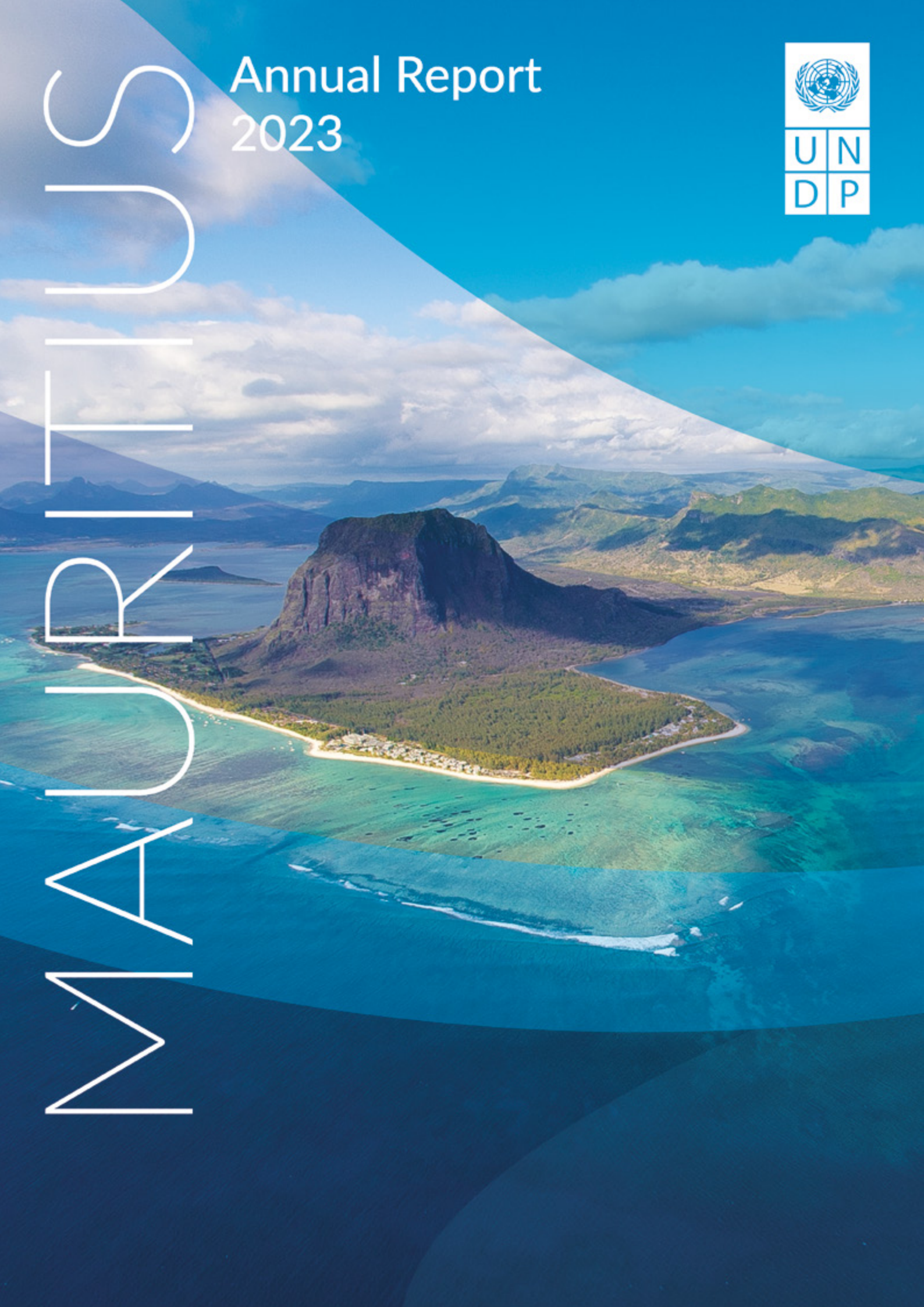


MAURITIUS

Annual Report
2023





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles acknowledges the Government of Mauritius, development partners, civil society, the private sector and implementing partners, who play a critical role in the transformational development.

The support and partnership received contribute towards the delivery of the UNDP programme and the results shared in this report.

ART DIRECTION AND DESIGN:
Phoenix Aid

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1

FOREWORD

**Amanda Serumaga**

Resident Representative,
UNDP Mauritius & Seychelles

In 2023, the UNDP has remained a steadfast strategic partner to the government and people of Mauritius as the country continued to register impressive recovery from global shocks. With a real GDP estimated at 5.0 percent and full convergence to pre-COVID-19 levels, Mauritius' performance is attributed to the remarkable bounce-back of several productive sectors.

To maintain a full and sustainable recovery, the Government continues to advance strategic investments across key sectors of the economy. Incentives have also been introduced to spur private investment. In both the public and private sectors, bold measures are ongoing to address constraints faced by women in domestic and production spaces, recognizing women as a crucial engine of growth. Of note, Maurice Stratégie, an independent economic research and planning bureau, was operationalized to enhance evidence-based development planning.

The Government continues to endorse digitalization to attain greater efficiency in implementing integrated solutions across both the public and private sectors in alignment with the national digital strategy. The UNDP Country Office has significantly increased investment in public administration to bolster the Government's digital transformation agenda. Key initiatives include the National E-health programme, double deductions on costs for capacity strengthening in digital transformation, and the launch of the Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) implementation in the public service and electronic parliamentary documentation.

Environmental sustainability remains core to the development agenda. Through its environment portfolio, the UNDP has contributed to strong actions sustained by the Government to realize the country's aims to transit to a sustainable and net-zero economy with emphasis on renewable energy, water, and the circular economy. The Government has renewed its commitment to achieving its 60 percent renewable energy ambition, with, in part, a target to achieve a fully green bus transport system by 2035 through the Public Transport Decarbonization Programme. In this regard, the national implementation of the Low Carbon Electric Public Bus Transport project was initiated. Several programmes in ecosystems restoration, adaptation and management have also been scaled up through a new legislative framework, aimed at fostering sustainable development within the industry, among other objectives.

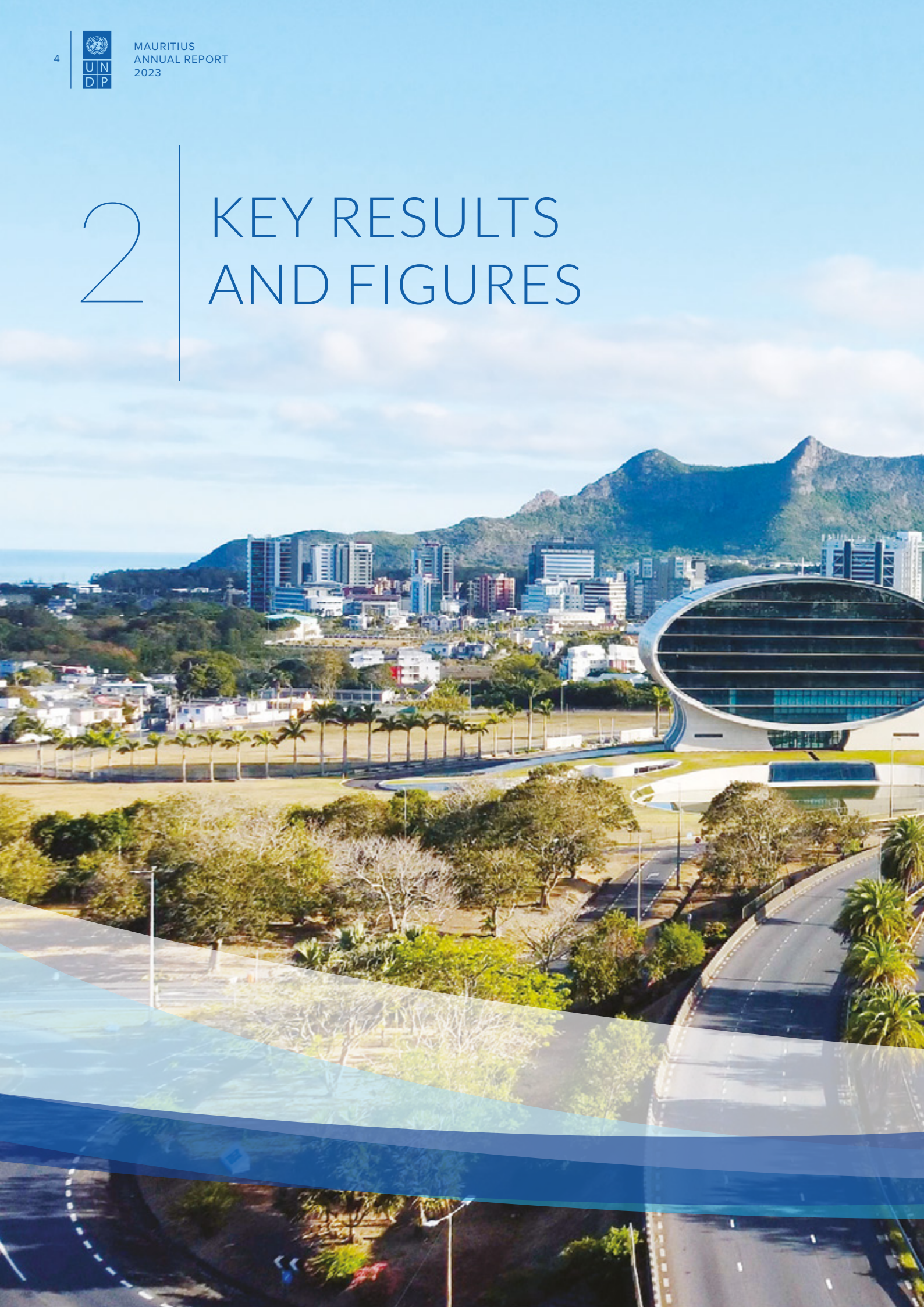
Collaboration across the UN system and engagement with bilateral and multilateral partners ensured effective delivery of development programmes and contributed to the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

The UNDP's integrated policy supported progress towards achieving the country's key development goals through structural transformation, aiming to leave no one behind and build resilience.



2

KEY RESULTS AND FIGURES







Operationalization of the Mauritius
SDG Investor Map



Implementation of Electronic
Document Management System
started



Financial literacy of 30 women
entrepreneurs enhanced through
trainings



Contribution to development planning
via the operationalization of Maurice
Stratégie



Implementation of the electric bus
project started



Development of a management plan
to enhance ecosystems integrity



Bazar Moris platform designed for
horticulture



RodMoFad mobile application
developed for artisanal fishers

Investments in private sector engagement, initiated in 2020, have been consistently maintained to enhance private sector resilience. These efforts include operationalizing the SDG Investor Map, which involves private sector convenings, initiating capacity-building exercises for impact measurement, deal brokerage, and conducting business engagement surveys to produce knowledge. The Post-SDG Investor Map launch programme, aimed at strengthening capacities for deal brokerage in the private sector, is expected to mobilize financing for several investment areas such as renewable energy, tourism, and health. Innovative platforms have been initiated to create markets for young businesses and facilitate significant learning effects to boost productivity.

Structural impediments to gender equality and women's empowerment were addressed through various avenues. Women empowerment was promoted via integration into the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and training support for effective participation in traditionally male-dominated trades within the energy sector. Experiments and trainings on financial literacy were undertaken for women-led enterprises, and the efficiency of public institutions was enhanced to address gender-based violence.

The UNDP in Mauritius has contributed to reinforce development planning through high-level engagements to operationalize Maurice Stratégie. The Country Office supported the country's renewable energy ambition through the establishment of an enabling regulatory infrastructure, the installation of rooftop solar PV panels, and the implementation of the electric bus project. Additionally, 5 more sites have been nominated as Nature Reserves to enhance ecosystem resilience. Moreover, the development of a management plan is expected to enhance ecosystems integrity, which will include the eradication of Invasive Alien Plant Species.

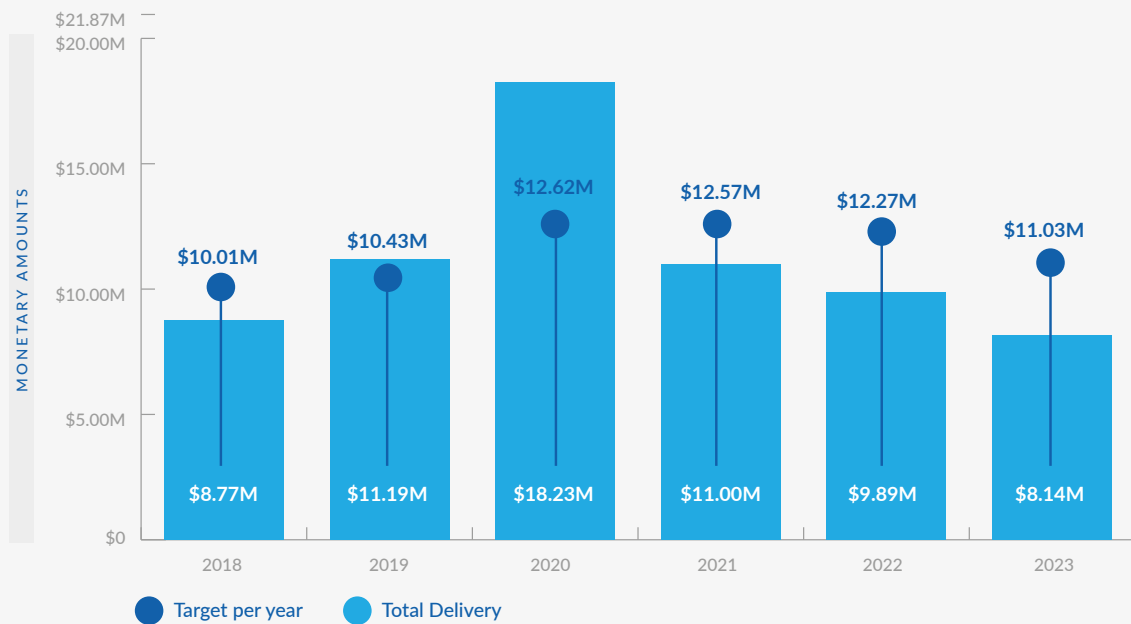
The UNDP in Mauritius has significantly increased its investment to support the Government's digital transformation agenda. These efforts encompassed the implementation of the Electronic Document Management system (EDMS) to facilitate remote work and transition toward a paperless economy. Procurements were initiated to implement the national e-health system to enhance the efficiency of healthcare. The national statistics office underwent a re-engineering process to utilize advanced digital systems for generating and disseminating disaggregated statistics. Digital platforms such as 'Bazar Moris' for horticulture; the RodMoFAD mobile application for the artisanal fishing community, and a financial literacy learning module for women entrepreneurs, were also designed or updated to integrate local communities into the digital landscape.

In 2023 the UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles Multi Country Office achieved a significant milestone by obtaining a Silver certification in the UNDP Gender Equality Seal. The Gender Seal program incentivizes offices to prioritize gender equality through specific goals and standards in areas such as management, capacity building, communications, projects and partnerships. For the Mauritius and Seychelles Multi Country Office, this achievement signifies enhanced rigor, accountability, and systematic monitoring of their initiatives. It empowers the office to better support both Mauritius and Seychelles in advancing towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

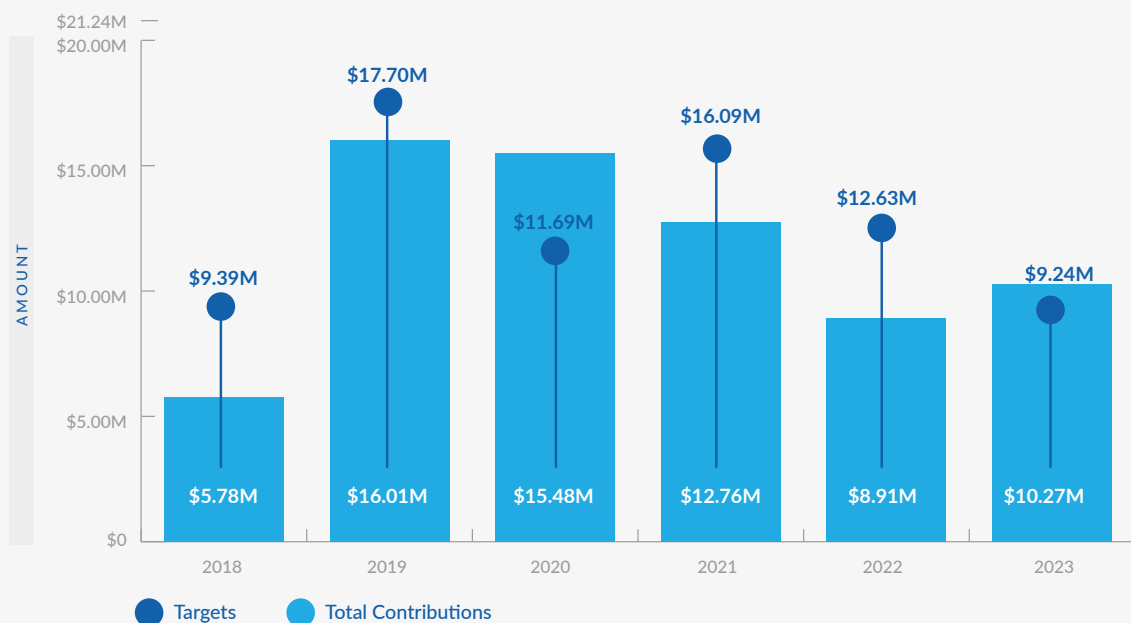
By integrating gender perspectives into all aspects of their operations, the office not only ensures inclusivity but also strengthens its effectiveness in promoting sustainable development. The benefits of the Gender Seal extend beyond recognition, fostering a culture of gender responsiveness and empowering communities towards more equitable outcomes.

UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles Multi-Country Office: Key Figures

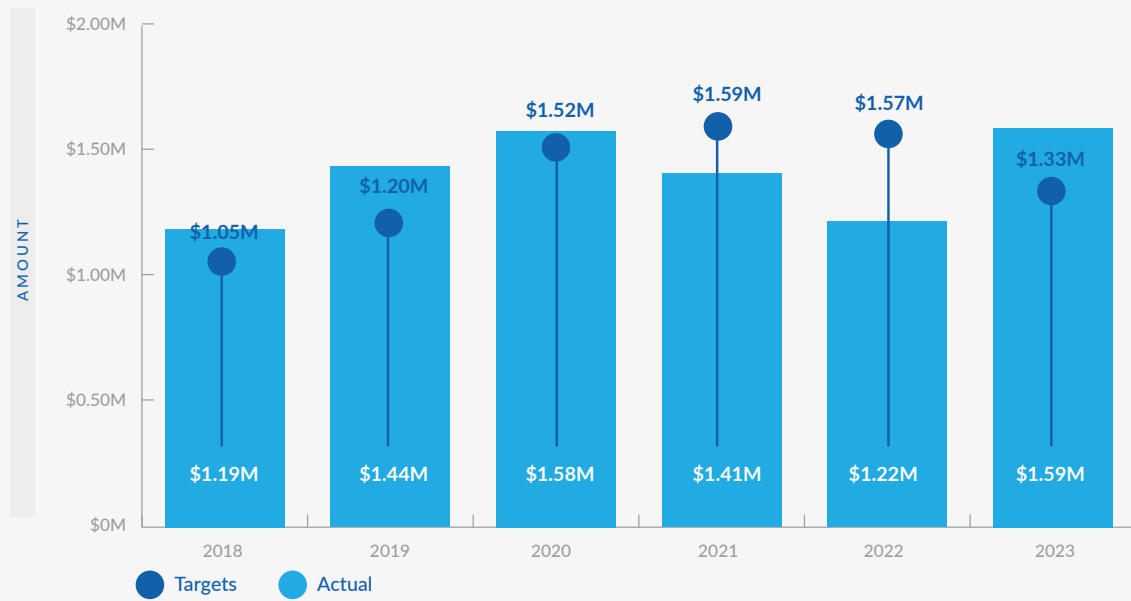
Total Delivery vs Targets per Year



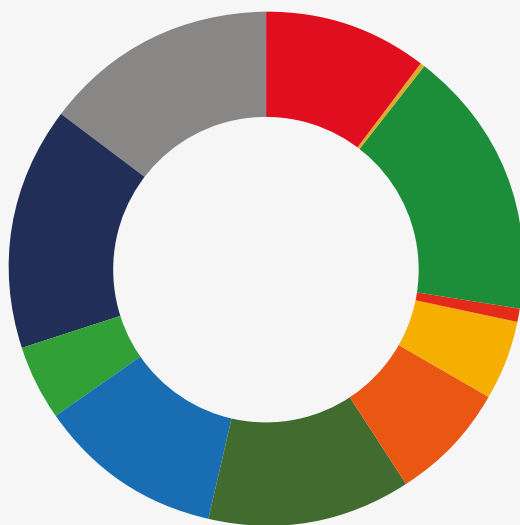
Total Contributions vs Targets per Year



Institutional Revenue-Actuals and targets



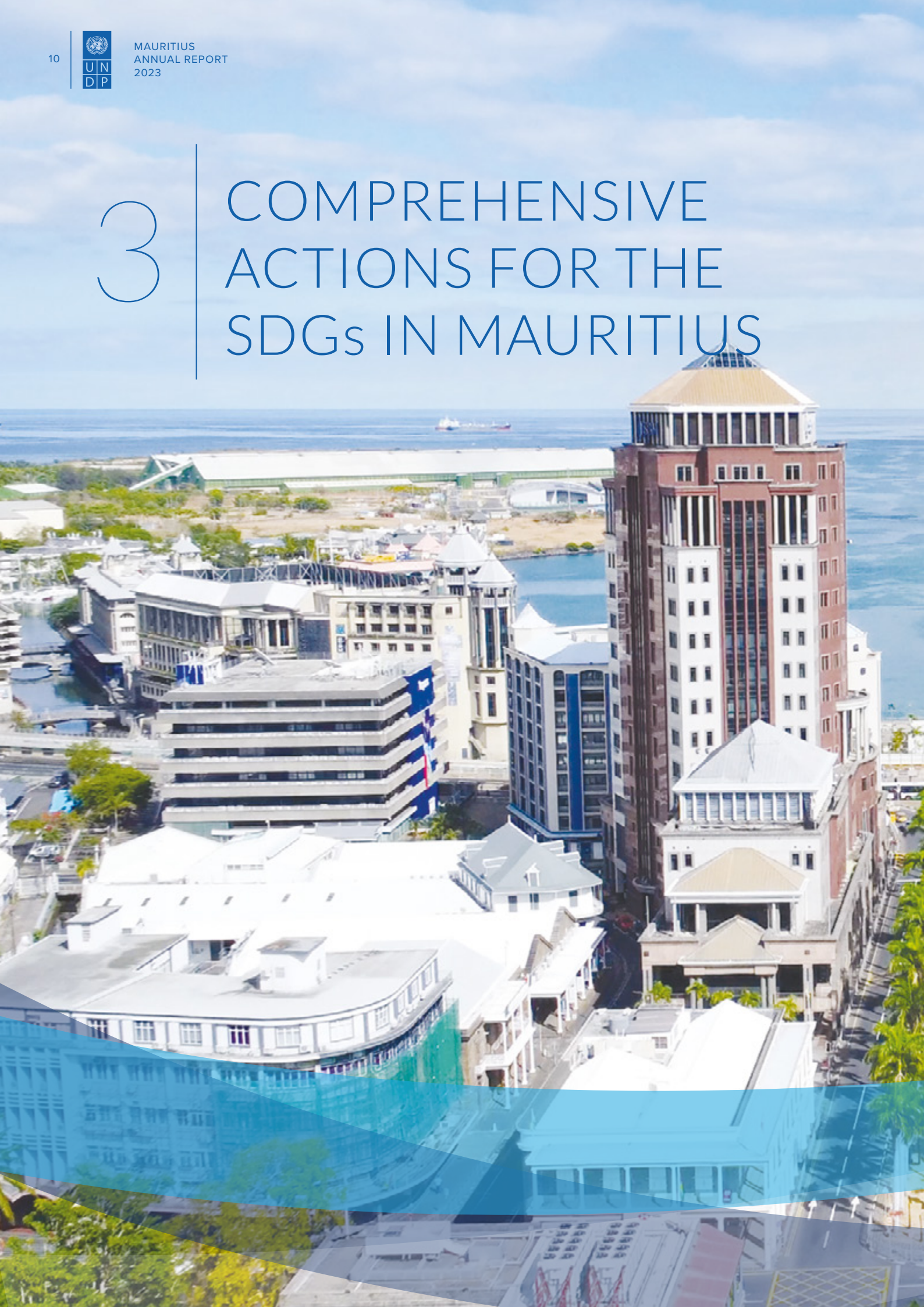
SDGs (% of Budget)



1		10.3%	No poverty
2		0.3%	Zero hunger
3		17.1%	Good health and well-being
5		0.7%	Gender equality
7		5.1%	Affordable and clean energy
9		7.6%	Industry, innovation and infrastructure
13		12.7%	Climate action
14		11.7%	Life below water
15		4.7%	Life on Land
17		15.2%	Partnerships for the goals
		14.7%	Others

3

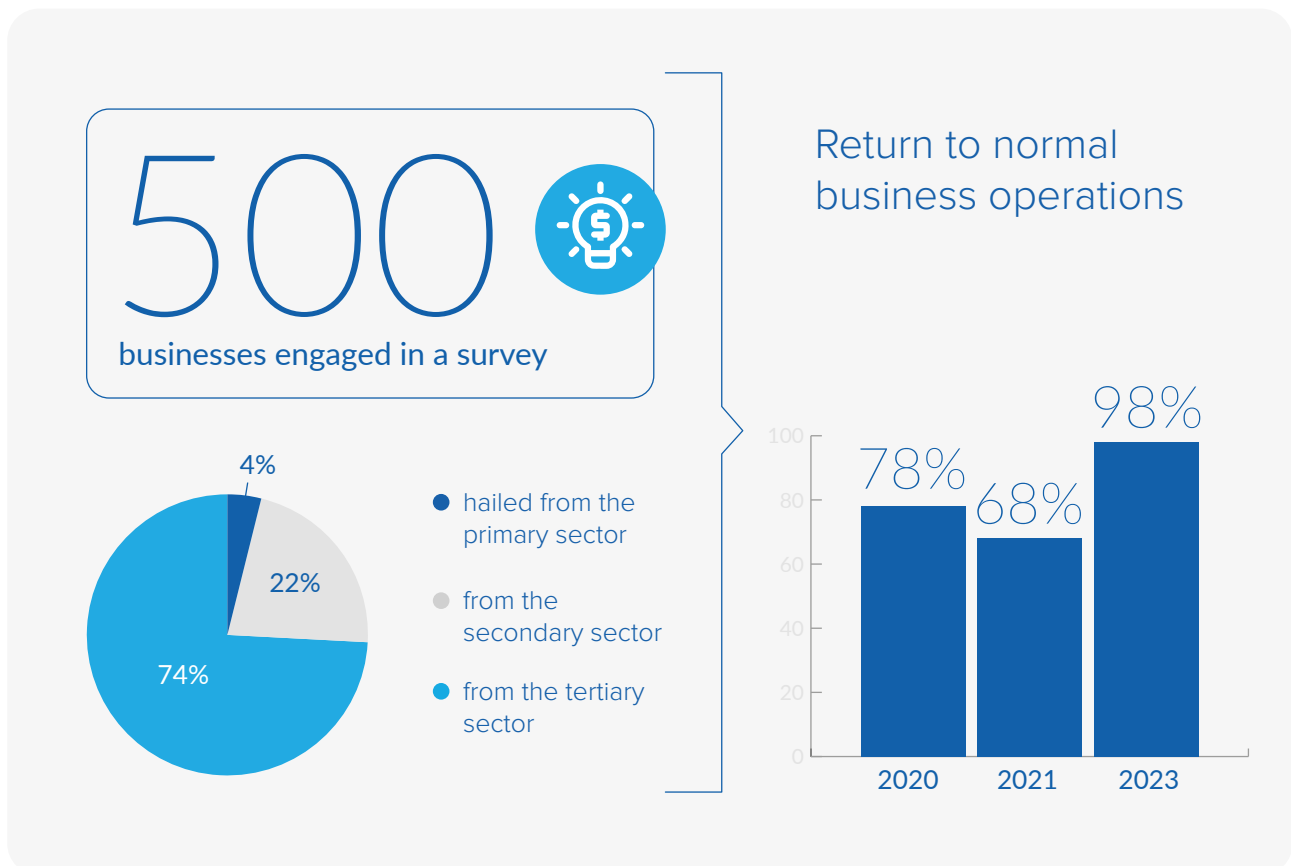
COMPREHENSIVE ACTIONS FOR THE SDGs IN MAURITIUS





3.1 Private Sector Resilience, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

In 2023, a third round of the [Business Pulse Survey](#) was conducted to evaluate the enduring effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and global disruptions on the local business environment. This comprehensive survey, which engaged with over 500 businesses from March to July, revealed commendable strides in business recovery despite global geopolitical challenges. Additionally, it shed light on areas warranting potential policy-level investments aimed at fortifying business resilience. Of the companies participating in the [2023 Business Pulse Survey](#), 4 percent hailed from the primary sector, 22 percent from the secondary sector, and 74 percent from the tertiary sector. Moreover, the survey findings unveiled a noteworthy trend: 98 percent of the companies operated normally in 2023. This figure reflects a notable improvement compared to 68 percent in 2021 and 78 percent in 2020.





UNDP Mauritius also supported a [national employee engagement survey](#) undertaken in partnership with Business Mauritius and the Human Resources Development Centre. 21,600 employees across 267 businesses were surveyed. The findings provided a foundation for enhancing the country's workforce by fostering conducive work environments that promote both professional and personal growth. Strategic engagements were held with leading private sector players on implementation mechanisms for the Mauritius SDG (Sustainable Development Goals)

Investor Map. The deliberations resulted in the design of a training programme on impact standards planned/ slated for implementation in Quarter 1 of 2024. With support from the UNDP an expert has been certified as a trainer in business impact standards, with a specific mandate to conduct training sessions on the subject matter. To facilitate further advocacy on high-impact investment opportunities presented by the SDG Investor Map, the UNDP country office published 5 sectoral prospectuses and 5 sectoral videos.

UNDP Mauritius sponsored one female entrepreneur to participate in the Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF) 2023, held in Cairo, Egypt. She joined 50 other female entrepreneurs sponsored by the UNDP from across the African continent to leverage the platform for networking and discovering potential market opportunities within Africa. The [national plan for women entrepreneurship](#) development was launched to mark the International Women Day. The Plan identified 8 key priority areas to position women in regional trade. The UNDP also supported [Les Assises de l'Entrepreneuriat](#) for the creation of an innovative, sustainable, and inclusive entrepreneur ecosystem. The two-day event provided a platform to discuss challenges and opportunities for Mauritian SMEs (Small and Medium sized Enterprise), helping the Government and the private sector to collaboratively redefine the spirit and pathways of entrepreneurship in the country.

During the 16 Days of Activism and to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, UNDP organised awareness sessions on the UNDP-supported GBV (Gender Based Violence) mobile application Lespwar. These sessions were directed towards NGOs, 350 counselors, and involved a 2-day training for 75 Women Police Officers. Emphasizing the use of the mobile app Lespwar, the training provided guidance on utilizing the panic button even without an internet connection to seek assistance from the Mauritius Police Force.

UNDP supported the [launch of an aquaponics and hydroponics training farm](#) at the Beau Bassin prison, promoting a human rights-based and rehabilitative approach to incarceration. This initiative equipped 38 women inmates with valuable economic empowerment skills for their future ventures as part of their re-integration in the economic landscape.



3.2 Leaving No One Behind: Strengthening Social Work and Public Institutions Against Poverty

UNDP undertook a capacity development programme for Councilors and officers of the District and Municipal Councils. Involving 75 officials, the programme aimed to enhance the capacity of local authorities in understanding their institutional mandates and adapting to their rapidly changing environment. Additionally, it sought to enhance officials' efficiency and responsiveness to public demands in areas such as good governance, accountability, renewable energy, domestic violence, community policing, and disaster management.

In line with the Leave No One Behind principle of the sustainable development agenda, UNDP facilitated the acquisition of ICT equipment for the Guy Rozemont Government School, an education institution serving vulnerable communities. This initiative aimed to create positive learning environments for all children through digital transformation. The UNDP also supported 600 children from low-income families in the Baie du Cap region with school materials.

29 children of the locality of l'Escalier received their certificates for participating in art-therapy sessions under the 'Stepping Up' project. Initiated in October 2022, the initiative provided psychosocial follow-up sessions to families from L'Escalier and Le Bouchon. The UNDP's socio-economic development unit and project partners were apprised of the needs of the communities through one-to-one interviews.



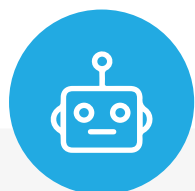
3.3 From eParliament to eHealth: Holistic Digital Interventions in Mauritius for Enhanced Public Sector Efficiency



Operationalization of Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) developed for Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms



30 tablet computers handed over to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to support adoption of the RRA application



Deployment of 1 anti-epidemic robot at the Mediclinic of Quartier Militaire



Implementation of the e-Business Plan for Statistics Mauritius

The UNDP's continued investment in digital and structural transformation in Mauritius encompasses a broad spectrum of initiatives, ranging from advancements in electronic document management to parliamentary processes, healthcare systems, statistical practices, and the facilitation of online commerce. These efforts collectively contribute to the modernization and efficiency of public services.

The Electronic Document Management System (EDMS), developed for the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms with the support of the UNDP and the financial assistance of the Government of Japan, was launched in July 2023 and went live in December 2023. Conceived to significantly decrease paper usage, shifting from traditional manual filing systems to an environment where information is easily accessible through

digital means, the EDMS marks a significant stride in enhancing document processes across government ministries and institutions in Mauritius. The overarching vision is to streamline document processes, enhance accessibility, and promote efficiency, in line with the prevailing Work-From-Home protocol. This transition seamlessly aligns with UNDP's commitment to environmental sustainability and digital transformation.

Following the successful implementation of the eParliament System and Members Sitting Application for members of the National Assembly in Mauritius, the eParliament System for the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (RRA) was officially launched on 17 August 2023. 30 tablet computers were handed over to the Assembly for the adoption and implementation of the RRA application, which will allow members of the Regional Assembly to access parliamentary documents and engage in digital administrative processes.

The UNDP's support to public sector digitalization in Mauritius extends to the national health system with the digital health strengthening portfolio. In 2023, a technical workshop to assess the sites and infrastructure identified for the implementation of the eHealth project was organised for public healthcare personnel. The assessment covered all public health facilities, evaluating the current state of technology infrastructure, including hardware, software, and networking capabilities. The workshop focused on streamlining operational procedures, aiming to optimize processes for the seamless implementation of eHealth solutions without disrupting daily healthcare operations. Additionally, attention was given to the readiness of healthcare professionals to embrace digital tools, with tailored training programs announced to empower the workforce.

During the inauguration of Mediclinic at Quartier Militaire, the UNDP donated a cutting-edge anti-epidemic robot to enhance Healthcare Worker Safety, improve health infrastructure, and elevate public healthcare standards. The robot is also expected to play a key role in the prevention and control of infectious diseases, autonomously navigating hospital environments to inform individuals of necessary

sanitary precautions. This deployment is anticipated to be a game-changer through the utilization of advanced technology in the healthcare sector.

Another notable contribution of the UNDP in the field of digital solutions is the implementation of an eBusiness Plan for Statistics Mauritius aiming to modernize statistical processes. This initiative involves the digitization of data collection, analysis, and reporting, leading to more accurate and timely dissemination of statistical information.

Finally, the Bazar Moris platform, developed with the support of the UNDP, signifies an effort to embrace e-commerce and digital marketplaces. The digital marketplace connects buyers and sellers in the agro-industry sector in Mauritius, fostering economic activities in the digital space and promoting the growth of the local economy.



3.4 Inclusive Energy Transition

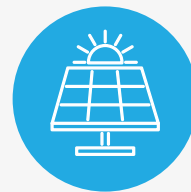
UNDP in Mauritius has initiated the digitalization development of the energy sector by establishing a Renewable Energy (RE) Portal. This platform is designed to serve as a knowledge hub for RE technologies in Mauritius. The financing for this development has been set in motion by mobilizing alternative parallel co-financing within the RE sector. Further resource mobilization efforts are underway to formulate an action plan addressing the end-of-use considerations for photovoltaic (PV) panels and batteries.

Deployment of 3.7 MW worth of rooftop solar PV supported



1800

low-income families in the Republic of Mauritius



benefited from solar PV panel of capacity 1.5 kWp each



Through the [GCF-funded Low-Carbon Economy Project](#), considerable progress has been made to attain the GCF (Green Climate Fund) paradigm shift to transition to low-emission sustainable development pathways. UNDP has supported the deployment of 3.7 MW worth of rooftop solar PV panels in 2023. More than 1,800 low-income families, including 100 in Rodrigues, have benefitted from a solar PV panel of capacity 1.5 kWp each. Furthermore, the project has been successful in its efforts to scale up on climate change mitigation and extend its support to some 350 middle-income households and 150 NGOs (non-governmental organizations) to receive a 2 kWp capacity rooftop solar PV kit.

Additionally, the government has granted approval to expand the renewable initiatives to the outer islands of Agaléga, which are an integral part of the Republic of Mauritius. A kick-off meeting was held in December 2023, which paves the way for installation of PV mini grids on Agaléga. This expansion is expected to satisfy part of the energy needs for households from renewable energy.

Overall, the programme has made remarkable progress in advancing gender inclusivity and empowerment. As part of the programme aims to foster sustainable livelihoods, approximately 1,100 women-headed households have benefited from the installation of rooftop solar PV panels, thereby gaining access to clean and affordable energy. Additionally, 180 women, women entrepreneurs, and representatives of women's associations actively participated in awareness sessions. During these sessions, participants were provided with basic information on renewable energy, solar PV panels, and available renewable energy schemes. These sessions aimed to provide valuable insights into the transition toward renewable energy, empower women to access cleaner energy sources, and promote a more inclusive and equitable society. Additionally, 65 representatives of NGOs and village committees also participated in sessions organised by UNDP in collaboration with stakeholders. 100 beneficiaries of rooftop solar PV panels under the GCF project were recognized at a certificate awards ceremony, acknowledging their contributions to advancing renewable energy objectives.



350

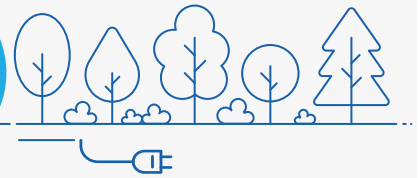
middle-income
households and
150 NGOs



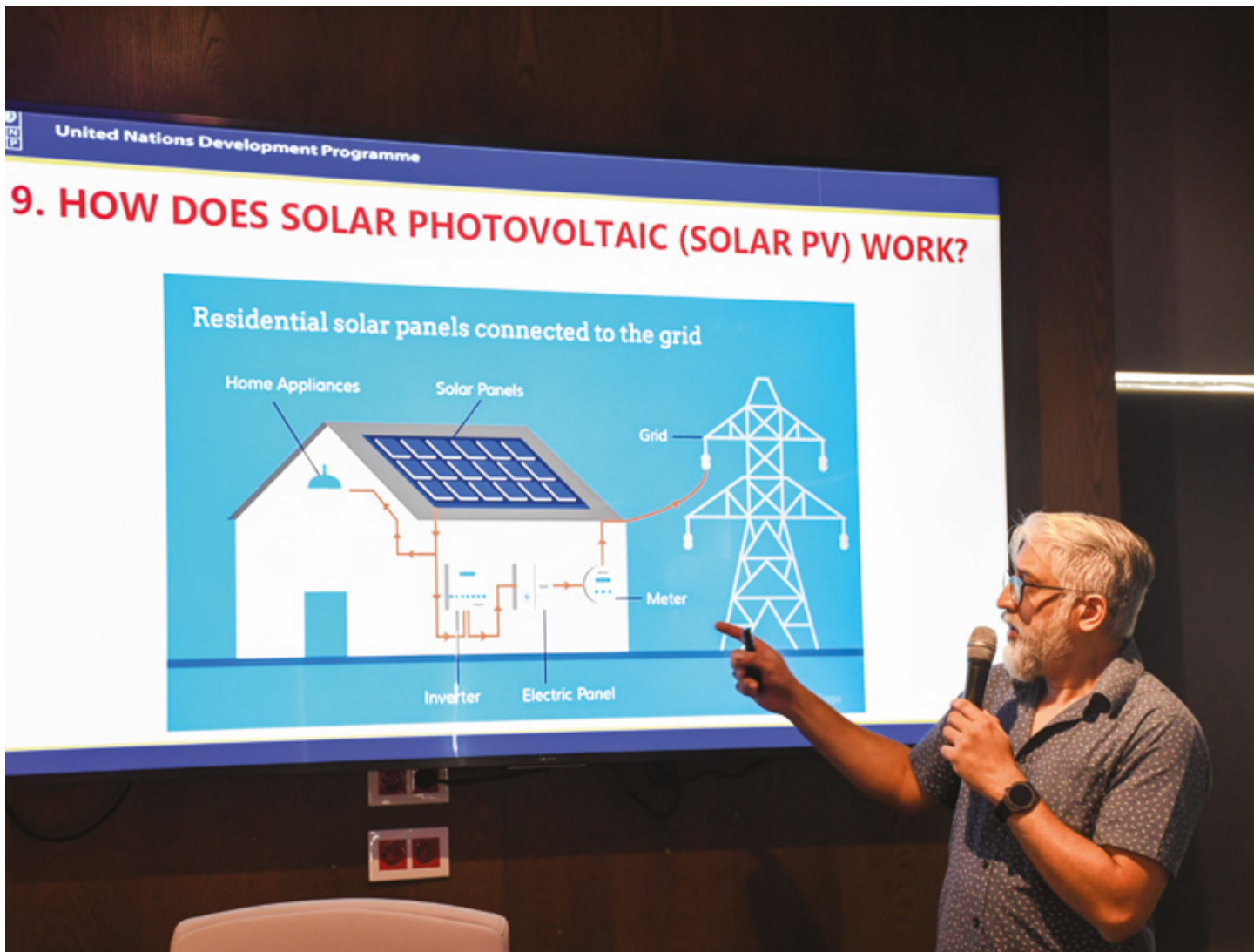
to receive
a 2 kWp
capacity
rooftop solar
PV kit



11000



women-headed households benefited from
installation of rooftop solar PV panels



3.5 Towards Climate Resilience: Multi-Sectoral Action on Mitigation

Mauritius has embarked on a journey towards a greener public transport sector with the initiation of the [electric bus project](#). The UNDP has supported high-level exchanges with countries in the region to enable Mauritius to assess similar initiatives. The electric bus project is nationally implemented by the Government of Mauritius in partnership with UNDP to promote capital investments into developing sustainable transport infrastructure and reducing public transport-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. Via multi-partner engagement and technical capacity building of relevant policymakers, regulatory and other government agencies, financial institutions, and the private sector, the project aims to support the government in achieving its transport energy strategy goal of increasing deployment of electric buses by 2025.

Mauritius has also taken steps to enhance its national GHG inventory and strengthen the associated processes, yielding immediate benefits for national reporting, (National Communications and Biennial Transparency Reports), emissions tracking against Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) targets, and future revisions to those targets. The '[Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency](#)' (CBIT) project in Mauritius aims to boost the country's capacity for GHG transparency by fostering greater involvement from the private sector and civil society. Implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management, and Climate Change, the project will support Mauritius in achieving evidence-based policymaking and seamless integration of the GHG inventory into national development policies and programs. The CBIT project is strategically structured around four key components, including refining



the accuracy and localization of the national GHG inventory, fortifying the GHG inventory process at the national level, mainstreaming the GHG inventory for greater transparency and policy support, and finally, incorporating robust monitoring, evaluation, and knowledge management practices. This comprehensive approach reflects a commitment to building a foundation for sustainable and transparent environmental practices in Mauritius.

3.6 Empowered Fishing Community, Resilient Blue Economy

To promote inclusive and sustainable growth, the [EEOFISH project](#) in Mauritius, implemented by the UNDP in collaboration with the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, and Shipping, targets the empowerment of the fishing community, one of the poorest economic groups in Mauritius. Approximately 100 fishers participated in a series of awareness sessions on best fishing practices and the importance of ice in the preservation of the quality of fish products. This initiative contributes to improved economic prospects for the community.

Sixty fishers, including 9 women, were also trained in long-line fishing, aiming to empower them to fish farther out from the lagoon, thereby boosting fishing trip efficiency and increasing their income. The [RodMoFAD mobile application](#), facilitating Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD) location and biomass data provision, is currently in the testing phase following a survey conducted in 2023 with fishers to collect feedback on the initial iteration of the application.

100



fishers sensitized on best fishing practices

60



fishers, including 9 women, trained in longline fishing





3.7 Empowering Coastal Communities and Promoting Food Security Through Oyster Aquaculture

The “**Empowering Coastal Communities Through Native Oyster Aquaculture**” project, funded by the UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme, successfully concluded in 2023. 15 women from the coastal villages of Poste de Flacq and Grand Gaube underwent training on sustainable aquaculture practices through a series of 40 sessions spanning 22 months. The training modules, focused on practical learning, covered topics such as site selection and preparation for oyster farming, water quality monitoring, oyster seed and spat collection, harvesting and marketing, and business management

and planning. With the aim of enhancing food security and strengthening livelihoods in the two villages, the initiative yielded commendable results, including the establishment of a voluntary collection period for native oysters and the development of a pilot farm for small-sized wild oysters, both driven by the trainees themselves. Strong partnerships with experts, government entities and the private sector have contributed to the project’s achievements. These collaborations facilitated knowledge exchange, mentorship, and market access.

15

women from the coastal villages of Poste de Flacq and Grand Gaube



40 sessions

22 months



3.8 Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Services

The UNDP handed three X-Ray organic scanners valued at USD 135,000 to the Customs Department of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), to enhance the identification and detection of invasive alien species. This initiative aims to safeguard the agricultural sector and natural ecosystems of Mauritius and Rodrigues, while ensuring sustainable livelihoods and food security.

Local stakeholders working in the protection of endemic fauna and flora were provided training in the implementation of Goodnature traps for control of IAS (Invasive Alien Species), especially rodents. These A24 Goodnature traps were procured and handed over to the National Parks and Conservation Service and the Forestry Service.



3 x-ray organic scanners handed over for detection of invasive alien species



Training provided for IAS control using Goodnature traps

33

informative signboards for fishing reserves & MPAs were installed





These non-toxic traps will facilitate the management and control of invasive rat populations in the Black River Gorges National Park and on Northern offshore islets. This initiative aims to support recovery of the Mauritius Olive White-Eye bird population, currently considered one of the most threatened of the endemic avian species of Mauritius.

Two studies were completed under the project namely, the 'IAS Climate Change Scenario Mapping,' which assessed the impact of predicted climate change on the geographical distribution of alien invasive plant species (IAS), and the 'Economic Costs and Benefits of Invasive Alien Species in Mauritius,' which include damage costs and the costs of IAS management activities.

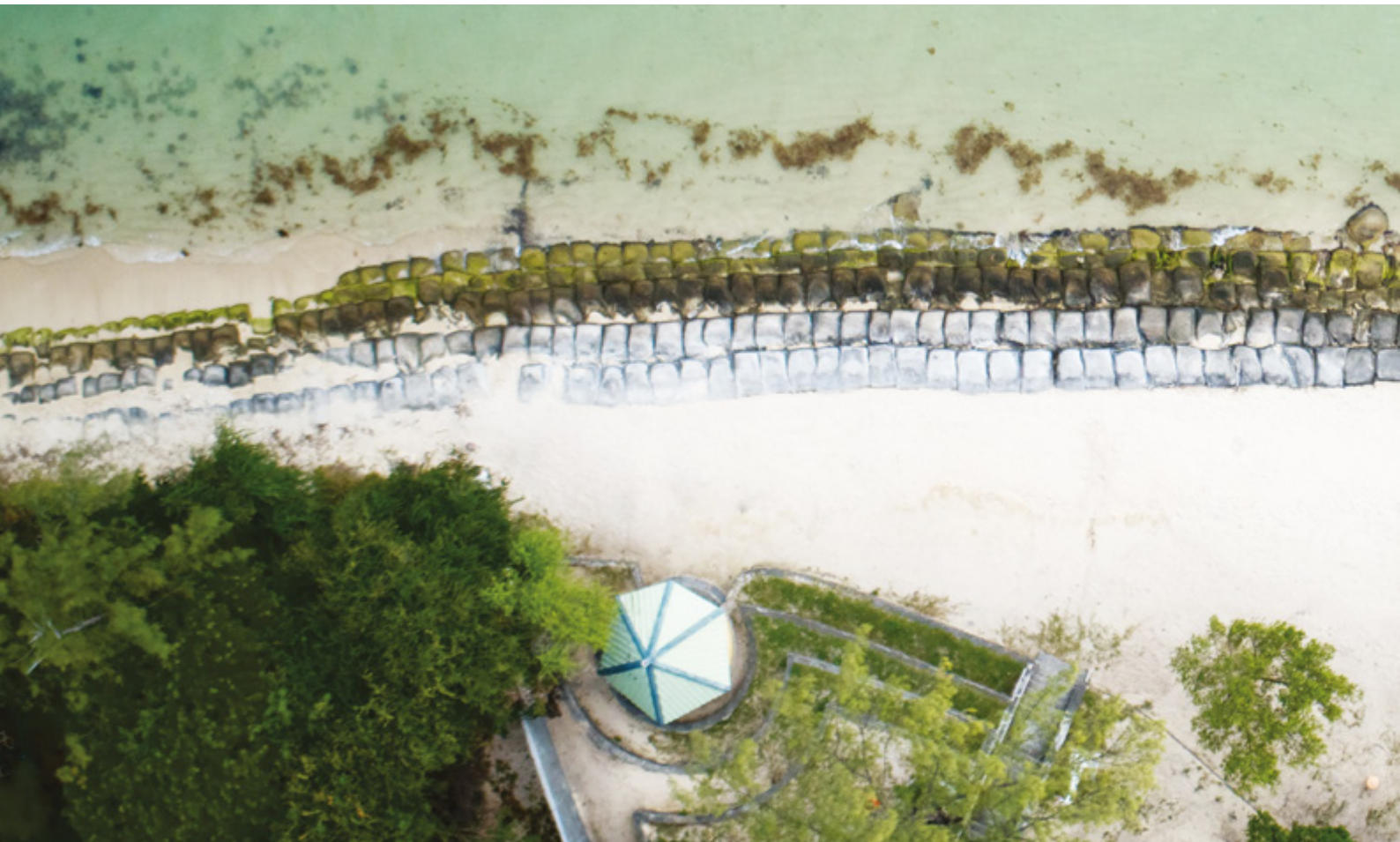
As part of its efforts to protect the marine environment, UNDP supported the supply, installation and commissioning of 24 boundary limit buoys as per the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) standards. Deployed in the five fishing reserves of Mauritius, they serve as awareness to the users of the sea on the delimitations of the reserves. Coupled with this initiative, the UNDP also supported the supply and installation of 33 informative signboards for the fishing reserves and marine protected areas of Mauritius, with well detailed map and GPS coordinates to inform the public on the allowed and prohibited activities.

3.9 Legislative progress for Sustainable Environmental Protection and Climate Risk Management

The UNDP is currently supporting Mauritius in its efforts to enhance waste management practices, aiming to redirect as much as 70% of solid waste away from the nation's overloaded landfills. The Waste Management and Resource Recovery bill enacted in April 2023 provides for the regulatory framework to ensure the environmentally safe and sound management of solid and hazardous waste and a sustainable waste management system through the adoption of a circular economy approach.

Under this Act, the 'Waste Segregation Regulations' was developed after a thorough consultative process. These regulations aim at ensuring the safe and environmentally sound management of waste in the country, thus, contributing to the adoption of a circular economy approach.

The National Parks and Conservation Service (NPCS) Needs Assessment was completed in May 2023 with UNDP's support. This policy document forms part of the Wetland Bill and regulations submission package to facilitate endorsement of these pieces of legislation by the Government.





Supporting Mauritius to redirect as much as 70% of solid waste away from landfills



Waste Segregation Regulations developed



National Parks and Conservation Services Needs Assessment successfully completed



Grid codes tailored to renewable energy technologies completed

With the UNDP's support, the Government of Mauritius has continued to create an enabling environment for a substantial shift towards low-carbon sustainable development. This involved enhancements to the Grid Absorption Capacity, revisions to the Electricity Act, completion of Grid codes tailored to renewable energy technologies, establishment of standards and regulations, and the accreditation of installers. These initiatives collectively signify a tangible and significant paradigm shift towards sustainable development with reduced carbon impact.

The management plan for Mourouk Valley in Rodrigues was developed through a consultation and validation process by all the relevant stakeholders, including community members, and was handed over to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for endorsement. The development of the document got the support of UNDP and assistance is being provided to the local Government in Rodrigues to increase the area under legal protection and to enhance Invasive Alien Species management in the face of climate change, over part of its territory.



4

CONNECTING YOUTH FROM MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES TO THE CONTINENT





The Youth Connekt Africa Summit is a Pan-African event that brings together young leaders from across the continent to discuss and collaborate on issues that affect their communities, countries and regions. The summit aims to foster a borderless African renaissance driven by youth innovation and creativity and provides an opportunity for youth to engage with various stakeholders in youth development to influence policies and programs that will enhance their social and economic well-being.

To ensure representation from Small Island Developing States, 5 youth delegates from Mauritius, Rodrigues and Seychelles were sponsored by the UNDP country Office to attend the 6th edition of the YCA Summit, held in Nairobi, Kenya from 8-12 December 2023. They joined 20,000 young people & other stakeholders from across the continent to discuss key issues including gender equality and women empowerment, innovation and technology, environment protection and civic participation and leadership.

The YCA Summit provided the 5 delegates with a unique platform for networking and the opportunity to learn from success stories & solutions which were showcased by other countries. The post-summit activities will focus on scaling up impact through empowering local youth activists from the three islands. This includes promoting a culture of mentorship, innovation, leadership and entrepreneurship among the young generation in SIDS; organizing Dialogues & Hackathons to generate innovative and entrepreneurial solutions; and creating opportunities to integrate more youth-led initiatives in the UNDP Mauritius & Seychelles programme.





5

PARTNERSHIPS

Development Partners



Australian Government



JAPANGOV
THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN



United Nations
Economic Commission
for Africa



UNITED NATIONS



IOM
UN MIGRATION

As an active member of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), the UNDP country office provided technical leadership in the design of the new Cooperation Framework (2024-2028). The Country Office continued to support UNCT committees, including the Programme Reference Group and the Operations Management Team (OMT). The UNDP is a member of the Development Partners Group on DPG Technical Working Group on Climate, created under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator to coordinate development partner support to the sector. As member to OMT and Chair of the Local Salary Survey Committee (LSSC), the UNDP has remained a crucial participant in the Business Operations System (BOS) initiative.

As a partner in the UN Joint SDG Programme on 'Building the Resilience of Food Systems in Mauritius and Seychelles through Sustainable Agricultural Practices', UNDP collaborated with FAO and UN WOMEN to execute various initiatives in both countries. These initiatives included conducting a feasibility study on the regulatory and financial barriers hindering the scaling up of seaweed composting to enhance locally produced fertilizers.

Additionally, approximately 100 women from coastal communities were trained in seaweed compost making, accompanied by the preparation of a technical guide on seaweed compost production and utilization. Furthermore, efforts were made to strengthen capacities for institutionalizing gender mainstreaming in policy formulation within the agricultural sector, involving the training of 34 representatives from government, civil society, and youth, with a significant representation of women and girls (70%).

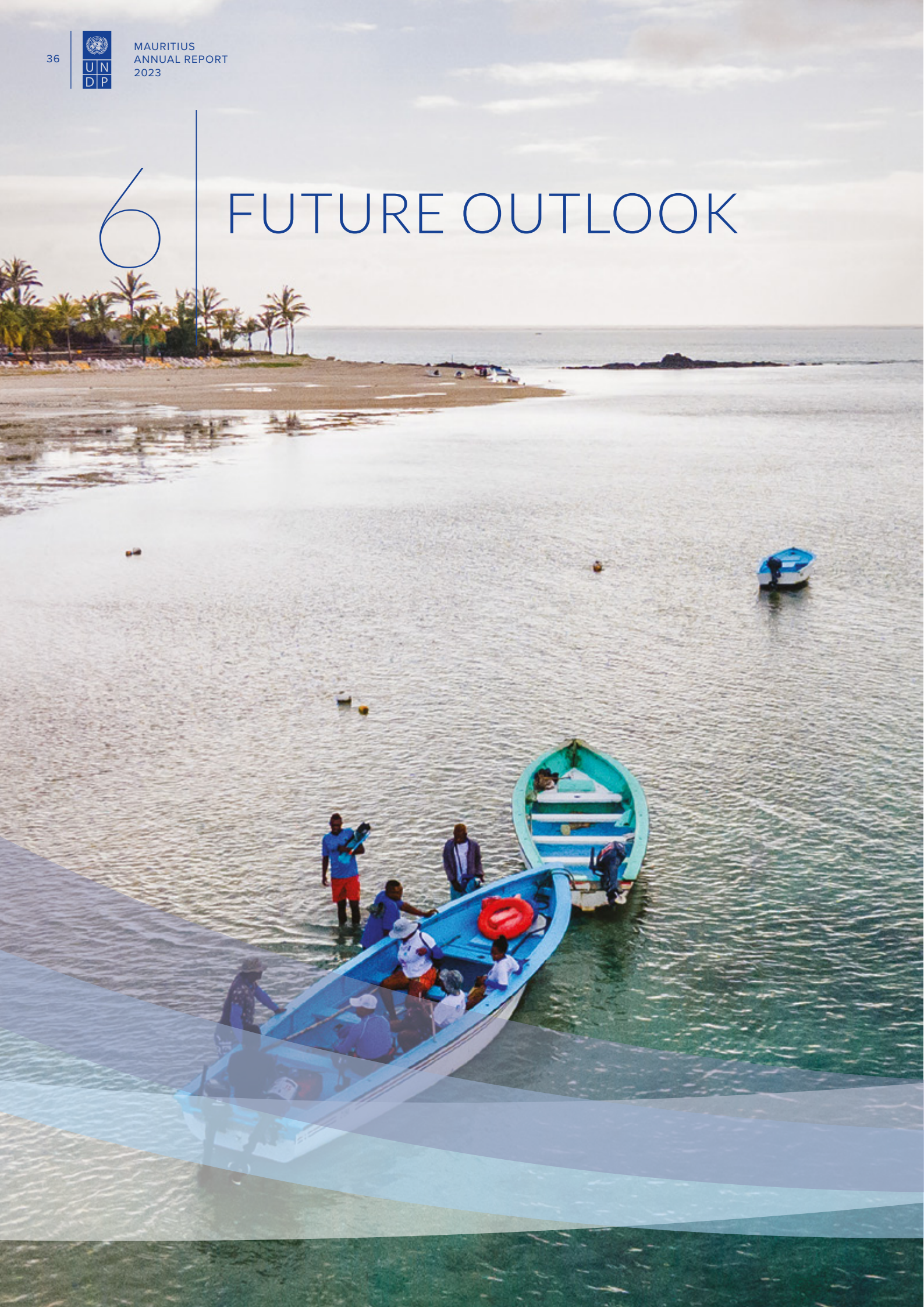
The UNDP collaborated with the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (UK) to assist Mauritius in addressing challenges arising from the full implementation of the Paris Agreement and the enhanced transparency framework. This initiative aims to formulate a Framework for Climate Disclosure and Reporting, as well as develop a Long-term Climate Strategy that includes a Carbon Pricing and Taxation Mechanism. The Multi-Country Office also collaborated with UNECA to develop a business information portal for renewable energy technologies.

The UNDP Country Office also partnered with the Government of Mauritius on the e-Health project with the Government co-financing the project with ~6M USD for the rollout of the [One Patient One Record e-Health project](#).



6

FUTURE OUTLOOK



The UNDP country office for Mauritius has successfully mobilized additional financial resources to address gaps encountered in specific project implementations. This approach has also empowered the UNDP to enhance its support to the Government in targeted areas.

With a high human development index of 0.802 and steady economic growth averaging 3.6% over the past decade, Mauritius has achieved significant progress through successful public-private collaboration and sustained reforms. The country's diversification strategy has expanded the economy beyond agro-industry, manufacturing, and tourism to include ICT, finance, pharmaceuticals, and healthcare. The government's vision is to transform the country into a sustainable, vibrant, and innovative nation with modern infrastructure, global connectivity, high skills, and technology.

FY2023 marked the end of the current programme cycle, with a new cycle to be commenced for 2024 - 2028. In the new programme cycle, UNDP will adopt a comprehensive development approach, capitalizing on its integrator role and comparative advantage, to directly contribute to the outcomes of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCDF) and through implementation of the [Country Programme Document](#).

Our emphasis will be on strengthening public sector efficiency for a blue economy, strengthening private sector capacities, and economic and social empowerment and the integration of women and youth into value chains to harness the blue economy potential. In addition, we will focus on 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. Through the implementation of two portfolios (i) Socio-Economic Transformation; and (ii) Environmental Sustainability and Resilience, the UNDP aims to contribute to addressing the structural economic constraints in the public and private sector and promote the deliberate inclusion of women and youth in the sustainable development equation. Furthermore, the UNDP aims to facilitate progress towards commitments to environmental protection, sustainable natural resources management, adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, disaster risk reduction; all towards Mauritius acceleration on its path towards an inclusive and resilient high income economy as articulated in the National Vision.

Given Mauritius' vulnerability as a Small Island Developing State to external shocks, the UNDP country office needs strategic realignment to ensure effective program delivery. Advocacy efforts are essential to push for reforms in development financing, incorporating multidimensional poverty and vulnerability indices. Scaling up policy engagement on key issues like food security, debt, inflation, and climate finance is crucial. It is essential to collaborate with global policy networks and sister agencies for strategy development and resource mobilization. Innovative mechanisms such as bonds, debt swaps, and private sector investments aligned with SDGs need further exploration. Limited access to ODA and concessional finance highlights the urgency of strategic adjustments.

THE UNDP MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES MULTI-COUNTRY OFFICE





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