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13 CLIMATE ACTION



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Restoring Marine Ecosystem Services By Rehabilitating Coral Reefs to Meet A Changing Climate Future

Coral Reefs are the foundation of food security and coastal livelihoods in Mauritius and Seychelles. Reefs in the Western Indian Ocean have suffered from negative human-induced impacts, in addition to climate change associated coral bleaching which has caused extreme degradation.

The Adaptation Fund, through a grant of USD 9,132,420 is enabling:

- The enhancement of food security and reduction of risks from natural disasters through the restoration of degraded reefs in Mauritius and Seychelles;
- Knowledge management and sharing, training and sensitization to build regional capacity for sustainable reef restorations;
- The establishment of coral farming and nursery facilities.

A cost sharing agreement has also been signed with the Government of Mauritius for the setting up of land-based nurseries and seawater pumping system for asexual coral reproduction at the Mauritius Oceanographic Institute and land-based nurseries for sexual reproduction at Albion Fisheries Research Centre.

OUR APPROACH



Budget	2023	USD 2,153,861
	Total	USD 10,535,044
Period	2020 - 2026	

Project Partners



QUICK FACTS



- Mauritius – 243 km² of lagoon area enclosed by 150 km of fringing reef.
- During the 2016 global coral bleaching event, 40-50% of live coral cover in Mauritius was impacted. 60% of the total coral reef area of Seychelles experienced high or extreme bleaching, with a mortality rate of around 30%
- Reduction of 30-88% global coral cover by 2100 if temperature rises by 1.1°C to 2.6°C

ADDITIONAL FACTS

The overall objective is to reduce the impact of climate change on coral reef-dependent economic sectors in Mauritius and Seychelles by implementing coral restoration with thermal tolerant corals. Coral reef restoration will be implemented mostly within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs): Blue Bay Marine Park and the South East Marine Protected Area in Rodrigues. Within the MPAs, nursery sites will be selected based on the reports on coral reef status, water quality, current pattern and key environmental and social parameters. In Seychelles, coral reef restoration and nurseries will be implemented within the Curieuse Marine National Park, Cousin Special Reserve, Ste Anne Marine National Park MPAs and Anse Forbans. The cost of coral reef restoration varies according to method, objective and location, as does the cost effectiveness of the methods used.

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OBJECTIVE

- To improve food security and livelihoods and mitigate disaster risk through active restoration of coral reefs degraded by coral bleaching as a result of climate change in Mauritius and Seychelles in order to restore their essential ecosystem services.
- To generate knowledge and understanding about the use of coral reef restoration as an adaptation measure for dissemination within two countries, to other SIDS and also countries within the WIO and other regions, and to build capacity for this intervention in the WIO



IMPLEMENTATION

This project is being directly implemented by the UNDP in collaboration with Responsible Parties and Activity Partners in Mauritius and Seychelles



KEY RESULTS EXPECTED

- At least 3.2 Ha in Mauritius, 1 Ha in Rodrigues and 2.5 Ha in Seychelles of degraded sites restored using farmed corals.
- At least 800 persons with improved livelihoods from coral restoration activities and/or due to the improved coastal and marine ecosystems supported by the restored corals.
- At least 3 published papers on coral reef restoration, with contribution from at least 3 female scientists.
- Ocean nurseries set up in protected areas in Mauritius, Rodrigues and Seychelles using coral fragments.
- At least 10% increase in live coral cover, fish density and diversity in Mauritius and Rodrigues.
- At least one land-based nursery established and operational in Mauritius and one in Seychelles
- Knowledge sharing on coral reef restoration



PARTNERS

Mauritius

- Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping
- Mauritius Oceanography Institute
- Albion Fisheries Research Centre
- Eco-Sud
- Reef Conservation
- Shoals Rodrigues

Seychelles

- Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment
- Seychelles Parks and Garden Authority
- Nature Seychelles
- Marine Conservation Society of Seychelles

UNDP IN MAURITIUS

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



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