



# Joint Programme 2023 Annual Progress Report

## Building Resilience & Ending Vulnerabilities in Small Island Developing States

### Cover page

**UNCT/MCO:** Mauritius and Seychelles

**Reporting Period:** 1 January - 31 December 2023

**JP title:** Building Resilience & Ending Vulnerabilities in Small Island Developing States

**Thematic SDG Areas:** Energy transitions; Decent jobs & universal social protection; Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution;

**Gender Marker:** Gender-sensitive (for example, the JP acknowledged and aimed to address gender to enhance the policy/programme, such as undertaking gender analysis to ensure policies/programmes do no harm)

**Engine Room Activities:** Shift in policy and regulatory frameworks;

**Total estimated expenditures:** USD \$403,929.00

**Total estimated commitments** (including expenditures): \$697,125.00

## Executive Summary

Since the project launch in July 2022, the main upstream policy results achieved are:

1. Evidence-based information on offshore wind potential in Mauritius are available to the Government for informed policy making on renewable energy deployment in the country. Through the Feasibility study for the development of the offshore wind for the island of Mauritius, two potential sites from where wind resources for power generation is technically and economically viable have been identified for the development of offshore wind energy. Building on this feasibility study, a conceptual design, as well as an action plan and a roadmap for the development of 50-100 MW of offshore wind energy will be elaborated. The extensive consultative and participatory approach used for this study provides a strong basis for the development of integrated multisectoral policies in terms of scope and scale to achieve access to affordable and clean energy. This result contributes to boosting a green economy transition through the development of a Blue-Green economy to achieve a sustainable energy system for all (UNSDDCF Mauritius – Outcome 2, Output 2.1 and 2.2).

2. The private sector has access to a pipeline of bankable circular economy projects for investment in Seychelles. The SDG Investor Map of Seychelles with a focus on circular economy opportunities in the country was launched in 2023 and provided key information to potential investors on projects prioritised by the Republic of Seychelles, which will contribute to the achievement of national development goals as well as the Sustainable Development Goals. These key data help the private sector make strategic investment decisions, thus enabling leveraging of additional financial resources for the SDGs. This will allow Seychelles to enjoy greater environmental sustainability through improved and well-funded waste control and the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems. (UNSDDCF Seychelles – Outcome 3, Output 3.2).

3. Increased awareness among major stakeholders in innovative and blended finance opportunities to leverage investment in circular economy initiatives in Seychelles. Following a consultative approach with national stakeholders from the Government, Private Sector, NGOs/CSOs and academia, a report on innovative and blended financing in the circular economy has been finalised. The participative approach adopted during this exercise has helped raise awareness of new financial instruments that could be developed to catalyse financing of the circular economy of Seychelles instead of solely relying on credit facilities. The innovative financing instruments proposed by the study also factor in gender and youth responsiveness and thus contribute to the formulation of integrated policies for the Green Economy of Seychelles. This study together with the on-going situational assessment being conducted by UNECA will help the support inclusive and sustainable circular economy business opportunities for MSMEs and youth and contribute to address structural vulnerabilities in circular economy (UNSDDCF Seychelles – Outcome 2, Output 2.2).

## Annual Progress

### Overall progress against 3 key results in 2023:

Advancing the RE Agenda in Mauritius: Mauritius has set itself an ambitious target of 60% of renewable energy (RE) by 2030. Through this JP and namely the feasibility study on offshore wind, the Government has identified two potential sites for the development of offshore windfarms. In addition, it is now estimated that investments in offshore wind could contribute up to 12% of the total energy mix as compared to 6% forecasted by the Revised Renewable Energy Roadmap for Mauritius published in 2022. The JP is also supporting the development of training modules in the development of soft skills required to ensure a smooth transition to a green economy.

Supporting the Circular Economy transition in Seychelles: Activities implemented under the JP is helping to raise awareness and build local capacity in circular economy in Seychelles. Through the SDG investor map, key opportunities for the circular economy have been identified in the country. A study conducted under this JP has also helped to identify financial instruments adapted to the Seychelles to leverage financing to achieve the targets

of SDG 12. In addition, potential economic opportunities for MSME's and youth in the circular economy sector in the country have been identified.

### **Main Challenges, adjustments and lessons:**

There have been some delays in the implementation of the project mainly due to the time-consuming process of engaging with the key Government stakeholders and for the finalization of Terms of references. This process has proven to be lengthier than expected. However, it was crucial to ensure government ownership and that the process is driven by the government stakeholders right from the start for the successful implementation of this project and also sustainability of the results. The support of the Project Technical Committees was sought to accelerate the process.

A Project Coordinator was hired mid 2023 and has greatly helped to accelerate implementation of the project activities and ensure effective collaboration between the PUNOs and the Government counterparts namely given the fact that most of the PUNOs are non-resident UN Agencies.

This JP has also been crucial to enhance collaboration between the PUNOs but also with the UN Country Team, maximising on synergies. For instance, the support of UN Women has been sought to implement the activities related to mainstreaming of gender in the renewable energy sector in Mauritius and the Circular Economy Sector in Seychelles. In addition, UNEP will be using existing LTA's from UPOS to retain the services of a consultant for the development of financing strategies and mechanisms on blue and green economy for Mauritius and Seychelles respectively, thereby accelerating the procurement process.

## **Priority Cross-cutting Issues**

### **Cross-cutting results/issues**

#### **Gender Marker and activities undertook for gender equality**

The JP is Gender-sensitive (for example, the JP acknowledged and aimed to address gender to enhance the policy/programme, such as undertaking gender analysis to ensure policies/programmes do no harm). Capacity development (e.g. training of social workers, local governments, local communities);

### **SDG Transitions Acceleration**

Accelerating energy transformation in Mauritius

- Funds from the JP has catalysed the execution of preliminary studies required prior to the development of ocean renewable technologies identified in the country's RE Roadmap.
- The preliminary study further highlighted scaling up opportunities, thus exceeding the energy target set by the RE roadmap for ocean renewables.
- Scaling up opportunities allows the country to benefit from economies of scale through the development of larger offshore windfarms, thereby ensuring economic sustainability.
- This paves the way for the country to achieve the SDG target 7.2 to substantially increase the share of renewables in the national energy mix from 23.9% in 2020 to 60% in 2030.
- The modules on green jobs being developed by ILO will also help in upgrading the skills of young entrepreneurs interested in setting up business in the renewable energy sector (SDG target 8.3).

Protecting Seychelles biodiversity through the development of Circular Economy

- The Readiness Green Market Access study being conducted under this project has assessed existing policies in the country on circular economy and financing instruments available to MSMEs,
- By performing a SWOT analysis, gaps and opportunities in the sector were identified, thus allowing the development of policies, strategies and financial instruments to incentivise people and businesses to divert the amount of waste going to landfills through the practice of reduce, re-use and recycle (SDG Target 12.5)
- The feasibility study on innovative and blended financing further increased local knowledge of financial instruments being implemented around the world and how it could be adapted to the Seychelles context.
- Increasing awareness of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the prevailing CE model helps in better policy formulation.
- This will in turn to more waste being diverted from the non-engineered landfills of Seychelles and reduce the volume of non-treated leachates being discharged in the biodiversity-rich lagoons.

## **Annual Reporting on Results**

### **Exit strategy, scaling, sustainability and next steps**

By June 2024, the JP would have supported the Government of Mauritius to develop a Roadmap and Financing strategy for the deployment of offshore wind energy in the country, thereby supporting the latter to achieve its RE target. In Seychelles, a Circular Economy Roadmap and Action Plan as well as a Financing Strategy will be available to the Government to drive investments in the sector and develop the necessary policy enablers. In addition, the different working groups and technical committees set up has enabled to build country ownership towards those initiatives. The Circular Economy Challenge Fund would also have supported key initiatives in the sector in Seychelles building on adequate training and capacity building provided to potential beneficiaries.

### **Measuring and reporting on impact**

Total Co-financing: USD 90,179 (USD 50,000 from UNDP and USD 30,179.25 from UNEP)

### **Overview of progress toward Financial Instrument(s)**

### **Completed transactions**

## Strategic Partnerships, Documents and Communications

### Multi-stakeholder engagement

#### Stakeholder groups you closely partner with, as part of your JP approach

National Government; Civil Society Organizations; Private sector;

#### Brief description of the nature of engagement. Outline the main outcomes and achievements resulting from the partnerships.

Technical committees and working groups have been set for the two project components respectively. The technical committees lead on the coordination with national stakeholders, review and provide inputs to the outcomes being produced prior to finalisation. This ensures a smoother translation of the outcomes to adoption and implementation at national level.

CSOs and Private Sector Representatives have been involved in the formulation of the different initiatives under this JP including the SDG Investor Map in Seychelles, the Report on Innovative and Blended Finance Opportunities for the circular economy in Seychelles and the Feasibility Study on Offshore Wind Energy in Mauritius.

#### How did the JP facilitate collaboration with diverse stakeholders

### Financial leverage

#### Financial resources leveraged

Total Co-financing: USD 90,179 (USD 50,000 from UNDP and USD 30,179.25 from UNEP)

#### Donor and Strategic events attended by JP in 2022

JP steering committee/ programme board meeting	Strategic partners/ donors event
Yes, in 2023	No, but planned in late 2024

**Explanation if you have not held any key meeting/events for the above question.**

Not applicable

#### **JP contribution to SDG Financing**

Drafted a bill, strategy, and/or approved a law increasing the fiscal space for the policy in focus	Produced financing, costing, diagnostic and feasibility analyses as a basis to invest or increase spending on the SDGs	Improved efficiency (cost savings) in the management of programmes/schemes	Improved effectiveness (value for money; i.e. social impact of \$1 spent) of spending	Drafted policies/regulatory frameworks or developed tools to incentivize private sector investment on the SDGs	Structured new financial instruments (public, private or blended) to leverage additional funding
No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No

#### **Briefly explain how and in which area your JP contributed to enhancing SDG financing**

The feasibility study on offshore windfarm has helped the country narrow-down on the choice of technology to be implemented, the location of the proposed windfarm and the size of the windfarm. This has led to the drafting of a Cabinet Paper which once approved will lead to the Government defining a concession area earmarked for the development of the offshore windfarm. This will ensure that other economic activities cannot be undertaken in the chosen site and thus accelerate the green energy transition in Mauritius (SDG 7). The feasibility study further allows the definition of tailor-made financing strategies based on the country-specific requirements and the technology being adopted.

The launching of the SDG investor map for Seychelles provides baseline data to potential investors in terms of the nature of projects to be funded, capital requirements, and expected rate of return.

#### **Focus on LNOB cross cutting principles**

Human Rights	Persons with disabilities	Youth	Environmental and social standards
No	No	No	No

**Provide any other comments or descriptions on how your JP contributed to cross-cutting issues and principles.**

## **Beneficiaries**

**Number of beneficiaries**

0

Percentage (%) of women benefited among the total number	Percentage (%) of children & youth (0-24 years of age) benefited among the total number	Percentage (%) of older persons (age 60 and above) benefited among the total number	Percentage (%) of persons with disabilities benefited among the total number
0	0	0	0

**Please briefly explain how people benefited from the joint programme**

Not applicable for now

**Did your JP support the localization of SDGs by moving SDG actions to the local level and enhancing abilities of local and regional governments to promote the SDGs?**

Conducted diagnostics and studies to contextualize SDGs at the local level;

**Provide information of how your JP supported localization of the SDGs as outlined above:**

Consultative consultations on circular economy for the development of the circular economy roadmap in Seychelles were held. Contextualizing what circular economy, sustainable cities (SDG11) and sustainable consumption and production (SDG 12) means for Seychelles involved extensive stakeholder engagement, awareness creation and understanding of what circular business models would entail including impacts not only for the environment but also for local businesses in Seychelles. This will ensure the roadmap developed is relevant for the country.

## **Communications**

### **Voices from the field**

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### **Declaration**

We hereby confirm that the information provided in this update is duly reviewed and approved by the RC and all PUNOs involved in the Joint Programme.