

**National Report to the Third Session
of the
United Nations Forum on Forests
for
The Republic of Mauritius**

8 January, 2003

I KEY CONTACTS

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II PROGRESS AND ISSUES RELATED TO IMPLEMENTATION OF IPF/IFF PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

General

The republic of Mauritius is a small island state with an area of 2000 km² and a forest area of about 400 km². The benefits from the social, protective and environmental functions of the forests exceeds by far the benefits from the timber exploitation activities. In view of expected land use changes in the agricultural sector and recent development in the eco-tourism sector, the government is reviewing its Forest policy to address these emerging issues.

Mauritius has always been committed to sustainable forest management and has attempted to implement those IPF/IFF proposals which are relevant to our context.

The expertise of the FAO Policy management has been solicited to formulate a new Forest policy and National Forest Action Plan for the next decade. This will involve the participation and contribution of all stakeholders through a series of national workshops.

Economic aspects of Forests, including trade

Mauritius, as an island, has limited forest areas. All native state-owned forests have been converted into a National Park and several nature reserves, where timber exploitation is banned. The production from plantations from the privately-owned and state-owned forests is about 15,000M³. The local consumption of utility timber exceeds by far the local production Hence Mauritius will always be a net importer of timber (Annex I).

The valuation of forest goods and services

The pricing of forest products from state-owned forests has been rationalised over the years to bring it at par with those practiced by the private sector.

In view of the ever-increasing demand for recreation and eco-tourism activities by Mauritians and foreign tourists and the importance of forests as catchment areas for water conservation, the emphasis is gradually shifting to the exploitation of the non-wood potential of the forests rather than timber production.

Full cost internalisation of wood and non-forest products and services

Prices of wood and non-wood forest products from state-owned forests are regularly revised to align them with those of the Private Sector. The last increase in the selling prices of wood was done in 2002 (Annex II).

The rent for shooting and fishing leases over state forest lands has been revised in 2000. Rental was increased by 100 % in 2000 and will culminate to a 500 % increase by 2007 (Annex III).

Development and Use of economical policy instruments to promote sustainable development.

Mauritius is working on a new forest policy which will address, inter alia, the economic aspects of forests to promote sustainable forest management.

Due to very limited land resources, forest lands are permanently under pressure from other land based sectors. Private forest lands are gradually being lost to other land uses. A study is underway to identify sensitive private forests which have either rich biodiversity or which are located in strategic locations such as catchment areas. These forests will be either acquired compulsorily after compensating the owners or will be

given legal protection. Government is also considering incentives like grants, tax reliefs etc, for promoting re-forestation or partial compensation to owners for restriction of certain types of development on sensitive areas.

Market and Trade on Forest products

Mauritius is a net importer of timber. The import of forest products per capita is probably the highest in the region (Annex IV).

Government has removed completely or reduced considerably import duty on timber, reconstituted timber and wood-working machines to protect the furniture manufacturing sector from the imports of finished furniture.

Forest Health & productivity

Air pollution is not a problem in Mauritius. There are very few factories which emit toxic fumes or dust in the industrial sector and they are not located in the proximity of forests.

Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs

This concept is enshrined in our National Forest Policy. The first objective of our forest policy aims at

"effecting the preservation of a tree cover for the benefit of the present and future inhabitants of Mauritius, on areas of land as are required for the maintenance and improvement of the climatic and physical condition of the country "

We have always attempted to increase the areas under forests in Mauritius. But due to heavy pressure on lands, this has not been possible up to now. We are instead improving the quality of the degraded forests by removing invading alien species and restocking with indigenous and endemic plants. Incentives are being offered to the private forest

owners to reforest and sustainably manage their forests, in terms of free seedlings and technical advice.

In Mauritius, the environmental and protective functions of the forests are vital. As a matter of fact, the water conservation function of the forests in the uplands guarantee the survival of all the other major economic sectors – agriculture, tourism and manufacture.

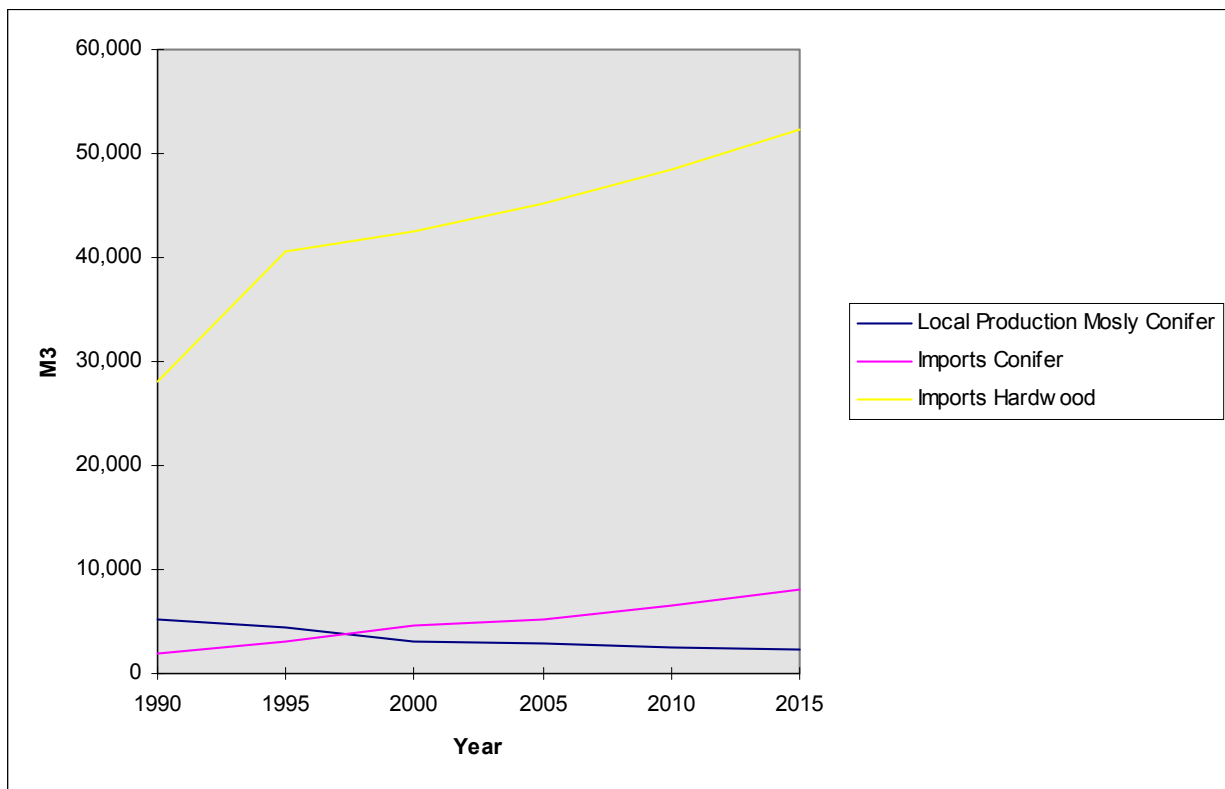
Timber production is being gradually phased out in favour of recreation and eco-tourism. With a population of 1.2 million and 700,000 tourists visiting Mauritius annually, the demand for leisure in natural settings will be on the increase.

All the major long term strategies of the National Environmental Programme, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, the National Forest Policy and Action programme have the same long term objective, i.e. the protection of the present resource base and its sustainable management to enhance its capability to produce goods and services for present and future generations.

ANNEX I

LOCAL PRODUCTION AND IMPORTS OF SAWN TIMBER & FORECAST (2020)

Year		1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Local Production	Mosly Conifer	5,110	4,360	3,000	2,800	2,500	2,300	2,000
Imports	Conifer	2,010	3,101	4,596	5,200	6,500	8,000	10,000
	Hardwood	28,100	40,510	42,436	45,100	48,500	52,300	58,000
Total (m³)		35,220	47,971	50,032	53,100	57,500	62,600	70,000



SOURCE: CENTRAL STATISTICS OFFICE & FORESTRY SERVICE

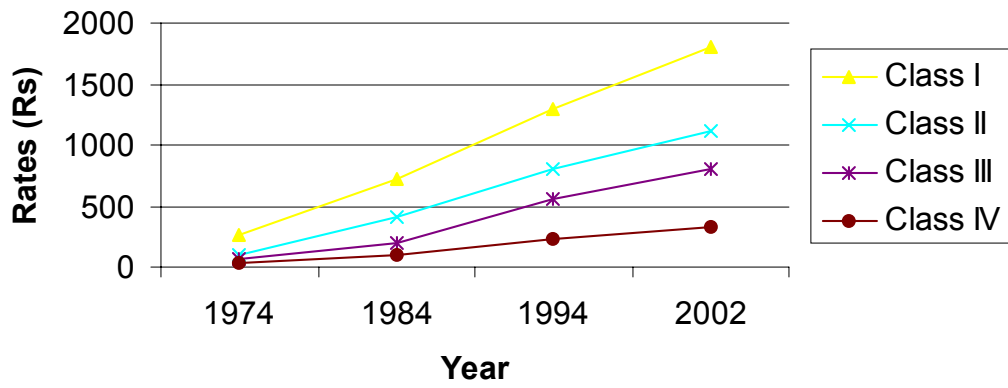
ANNEX II

TIMBER RATES

(Mauritian rupee)

	1974	1984	1994	2002
(a) Sound Standing Timber (ie. basic royalty)				
Class I	265	720	1,300	1,810
Class II	100	410	800	1,110
Class III	60	200	565	800
Class IV	25	100	225	330
(b) Sound logs at Roadside (ie. Royalty plus labour)				
Class I	320/m3	895/m3	1,700/m3	2,640/m3
Class II	140/m3	585/m3	1,200/m3	1,950/m3
Class III	105/m3	375/m3	965/m3	1,670/m3
Class IV	70/m3	275/m3	635/m3	1,190/m3
(c) Sound logs at Curepipe Timber Store (ie. Royalty, labour & Transport)				
Class I	360/m3	1020/m3	2,150/m3	3,900/m3
Class II	180/m3	710/m3	1,650/m3	3,200/m3
Class III	140/m3	500/m3	1,415/m3	2,500/m3
Class IV	105/m3	400/m3	1,085/m3	1,950/m3

Basic Royalty (revised rates)



ANNEX III

Shooting and Fishing Leases

Under the Shooting and Fishing Leases Act of 1966, existing leases were renewed and the new rental would be phased over a period of seven years as from year 2000 as follows:-

	SHOOTING AND FISHING		GUARDIENNAGE
	Upland Plateau (Rs)	Low to Mid- Altitude (Rs)	(Rs)
Year 1	200	100	35
Year 2	250	125	55
Year 3	300	150	75
Year 4	350	175	95
Year 5	400	200	115
Year 6	450	250	135
Year 7	500	300	150

ANNEX IV

MAIN IMPORTS OF FOREST PRODUCE

<u>H.S. Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Country of origin</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>CIF Value (Rs)</u>
44012100	Conifer wood in chips or particles	kg	Italy, South Africa	42,249	393,203
44012200	Non-Coniferous wood in chips or particles	kg	USA, S.Africa, Germany	246,034	2,005,015
44013000	Sawdust,woodwaste,scrap in logs etc	kg	France	3,857	182,935
44020000	Wood charcoal	kg	UK, S. Africa, Malaysia	16,860	217,460
44031000	Rough wood,stripped of bark or not,paint,stains etc treated	m3	South Africa Canada,	1,812	9,440,091
44032000	Rough coniferous wood,stripped of bark or not, not treated	m3	South Arica	152	871,863
44034100	Rough wood or wood roughly squared	m3	Malaysia, Burma, Singapore, South Africa, India, Congo,	8,977	29,806,796
44039900	(non-coniferous)		France, Mozambique Cameroon, Madagascar, USA		
44041000	Hoopwood,split poles,pile,chipwood etc(conifer)	kg	South Africa, Germany	104,365	766,621
44042000	Hoopwood,split poles,pile,chipwood etc non-coniferous	kg	South Africa, Germany	483,155	4,477,327
	Railway or tramway sleepers of wood,impregnated	M3	South Africa	270	1,573,066
44071000	Coniferous wood sawn thickness > 6mm planed or sanded or not	m3	Burma,Zimbabwe,Madagascar,Cameroun, Congo Malaysia,South Africa,Australia	20,267	60,135,529
44072400	Non-coniferous woodsawn or chipped not planed/sanded etc of a thickness exceeding 6mm	m3	Burma,Congo,Cameroon,France,Australia,Belgium,Italy Madagascar, U.S.A,South Africa,Germany,Zambia, Croatia ,Cote D'Ivoire,Indonesia,Sweden,Singapore, Malaysia,	35,103	278,446,013
44079900					
44081000	Veneer sheet of wood n.e.s of a thickness not exceeding 6mm	kg	South Africa,Madagascar,Australia,France,Reunion	76,298	4,840,159
44083900					
44089000					
44091000	Wood shaped along any of its edges or faces (coniferous)	kg	China, France, Italy,Madagascar, Belgium, U.K. Malaysia,S.Africa, Reunion, United Arab,Indonesia,	37,056	2,085,042
44092000	Wood shaped along any of its edges or faces (non-coniferous)	kg	Belgium, France,U.K, Italy, Taiwan, United Arab, Germany Madagascar, S.Africa,Indonesia,Hong kong,Zimbabwe Malaysia,Reunion, China	48,090	1,800,029
44101100	Wafer board Particle board and similar board of wood,or other ligneous material	kg	Australia,Malaysia,Germany Fed.,France,U.K, Italy, S.Africa, Singapore, Belgium,H.Kong,China,Belgium	2,839,730	29,205,605
44109000					
44111100	Fibreboard of wood or other ligneous material	kg	Australia,Germany Fed,Malaysia,S.Africa,U.K.Pakistan, Singapore,Indonesia,France,Belgium,Portugal, Italy,China,Spain,Taiwan, Greece	8,087,764	92,151,591
44119900					
44121300	Plywood,veneer/laminated panel	m3	Indonesia,Kenya,Malaysia,Singapore.France,Switzerland, Hong kong,India,S.Africa,China,Spain	14,530	128,884,728
44122900					
44129200	Plywood,veneer/laminated panel	m3	Malaysia,Singapore,Taiwan,Belgium,China,France,India, Indonesia,Italy,Reunion,S.Africa	159,323	5,175,685
44129900					

44130000 44140000	Densified wood in blocks,plates and wooden frames for painting,photographs,mirrors or similar objects	kg	Switzerland,China,France,U.K,Italy,Zimbabwe,USA,Taiwan, Germany Fed , Indonesia , India, Spain, Korea,Canada, Madagascar,Malaysia,Singapore,Thailand,S. Africa, Egypt,Morocco	99,774	3,945,164
44151000 44152000	Packing cases,boxes,crates,drums of wood pallets,box pallets and other boards	kg	France,,Madagascar,U.S.A, Germany,Belgium,Kenya Italy,India,South Africa,UK,Indonesia,Reunion	83,132	1,363,304
44170010	Tools,tool bodies,broom or brush bodies,	kg	Germany Fed.,France,India,China,	20,401	2,371,812
44170090	handles of wood boot & Shoe lasts		Belgium, Italy, Malaysia, S. Africa,		
44181000 44219090	Builders joinery and carpentry of wood tableware and kitchenware etc. Windows and their frames of wood Parquet panels of wood Statuette & other ornament of wood Articles of wood	kg	Indonesia, India, Singapore, Australia, Denmark,U.K France,Italy,Malaysia,Zimbabwe,Russia,Morocco,Egypt, ,Thailand,Turkey,S.Africa,Sweden,Canada,Nepal, ,witzerland,Portugal,U.S.A,China,Pakistan, U. Arab, Germany Fed.,Spain,Hong Kong,Japan,Kenya, Philippines Madagascar,Taiwan,Reunion,Netherland,Belgium,Vietnam	469,477	23,879,648
45031000 46029000	Cork,stoppers of natural cork,plates,basket, wickerware	kg	France,Malaysia,Portugal,Spain,UK,USA,Switzerland, Germany,S,Africa,Czechoslovakia,India,Italy,Taiwan,China, Indonesia,Madagascar,Vietnam,Moldava,Belgium,Egypt, Hong Kong, Malaysia,Phillipines,Thailand,Japan, Kenya, Morocco,Reunion,Zimbabwe	162,806	10,516,204
47032100 47069200	Bleached or semi-bleached wood pulp	kg	France,Sweden,USA,Germany, Japan	926,616	22,903,835
48010000	Newsprint in rolls or sheets	kg	Indonesia,Malaysia,India,Finland, Sweden,Russian Fed. Singapore,S.Africa,Norway,	5,525,637	104,518,465
48021000 48026000	Hand-made paper and paperboard of any size or shape -Printing paper in roll sheet	kg	Hong Kong,Singapore,Germany,U,K,Japan,USA,Taiwan, S.Africa,Belgium,Brazil,China,Netherlands,Spain,Portugal, France,Hungary,Indonesia,India,Italy,Malaysia, Sweden,Thailand, Korea, Norway, Austria,Israel, ,Switzerland,Russia Fed	8,542,069	202,421,111
48030000 48189090	Toilet,facial tissue,towel,napkin,uncoated kraft paper, composite paper, kaolin coated paper, handkerchiefs,self-copy paper, etc.	kg	China, France,Hong Kong,Indonesia,Madagascar,Malaysia, Norway,Singapore,S.Africa, Spain,Thailand,UK,Australia, Germany,Sweden,Italy,Finland,Netherlands,USA, Reunion,Taiwan,India,Korea,Denmark,Japan,Turkey, Czechoslovakia,Pakistan,Swaziland	25,846,950	574,334,283

48191000 48219000	Cartons,boxes and cases of corrugated paper or paperboard,paper cement bags,sack, packing containers,box file,register,receipt book,binders,folders,printed paper etc.	kg	United Arab,Australia,Switzerland,China,India,Sri Lanka Germany Fed,France,U.K,Hong kong,Indonesia,Lebanon, Italy,Malaysia,Netherlands,Reunion,Singapore,Swaziland, Taiwan,S.Africa,Sweden,Austria,Japan,Slovenia,Portugal Thailand,Belgium,Korea,U.S.A,Finland, Pakistan, Turkey, Canada,Egypt,Korea Rep,Denmark,Kuwait,Greece Spain,Reunion, Portugal	3,203,770	591,574,754
48221000 48229000 48231900 48239090	Bobbins,spools,cops,self-adhesive paper, filter paper,rolls,sheets and dials,printed for self-recording machine,tray,dishes,plates of paper,other articles of paper,pulp etc Printed paper or paperboard labels	kg	China,Hong kong,India,Taiwan,France,Italy,U.K, Vietnam, Malaysia,Singapore,South Africa,Belgium, Slovenia, Switzerland,Germany Fed,Spain,Japan,Canada,Kenya, Korea Rep,Netherlands,Sri Lanka, Israel, Turkey, U.S.A,Egypt,Austria,Reunion,Madagascar,United Arab , Denmark,Indonesia,Australia, Portugal	808,068	67,788,405
94033000	Wooden Furniture of a kind used in offices	Unit	S. Africa, Swizerland, China, Spain,India,Egypt,Germany, France, Hong Kong, U.K, Indonesia, Italy, Madagascar, Malaysia, Reunion, Netherlands, Singapore, Taiwan	13,514	12,982,078
94034000	Wooden Furniture of a kind used in the kitchen	Unit	China, France, U.K.,Egypt,Madagascar,Sweden, Hong Kong, Indonesia, India, Italy, Reunion,Switzerland, Singapore, S. Africa.	212	924,261
94035000	Wooden furniture of a kind used in the bedroom	Unit	S. Africa, United Arab,Egypt,Luxembourg,Portugal, Canada, China, Germany F, Spain, France, U.K, India, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Italy, Kenya, Madgascar,Thailand. Malaysia, Pakistan, Reunion, Singapore, Switzerland	3,764	4,696,601
94036010 94036090 94038000 94039000	Other wooden furnitures	Unit	United Arab,Australia,Switzerland,China,India,Belgium, Germany F, Egypt, Spain, France, U.K., Hong Kong, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Israel,Morocco, Madagascar, Malaysia, Netherlands, U.S.A., Sweden, Pakistan, Reunion, Singapore, Thailand,Brazil,Denmark, Taiwan, Vietnam, S. Africa, Zimbabwe,Morocco,Poland Portugal,Luxembourg	671,674	80,484,802
				TOTAL	2,367,163,485

1 US \$ = 30
Mauritian
Rupees