Mainstreaming biodiversity into the management of the coastal zone in the Republic of Mauritius

The Republic of Mauritius (RM) is a small island state with a total land surface of 2,040 km², encompassing the main island of Mauritius (1,865 km²), and Rodrigues (109 km²) – both of which are covered by the project – and the outer islands which are not addressed by the project.

The coastal zones and inshore waters of Mauritius and Rodrigues islands are of vital importance for socio-economic development; protecting the island from the natural forces of the ocean; providing income through tourism and fisheries; and as the focus of many leisure and other activities.

Intense pressure from sea and land-based activities threatens to undermine the full socio-economic potential of the country, and the government’s long-term goal of creating a sustainable ocean economy.

**OUR APPROACH**

**If** Environmentally Sensitive Areas are managed in a sustainable way

**then** The anthropogenic pressures in areas that are rich in biodiversity and that provide essential ecosystem services will be reduced

resulting in The achievement of a sustainable ocean economy for the country

**Budget**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>USD 1,260,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>USD 4,664,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Period** 2016 – 2021

October 2020
The project seeks to mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services into coastal zone management and into operations and policies of the tourism and physical development sectors in Mauritius.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

This project is implemented by the Government of Mauritius in partnership with UNDP.

**KEY RESULTS**

- Installation of GIS Unit in SEMPA, Rodrigues;
- Production of coastal and marine ESAs maps;
- Production of a Coastal Atlas for Mauritius and Rodrigues;
- Developing ICZM plans for Black River district and Rodrigues, using the ridge-to-reef concept.

**PARTNERS**

- Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping;
- Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity;
- Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change;
- Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security;
- Ministry of Tourism;
- Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

**UNDP IN MAURITIUS**

UNDP supports and supplements national efforts aimed at reducing poverty in all its forms, accelerating the transition to sustainable development, and making sure national institutions and communities are able to withstand crises and shocks. We work to make sure the most vulnerable and excluded are not left behind, develop game changing solutions to accelerate sustainable development, and promote low-carbon consumption, and preparedness against climate-related crises and shocks.

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**QUICK FACTS**

High marine diversity with about **1,656 species in 290 families** recorded from inshore waters.

In 2013, Mauritius ranked 18th in the world in terms of population density with **644 inhabitants per km²**.

With over **1 million visitors each year**, the anthropogenic pressures on the coastal zone is increased.

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