



Annual Report 2008

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Executive summary

Annual Report 2008

UNDP's programme in Mauritius supports the Government's reform programme and the aims of achieving greater and broader growth with equity. In 2008 UNDP focused on helping Mauritius to meet the challenges of economic reform, inclusive development and environmental protection. UNDP also worked to promote the empowerment of women, the protection of human rights, and an effective response to HIV/AIDS.

Economic reform

During 2008 UNDP continued implementing a project for Strategic Budgeting in the Government of Mauritius, which had started in 2007. The project directly supports the Government's drive to implement a three-year Programme-Based Budget framework, embedded in a three-year Medium-Term Expenditure Framework. The project has been very successful and has been a productive area of collaboration between UNDP and the Government of Mauritius, helping the Government to manage the challenge of linking budget inputs to outcomes and results.

Inclusive development

During 2008 UNDP continued working to support the Government's Zones d'Education Prioritaires programme, with the aim of improving the level of academic achievement in primary schools in deprived areas. UNDP also supported a project to strengthen the NGO sector and continued to implement a project preparing a Sustainable Integrated Development Plan for Rodrigues.

Biodiversity and conservation

Responding to environmental needs and challenges is central to UNDP's programme in Mauritius. In the area of biodiversity and conservation, during 2008 UNDP implemented a project supporting the development of marine protected areas, and a project to build capacity for sustainable land management. UNDP prepared a new project aimed at strengthening the management of the Terrestrial Protected Area Network in Mauritius. UNDP also began to implement a major regional project which aims to develop an ecosystem-based approach for managing the Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems, of which Mauritius is part.

Energy

During 2008 UNDP supported the Ministry of Public Utilities to implement an energy efficiency project funded by the Global Environment Facility. The project met all of its targets and made good progress towards the overall intended results. UNDP also successfully completed implementing a project supporting the Government's energy reform policy for 2008-2025 and the objective of achieving a secure, competitive and sustainable approach to energy in Mauritius.

Other environment projects supported by UNDP in 2008 included a project to build capacity for clean development in Mauritius and six other countries in South and East Africa, and a project to strengthen Mauritius's capacities for early warning and response to tsunamis.

Other areas

In 2008 UNDP implemented a number of projects and initiatives with government and non-government partners in Mauritius, supporting the fight against HIV/AIDS, the advancement of women and gender equality, and the promotion of information and communications technology.

Mobilising resources for Mauritius

UNDP plays an important role in mobilising technical and financial resources for the benefit of Mauritius. In 2008 UNDP facilitated the involvement of some 10 non-resident UN agencies and programmes in projects in Mauritius, and it was instrumental in securing major substantial funding from the Global Environment Facility, the Global Fund Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and other international organisations.

Introduction

UNDP and Mauritius

UNDP has been present in Mauritius since 1969, working to support sustainable and equitable development in Mauritius. In 2008 UNDP focused on helping Mauritius to meet the challenges of economic reform, inclusive development and environmental protection. UNDP also worked to promote the empowerment of women, the protection of human rights, and an effective response to HIV/AIDS.

UNDP's country programme in Mauritius is prepared in consultation with the Government of Mauritius and non-state partners. The programme supports the Government's reform programme and the aims of achieving greater and broader growth with equity. The programme plan is set out in the UNDP Country Programme document.¹

This report gives an overview of what was achieved during 2008. For further information or reports on specific projects, please contact UNDP at: 6th Floor, Anglo Mauritius House, Intendance Street, Port Louis, Mauritius; tel. (230) 212 3726/7; e-mail registry.mu@undp.org.

Mauritius: key statistics

Area	2,040 sq km
Population	1.3m
Human Development Index (HDI)	0.804
HDI rank	65 th out of 177 countries
GDP per capita (PPP)	US\$12,715
GNI per capita (2007)	US\$5,450
Life expectancy at birth	72.4 years
Adult literacy rate	84.3%
Gross education enrolment rate	75.3%
Human Poverty Index (HPI) 2004	11.4
HPI rank, 2004	27 th out of 108 developing countries

UNDP in Mauritius: key statistics

Programme expenditure in 2008	US\$4,747,938
Total personnel in 2008	24
Total permanent or fixed-term staff	12

¹ This and other documents and information are available on the UNDP Mauritius website, at <http://un.intnet.mu/undp/>.

Economic reform and inclusive development

During 2008 UNDP pursued a range of projects that aimed to support democratic governance in Mauritius, the reduction of poverty, and progress towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

Economic reform projects

Performance-based budgeting

During 2008 UNDP continued implementing a project for Strategic Budgeting in the Government of Mauritius, which had started in 2007. The project directly supports the Government's drive to implement a three-year Programme-Based Budget (PBB) framework, embedded in a three-year Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). This aims to transform the budget process from an input-based annual activity to a performance-based multi-year exercise. The adoption of PBB was approved by parliament

The project has been implemented in close co-operation with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, with an Economic Advisor based at the Ministry. The project also provides:

- Technical assistance to the Central Statistics Office (CSO) to develop environmental accounting;
- Technical assistance to the CSO and the Ministry of Tourism to develop a 'Tourism Satellite Account' (as recommended by the World Tourism Organisation);
- Support for the introduction of a Performance Management System (PMS) linked to PBB;
- Support to the Ministry of Social Security to develop a new 'Social Register' database on poverty; and
- Support for the adoption of PBB in Rodrigues.

In addition, the project has helped the secretariat of the Indian Ocean Commission (COI) in Port Louis to introduce PBB, as PBB is used by the European Commission (EC), which funds most of the COI's programmes. As well as the Ministry of Finance, the CSO and the Ministry of Social Security, the project supports line ministries such as the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Housing, in their efforts to prepare their three-year sector strategies and PBBs. The project is coordinated with the work of other organisations, such as the World Bank, through the Mauritius development partners group, which comprises the African Development Bank, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the EC, the World Bank and UNDP. For example, the AFD is co-funding work on environmental strategy and the World Bank is supporting public enterprise reform.

Overall, the project has been very successful and has been a productive area of collaboration between UNDP and the Government of Mauritius. The project has helped the Government to manage the challenge of linking budget inputs to outcomes and results. It has helped Mauritius to make good progress in implementing PBB (more progress, in fact, than South Africa), and it has complemented the Government's public sector reform programme. Looking ahead, through 2009 and beyond, the project stands to help Mauritius play a larger role as a source of best practice expertise in the East and South Africa region.

2008 in figures (US\$)

Budget	500,000 ²
Expenditure	490,950

Inclusive development projects

Improving the level of educational achievement in primary schools in deprived regions

During 2008 UNDP continued working to support the Government's Zones d'Education Prioritaires (ZEP) programme, with the aim of improving the level of academic achievement in

² US\$400,000 from UNDP, US\$100,000 from the Government of Mauritius

primary schools in deprived areas. UNDP worked with the Mauritius Institute of Education, the International Reading Association and UNESCO to implement and monitor a literacy programme and to implement a programme to train teachers and build capacity for inclusive pedagogy. The inclusive education programme will be evaluated at the end of 2009. UNDP also helped to initiate a 'parents' empowerment programme' and supported on-going monitoring of ZEP.

During 2008 UNDP also enabled the involvement of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in ZEP. FAO employed two consultants to assess the nutrition component of ZEP, in order to advise on possible improvements. This led to further work on developing a new policy, and further contributions (technical and financial) from FAO to ZEP. UNDP also supported an initiative by the Observatory of Children's Rights (ODEROI) to prepare key performance indicators for ZEP for overall monitoring and evaluation.

In 2008 UNDP contributed US\$150,000 to the project and UNESCO US\$80,000. Looking ahead, UNDP will continue to support the education sector and specifically the education access needs of vulnerable children, building on the work and achievements to date. The aim will continue to be to improve education and reduce poverty in Mauritius, and make Mauritius a regional leader in approaches to early childhood care and education (ECCE), as per the objectives of the Government, which plans to contribute US\$50,000 to the project in 2009.

2008 in figures (US\$)

Budget	232,490 ³
Expenditure	231,951

Strengthening the NGO sector

During 2008 UNDP continued to support a project aimed at strengthening the NGO sector in Mauritius and making it a more able and effective partner for public and private sector efforts to bring about inclusive development in Mauritius. The project started in 2005 and has been implemented by the Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS) in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Security. During 2008 the project made good progress. The University Of Mauritius conducted an assessment of the state of civil society, and international and local experts conducted a review of MACOSS. The NGO legal and regulatory framework was reviewed and a new bill on NGOs was drafted and was expected to be reviewed by the Cabinet in 2009. A review of the corporate social responsibility (CSR) practices of Mauritian companies was carried out, and the Ministry of Social Security finalised government policy recommendations on civil society organisations. In August 2008 a project to build the capacity of non-state actors was also launched, in conjunction with the Government of Mauritius's Decentralized Cooperation Programme funded by the EU. The project will train trainers from Mauritius and Rodrigues, who will then provide training to non-state actors in Mauritius and Rodrigues.

2008 in figures (US\$)

Budget	106,500
Expenditure	106,735

Sustainable Integrated Development Plan for Rodrigues

During 2008 UNDP continued implementing a project to prepare a Sustainable Integrated Development Plan for Rodrigues (SIDPR). The project aimed to help Rodrigues to increase economic growth at the same time as maintaining and enhancing the environment and pursuing a sustainable approach to development. As part of this, the project also aimed to strengthen the Rodrigues Economic Planning and Monitoring Unit (EPMU). The total budget for the project has been US\$265,982.

During the first half of the year consultations were held on the draft SIDPR and two economists were recruited for the EPMU. Although the drafting of the SIDPR took long, the result has been worthwhile, as the plan is fully owned and supported by Rodrigues. Following the consultations, work began on finalising the SIDPR and on preparing detailed action plans.

³ Including US\$80,000 from UNESCO

Beyond 2008, UNDP will continue supporting Rodrigues, helping it for example to address the challenge of water management and distribution and providing further support to the Economic Planning and Monitoring Unit. A new project will be prepared in 2009 with assistance from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA).

2008 in figures (US\$)

Budget	66,990
Expenditure	62,557

New and future projects

Building on the work and results of 2008, UNDP expects in 2009 to launch a new project for supporting inclusive development. The project is expected to support various sections of civil society through awareness raising activities, capacity building and stimulating and channelling volunteerism in Mauritius.

Protecting the environment

During 2008 UNDP pursued a range of projects to support the protection of the environment. These projects focused on biodiversity, conservation, energy and other areas, such as disaster early warning and response.

Biodiversity and conservation projects

Partnerships for Marine Protected Areas

During 2008 UNDP continued to implement a project supporting the development of marine protected areas (MPAs) in Mauritius and Rodrigues. The project has been implemented with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and the Ministry of Fisheries, and has aimed to develop a policy and institutional framework for MPAs, and to develop innovative management arrangements at a demonstration site, the South East Marine Protected Area (SEMPA), in the south of Rodrigues (which the Rodrigues Regional Assembly designated and gazetted in early 2009). Overall, the project has been very successful in building partnerships for MPAs and SEMPA in particular. The project has sought to involve local inhabitants in the management of the new protected area, for example by recruiting former fishermen as rangers. The project has also investigated alternative livelihoods options, such as aquaculture, for people whose livelihoods are affected by SEMPA. As part of the project, during 2008 a local NGO, Shoals Rodrigues, carried out a community participation campaign. The project supports the National Environmental Action Plan for the period to 2010, in which the Government of Mauritius identified the deterioration and degradation of marine systems and the coastal zone as priority issues that need to be addressed.

SEMPA complements existing MPAs, such as Blue Bay and Balaclava, and will be linked with the Marine Protected Area Network Project of the Indian Ocean Commission, which aims to develop the capacities of marine protected areas in the Western Indian Ocean. The project has supported the National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan and its objectives specific to the Rodrigues marine environment. The project has been jointly funded by the Government of Mauritius, GEF, UNDP and the EC.

2008 in figures (US\$)

Budget	387,360
Expenditure	350,356

Strengthening management of the Terrestrial Protected Area Network

During 2008 UNDP worked with the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Fisheries and the National Parks Conservation Service to prepare a new project aimed at strengthening the management of the Terrestrial Protected Area Network in Mauritius. The aim is to develop a full-sized GEF-funded project to build a network of private and public land areas in Mauritius for conserving biodiversity (especially forest biodiversity). International and national consultants were recruited in late 2008 and an inception workshop for the project was held in December 2008. A full project proposal for GEF funding will be submitted in 2009. Project preparations were supported by a US\$150,000 project preparation grant from GEF and by a US\$158,900 contribution from the Government of Mauritius as co-funding.

2008 in figures (US\$)

Budget	159,000
Expenditure	105,842

Sustainable land management

During 2008 UNDP continued to implement with the Ministry of Agro-Industry and the Forestry Services a US\$1.4m project that has aimed to build capacity for managing land in Mauritius and Rodrigues in a sustainable fashion. The project has been strongly supported by the Forestry Service and has made a valuable contribution to the task of managing and conserving Mauritius's forests in a sustainable manner. The project has supported forest fire contingency planning, research on terracing and alternatives to sugar cane, the introduction of a Forest Land Information System using geographic information systems, and the

preparation of a National Action Plan on sustainable land management. In February 2008 training workshops on environmental and natural resources economics and remote sensing were held for staff from the Forestry Service, the Ministry of Agro-Industry, and the Mauritius Wildlife Foundation. In April workshops on project proposal preparation were conducted by the University of Mauritius. During the year progress was made on establishing the Forest Land Information System, for example through carrying out training and setting up relevant hardware and software systems.

In October 2008 a mid-term evaluation of the project was completed. The evaluation judged that the project was very strong, that performance was satisfactory, and that the project was on track to produce most of its intended outputs or deliverables. The evaluation highlighted the success of the project at facilitating cooperation among decision makers involved in sustainable land management. The project is due to be completed in 2009. The project has been funded by GEF (US\$574,073), the Government of Mauritius (US\$164,000 and US\$600,000 in-kind) and UNDP and FAO (US\$40,000)

2008 in figures (US\$)

Budget	360,002
Expenditure	259,972

Towards an ecosystem approach for sustaining the Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems

During 2008 UNDP proceeded with implementation of a new project which aims to develop and implement an ecosystem-based approach for managing the Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs). The five-year project started in 2007 and is due to run until 2012. The project aims to collect baseline data needed for an ecosystem approach to managing the Agulhas and Somali Current LMEs, and to produce a transboundary diagnostic analysis and strategic action plan for the two LMEs. The project is being implemented with the maritime and environmental authorities of the countries concerned, GEF, UNEP, the World Bank, the Africa Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme, and the Indian Ocean Commission. The project management unit is based in Grahamstown, South Africa. In January 2008 the first meeting of the project steering committee was held, bringing together representatives from participant countries, observer organizations and UNDP. In September and October 2008 regional meetings of the technical coordination groups and the project coordination forum were held in Mauritius.

The project stands to make a valuable contribution to understanding and sustaining the marine ecosystems around Mauritius, and to strengthening regional cooperation in this field. The project involves nine countries – Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa and Tanzania. The Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) extends from the Comoros Islands and the northern tip of Madagascar to the Horn of Africa; the Agulhas Current LME extends from the northern end of the Mozambique Channel to Cape Agulhas (South Africa). For the development phase of the project, UNDP facilitated the mobilisation of US\$698,000 from GEF. For the fully-fledged project, GEF has agreed to contribute US\$12.2m and other international partners are expected to contribute US\$18.5m in co-financing. The UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) is providing administrative and logistical support for the project. The project is being coordinated with the regional South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project (SWIOFP) and the West Indian Ocean Land-Based Activities project (WIOLaB), and the Regional Coastal Management Programme of the Indian Ocean Countries (ReCoMaP). UNDP Mauritius is the principal UNDP office involved in the implementation of the project. Information about the project is available at www.asclme.org.

2008 in figures (US\$)

Budget	1,756,500
Expenditure	2,389,002

Energy projects

Removal of barriers to energy efficiency and conservation

During 2008 UNDP continued to support the Ministry of Public Utilities in implementing an energy efficiency project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The overall goal of the project is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions sustainably, through transforming energy efficiency practices in Mauritius. The project has four components, focusing on:

- Policy (building regulations and codes);
- Markets (stimulating demand for and supply of technology and services);
- Awareness (information, knowledge and awareness); and
- Monitoring and evaluation.

The project also looks at energy options for Agalega Island.

During 2008 the project met all of its targets and made good progress towards the overall intended results of the project. Consultants helped to produce the first draft of an Energy Efficiency Bill, which was expected to be reviewed in consultations in 2009. As well as consultations, the next phase of the project will include a review of the Building Act and the development of a mechanism for comprehensive energy audit. This first phase of the project was funded by GEF (US\$925,000), UNDP (US\$60,000), and US\$338,000 in in-kind contributions from the Government of Mauritius and the Ministry of Public Utilities. UNDP will seek further financing to support future phases of the project, which is due to run until 2011.

2008 in figures (US\$)

Budget	248,000
Expenditure	32,782

Energy policy reform

During 2008 UNDP successfully completed implementing a project supporting the Government's energy reform policy for 2008-2025 and the objective of a secure, competitive and sustainable approach to energy in Mauritius. The project was jointly financed by the EC and UNDP and aimed to develop a practical Energy Policy Action Plan, with targets for energy and electricity, promoting efficiency in transport, implementing the Energy Efficiency Bill, and building new power plants. The project was carried out with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the Ministry of Public Utilities, and benefited from the contribution of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), which fielded six consultants for the power sector, renewable energies and carbon financing. The initial phase of the project was supported jointly by the EC and UNDP. The EC contributed US\$200,000 to the project and UNDP US\$100,000. Following the completion of the project in 2008, the Government adopted the Energy Policy Action Plan.

2008 in figures (US\$)

Budget	106,500
Expenditure	102,000

Other projects

Building regional capacity for clean development

As a result of efforts by UNDP for Mauritius to be included in a regional Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project, during 2008 UNDP began to implement a project to build capacity for clean development in Mauritius and six other countries in South and East Africa. The overall aim of the project is to enhance the capacity of the public and private sectors in the participating countries to create an operational CDM and voluntary carbon market framework in sub-Saharan Africa.

Promotion of access to the carbon market, financing and technology will result in sustainable development outcomes and, ultimately, market transformation. To achieve these objectives, the project will work to ensure:

- The private sector is actively engaged;
- The public sector provides the policy and legal context needed for successful national participation in the CDM;

- The NGO and academic community can provide inputs to the project according to their strengths; and
- Promising public and private sector carbon projects are identified.

In July 2008 a workshop on energy efficiency and renewable energy measures in hotels was held in collaboration with the Mauritius Association of Hotels and Restaurants (AHRIM). In September a workshop on CDM was held with the Ministry of Local Government, Outer Islands and Rodrigues. Then in October an internal workshop on carbon finance and CDM capacity building was held for the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping, and a workshop on corporate social and environmental responsibility was held. A seminar on CDM was also held for the Mauritius Board of Investment. In parallel with these activities, UNDP helped the Ministry of Environment and the National Development Unit (NDU) to finalise a terms of reference for the planned National CDM strategy. Projects that could benefit from CDM financing include a 25-40 megawatt wind farm at Bigara (announced in the 2008/09 budget) and a 25-MW wind farm in the south of Mauritius, planned by the Société Usinière du Sud.

The project is part of a wider partnership between UNDP and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) addressing climate change. The project has an initial budget of US\$1.5m, composed of US\$930,000 from UNDP and US\$457,500 from UNEP. It has also received funding from Finland, Spain and Sweden. The project is due to be completed in 2009.

2008 in figures (US\$)

Budget	111,140
Expenditure	30,997

Tsunami early warning and response system

During 2008 UNDP supported a project funded by the UN International Strategy for Disaster Recovery (UNISDR), intended to strengthen Mauritius's capacities for early warning about and response to tsunamis. The project was implemented by the Mauritius Meteorological Services (MMS), with UNDP facilitating the procurement of equipment and technical services. The project provided for the installation of tide gauges at Agalega and Blue Bay (later to be moved to St Brandon), thereby completing Mauritius's network of tide gauges. Related equipment for tidal monitoring (e.g. radios, data collection system) was also procured, and MMS staff were trained in how to manage and maintain the tidal gauges. The project also provided for the procurement of equipment to help the Mauritius Oceanographic Institute prepare inundation maps; salinity meters for the Mauritius Water Resource Unit; and public warning system equipment for police and national coastguards. A public awareness campaign on tsunami safety precautions was prepared and carried out. Final project activities including two evacuation exercises and a national workshop were carried out in early 2009.

The project is a valuable contribution to natural disaster risk reduction in Mauritius, a field which is of growing importance in the context of climate change and Mauritius's position as a small island developing state. As well as preparing and equipping Mauritius to better deal with tsunamis, the project has enabled Mauritius to contribute better to the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System and to support early warning in neighbouring countries. Building on this project, UNDP therefore hopes to support the Mauritian authorities in a wider natural disaster risk management project in the near future.

2008 in figures (US\$)

Budget	332,464 ⁴
Expenditure	297,201

New and future projects

UNDP is preparing other projects related to environment and energy, implementation of which is expected to begin in 2009. Two examples are a project on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and a project to support the 'Maurice Ile Durable' (MID) initiative.

⁴ The project was fully funded by UNISDR.

In 2008 UNDP agreed with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment on a project for the control of POPs. The project will support the Ministry of Environment and National Development Unit to build national capacity to manage and eliminate POPs and polychlorobiphenyls (PCBs), for example from the Mauritius Sugar Research Institute, the Ministry of Health and several factories. With the aim of helping Mauritius meet its reporting and other obligations under the 2001 Stockholm Convention on POPs, the main output from the project will be a national implementation plan for managing POPs. The project is funded by GEF (US\$902,000), with a US\$63,900 in-kind contribution from the Government of Mauritius. Implementation is due to begin in 2009.

For the MID initiative, UNDP is the donor representative on the MID Fund established in June 2008 and has proposed developing a project management unit for MID, and providing technical assistance and policy support. UNDP is proposing to fund the first year of the project management unit. It is envisaged that the project will run for two to three years. Meanwhile, across all of UNDP's work in environment and energy, UNDP will continue to support Rodrigues and efforts to overcome the environmental challenges that it faces, such as managing and distributing scarce water.

Other areas

UNDP is also active in other areas, in particular in the fight against HIV/AIDS, the advancement of women and gender equality, and the promotion of information and communications technology (ICT).

Leadership on HIV/AIDS

During 2008 UNDP and the joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) continued to implement a project helping the Council of Religious Leaders to tackle the challenge of HIV/AIDS in Mauritius. The project initially ran from 2006 to 2007 with the aim of empowering religious leaders to reduce the public taboos and stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS, and to improve public communication about prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS. In 2007 the project was extended to the end of 2009 and enlarged to include support for the women and youth wings of religious groups. During 2008 UNDP therefore provided financial and technical assistance for the Council to implement its action plan, which included training 'peer educators' and other activities to increase public awareness about HIV/AIDS. This work has made a positive impact, as was reflected by a survey in December 2008 which found that religious leaders now felt more comfortable addressing HIV/AIDS than in the past. The project will continue in 2009.

2008 in figures (US\$)

Budget	376,268
Expenditure	113,217

Accessing global funds for HIV/AIDS

During 2008 UNDP worked with the Ministry of Health to identify ways in which Mauritius could receive assistance from GFATM. As a middle-income country Mauritius was not eligible for standard GFATM funding, but because HIV/AIDS levels among intra-venous drugs users in Mauritius exceed 5% (the level of a concentrated epidemic), Mauritius is eligible for some funding. During 2008 UNDP, UNAIDS and other UN partners therefore closely supported the National AIDS Secretariat and the Ministry of Health to prepare and submit a proposal to the GFATM. As part of this it was necessary to establish a Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM), which was done in April 2008 and brings together some 30 people drawn from the ministries of health and women, women's groups, drugs user groups, research, and trade unions. Following this, in collaboration with UNAIDS and UNDP, the CCM organised a workshop to pull together sub-proposals from these groups. Technical assistance for the elaboration of the proposal was provided by UNAIDS, UNDP and WHO. The final proposal (costed at around €12m) was submitted in June 2008 and was successfully accepted as a 'Category 1' (high priority) proposal in November/December 2008. The proposal represents around 35% of the National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS for 2007-2011.

Other results of UNDP assistance in the area of HIV/AIDS during 2008 included:

- With UNDP support, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and the Rodrigues Health Authority began to prepare a workplan on HIV/AIDS, aligned with the National Strategic Plan;
- With technical support from UNDP, discussions for upgrading the central health laboratory in the Ministry of Health were initiated and recommendations were made for procuring a viral load machine;
- The Mauritius Prison Service reinforced its HIV/AIDS Secretariat, and carried out a 'knowledge, attitudes, behaviour and practice' study of prison officers and prisoners, after which a costed action plan was prepared.

For some of these activities, UNDP facilitated the involvement of OHCHR, UNODC and the World Health Organization (WHO).

2008 in figures (US\$)

Budget	100,000
Expenditure	100,000 ⁵

⁵ Approximate expenditure.

Gender in policy

During 2008 UNDP pursued a number of projects and initiatives that directly and indirectly contributed to advancing women's rights and empowering women in Mauritius. For example, building on gender training workshops conducted in 2007, UNDP helped the Ministry of Women's Rights to establish a gender information system. With support from UNDP a gender focal point was appointed in each ministry and in March, on International Women's Day, the National Gender Policy Framework was launched. This called upon all ministries to formulate their own gender policy statements. Through dialogue with officials in the Ministry of Finance, and supported by UNDP's project for performance-based budgeting, UNDP also contributed to the start of new gender-responsive budgeting initiatives. For the gender policy initiatives, UNDP facilitated assistance from the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

2008 in figures (US\$)

Budget	79,042
Expenditure	75,279

Empowering women and advancing women's rights

During 2008 UNDP continued to implement a Women Empowerment Project, supporting the component of the Government's Empowerment Programme that covered unemployed women. The project aimed to help women who have lost their jobs (for example in the textile industry) to start their own micro-enterprises. During the year, the project provided enterprise training to 648 women and supported 19 women-led small business projects, contributing to the creation of 106 new jobs (of which 55 were part-time). Recognising the positive impact of the project, the Government integrated the project management unit into the Special Programme for Unemployed Women within the Empowerment Programme. The project also provided capacity building for the National Empowerment Foundation office in Rodrigues, and UNDP involved the International Labour Organization (ILO) in providing training materials on entrepreneurship.

In addition to the Women Empowerment Programme, UNDP helped the Mauritius Research Council to begin a study on domestic violence against women. The study is expected to be completed in mid-2009. UNDP will also place an international consultant with the COI, to work on implementing the COI's programme on gender.

2008 in figures (US\$)

Budget	50,280
Expenditure	44,535

Supporting ICT: the National ICT Strategic Plan and the IT Community Empowerment Programme

In October 2007 the Cabinet approved the ten-year National Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Strategic Plan for 2007-2017 which, with UNDP support, had been prepared by the National Computer Board, the Ministry of Communications and ICT, and KPMG India. The successful completion of the strategy has complemented the Government's efforts to introduce PBB. Following this project, the Government has launched an IT Community Empowerment Programme, which is supported by a number of partners and has received a cost-sharing contribution from Microsoft. Within this programme, UNDP plans to support the National Computer Board to establish a portal for community services, and IT training for unemployed people at various centres across Mauritius.

2008 in figures (US\$)

Budget	76,361
Expenditure	76,068

Human rights capacity building and mainstreaming

During 2008, UNDP mobilised resources for an initiative building on work initiated in 2006-2007 with state and non-state stakeholders for the development of a National Human Rights Strategy. In June 2008, UNDP and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) associated themselves with the Supreme Court to organise a seminar on human

rights and the conduct of fair trials. In October, UNDP worked closely with OHCHR and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to prepare and facilitate a three-day workshop on police oversight and accountability. This was convened with the National Human Rights Commission and provided an opportunity for policy-makers and institutional stakeholders to discuss the commission's current and future mandate in this area, and key provisions of a new bill (being drafted) for the establishment of a new police complaints mechanism.

In December, UNDP and UNODC organised a working session of police senior management to lay the groundwork for preparing a National Policing Strategic Framework. Building upon this promising first step, UNDP is now mobilizing additional from its Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund (DGTTF) to develop a two-year project (2009-2010) which will seek to support the transformation of the Mauritius Police Force into a Police Service, and strengthen its strategic planning capability.

2008 in figures (US\$)

Budget	130,000
Expenditure	128,518

Implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism

During 2008 UNDP supported an initiative with the National Economic and Social Council to prepare the national self-assessment report for Mauritius for the African Peer Review Mechanism. UNDP is on the review steering committee and has contributed US\$160,000 towards the peer review exercise.

Mobilising resources for Mauritius

Mobilising non-resident UN agencies

UNDP plays a key and catalytic role in mobilising technical and financial resources from UN agencies and programmes that are not present in Mauritius. As the only UN agency with a permanent presence in Mauritius, and with a responsibility for UN coordination, UNDP tries to mobilise non-resident agencies and facilitate their involvement in projects in Mauritius, where appropriate. This role is performed by the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator (RC), who is also the UNDP Resident Representative in Mauritius. During 2008 the RC Office and UNDP facilitated the involvement in projects in Mauritius of the following UN agencies and programmes: FAO, ILO, OHCHR, UN-DESA, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNODC, WHO.

Mobilising other partners

UNDP seeks to mobilise other regional and international partners and sources of funding, where possible. Thus during 2008 UNDP mobilised or otherwise facilitated the involvement of: the EC, COI, GEF, GFATM, ODEROI. UNDP is one of the three original implementing partners of GEF. In 2009 and beyond, UNDP will aim to continue helping Mauritius to access more development funding and technical assistance from UN and non-UN bodies, to help meet the challenges that Mauritius faces. UNDP will also pursue opportunities for linking Mauritius into regional programmes, such as those overseen by the COI.

UNDP Mauritius programme expenditure 2008

	US\$
Economic reform projects	
Performance based budgeting	490,950
Inclusive development projects	
Improving the level of education achievement in primary schools in deprived regions	231,951
Strengthening the NGO sector	106,735
Sustainable Integrated Development Plan for Rodrigues	62,557
Environment projects	
Marine Protected Area for Rodrigues	350,356
Energy Efficiency PDFA, Review of EIA and CWA	44,373
Sustainable Land Management	259,972
Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystem project	2,393,230
Protected Area Network	105,842
Regional Capacity Building Clean Development Management	30,998
Energy efficiency	32,782
Sustainable management for POPs	71,715
Other areas	
Gender in policy	75,279
Empowering women's rights	44,535
Supporting ICT: the National ICT Strategic Plan and the IT Community Empowerment Programme	76,078
Human rights capacity building and mainstreaming	128,518
Fight against HIV and AIDS	213,217
African Peer Review Mechanism	28,850
TOTAL	4,747,938

Development partners in Mauritius

The following table is indicative of UNDP's presence across the main sectors of development in Mauritius:

Sector \ Partner	UNDP	EC	World Bank	AFD	AfDB	China Development Bank	China	European Inv. Bank	India	Commonwealth Sec.	Int. Finance Corporation
Agriculture, Livestock, and Forestry		√							√		
Governance and Budget Support	√	√	√	√	√						
Education	√	√	√				√		√	√	
Energy	√		√	√	√	√		√			
Environment and Climate Change	√	√		√							
Health and HIV/AIDS	√		√		√				√		
ICT/Science and Technology	√		√		√				√		
Public Administration and Capacity Building	√	√	√	√	√		√		√	√	
Political Governance	√	√							√		
Private Sector Development			√	√	√						√
Reintegration/Community Development	√		√								√
Roads, Transportation and Infrastructure			√	√	√	√	√				
Water and Sanitation	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	~		

Note: √ indicates active development donor or partner. UNDP does not provide budget support as compared to other donors, but it provides technical assistance and capacity building. Source: MoFEE

Abbreviations

AFD	Agence Française de Développement
ASCLME	Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
COI	Indian Ocean Commission
CSO	Central Statistics Office
EC	European Commission
ECCE	Early childhood care and education
EPMU	Rodrigues Economic Planning and Monitoring Unit
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFATM	Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ICT	Information and communications technology
ILO	International Labour Organization
LME	Large Marine Ecosystems
MACOSS	Mauritius Council of Social Service
MID	Maurice Ile Durable
MOFEE	Ministry of Finance and Economic Empowerment
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MTEF	Medium-Term Expenditure Framework
OHCHR	UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
ODEROI	Observatory of Children's Rights
PBB	Programme-based budgeting
POP	Persistent organic pollutant
SEMPA	South-East Marine Protected Area, Rodrigues
SIDPR	Sustainable Integrated Development Plan for Rodrigues
UNAIDS	Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNODC	UN Office on Drugs and Crime
UNESCO	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN-DESA	UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNEP	UN Environment Programme
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
UNIFEM	UN Development Fund for Women
UNISDR	UN International Strategy for Disaster Recovery
WHO	World Health Organization
ZEP	Zones d' Education Prioritaires