Strengthening Capacities of Public Administration in Island States

The Republic of Mauritius

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Presentation Outline

- The Backdrop
- National Efforts in Mauritius to mainstream the SDGs
- Horizontal Coordination and Planning Challenges
- Progress/challenges in aligning the SDGs & national resilience
- Way forward
The Backdrop
Mauritius at a glance

- Small island of the AIMS Region
- Land area: \(2040\) km\(^2\)
- Exclusive Economic Zone: \(1.9\) million km\(^2\)
- Population: \(1.3\) million
- Population density: \(665\) inhabitants per km\(^2\)
- GDP per capita (2017): USD \(10186.10\)
- Growth rate \(3.8\)% as compared to 2016
- Highest drivers of growth: Tourism (4.5%) & financial services (5.3%)
- Human Development Index (HDI): \(0.781\)
Due to its inherent characteristics and vulnerabilities, Mauritius has a number of development challenges including:

- High competition for land use because of limited land area for development; land degradation caused by overuse for agriculture,
- Encroachment of development projects on Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- Dependency on imported fuel for energy production
- Increase in water consumption and extraction to cater for high and competing demands
- High risks of pollution – in terms of air, noise pollution and effluent discharge
National Efforts in Mauritius to Mainstream the SDGs
National Commitment to the Post-2015 Development Agenda/SDGs

- Championing the Post 2015 national consultations
  Mauritius was among the 50 countries selected to participate in the first round of the post-2015 consultations to develop the future SDGs.

- September 2015 - Launching of the 4th and final MDG implementation report

- May 2016 - Culmination of national momentum and enhanced awareness for the SDGs with the visit of the then UN Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon to Mauritius
Anchoring the SDGs with the national vision for sustainable development

- The **National Vision 2030-blue print** to guide the national strategy for development was launched by the Prime Minister in September 2015.

- The key strategic orientations of the National Vision 2030 aim at:
  - Addressing unemployment
  - Alleviate, if not eradicating, poverty
  - Opening up the Republic of Mauritius and new air access policies
  - Promote sustainable development and innovation
Key sectoral policies

- For this **4 pronged vision** to be attained the following sectoral policy orientations were identified:

  - A revamped and dynamic manufacturing base;
  - Development of the Ocean Economy;
  - Promoting Innovative Approach; and
  - Develop a Smart Mauritius
Horizontal Coordination and Planning Challenges with other Ministries
Horizontal Coordination

- Coordination of the SDG implementation has underlined one of the biggest challenges that SIDS face namely human resources scarcity.

- Coordination of the SDG implementation was given to the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in 2015.

- Subsequently a dedicated unit – the Strategic Policy and Planning Department (SPPD) was set up at the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) in 2016 to ensure the alignment of the Vision 2030 Blueprint with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.
Horizontal Coordination Ctd.

- Following the shaping up of the Vision 2030 Blueprint, the coordination of the SDG implementation mandate has once again been handed over to the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** - February 2018.

- **National Coordination Committee** set up at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- **SDG Focal points** identified at the level of each Ministry.

- **Civil Society** and the **Private Sector** are also key stakeholders.
Data Management for SDG Monitoring and Reporting

- Key role of Statistics Mauritius in the Coordination Committee.
  - Responsible for the domestication of indicators data management and support for reporting.

- A Dedicated Unit (since the MDGs) set up with well-trained resources to keep track of data and monitor progress.

- A Database for SDG implementation and reporting has been established.

- In addition to their participation in the Coordination Committee, Statistics Mauritius also report to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through regular bilateral meetings.
Key Lessons Learned

- Coordination is smooth when spearheaded by a key Ministry in the hierarchy.

- Use of existing platforms support streamlining of actions more easily.

- Need for continuous awareness raising activities to keep the momentum alive.

- Important to delegate important thematic tasks to line Ministries to encourage ownership.
The Progress/Challenges in Aligning the SDGs and National Resilience/Climate Change Priorities
Aligning national strategies to the SDGs

- **Legislative Framework:**
  - **The 2016 National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act**
    The Act reflects the provisions of the Sendai Framework, and aims at providing for prevention and reduction of the risk of disasters; mitigation of the adverse impacts of disasters; and disaster preparedness and management of post-disaster activities.
  - **The Land Drainage Authority Act**
    The Act provides for the setting up of a Land Drainage Authority to shoulder such responsibilities of managing and coordinating drain projects inclusive of the development and implementation of a land drainage master plan.
  - **Climate Change Bill (forthcoming)**
    To address adverse effects of climate change towards making Mauritius climate change resilient and achieve a low emission and green economy, in fulfilment of the obligations of Mauritius under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
Aligning national strategies to the SDGs (cont.)

- Institutional Set up/Engaging stakeholders

  - Setting up of dedicated Units:
    - **Climate Change Division, M/Environment & SD**
      To enhance the country’s resilience to climate change and its main tasks include the development, coordination and implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation policies, programmes and initiatives.
    - **Land Drainage Authority**
      To ensure integrated, proactive and concerted efforts in the implementation and management of drain projects with the aim to face daunting challenges caused by climate change.
    - **National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre**
      To mainstream and integrate disaster risk reduction within and across all sectors and build up resilience to disasters.
National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre (cont.)

✓ National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council

Apex body under the chair of the Minister with all key stakeholders to take strategic decisions related to disaster preparedness and mitigation impacts

✓ National Emergency Operations Command (NEOC) is activated, in the event of a disaster, to coordinate and monitor all response and recovery activities

✓ Crisis Committee - Depending on the magnitude and severity of a disaster, the Crisis Committee may be convened and shall supervise the organisation of disaster response operations and take such other measures as may be appropriate in the circumstances.
National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre (cont.)

- **Local Emergency Operations Command (LEOC)** in the event of a disaster in a local authority, will lead disaster response operations for that local authority.

- **Rodrigues Emergency Operations Command** is activated, in the event of a disaster in Rodrigues, to coordinate and monitor all response and recovery activities.
Policies and Strategies

- National Climate Change Adaptation Policy Framework (NCCAPF)
  
  In 2013, a NCCPF was developed to integrate and mainstream climate change adaptation into core development policies, strategies and plans for the Republic of Mauritius.

- Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs)
  
  In September 2015, Mauritius submitted its NDCs and Action Plan, in line with the Paris Agreement, comprising measures to reduce GHG emissions.

- Enhancing the Resilience of Vulnerable Local Communities to Extreme Weather Events and Climate Vulnerabilities
  
  Formulation of customized toolkits for climate change Vulnerability Assessment and Identification of Adaptation Options for Local Authorities.
• Study on Real causes of Flooding
Study of flood prone areas carried out to identify the real causes of flooding in collaboration with various stakeholders for effective and efficient response.

• Formulation of a Land Drainage Master Plan (forthcoming)
Aims at promoting a holistic approach for flood disaster management

• Guideline for mainstreaming Climate Change in Building and Land Use Permits (forthcoming)
Guideline on mainstreaming climate change in Building and Land Use permit process will facilitate planning at Local Authorities level
Way Forward
Enhancing Institutional Mechanism

- Development of a **Road Map to guide the Implementation of the SDGs** in line with the National Vision 2030

- Setting up of Steering Committee under the M/Foreign Affairs to coordinate and monitor implementation and lead the reporting processes.

- Setting up of thematic technical Working Groups under the steering Committee from line Ministries to ensure the following:
  - **Updating sectoral plans and strategies to reflect SDG priorities**;
  - **Engaging key stakeholders and keeping track of progress on their set of SDGs**; and
  - **Aligning budget with SDG priorities**.
11 priority areas across 4 dimensions identified in the Roadmap:

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Expected Output and Outcome

- Implementation of SDGs in a prioritised manner
- Regular reporting
- Updating of database
- Streamlined processes
- Identification of Partnership initiatives
- Resource efficiency as entry points in existing projects will be identified
Thank You