

REPORTING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF COP 9 DECISIONS

MAURITIUS

Presented by

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WHAT HAS BEEN DONE IN MAURITIUS

RATIFICATION

- ❖ Mauritius acceded to the Convention on 10 July 2000
- ❖ The Amended Nairobi Convention and the LBSA Protocol was signed by Mauritius on 01 April 2010
- ❖ Mauritius ratified the Amended Nairobi Convention and the LBSA Protocol on 22 July 2015.
- ❖ The Instrument of Ratification has been transmitted to the Depository

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

- ▶ Mauritius has honoured its obligation regarding financial contribution to the Convention.
- ▶ The contribution for the year 2021 has already been paid to the Trust Fund

WIOSAP PROJECT

Mauritius has benefited funds as co-financing for the implementation of the following 3 demonstration projects:

- (1) Coral culture for small scale reef rehabilitation in Mauritius by **Mauritius Oceanography Institute**
- (2) Vulnerability Assessment of Blue Carbon ecosystem (seagrass) around the island of Mauritius by **Albion Fisheries Research Centre**
- (3) Restoration of critical coastal forest habitat on Ile aux Aigrettes by **Mauritian Wildlife Foundation**

WIOSAP PROJECT

Status of implementation of demo projects:

(1) Coral culture for small scale reef rehabilitation in Mauritius

- ❖ Construction of land-based nurseries has been completed
- ❖ Setting up of coral farms at sea is ongoing and is expected to be completed in November 2021
- ❖ Procurement of materials for sensitization has been completed
- ❖ Registration of trainees for the project is ongoing
- ❖ Recruitment of a project assistant is expected by December 2021
- ❖ Training of participants in snorkeling is planned for December 2021 and as eco-guides in April 2022

WIOSAP PROJECT

Status of implementation of demo projects:

(2) Vulnerability Assessment of Blue Carbon ecosystem (seagrass) around the island of Mauritius

- ❖ Surveys and mapping of seagrass have been completed at 4 sites (Albion, Flic en Flac, Merville and Le Bouchon)
- ❖ Surveys and mapping of seagrass around the island is ongoing.
- ❖ Delay was encountered in signature of the SSFA; cabinet has now approved the signature of same on 15 October 2021 and this will be done shortly

WIOSAP PROJECT

Status of implementation of demo projects:

(3) Restoration of critical coastal forest habitat on Ile aux Aigrettes

- ❖ Weeding ongoing but delayed due to 2 COVID 19 lockdowns; out of 14 Ha, 7.9 ha have been weeded
- ❖ Mass planting of plant species suitable for seabirds will be planted over 1 Ha during the next rainy season (January to April 2022)
- ❖ A Biosecurity Protocol for IAA to be developed in November 2021
- ❖ A local intern with expertise in ecosystem restoration was recruited in May 2021; will assist in the deployment of seabirds decoys on the islet to attract seabirds
- ❖ Photos and videos were sent to UNEP communication officer to be used to promote the project
- ❖ 2 radio interviews on the project were carried out in August and September 2021. The project coordinator also wrote an article which was published in L'Express newspaper in September 2021.

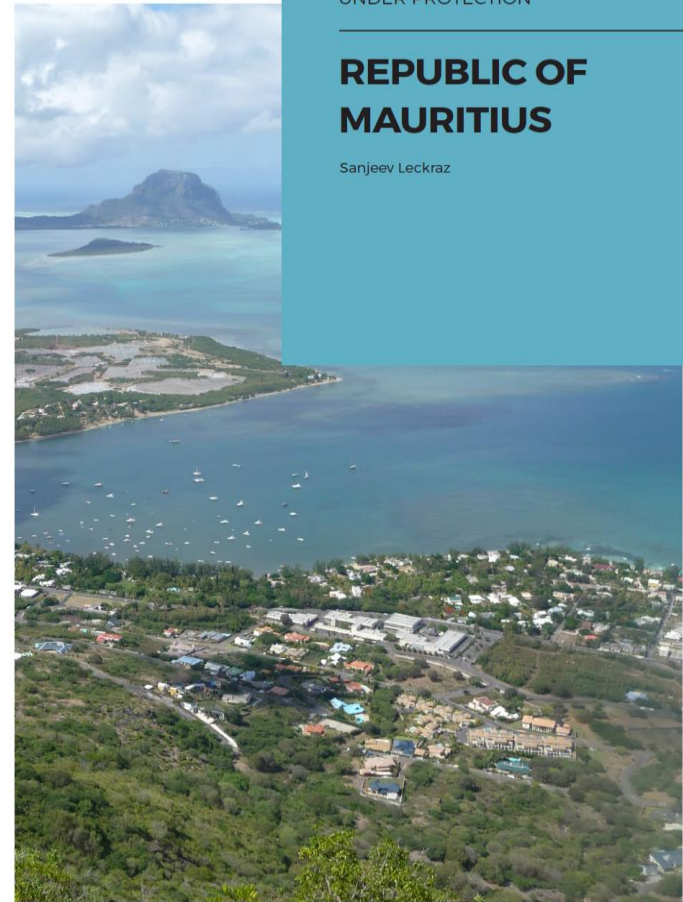
MPA OUTLOOK FOR WIO REGION

- ❖ The country chapter for the Republic of Mauritius was submitted on 24 May 2020 to the Nairobi Convention Secretariat.
- ❖ Mauritius also participated in the official launching of the document by the Secretariat on 16 July 2021

MARINE & COASTAL AREAS
UNDER PROTECTION

REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

Sanjeev Leckraz



SAPPHIRE PROJECT

National Marine Ecosystem Diagnostic Analyses (MEDA) Update

- ❖ The MEDA report which was prepared in 2012 is being updated. The report aims at providing a comprehensive status of the coastal and marine environment at the national level.
- ❖ A Technical Coordination Committee has been established for same. A first meeting was held on 5 March 2020.
- ❖ Authors have been identified for updating the various chapters of the document. Updating is ongoing.
- ❖ After updating, a national consultation workshop will be held with stakeholders to validate the report. Expected [January 2022](#)
- ❖ Delays have been encountered due to COVID 19 restrictions and Wakashio oil spill incident.

SAPPHIRE PROJECT

Support to Conduct Public Consultations on the Updated National Oil Spill Contingency Plan of the Republic of Mauritius

- ❖ The project is supporting this Ministry to the tune of USD 65,000 to this effect
- ❖ The services of a consultant would be provided to facilitate the consultation meetings on the updated NOSCP
- ❖ Consultation are expected to be carried out with key stakeholders (ministries, parastatal bodies, NGOs, private sector including tourism, fisheries amongst others)
- ❖ The consultation is expected to be held in November 2021

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

- ❖ The Climate Change Act came into force in April 2021
- ❖ Mauritius has submitted its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the UNFCCC on 5th October 2021.
- ❖ An NDC Action Plan is under preparation to implement the NDCs targets
- ❖ The Climate Change Adaptation Policy Framework, which was prepared in 2012, has also been updated.
- ❖ Preparation of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) is in progress

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

SUSTAINABLE PROTECTION OF THE COASTLINE OF MAURITIUS

- ❖ With worsening impacts of climate change such as sea level rise, observations have shown that the coastline of Mauritius has been experiencing an exacerbation in beach erosion over years.
- ❖ To address this growing problem, the Ministry of Environment has been implementing a continuous coastal rehabilitation programme in an integrated manner at priority eroded sites to ensure the safeguard coastal and marine assets for the benefits our citizens and for the tourism industry.
- ❖ The rehabilitation programme is funded by Government under the National Environment and Climate Change Fund
- ❖ During the last 5 years, some 6.5 km of eroded coastline have been rehabilitated. For the year 2021-2025, the Ministry of Environment is planning to rehabilitate about 20 km of eroded sites



CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

SUSTAINABLE PROTECTION OF THE COASTLINE OF MAURITIUS

- ❖ Coastal rehabilitation measures include construction of rock revetment, gravel nourishment, sand recharge, provision of amenities such as pedestrian walkway, cycle track, slipway for boats, parking facilities and landscaping/greening works.



Rock revetment



Gravel beach

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

SUSTAINABLE PROTECTION OF THE COASTLINE OF MAURITIUS

- ❖ With the impacts of climate change and sea level rise, site observations and expert studies have shown that the exotic *Casuarina* (filao) species located near the High Water Mark can induce sand loss and exacerbate beach erosion.
- ❖ The Ministry undertook projects on the replacement of filao trees within the dynamic beach zone by endemic plants which are more adapted to the coastal areas. 3 public beaches were rehabilitated.
- ❖ The sites are presently under maintenance. Preliminary observations have shown that the planted trees have well established and the beaches are gradually recovering from erosion.



OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLANNING

- ❖ The Wakashio oil spill, which occurred in August 2020, have caused considerable environmental damage and socio-economic disruption
- ❖ Following lessons learnt, the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan has been updated with the assistance of the UNDP Country Office. A workshop is being held today itself to validate the document.
- ❖ As earlier mentioned, support is also being received from the Convention Secretariat for consultation on the updated NOSCP and development of tactical maps



MANAGEMENT OF PLASTIC POLLUTION

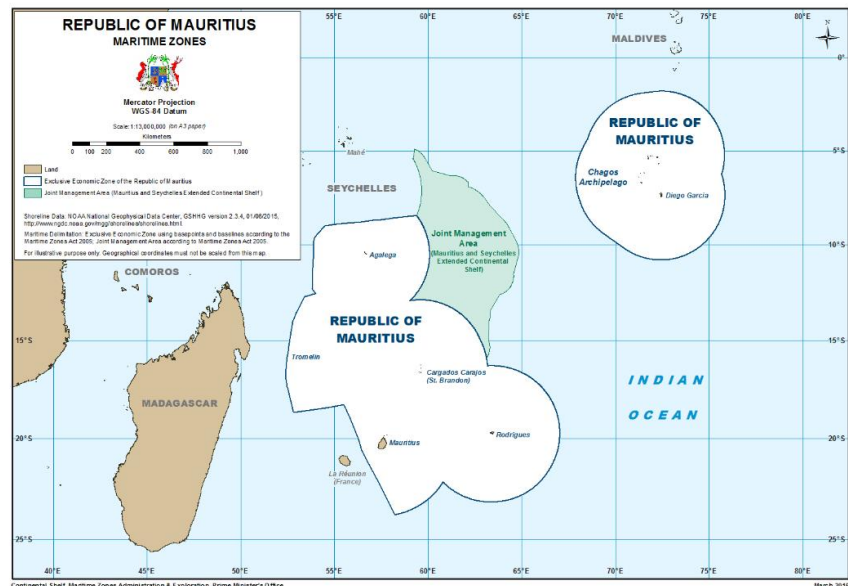
- ❖ In line with the objective of the Government Programme 2020-2024 to make Mauritius a plastic-free country, the Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020 has been enacted and came into force in January 2021
- ❖ This regulation prohibits the possession, use, distribution, sale, export, import, manufacture or supply of plastic bags including non-woven polypropylene bags. Plastic cups, plates, spoons, straws are banned.
- ❖ Exception: certain types of exempt plastic bags used for packaging, waste disposal, agricultural and medical sectors, as well as those for sampling and analysis.
- ❖ Regular crackdown operations are being carried out to enforce the regulations.
- ❖ The Ministry is also working on new regulations for Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) bottles.
- ❖ Elaboration of a roadmap for “Plastic-Free Mauritius” is underway.



BLUE ECONOMY

- ❖ Mauritius has a total land area of 2040 km² and claims an EEZ of 2.3 million km².
- ❖ An additional expanse of extended continental shelf area of approximately 400 000 km² is co-managed with the Seychelles, following a joint submission made by the two countries to the United Nations in 2011.
- ❖ The Mauritius blue economy is currently represented by coastal tourism, fishing, seafood processing and seaport activities that are also considered as traditional ocean activities. These activities excluding coastal tourism represent 10% of the Growth Domestic Product (GDP) and employ around 7,000 people.
- ❖ Government vision: To increasing the share of GDP of the blue economy to 20% in the medium term.
- ❖ Strategy: To consolidate traditional

- ✓ aquaculture,
- ✓ deep sea water applications,
- ✓ maritime services,
- ✓ marine biotechnology and
- ✓ oil & gas exploration



MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING

- ❖ The Department of Continental Shelf, Maritime Zones Administration & Exploration under the Prime Minister's Office, is the responsible authority for MSP
- ❖ A Coordination Committee has been set up with working groups to work on various aspects of MSP, including development of a framework
- ❖ Existing zoning: Maritime Zones, MPAs and Fishing Reserves, Seabed Exploration Areas
- ❖ Actions in MSP include:
 - ✓ review of existing aquaculture sites and proposals for offshore sites
 - ✓ Ocean observatory - an online platform for GIS data has been set up to support the MSP initiative for the Republic of Mauritius, including ocean exploration and SD. Data catalogue including ecosystem habitat and richness, ESAs, Key Biodiversity Areas, biological and physical oceanography data and geophysical data.





**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
KIND ATTENTION**