rodrigues. The country has also established a new paradigm for protected areas, fostering private sector involvement in ownership and management. These efforts are part of Mauritius's commitment to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

The GEF SGP has been successfully providing financial and technical assistance to NGOs and CBOs since 1995 in the above landscape/seascape from upper watersheds to coastal mangrove, seagrass and coral ecosystems, thus covering the continuum of related ecosystems and communities. See also Annex 2 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.

c) OP8 Strategic Initiatives in the landscapes/seascapes

During the consultative workshop, it was agreed to select three out of the six strategic initiatives of OP8, namely: (i) community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species; (ii) sustainable agriculture and fisheries and food security; and (iii) catalyzing sustainable urban solutions.

During OP8, the GEF SGP will continue to provide 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 strategic initiatives:

Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species

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). *Mauritius forms part of the Western Indian Ocean Islands, part of one of the 25 internationally recognized biodiversity 'hotspots'*¹¹. The community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species is considered as one of the priorities since biodiversity forms an integral part of the development process of Mauritius. *Mauritius' biodiversity strategic objectives and programmes of work are in line with the 2020 Aichi Targets*¹¹. 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 will aim at improving community-led biodiversity friendly practices by promoting the blue economy and at enhancing the protection of threatened species. SGP will also work towards the



biodiversity mainstreaming progress of ROM in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Strategic Plan 2017-2025 and its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). The current framework outlines the country's approach to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security

Climate change continues to pose significant threats to food security in Mauritius through flash floods, torrential rains, droughts, and other extreme weather events, which can severely impact farmers. Coastal and marine ecosystems also face constant pressures, with many fish stocks depleted and substantial portions of critical habitats such as rivers, estuaries, coral reefs, and mangroves degraded.

To address these challenges, several sectoral climate change adaptation projects are being implemented to enhance resilience. These include initiatives like Integrated Pest and Disease Management (IPDM) to promote sustainable agricultural practices. Previous successful SGP projects have gained national recognition and contributed to the widespread adoption of organic farming and agroecology practices. Research conducted by the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Mauritius, the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture, and its partners has demonstrated the effectiveness of organic practices and sustainable agriculture techniques. These include methods for improving soil health and fertility management, as well as integrated pest management using non-chemical approaches and natural plant-based solutions. Such research has paved the way for scaling up sustainable agricultural practices.

Mauritius has also designated Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to safeguard its marine ecosystems. NGOs, supported by the SGP and other partners, have established Voluntary Marine Conservation Areas. On mainland Mauritius, there are six Fishing Reserves and two Marine Parks, while Rodrigues features four marine reserves and one main Marine Park.

Moving forward, the GEF SGP will support projects aimed at enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of food production systems. These initiatives will focus on improving diversification, strengthening livelihoods, and promoting climate-resilient agricultural and fisheries practices. Through these efforts, the program seeks to bolster food security and contribute to sustainable resource management in Mauritius.

Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions

In Mauritius, there are established procedures on the safe management of chemicals and associated wastes. In 2018, Mauritius enacted the 'Use of Pesticides Act' to regulate, control and monitor the importation and use of pesticides to minimise risks to human health and the environment through sensitisation campaigns²⁶. There exist many locally available opportunities for the recovery and disposal of hazardous wastes such as waste oil, e-wastes, healthcare and asbestos wastes²⁶. However, it is not economically viable to process other types of hazardous chemical wastes²⁶. Consequently, in line with the obligations to international Conventions such as Basel, Bamako and Minamata, the Government has set up an interim storage facility for hazardous wastes at La Chaumière, Bambous, which has been designed to store up to 1,700 tonnes of hazardous chemical wastes from laboratories and industries²⁶. Since 2017, the Interim Storage Facility for Hazardous Wastes has collected a total of around 3,484 tonnes of hazardous wastes. This includes approximately 2,714 tonnes of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO)-contaminated wastes resulting from the MV Wakashio oil spill. The remaining 770 tonnes comprise hazardous chemical



wastes, pharmaceutical wastes, and waste gas cylinders collected from more than 250 hazardous waste generators across the island for exportation to licensed recovery and disposal facilities in Europe. Additionally, the Indian Ocean ISLANDS-Mauritius Project, launched in August 2023, aims to enhance chemicals and hazardous waste management in the Republic of Mauritius. The project is expected to sustainably manage 200 metric tons of potentially dangerous chemicals annually, contributing to improved management and disposal of chemical wastes in the country. These initiatives reflect Mauritius's ongoing commitment to addressing hazardous waste management challenges and protecting both human health and the environment.

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.

Rapid urban development in Mauritius has introduced significant challenges, including air pollution, escalating waste generation, environmental degradation, inadequate sanitation, housing shortages, and traffic congestion. These issues require innovative, community-driven, and systematic solutions. The concept of "city science," an interdisciplinary approach to addressing urban challenges, offers significant potential to resolve these issues scientifically and holistically.

In its commitment to promoting sustainable urban solutions, the Government of Mauritius has introduced several measures in the 2024-2025 budget. These include maintaining duty-free status for hybrid and electric vehicles to incentivize eco-friendly transportation and extending the negative excise duty scheme, which offers a 10% rebate (up to a maximum of Rs 200,000) for individuals purchasing electric vehicles, until 30 June 2025. The Bus Modernisation Scheme has also been expanded to subsidize electric buses, advancing sustainable public transportation options.

These initiatives align with Mauritius' Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement, reflecting a commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to a low-carbon economy. In support of this goal, Mauritius is implementing the Green Climate Fund (GCF) project, '*Accelerating Transformational Shift to a Low Carbon Economy in the Republic of Mauritius*,' which aims to reduce carbon emissions by 4.27 million tonnes from 2017 to 2025. Additionally, a national energy efficiency programme, implemented in collaboration with Business Mauritius and AFD, has conducted energy audits in 88 buildings, resulting in a reduction of 173,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions through improved energy management practices.

Under OP8, the Small Grants Programme (SGP) is committed to enhancing capacities to promote community-driven, socially inclusive, and integrated solutions for low-emission and resilient urban development. SGP seeks to support projects that demonstrate innovative and socially inclusive approaches to urban challenges, such as waste and chemical management, energy efficiency, sustainable transport, watershed protection, and biodiversity conservation. It will also focus on fostering public-private partnerships to improve access to low-carbon energy for marginalized urban communities, while simultaneously advancing policy dialogue, training, and capacity-building programs. Through these efforts, SGP aims to raise awareness and promote environmental and energy sustainability, particularly among youth and grassroots communities.



By integrating storytelling, knowledge sharing, and public-private collaboration, SGP will amplify its impact and create urban environments that are resilient, equitable, and liveable. Through these comprehensive strategies, SGP will encourage public-private partnership 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.

a) Grantmaking outside the priority landscapes/seascapes

Similar to OP7, given that the Republic of Mauritius as a whole is considered as a landscape/seascape, during OP8, 30% of the country allocation can be used to support cross-cutting projects outside of the 4 selected strategic initiatives. The agreed criteria for prioritization and selection of such projects are innovation, inclusiveness and impact. The other possible sources of funding will be through CSR, EU, CEPF, IOC and other multilateral and international donors. In OP8, SGP will continue to consolidate the Grantmaker's Plus initiatives and its visibility amongst key stakeholders and showcase projects which tackle GEF challenges while addressing the needs of poor and vulnerable communities, gender equality, social entrepreneurship, women and youth empowerment, etc., i.e. SDGs.

4.2 CSO-government-private sector dialogue platforms

The Mauritius SGP programme has a rich past experience in promoting open dialogue forums with civil society representatives, several ministries, 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.

SGP will continue to organize and/or sustain CSO-Government-Private Sector Dialogue Platforms, for example in preparations for environmental convention COPs; UN SDGs; networks of plastic management and circular economy leaders, agro-ecology farmer leaders and producer organizations. These dialogues should help promote role of CSOs, create a "bridge" to link the grassroots to national/local policy-makers for policy/program influence, facilitate the uptake of good practices, and enhance communications. In this context, the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change has enrolled SGP National Coordinator as a moderator and panellist in its 2019 and 2022 general public consultations with stakeholders in order to prepare a Country Roadmap for Sustainable Development for the next decade, and a Roadmap for Circular Economy. SGP was also enrolled by the UNDP Office to support the Stockholm+50 National Dialogues in 2022.

SGP country programme will use experiences and lessons learnt to inform and influence policy as part of its role as 'Grant-makers+' in OP8 at the national level by identifying key policy processes, such as updates of NBSAP, NAMA, NAPA, etc. where it can be involved.

4.3 Promoting social Inclusion, including gender equality and women's empowerment

Women and men in Mauritius are both affected by natural disasters, climate change, and environmental degradation. However, due to the patriarchal structure of society, women often bear a disproportionate



share of the consequences. As of the 2022 Census, the Republic of Mauritius had a population of 1,235,260, comprising 608,090 males and 627,170 females. This indicates a higher number of females compared to males. Additionally, the average age of the population was 38 years. The proportion of children under 15 years decreased from 20.7% in 2011 to 15.4% in 2022, while individuals aged 60 years and over increased from 12.7% in 2011 to 18.7% in 2022, highlighting the "feminization" of ageing. While more women than men are enrolled in tertiary institutions, there remains a disparity in advanced research degrees. Fewer women pursue PhD, MPhil, and Doctor of Business Administration programs, indicating an underrepresentation in higher academic research. According to the Gender Statistics – 2024, working women are more likely than men to be employees and contributing family workers, but less likely to be heading a business. In addition, there is an increasing number of unemployed women and generally more qualified than their male counterparts. Women are more likely than men to live in poverty as these poor households are more likely to be headed by women, thus leading to increasing feminization of poverty. At the decision-making level, women are largely under-represented. Mauritius has been slow in improving gender equality in politics, with a 16.6% women participation in parliament in 2024. The ranking of Mauritius has worsened from 98 to 107, out of 146 countries on the Global Gender Gap Index (GGI) 2024 of the World Economic Forum.

At the decision-making level, women remain underrepresented. In 2019, only 20% of parliamentary seats were held by women. However, there has been progress in gender equality rankings. Mauritius improved its position from 105th in 2022 to 98th in 2023 on the Global Gender Gap Index, with a score of 0.6890. Despite these advancements, significant efforts are still required to achieve gender parity in various sectors within Mauritius.

Women in Mauritius have a major role to play in the socio-economic and environmental development of the country. SGP has been able to demonstrate gender equality and women's empowerment in its previous operational phases and will further enhance the participation of women in addressing pressing issues related to environmental degradation, depletion of natural resources and loss of biodiversity as a result of climate change. SGP will encourage women grantees to follow training and innovative programmes that will help them improve their skills in decision-making processes, technical know-how, entrepreneurship, business management, product development and design as well as in sustainable development. SGP will support projects that will demonstrate women empowerment. The support of SGP will also be extended to existing women-led enterprises for the innovation and upscaling of their projects. Furthermore, SGP will promote women's participation in business networking and linkages activities by creating a platform, forums or regular workshops for them to demonstrate their competencies and products to other potential business collaborators and to the authorities. SGP targets to support up to 50% of women-led projects and has a gender focal point who will ensure that the National Steering Committee is gender-responsive in its decision-making process. SGP will thus contribute to the following entry points: (i) enhancing women's decision-making capabilities regarding land, forests, water and other biological resources they use; (ii) supporting women's engagement in producer organizations, cooperatives, labor unions, outgrow schemes; (iii) promoting women's voice in partnerships and alliances with regional and national networks and (iv) providing policy level training opportunities to help women participate in decision-making forums.

Various measures to boost entrepreneurship have been announced by recurring Government budgets. Democratising the economy is one of the top priorities of the government as they are providing greater support to the Micro, Small and Medium sized enterprises. The Government has also announced policies



and measures to reach a higher social development path. Since the goal of Mauritius is aiming at a High-Income Economy, it is important that wealth creation and social development are coupled under the inclusiveness umbrella. Prosperity must be shared by all. The government has put in place various programmes for the creation of employment and livelihoods for the poor and the reduction of gender inequality in promoting women's empowerment. Funds 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.

Under the Women Entrepreneur Loan Scheme by the Development Bank of Mauritius (DBM), women launching their own businesses can benefit from unsecured loans up to MUR 1 million. With a repayment Period of up to 7 years, including a moratorium period of up to 1 year, depending on the project. This scheme aims to provide financial assistance to women for establishing economic activities to support themselves and their families.

The Government of Mauritius has demonstrated its commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment through the adoption of the National Gender Policy (NGP) 2022-2030. This policy builds upon the previous frameworks from 2005 and 2008, aligning with the current Vision 2030 development agenda. The NGP emphasizes principles of equity and inclusiveness, providing guidelines for integrating gender considerations into all development planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. It serves as a basis for every sector, department, and non-state actor to develop and implement their gender policies at sectoral and institutional levels.

The National Women Entrepreneur Council (NWECC) is implementing the recommendations of the National Strategy and Costed Action Plan for Women Entrepreneurship Development in Mauritius, further supporting women's economic empowerment. These initiatives reflect the ongoing efforts by the Government of Mauritius to promote gender-responsive social transformation and innovation across various sectors.

As mentioned earlier, gender policy and planning measures will have to be targeted since women's livelihoods have become vulnerable to climate change and environmental degradation. 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. 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 are the main focus of Government. SGP will target such inclusion projects in order to encourage the social and economic empowerment of youths, persons with disabilities, men and women through capacity building and advocacy.

4.4 Knowledge Management

SGP in Mauritius plans to capture, share, and disseminate the lessons learned and good practices identified through the country portfolio of SGP projects with civil society, government, private sector, and other relevant stakeholders so as to generate greater impact, and foster replication and scaling up of innovations. It will continue to incorporate 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 its mailing lists and through its social media pages.
- 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 and youths 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 CPMT, 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 videos and 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 social media pages.
- SGP will encourage grantees to participate in forums and knowledge fairs to promote SGP and grantee products.
- SGP will upload as and when required case studies and information in the expanded SGP global digital library.
- It will endeavor, as far as funds are available, to organize South-South cooperation exchanges and sharing of experience with SGP country programmes in the region

5. COMMUNICATION PLAN

The SGP Country Programme aims to enhance its visibility, along with that of its grantees and their projects, to gain civil society support on local and global environmental and sustainable development issues, including livelihoods, poverty reduction, and gender equality. Its communication strategy focuses on fostering partnerships and advocacy, raising awareness, mobilizing resources, and promoting actions to address these issues while supporting SGP initiatives at the country level. Key messages aligned with the SGP's global communication strategy will be identified and shared with target audiences through social media, emphasizing significant programme milestones, projects, and international and national



environmental events. SGP Mauritius will actively engage with stakeholders and CSOs, leveraging knowledge management strategies to communicate lessons learned and best practices. The launch of the OP8 call for proposals will be promoted through press articles, complemented by press conferences and participation in radio and TV programs. Efforts will include encouraging audio-visual productions, developing a website to share scientific knowledge from SGP projects and utilizing social media and knowledge fairs. Grantees' project restitution workshops, and case studies will be mandatory for completed projects, ensuring they are widely shared and disseminated.

6. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND PARTNERSHIP PLAN

a) Secured and planned cash and in-kind co-financing

In OP8, as in OP7, the Government has signified its impossibility of entertaining a percentage of GEF STAR allocation to SGP Mauritius for NGO projects. During OP6, SGP acted as delivery mechanism for the Australian Government under SIDS-CBA Programme. However, it was not possible to act as delivery mechanism as planned during OP6 nor OP7 for larger GEF projects, nor implementing partner for Adaptation Fund Board, due to high management fee requested by UNOPS.

Since 1995, SGP Mauritius has allocated a total grant amount of 6,851,273 USD for which it has mobilized a total cash and in-kind co-financing of 8,357,252 USD and 5 951 678 USD respectively. Given the established legitimacy, the open communication practiced with internal and external stakeholders in the country, the clear vision, mission and strong accountability principles, SGP expects that it will be able to secure at least 50% of matching country grant allocation cash and 50% in-kind directly or through its grantees for their projects. It will also aim at playing a "grantmakers+roles" and will position itself as a delivery mechanism for strategic initiatives identified under OP8. It is planned that the private sector will continue to trust SGP as a privileged partner with support towards specific projects.

Through stewardship, solicitation, networking, SGP will prospect funding agencies, donor countries and international foundations. 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 National Social Inclusion Foundation (NSIF, formerly National CSR Foundation), which will identify National Programmes for better impact on poverty alleviation.
- Make further exploration of potential liaison with international NGOs, which work around or along the same priorities and guidelines as the SGP. Explore linkages with other facilities available from Bilateral/Multilateral agencies, including UN agencies and private sector.
- Continue to maintain linkages with the National Empowerment Foundation.
- 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



b) Co-financing opportunities

Since 2011, the SGP country programme has been able to secure co-funding for its non-grant costs, namely through, (i) the private sector (its landlord), (ii) an NGO, Fondation Ressources et Nature (FORENA), and (iii) the Rodrigues Regional Assembly. Some projects have also been scaled-up through Government funding.

Additional financial support for the GEF SGP core programme and projects will have to be achieved by identifying other potential national sources of support for SGP and by exploring other funding possibilities by international Aid Agencies (bi- and multilateral) and other facilities available in the country. There are several new upcoming co-funding opportunities in the wake of and better awareness of the private sector of its responsibilities in advancing the SDGs. Further avenues will be sought through other UNDP existing low-cost modality to again explore acting as a delivery mechanism. Potential collaboration with international NGOs, the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC), Mauritius Oceanography Institute and the University of Mauritius for technical support will be promoted.

On specific occasions as per past practices venues and outreach are also expected from other sponsors, the UNDP CO and bilateral agencies for final workshops, knowledge fairs, Project Coordinator's meeting and other such activities.

7. PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

In OP7, the Mauritius SGP programme has been successful in supporting and working in collaboration with NGOs and CSOs in accessing other donor funding and linking them up and networking with other development programmes. SGP will continue to 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, GLISPA Award, etc.). SGP will keep track of their progress on application regularly until the deadline. SGP will continue to consolidate its partnership with the private sector by leveraging funds, technical support and assistance.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

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.

The following risks were identified by the stakeholders in Table 3.

Table 3. Description of risks identified in OP8

Describe identified risk	Degree of risk (low, medium, high)	Probability of risk (low, medium, high)	Risk mitigation measure foreseen
Resource mobilization: For SGP to act as a delivery mechanism during OP7, funds serviced by other partners should be timely provided. There is also high risk due to high management fee not accepted by partners.	High	High	Seek other low-cost modality through support from SGP Global Management and UNDP Country Office.
High number of funding requests in the perspective of very low country allocation provided under OP7	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. Unstable weather conditions in Mauritius lead to frequent torrential rain, droughts that can delay implementation of Projects	Medium	Medium	Establish a disaster risk management committee To integrate the protected area system into the country's evolving climate change adaptation strategy Partner with the National Disaster Management Centre to train communities on "Community Risk Reduction Preparedness"
Delays in project implementation due to elections. Elections in all villages and in Rodrigues Island are expected during OP8	High	High	SGP has no control over this
Long tedious administrative procedures for some NGOs/grantees to obtain permits and authorisation	High	High	Proper channelling and SGP support and follow-ups with relevant authorities
Low capacity of some grassroots NGOs to implement their projects and/or to provide progress reports both narrative and financial according to SGP expectations.	High	High	Capacity building sessions by SGP teams.
Social and Environmental Risks: Risks of unintended social impacts such as displacement, inequality, or exclusion of vulnerable groups. Environmental risks such as habitat destruction or pollution during project implementation.	Low	Low	Adhere to UNDP's Social and Environmental Safeguards, conduct environmental and social risk screening for projects, and develop specific mitigation plans where necessary. Provide training on safeguards to grantees and project teams.



These risks will be tracked during the implementation of the OP8 CPS and reviewed during the annual CPS review and Annual Monitoring Report Preparation. At the time, the degree of risk, or probability of risk, may be adjusted. Identified risks may also be removed and new risks added, if necessary, with appropriate mitigation measures identified.

9. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

9.1 Monitoring approaches at project and country levels

The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan will emphasize data quality assurance and reporting through systematic processes for data validation, cleaning, and timely entry into the SGP database. Quarterly data quality checks will ensure completeness, accuracy, and consistency, supported by standardized reporting templates for streamlined data aggregation and analysis across projects. Capacity building for M&E will be prioritized through an M&E inception workshop aimed at strengthening grantees' monitoring and evaluation skills. Training sessions will focus on data collection methods, reporting frameworks, and indicator tracking, complemented by user-friendly sessions emphasizing participatory methods and inclusiveness.

Monitoring visits and evaluations will be conducted to ensure each project is visited at least once during its lifecycle, with more frequent visits for grassroots-level projects, occurring at least once every two months. Cluster-based monitoring visits will be employed for cost-effectiveness and collective learning, and third-party monitoring agencies may be engaged when necessary to enhance transparency and credibility. Annual portfolio evaluations will assess progress and provide recommendations for improvements.

Participatory monitoring and adherence to ethical guidelines will be integral, ensuring the adoption of a 'do no harm' approach and principles of 'free, prior, and informed consent.' Local stakeholders, including vulnerable groups, will be involved in defining project results and monitoring indicators, with cultural sensitivities and ethical considerations incorporated into data collection processes. The reporting framework mandates the selection of at least one GEF-8 Global Environmental Indicator and two Socio-Economic Benefit Indicators by grantees, with quantitative targets tracked to facilitate monitoring. Progress and final reports will document lessons learned, gender impacts, and participatory evaluation outcomes.

Community-owned monitoring will be promoted through periodic participatory assessments involving project beneficiaries, local leaders, and NGOs. Community-level feedback meetings will validate results and refine strategies, while visual tools and storytelling methods will make monitoring accessible and engaging for grassroots participants. The SGP database will be strengthened to capture project-specific and country-level results in real-time, with NSC meetings organized to review project performance and validate results.

Annual country reports will benchmark progress against CPS objectives, identifying gaps and proposing corrective actions. Joint-monitoring partnerships with donors, foundations, and academic institutions will be established to share resources and expertise. Collaborations with research institutions will enable impact assessments and technical evaluations, while independent evaluations through partnerships will enhance accountability. Adequate budgets will be allocated for M&E activities, including travel costs for field visits and third-party assessments, with monitoring costs integrated into project proposals for sustainable oversight mechanisms.



Lessons learned will be captured from each project and integrated into planning and decision-making processes. Adaptive management practices will be fostered to improve project outcomes based on evaluation feedback. This comprehensive monitoring approach ensures that M&E activities at both project and country levels remain participatory, data-driven, and aligned with global best practices.



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 action including identification of community projects	NC, NSC, country stakeholders, grantees	A SGP planning grant to engage consultants may be used to update OP8 CPS	At start of OP8
As part of NSC meetings, ongoing review of project results and analysis. This includes an Annual CPS Review	Assess effectiveness of projects, country portfolio; learning; adaptive management	NC, NSC, UNDP Country Office. Final deliberations shared/ analyzed with CPMT colleagues	Staff time, Country Operating Budget	At least one annual CPS review to ensure OP8 CPS is on track to achieve its results and make timely and evidence-based modifications to CPS as may be needed ²
Annual Monitoring Report Survey ³	Enable efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF. It serves as the primary tools to record and analytically present results to donors	NC/PA in close collaboration with NSC. CPMT provides technical guidance support and receives final country submission for further action	Staff time	Once per year in June- July
Country Portfolio Review	Methodological results capture of the portfolio at a given point to note impact level change as well as broader adoption. The goal is to support reporting to stakeholders, learning, and support to strategic development/ implementation of CPS	NC, NSC	SGP planning grant to engage consultants may be used to undertake previous operational cycles impact review and utilize lessons for both OP8 CPS development and its implementation Global technical M&E support can be expected	Once per operational phase

² It is recommended that the Annual CPS review is done close to AMR submissions for both processes to benefit from each other (suggested timeframe is May- July). Note that OP8 CPS will be regarded as a dynamic document and can be updated by the SGP country team and NSC on a periodic basis to reflect any necessary adjustments to ensure maximum impact.

³ Timely and quality country level submissions to Annual Monitoring Process are mandatory. As a Global Programme, it enables aggregated reporting by CPMT to GEF, UNDP and other stakeholders.



M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible Parties	Budget Source	Timing
SGP Database	Ensure recording of all Project and Country Programme inputs in SGP database	NCs, PAs,	Staff time	Throughout the operational phase. Ensure quality assurance and completion of data prior to annual monitoring cycle (May- June of every year)
Audit	Ensure compliance with project implementation/management standards and norms	External/independent auditors. NC/ PA to provide requisite support.	Global Operating Budget	Annually for selected countries on risk-assessment basis

9.2 CPS Results Framework

SGP Country Programme Strategy (CPS) for GEF-8 will not be an isolated process and will reflect alignment with UNDP CPD, which in turn is linked to UNDP Strategic Plan and related Integrated Results and Resources framework (2024-2028) and Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs). It also highlights the specific SDGs that it will be contributing to as part of its alignment with UNDP CPD.

Table 5: Results Framework of SGP OP8 Country Programme Strategy

Alignment with SDGs

Through the implementation of the 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 6: ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all; Goal 7: ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all; Goal 11: make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; Goal 12: ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns; Goal 13: take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development; Goal 15: protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss and Goal 17: strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

Synergy with UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD):

The UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD) for Mauritius, 2024-2028 will adopt a comprehensive development approach, capitalizing on its integrator role and comparative advantage, to contribute directly to outcomes 2 and 3 of the UNSDCF. Under outcome 2, UNDP's emphasis will be on strengthening the capacities of the private sector and economically and socially empowering women, youth and other vulnerable populations through value chains to harness the potential of the blue economy. The UNDP contribution to outcome 3 is premised on consolidating investments to enhance national capacities for institutional sustainability and resilience. At its core are initiatives aimed at promoting the adoption of green energy, conservation and restoration of vital natural resources, safeguarding biodiversity and establishing nature-based solutions that integrate ecological, social and economic considerations. The UNDP programming will be clustered around two complementary areas (a) socioeconomic transformation; and (b) environmental sustainability and resilience.



The present SGP Country Programme Strategy for GEF-8 reflects alignment with the above UNDP priorities, which are all in turn linked to Sustainable Development Goals. It aims to promote and support meaningful involvement of communities and civil society organizations to further implement these national priorities.

OP8 SGP Programme Goal: Engage local CSOs/CBOs in landscape-seascape approaches across the world, providing them access to knowledge and information, capacitating them through learning-by-doing, skills development, and delivering technical and grant assistance for interventions that enhance wellbeing and socioeconomic conditions and generate global environmental benefits.

1	2	3
OP8 SGP CPS Strategic Initiative	CPS Indicators and Targets	Means of Verification
<u>Strategic Initiative 1:</u> Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species 1) Improve the effectiveness of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and management through equitable governance systems by recognizing and respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. 2) Improve community-led biodiversity friendly practices and approaches, including promoting blue economy approaches (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, infrastructure, etc.). 3) Enhance community led actions for protection of threatened species. National Priorities 4) Food loss and waste to be reduced across the full value chain, including agricultural production, post-harvest	At least 3 hectares of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (GEF core indicator 4.1 and 4.3) At least 4 hectares of marine protected areas created or under improved management (GEF core indicator 2) At least 4 hectares of marine habitat under improved practices (GEF core indicator 5) At least 2 community-based protected area/ conserved area designations and/or networks strengthened At least 10 green jobs created <i>At least 1000 people reached through visibility and awareness sessions</i>	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports) Baseline assessment comparison variables (use of conceptual models and partner data as appropriate) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Review



5) handling and storage, processing and packaging, distribution and retail, as well as at consumer level.		
Strategic Initiative 2: Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security 1) Increase efficiency and effectiveness of overall food production and value chain, including in vulnerable ecosystems (mountains, island ecosystems, etc.). 2) Increase diversification and livelihood improvement. 3) Remove deforestation from supply chain and expand restoration of degraded lands.	At least 4 hectares of land and ecosystems under restoration (GEF core indicator 3.1) At least 2 partnerships to advance sustainable agriculture and fisheries and/or food security (such as diversification, sustainable intensification, sustainable fisheries management, agroecological farming practices, climate-smart agriculture, certification programmes, local sourcing initiatives, waste reduction and circular economy, etc.) At least 1 small-holder farmer group supported towards the achievement of national Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets At least 4 hectares of land under agro-ecology practices such as, rehabilitation of degraded land and fostering capacity development among farmers.	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams (as part of midterm and final Progress reports) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Review Socio-ecological resilience indicators for production landscapes (SEPLs)
Strategic Initiative 5: Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions 1) Improve capacities to promote community-driven, socially inclusive and integrated solutions to address low-emission and resilient urban development. 2) Demonstrate innovative socially inclusive urban solutions/ approaches (including waste and chemical management, energy, transport, watershed protection, ecosystem services and biodiversity).	At least 1 policy recommendations or advocacy initiatives related to land-based pollution as a result of SGP project At least 10 tons of plastic waste recycled or avoided At least 10 tons of POPs waste avoided from burning At least 10 tons of harmful chemicals avoided At least 1 community-based sustainable solutions in urban landscapes (e.g., transport, biodiversity conservation, chemical and waste management, energy efficiency, watershed protection, etc.) At least 2 projects with targeted urban solutions focus At least 1 community with improved capacities to promote community-driven integrated solutions for low-emission and resilient urban development. Number of projects with improved capacities to promote community-driven integrated solutions for low-emission and resilient urban development.	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Review

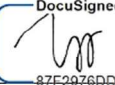
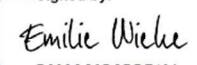
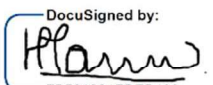
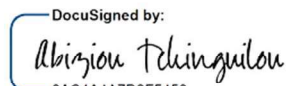
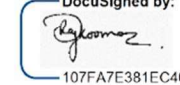


3) Implement public-private partnership approach for low carbon energy access for marginalized urban communities.		
<u>Strategic Initiative 6:</u> CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms 1) Promote/enhance community voices and participation in global and national policy, strategy development related to global environment and sustainable development issues. National Priorities 2) increase access to financing for circular business models.	At least 2 CSO-government-private sector dialogues formed or strengthened At least 1 high-level policy change associated with increased community participation in multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms At least 50 representatives from social inclusion group (Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, persons with disability, farmers, other marginalized groups) meaningfully engaged in multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), global database Country Programme Review
<u>Strategic Initiative 7:</u> Enhancing social inclusion 1) Promote inclusive targeted initiatives. 2) Mainstream social inclusion in all projects. (e.g. women/girls, Indigenous Peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities).	At least 15 people benefitting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex (GEF core indicator 11) At least 5 projects with focused interventions promoting gender equality and women's empowerment At least 1 project that demonstrate models of engaging (a) Indigenous Peoples, (b) youth, and (c) persons with disabilities. At least 3 grants with targeted support for 1) women or women groups; 2) youth or youth-led groups; 3) Indigenous Peoples' groups At least USD 50,000 of total grant portfolio accessed by 1) women or women groups; 2) youth or youth-led groups; 3) indigenous peoples' groups	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Review



Strategic Initiative 8: Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management 1) Administer new M&E strategy in Country Programme and project design, implementation and overall decision making using participatory mechanisms. 2) Capture knowledge and lessons from projects and activities. 3) Improve capacities of CSOs/CBOs. 4) Conduct South-South Exchanges to promote technology transfer and replication of good practices.	At least 5 projects with meetings involving local CSOs/CBOs or communities to monitor project results, assess impacts, and identify lessons learned At least 1 knowledge exchange/sharing events with participation of local communities At least 5 online knowledge repositories developed as a result of SGP project At least 1 country/cross-country impact reviews conducted with evidence of SGP impact and lessons learned. At least 1 South-South exchanges between communities, NGOs/CSOs, or other partners within or across countries to transfer knowledge, replicate technology, tools or approaches on global environmental issues	Individual project reporting by SGP country teams Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), SGP global database Country Programme Review
--	--	---

10. NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT

NSC members involved in OP8 CPS development, review and endorsement	Signatures
Dr. Josheena Naggea, Hoffmann Postdoctoral fellow, Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions, Chairperson	DocuSigned by:  87F2976DD23E495...
Dr. Emilie Wiehe, CSO representative	Signed by:  D296CC9BCDDF48A...
Mr. Edley Maurer, Manager SAFIRE	DocuSigned by:  7B561281FDEB490...
Mrs. Anusha Velappa-Naiken, Analyst, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development (GEF OFP)	Signed by:  69F898DBA4A14BE...
Mr. Abiziou Tchinguilou, Climate Change Specialist, UNDP on behalf of Ms. Amanda K. Serumaga, Resident Representative, UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles	DocuSigned by:  6AC4A4A7D2F5450...
Ms. Valentine Mayer, OpenMind	<i>Apologies not in the country</i> Signed by:  4AF0C8E83074418...
Mrs. Davetee (Sharmila) Rajkoomar, Divisional Environment Officer, Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change	DocuSigned by:  107FA7E381EC40D...



11. ANNEXES

Annex 1: Consultative/Landscape baseline assessment process

a. Summary

Two consultative workshops were organized in Rodrigues in view of developing the Country Programme Strategy for Operational Phase 8 for Mauritius GEF SGP. The first one took place on 14 October 2024 at the Centre Cardinale Jean Margeot (Port Mathurin, Rodrigues). This consultation process involved the National Coordinator, 2 NSC members and 10 members of 3 NGOs, namely JL Renewable Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd, Association pour l'Autosuffisance Alimentaire et le Développement Durable (AAADD) and Association des Parents D'Elèves et Instituteurs de L'Ecole Ste Famille. The second one was a meeting with the Chief Commissioner Rodrigues Regional Assembly involving the National Coordinator and 2 NSC members.

A third consultative workshop was held in Mauritius on 29 October 2024 with 4 members of the National Steering Committee (NSC) and 14 representatives from the UNDP, MCB Forward Foundation, Caritas, Mauritius Wildlife Foundation (MWF), Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI), MADE IN MORIS, Center of Indo-oceanic Territorial Development Studies (CEDTI), EcoMode Society, Fondation Ressources et Nature (FORENA), Service d'Accompagnement, de Formation, d'Insertion et de Réhabilitation de l'Enfant (SAFIRE), Tourism Authority, Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change.

The objective of these CPS consultations was to identify priority programming directions for OP8, aligning with the country's national priorities and GEF-8 programming goals. The consultations also aimed to determine key landscape and seascape areas for achieving greater strategic impact for the SGP. Participants unanimously recommended treating the Republic of Mauritius as a single landscape/seascape to maximize impact, given its status as a Small Island Developing State.

Key national challenges and priorities identified during the consultations include:

- Marine and terrestrial biodiversity conservation
- Coastal zone management
- Sustainable consumption and production
- Climate-smart agriculture and food security
- Sustainable waste management
- Sustainable land management
- Reduction of POPs and other chemicals
- Plastic management
- Sustainable cities
- Circular economy
- Education and awareness raising in sustainable development

Participants emphasized the need to reduce food loss and waste across the entire value chain—from agricultural production and post-harvest handling to storage, processing, packaging, distribution, retail, and consumer levels. Discussions also highlighted the importance of optimizing existing construction practices and processes, expanding the range of products covered under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), improving markets for recycled commodities, and increasing access to financing for circular business models.



The six strategic initiatives of the SGP 8th Operational Phase were presented to the participants. An open and constructive discussion was held to encourage stakeholders to identify potential projects. Following this dialogue, four strategic initiatives were selected, but as per CPS guidance, only three were finally retained:

- **Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species**
- **Sustainable agriculture, fisheries, and food security**
- **Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions**

The selection was guided by their alignment with national priorities and their designation as funding priorities under the GEF SGP. Participants also agreed that the Strategic Initiative on "Low-carbon energy access co-benefits" should be incorporated under the broader initiative of "Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions." The SGP results framework were aligned with the GEF-8 results framework, as detailed in Table 5.

b. Baseline Assessment

Mauritius, as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), faces global challenges such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, poor management of toxic chemicals and hazardous waste, and marine pollution. These challenges are exacerbated by its fragile ecosystem, geographic isolation, and the impact of invasive alien species. To address these issues, Mauritius has signed 36 multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) related to chemicals, biodiversity, marine, and atmospheric protection.

In December 2016, Mauritius submitted its Third National Communication to the UNFCCC. The first Biennial Update Report (BUR) was completed by early 2020. In September 2015, Mauritius submitted its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the UNFCCC, and in April 2016, it signed and ratified the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Quito Declaration on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements.

The Government of Mauritius and the United Nations jointly published the Strategic Partnership Framework (SPF) 2019-2023, which aligned with Mauritius's National Vision, the three-year Strategic Plan, sustainable development goals (SDGs), internationally and regionally agreed commitments, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A) Pathway, and the Africa Agenda 2063. The SPF aims to support Mauritius's transition to a high-income country through the creation of sustainable jobs, particularly for vulnerable groups.

Mauritius's first Voluntary National Review Report (VNR) was published in 2019 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, reaffirming its commitment to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. Additionally, the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) for Low Carbon Island Development Strategy (2017-2021), funded by GEF 5 with USD 1.6 million, has been implemented.

The Mauritius National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2019-2025 fulfils obligations under Article 6a of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It replaces the 2003-2015 version and emphasizes



the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services, their contributions to human well-being, trends in biodiversity, and the drivers of biodiversity loss.

Mauritius has recognized the urgency of addressing plastic pollution and transitioning to a circular economy to reduce waste generation and promote resource efficiency. The government has developed roadmaps and policies targeting the reduction, reuse, and recycling of plastic waste as part of its broader sustainability efforts. Key measures include banning single-use plastics, encouraging the use of biodegradable alternatives, and promoting extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes.

In alignment with the global efforts to tackle plastic pollution, Mauritius supports the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, commonly referred to as the Plastic Treaty. Mauritius has committed to implementing the principles of the treaty by integrating circular economy strategies into national policies and strengthening public-private partnerships to foster innovation and sustainable practices. Similarly, efforts to enhance plastic waste management are also supported by public awareness campaigns, improved waste collection and recycling infrastructure, and incentives for businesses to adopt sustainable packaging solutions. Through these initiatives, Mauritius seeks to position itself as a leader in sustainable waste management within the SIDS community while contributing to global efforts to combat plastic pollution.

Rodrigues, an autonomous dependency of Mauritius, has advanced its sustainable development initiatives under the Sustainable Island Development Plan for Rodrigues (SIDPR). This plan emphasizes renewable energy, sustainable tourism, and biodiversity conservation. Rodrigues has integrated climate adaptation measures and improved waste management systems to align with national and international environmental strategies.

The development of airport infrastructure in Rodrigues aims to enhance connectivity, boost tourism, and support economic growth. However, this expansion raises socio-economic and environmental concerns. Improved access to international markets and tourism has the potential to create employment opportunities in construction, hospitality, and transport sectors, while also increasing economic activity and infrastructure development. Nevertheless, the expansion may lead to the displacement of local communities and disruption of traditional livelihoods. Environmentally, the development poses risks such as biodiversity loss due to habitat destruction, increased greenhouse gas emissions from air traffic, and pollution threats to marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

Mauritius continues to balance economic growth with sustainable development by integrating environmental safeguards and promoting inclusive policies. These initiatives are in line with the country's broader commitment to achieving SDGs and climate resilience.

c. Selection of landscapes/seascapes

The participants 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.



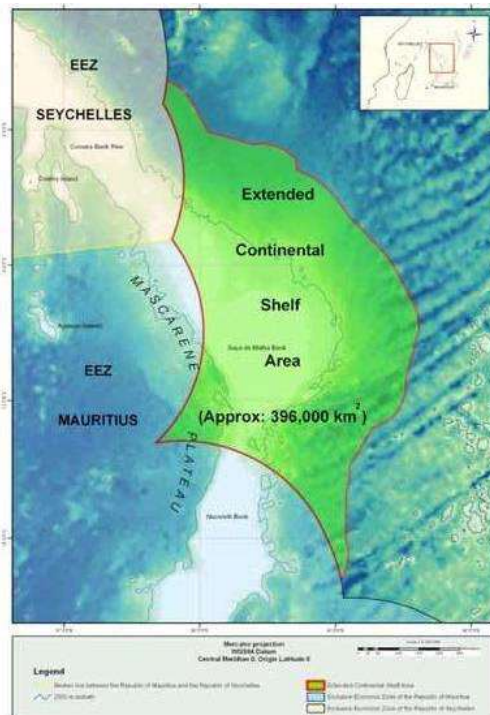
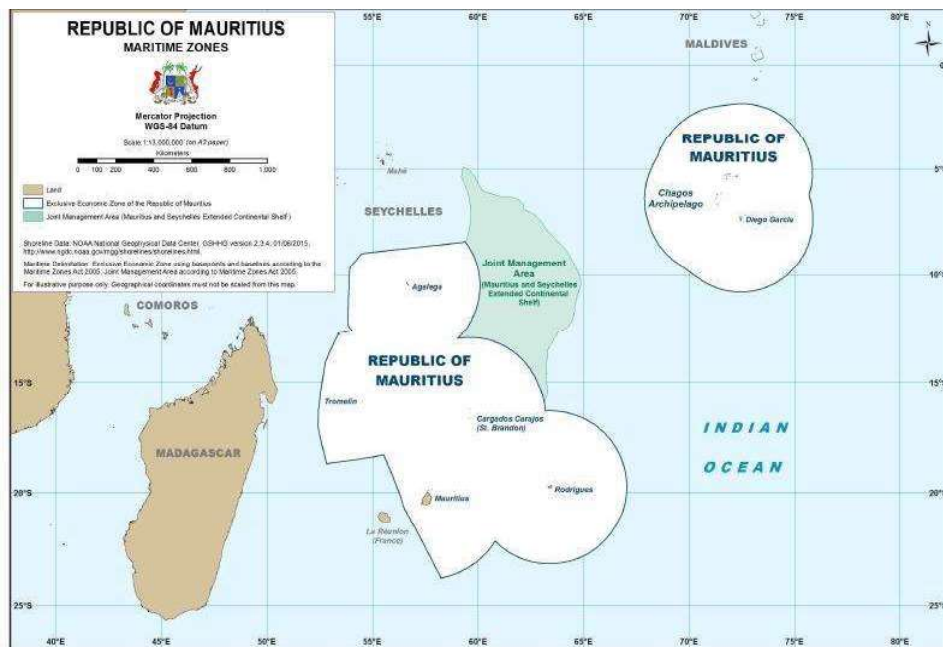
d. Selection of OP 8 Strategic Initiatives

The six strategic initiatives were discussed by all the participants, as shown in Table 2, so as to identify a maximum of three strategic initiatives that will be most applicable for Mauritius. This selection was based on the following criteria:

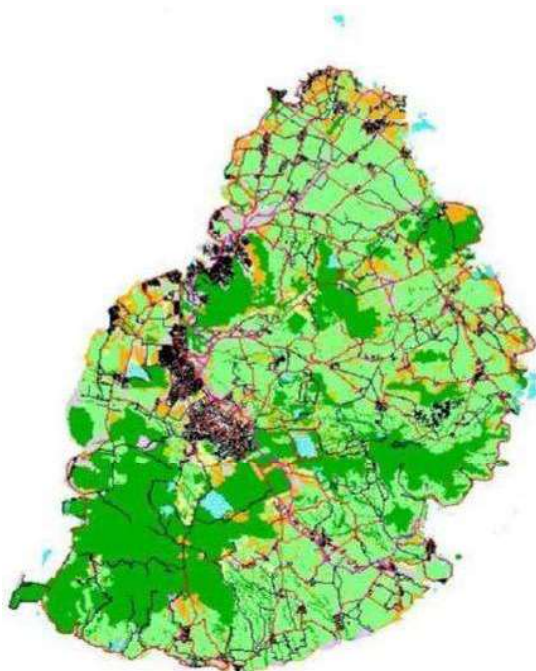
- National priorities
- Impact of the strategic initiatives for the next 4 years
- Funding priorities of GEF SGP

ANNEX 2: MAPS

Map 1. Exclusive Economic Zone⁵

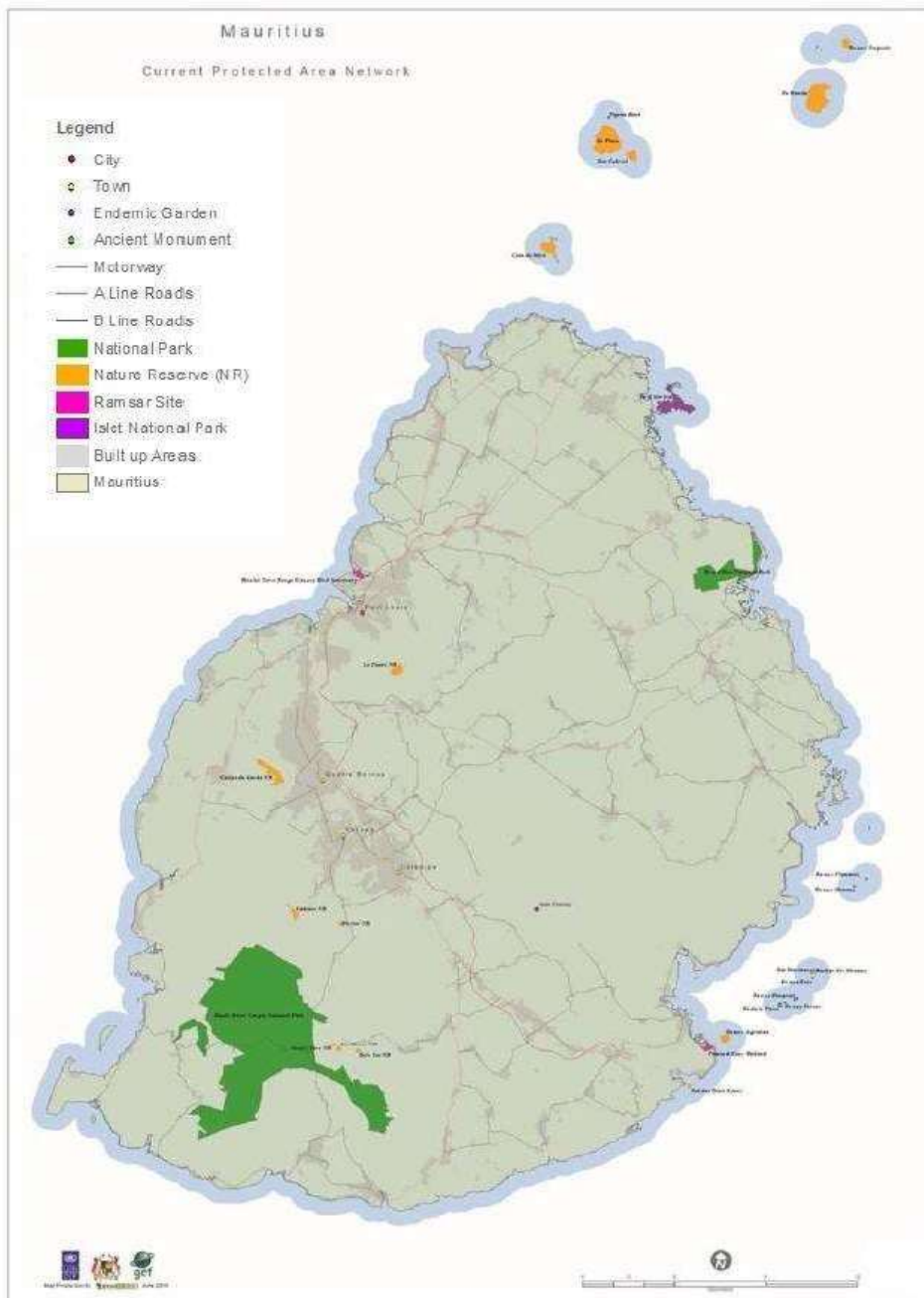


Map 2. Mauritius Land Use Map⁵

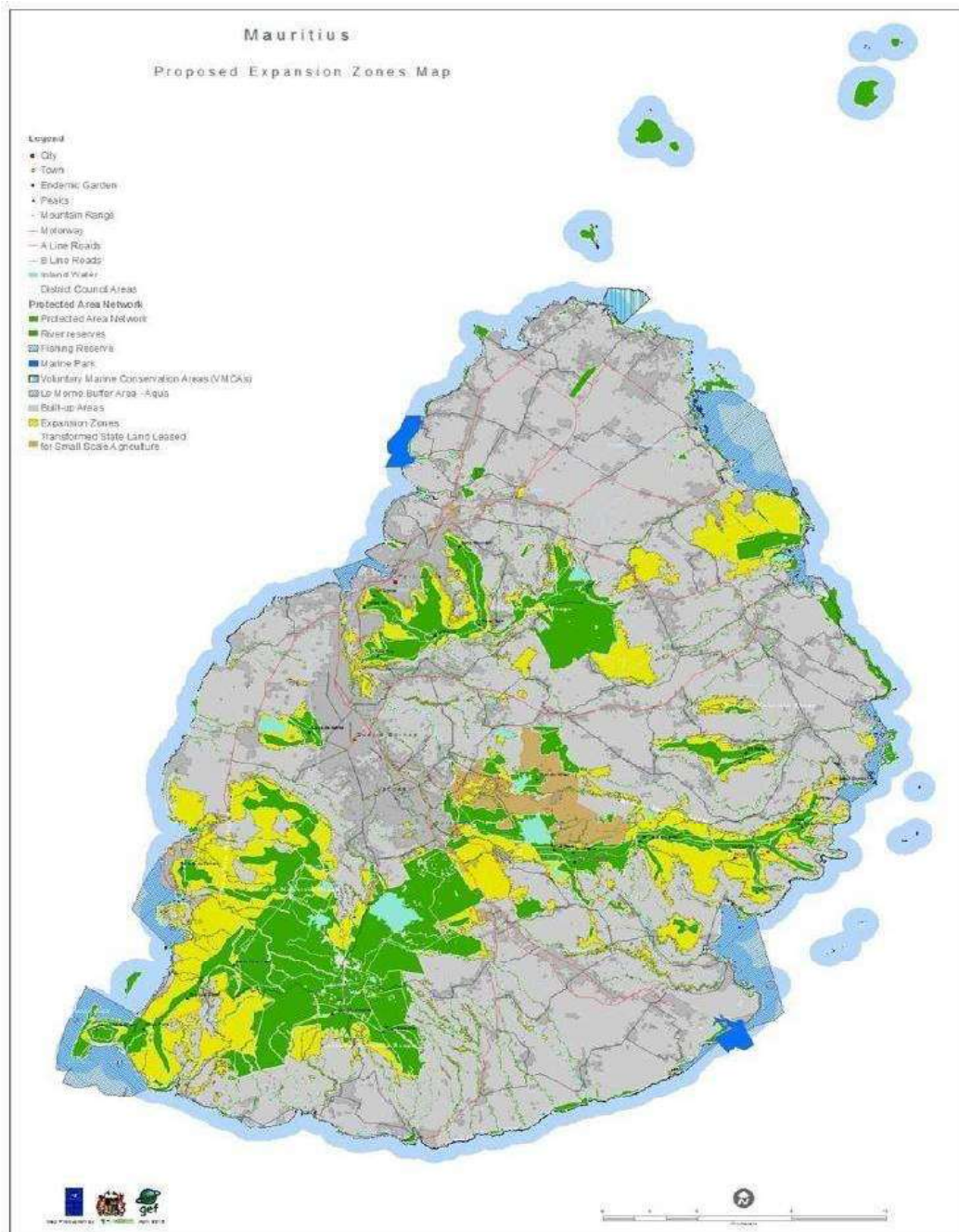


LEGEND	MAJOR LAND USE	AREA (ha) & %
Sugar cane Other crops Livestock production	Agriculture	77,418 (41.5%)
Abandoned sugar cane land		
Reserves (Mountain & River) Waste land Rock heap Leisure (beach, public garden, etc.)	Forest, Shrub, Range & Grazing Land	68,946 (37.0%)
Water body & marsh/ inland water resources		
Built-up area		28,070 (15.1%)
Highway Main road Secondary road/parking	Infrastructure	78,79 (4.2%)
Total area (ha)		
		186,500 (100.0%)

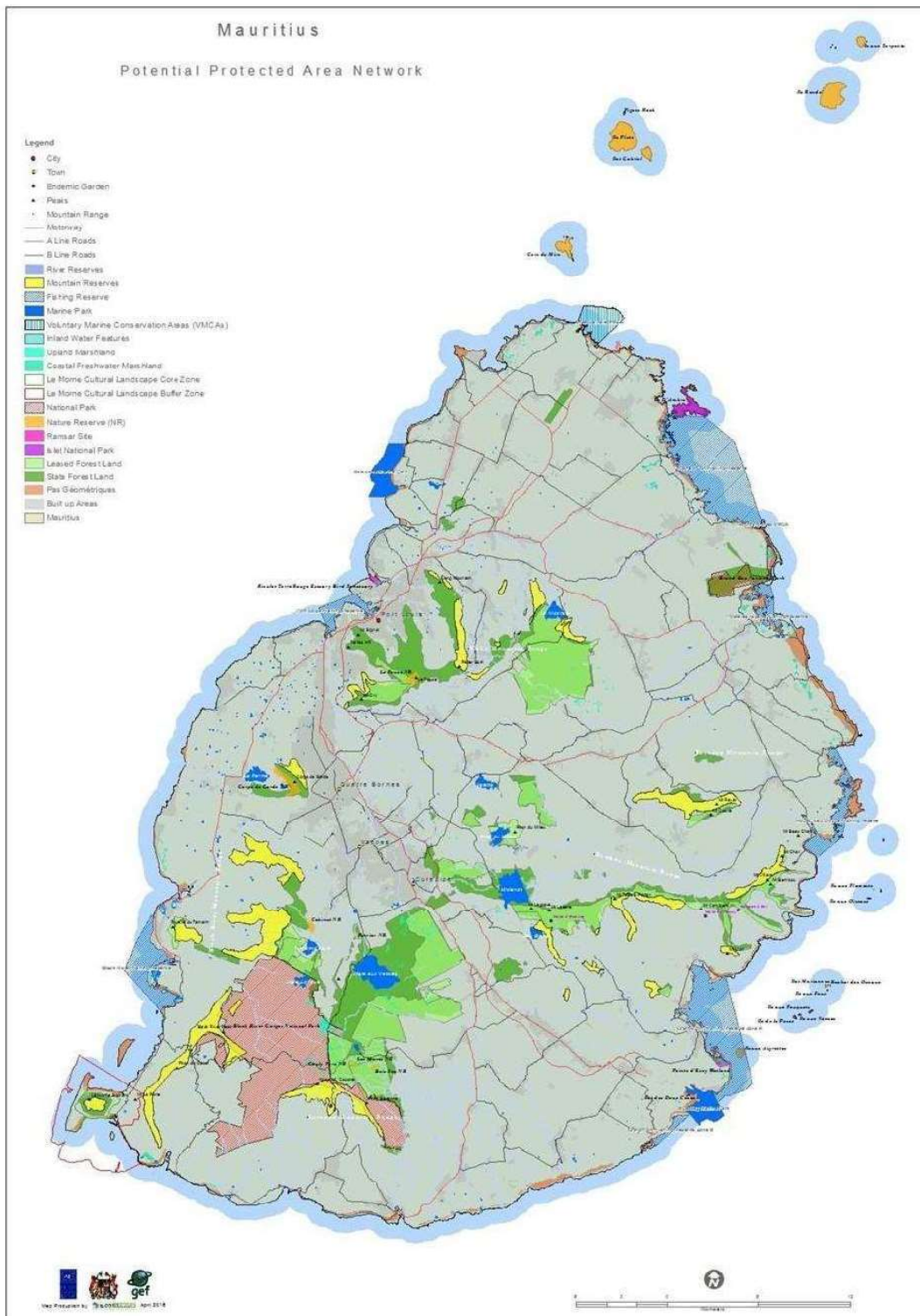
Map 3. Current protected Area Network of Mauritius including National Parks, nature Reserves and Ramsar Sites⁵



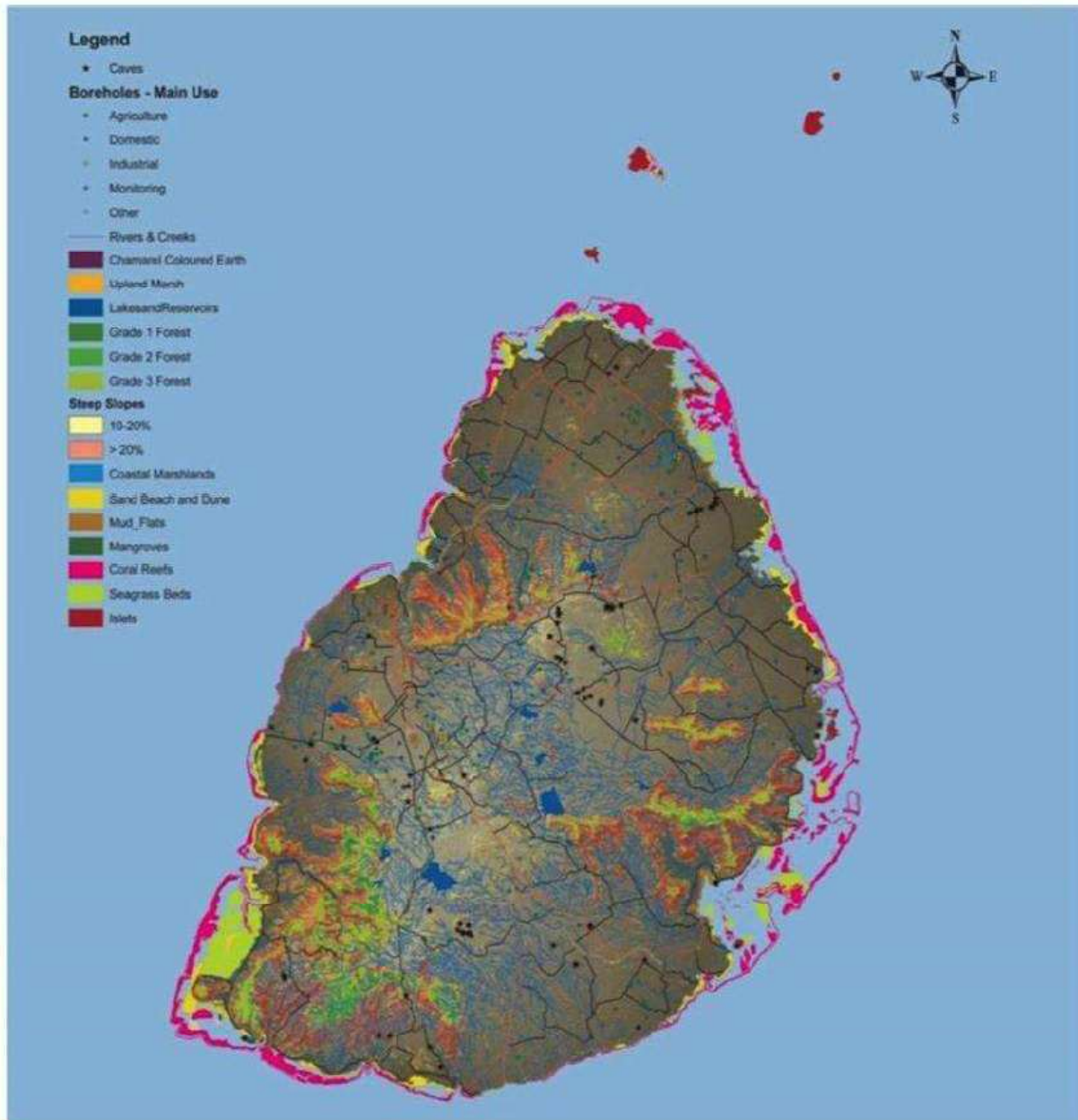
Map 4. Potential Protected Area Network (green) and proposed expansion zones (yellow)⁵



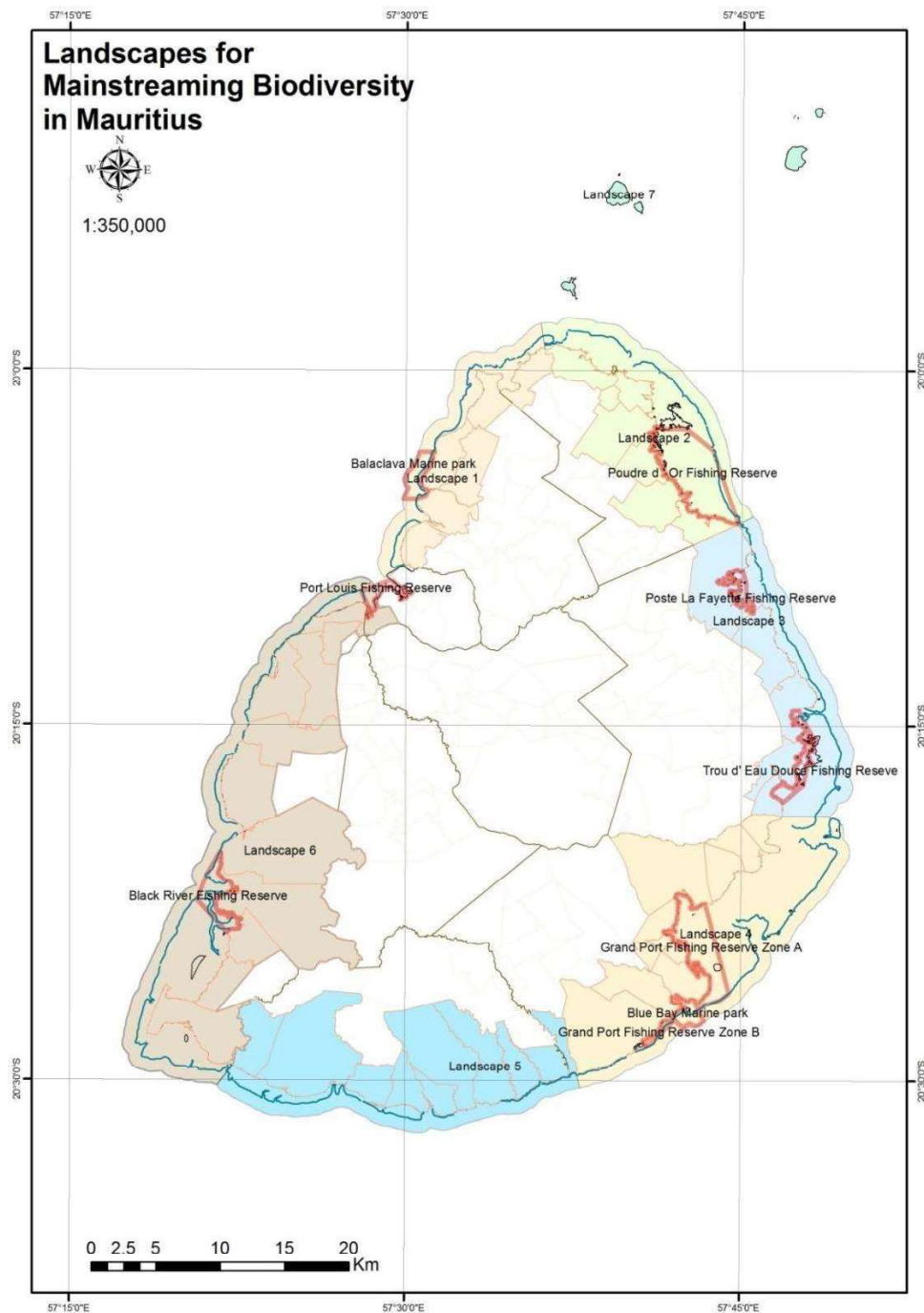
Map 5. Potential Protected Area Network with various Protected Areas⁵



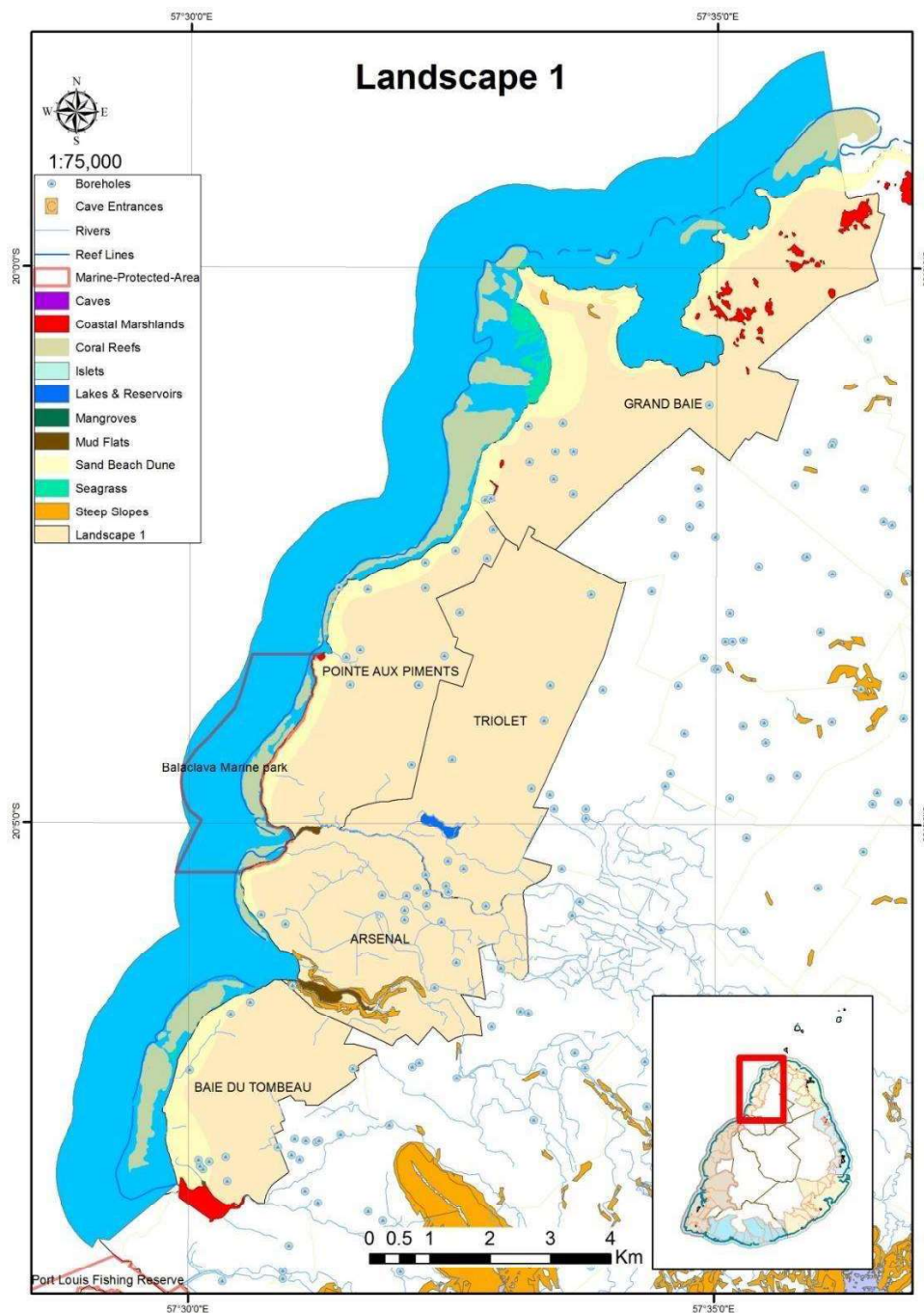
Map 6. Demarcation and inventory of wetlands in Mauritius⁵



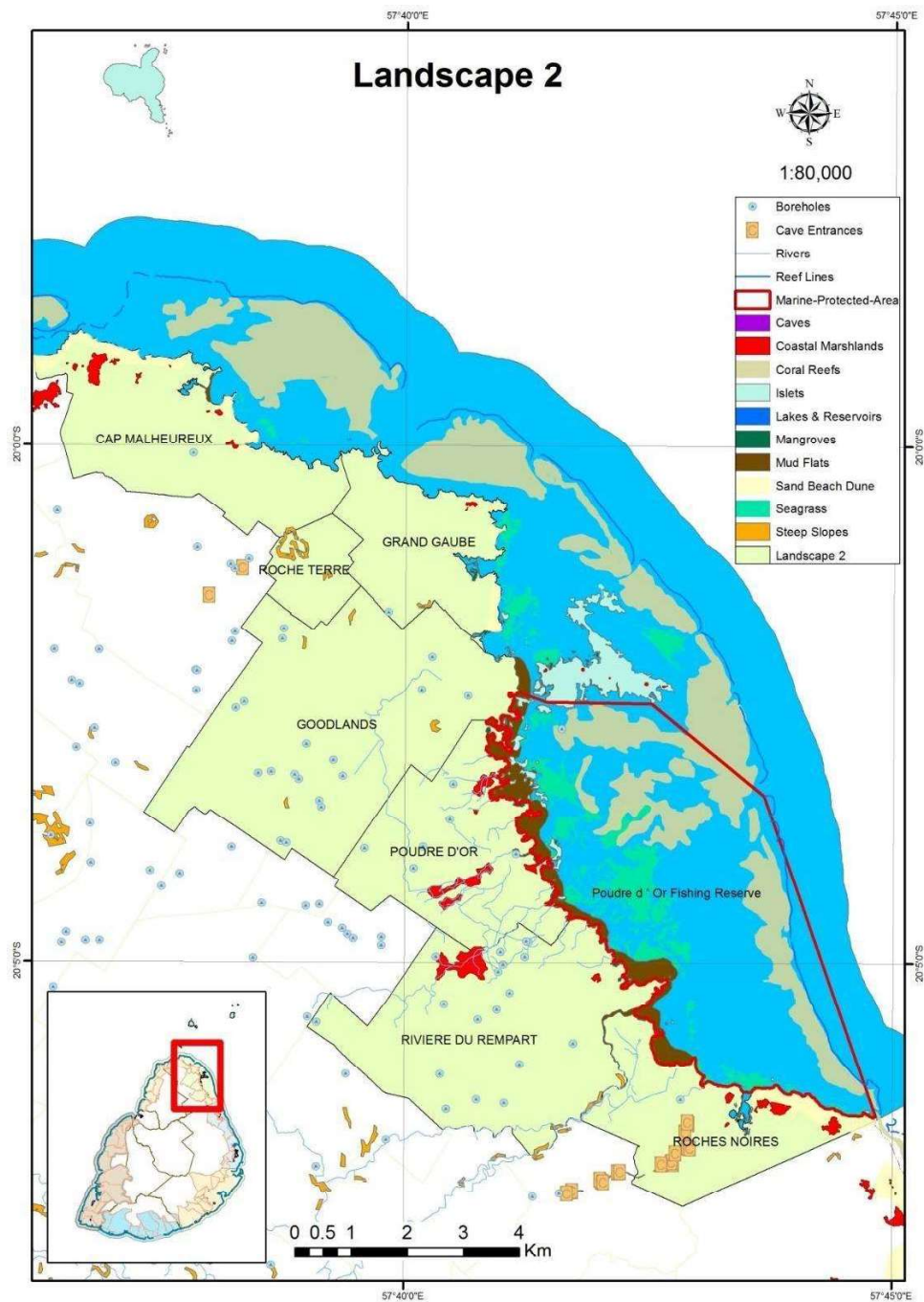
Map 7. Mauritius - District land- and seascapes proposed as planning areas



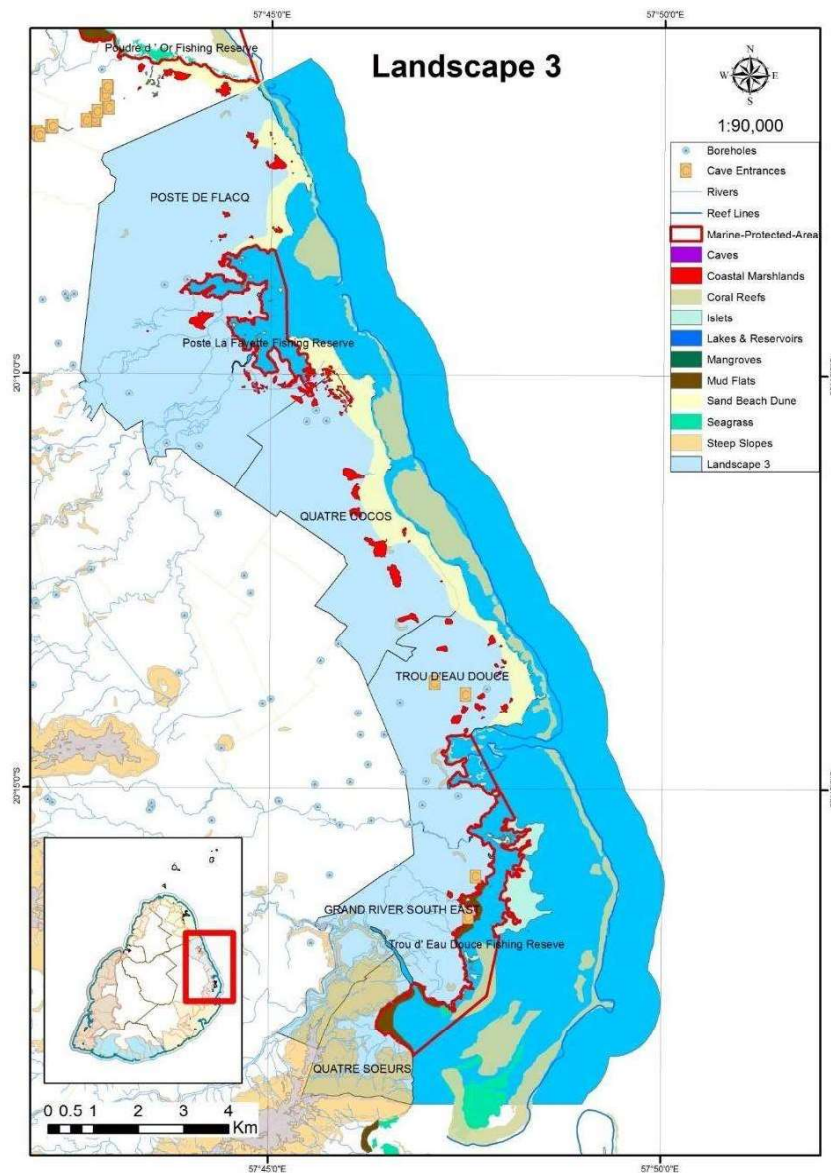
Map 8. Marine and coastal ESAs in Pamplemousses District



Map 9. Marine and coastal ESAs in Riviere du Rempart

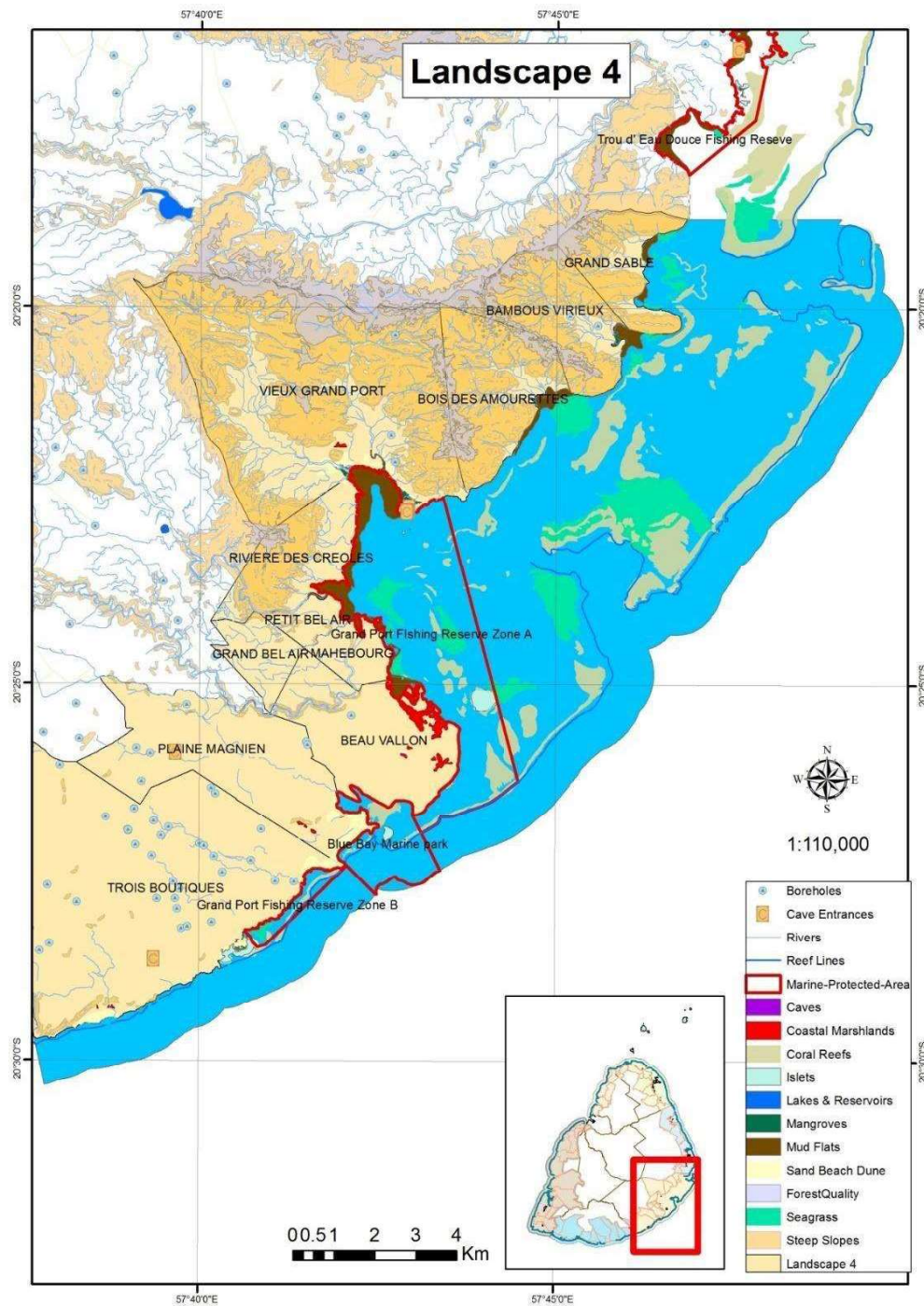


Map 10. Marine and coastal ESAs in Flacq District



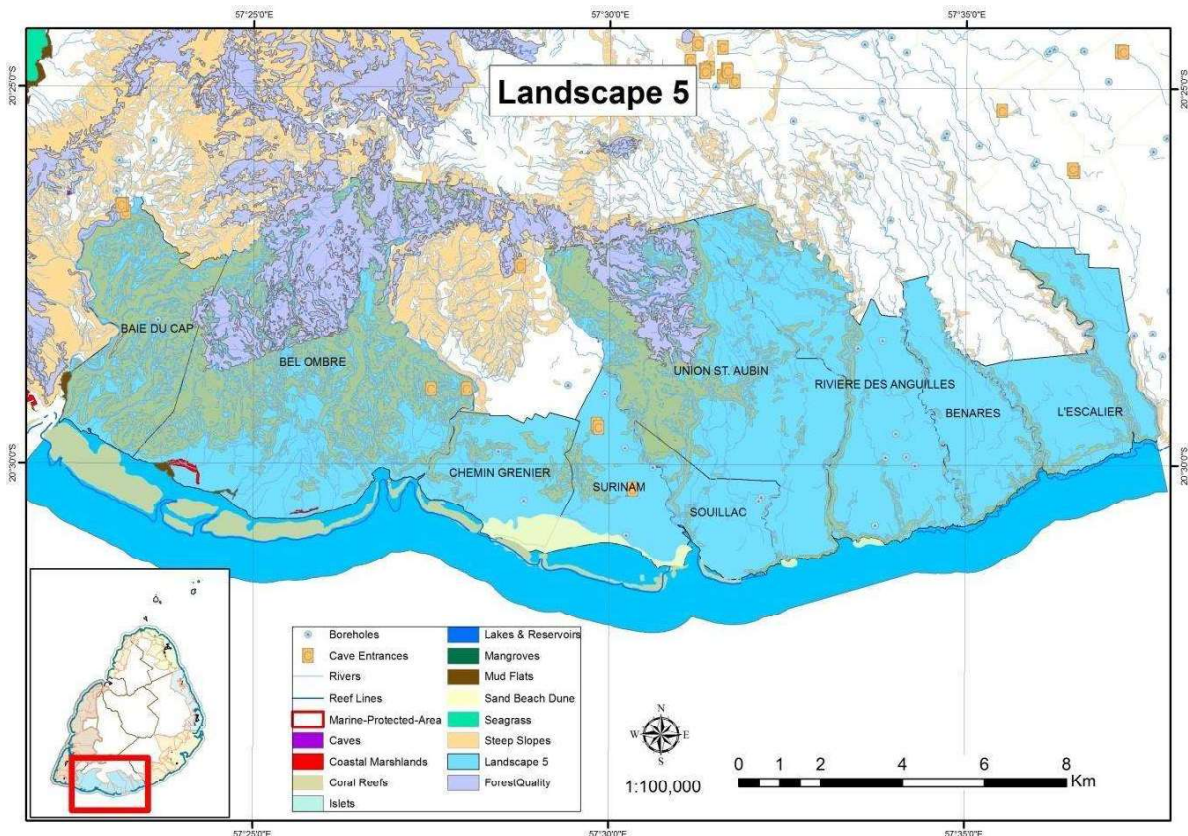
Source: United Nations Development Programme, Government of Mauritius, Global Environment Facility. Mainstreaming biodiversity into the management of the coastal zone in the Republic of Mauritius. Project Document.

Map 12. Marine and Coastal ESAs in Grand Port District



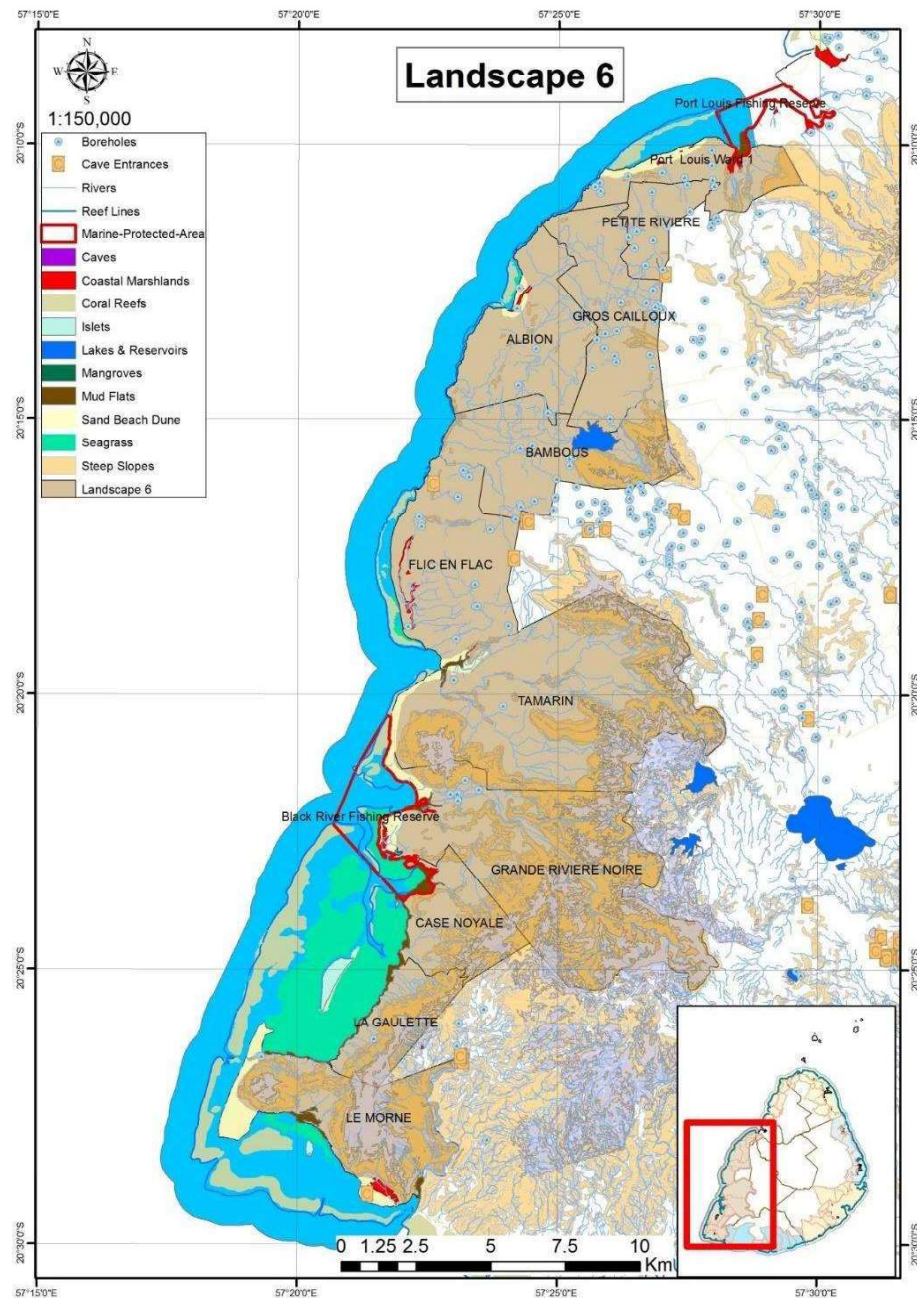
Source: United Nations Development Programme, Government of Mauritius, Global Environment Facility. Mainstreaming biodiversity into the management of the coastal zone in the Republic of Mauritius. Project Document.

Map 13. Marine and coastal ESAs in Savanne District



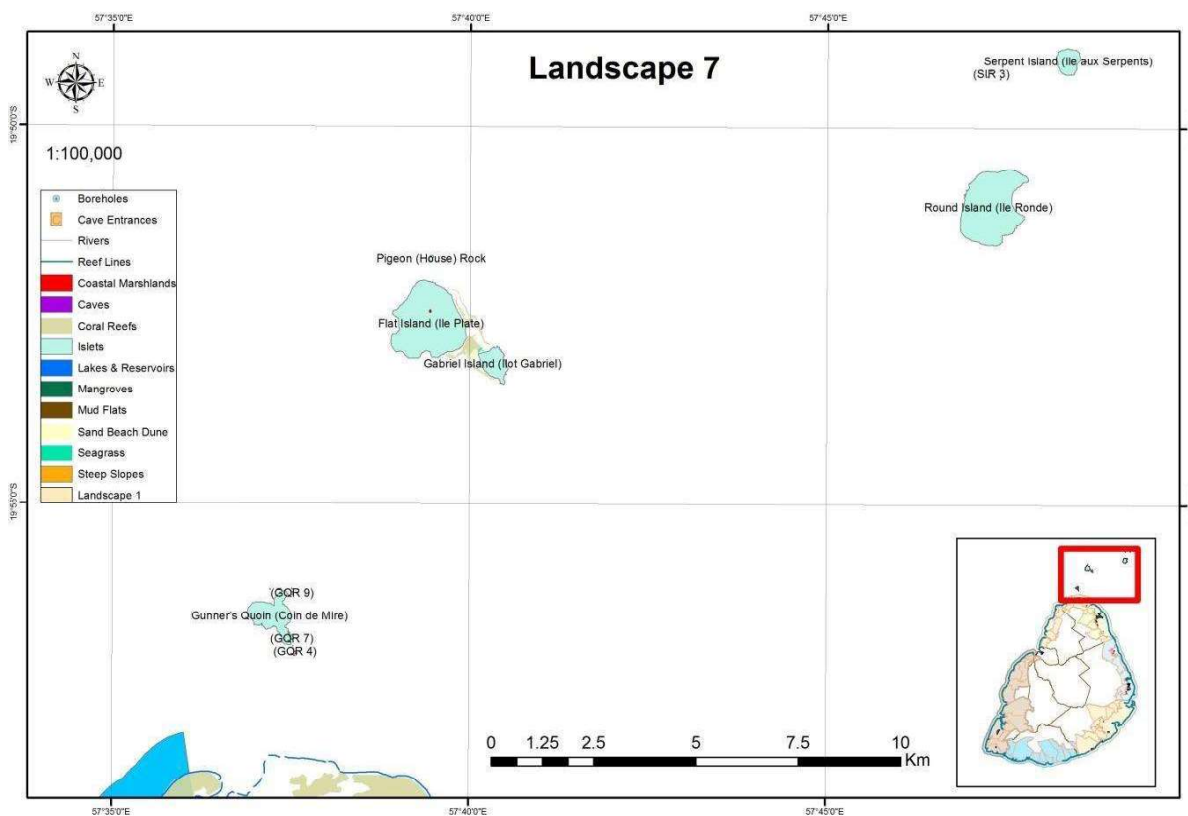
Source: United Nations Development Programme, Government of Mauritius, Global Environment Facility. Mainstreaming biodiversity into the management of the coastal zone in the Republic of Mauritius. Project Document.

Map 14. 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 15. Marine and Coastal ESAs in Northern Islets



ANNEX 2: REFERENCES

Document name	Document link
Mauritius national vision of GoM	Mauritius National Vision Government Programme 2020-2024
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Mauritius 2024-2028
UNDP CPD	UNDP Mauritius Country Programme Document 2024-2028
Sustainable Integrated Development Plan for Rodrigues (2023-2032)	 SIDPR (2023-2032).pdf EU Ref. Ares(2023)4571976 - 01/07/2023
Roadmap and action plan for circular economy	Roadmap and Action Plan for Circular Economy in the Republic of Mauritius
Strategic plan agro-industry	Strategic Plan of Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security 2024-2030
Waste management and resource act	Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act 2023
Green climate fund GCF project	Green Climate Fund Projects in Mauritius (directed to Accelerating transformational shift to low-carbon economy in the Republic of Mauritius)
Monitoring and evaluation plan of GEF UNDP	
Accelerating the transformational shift to a low carbon economy in the Republic of Mauritius	Accelerating the transformational shift to a low-carbon economy in the Republic of Mauritius
Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Management and Biodiversity Conservation in the Republic of Mauritius	 Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Man
Indian Ocean Regional Project - Mauritius - Implementing Sustainable Low and non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS)	Indian Ocean Regional Project - Mauritius - Implementing Sustainable Low and non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS)
Mainstreaming Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Prevention, Control and Management	Mainstreaming Invasive Alien Species: Prevention, Control and Management
Promoting Low-Carbon Electric Public Bus Transport	 Promoting Low-Carbon Electric P
Strengthening the national greenhouse gas inventory of the Republic of Mauritius to improve climate reporting and transparency	Strengthening the national greenhouse gas inventory of the Republic of Mauritius to improve climate reporting and transparency (CBIT)
Review and update of the national implementation plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	 Review and update of the national implem
Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support	Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support
Umbrella Programme to Support Development of Biodiversity Finance Plans	Umbrella Programme to Support Development of Biodiversity Finance Plans