

Country: MAURITIUS _____

Date of submission: 29 September 2014 _____

Voluntary National Report to the 11th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Background

The eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF11) will be held from 4 to 15 May 2015 in New York. In accordance with the Forum's Multi-Year Program of Work for 2007-2015, the overall theme of UNFF11 is *Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward on the international arrangement on forests (IAF)*. The UNFF11 will, *inter-alia*:

1. Review progress towards the achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs) and implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (hereinafter referred to as the "Forest Instrument"), and
2. Review the contribution of forests and the IAF, including the Forest Instrument, to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The submission of national reports by UNFF Member States on the above items will provide a crucial input to the Secretary-General's analytical, consolidated report to UNFF11 on the progress and trends in the above-mentioned areas, as well as to the Forum's deliberation on the future of the IAF.

Pursuant to Resolution 10/1 of the tenth session of the Forum¹, the UNFF Secretariat (UNFFS) in collaboration with the CPF member organizations and in close consultations with countries, revised and streamlined the reporting format. The attached revised format builds on and further simplifies the UNFF10 reporting format. Specifically, the number of questions has been reduced by consolidating previous areas of overlap, and Member States are asked to submit only information that is not currently provided to CPF member organizations, or that is unavailable in other international databases.

The UNFF11 reporting format is presented in two parts. Part I includes questions related to the progress on the implementation of the Forest Instrument, including achievement of the GOFs. Part II includes questions on the contribution of forests and SFM to the achievement of the MDGs.

To the extent possible, the information submitted by countries to the UNFFS will be supplemented with quantitative data, *inter alia*, from the following international data providers:

- FAO, Forest Resources Assessment (FRA)/Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CRFQ) - FAO, Forest Europe, UNECE, ITTO, Montreal Process and OFAC
- Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ) – FAO, ITTO, UNECE, EUROSTAT
- FAO, State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2014
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

¹ Resolution 10/1 of UNFF10 requested the UNFF secretariat (UNFFS) to further streamline the guidelines and format for voluntary national reporting to the eleventh session of the Forum including a technical discussion on reporting methodology with relevant experts of Collaborative Partnership on Forest member organizations, taking into account types of information provided to Collaborative Partnership on Forest member organizations and through criteria and indicators and other regional processes and balanced regional workshops depending on available resources. (United Nations Forum on Forests, Report on the Tenth Session -8 to 19 April 2013, E/2013/42 _E/CN.18/2013/18, Page 6)

Reporting Guidelines and Format

Member States are kindly requested to:

1. Submit their completed national report **electronically (in MS Word) in English, French or Spanish to unff@un.org, by 30 September 2014**, at the latest. Early submissions will greatly facilitate the Secretariat's preparation of the analytical, consolidated Secretary-General's report to UNFF11. Please note that the MS Word file of the reporting format can also be downloaded from the UNFF website at: http://www.un.org/esa/forests/unff11_reporting_template.doc
2. Submit, in a separate electronic file, a scanned version of the official, signed letter conveying their submission from their respective Ministry, or a note verbale from their Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York.
3. Submit any graphic elements included in their national report, as separate electronic files.
4. Check all boxes that apply to questions that have multiple-choice components. In addition to the "Yes" or "No" answers, countries are encouraged to provide brief descriptive narratives, as this provides context and background. Please also note that space provided for the descriptive information is limited to 250 words per question.

In view of the cross-cutting nature of issues related to forests and sustainable forest management (SFM), respondents are encouraged to consult with experts from relevant national ministries to complete the reporting format, including, for example, the ministries of environment, economic development, finance and agriculture. Respondents are also strongly encouraged to consult with the national focal points for the FAO Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), the Rio Conventions, other CPF member organizations and C&I processes, where applicable.

Please note that the Year 2007 – the year of the adoption of the Forest Instrument (2007), is used as a baseline throughout the document.

All terms used in this document are consistent with the FAO/FRA Working Paper 180 "Terms and Definitions FRA 2015": <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/ap862e/ap862e00.pdf>

Abbreviations

| | |
|-------|---|
| C&I | Criteria and Indicators processes |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| FLEGT | Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade |
| FRA | FAO's global Forest Resources Assessment |
| GOF | Global Objectives on Forests |
| ITTO | International Tropical Timber Organization |
| MDGs | Millennium Development Goals |
| NFP | National Forest Programme |
| ODA | Official Development Assistance |
| SIDS | Small Island Developing States |
| SFM | Sustainable forest management |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNFF | United Nations Forum on Forests |

General information

UNFF national focal point

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Name: | Mr.Vishnu TEZOO |
| Title: | Conservator of Forests |
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Person to contact concerning the national report, if other than the UNFF national focal point

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Name: | Mrs.Cecily CYPARSADE |
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| Address: | Botanical Garden Street, Curepipe, MAURITIUS |
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PART I:
Progress on the implementation of the Forest Instrument,
including achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

1. Since the adoption of the Forest Instrument in 2007, what actions has your government taken to strengthen forest-related policies, legislation, and law enforcement in support of sustainable forest management (SFM)? Please specify:

| | New | Amendment of existing |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Forest policy | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Forest legislation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| National forest programme | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Forest land tenure | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other actions | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| None | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Please provide further information on these and/or other actions:

The initial Forest Policy, enunciated in 1963, was reviewed in 2006 in the light of new developments in the forest sector, with specific objectives to the local context. The National Forest Policy (2006) lays more emphasis on the medium and long-term sustainable management of our forest resources, ensuring the protective and productive roles of the forest as well as the preservation and conservation of our forest resources.

Consequently, wood exploitation is gradually being phased out and our forests are now managed more for their environmental functions rather than for timber production.

Note: The extent of forest cover and scrubland/grassland in the Republic of Mauritius in 2010 were around 34, 917 hectares and 12 242 hectares respectively. The total area covered by forest and scrublands represent less than 25% of the land area. There are only two types of forest ownership: public and private. There is no communal forest and no communities living within or dependent on the forests.

To what extent have these actions been effective in advancing implementation of the Forest Instrument?

| | Effective | Partially effective | Not effective | Not in place |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Forest policy | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Forest legislation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| NFP | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Forest land tenures | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other actions | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please provide 2-3 examples of effective actions in support of the Forest Instrument and web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

- In order to increase protected areas, an extent of about 497ha of planted forest with several environmentally sensitive areas(ESA's) was proclaimed as Bras d'Eau National Park in the year 2011.
- The Vallee D'Osterlog Endemic Garden was proclaimed in 2007 which has an extent of about 275ha for the conservation of endemic and native forests.
- A Nature Walk at Plaine Sophie of an extent of 10ha which comprises upland forests and ESA's was created in the year 2013 for public and tourists.No fees are charged to visit nature walks.
- A Protected Area Network (PAN) is in progress under the project "Expanding coverage and Strengthening Management Effectiveness of the Terrestrial Protected Area Network on the island of Mauritius" funded by UNDP/GEF/Government of Mauritius. (Web link: agriculture.gov.mu)
Date started: May 2013
Extent restored as at 30 June 2014: 269 ha which includes about 50ha of private forest lands

2. Since 2007, what steps has your government taken to prevent and reduce international trafficking in illegally-harvested forest products such as timber, wildlife and other biological resources?

- ☐ New legislation
- ☒ Improved enforcement of existing legislation
- ☒ Export controls
- ☒ Import controls
- ☒ Bilateral agreements between exporting/importing countries
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other, e.g. public procurement policies, public-private partnerships. Please list below:

Implementation of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)

Please provide 2-3 examples and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Dalbergia spp(Bois de Rose) from Madagascar transited in Mauritius and was eventually returned back to the country of origin due to this Convention.

3. Since 2007, what steps has your government taken to raise the importance of forests and SFM in national development plans, poverty reduction strategies or other equivalent plans?

- ☒ Forests/SFM are now included in national development plans/strategies
- ☒ Forests/SFM now have a higher priority in national development plans/strategies
- ☒ The contribution of forests/SFM to poverty eradication, food security, water security, employment is an ongoing subject of discussion
- ☒ Other, please list below:

- The Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) Framework (2008) allows for the preservation and sustainable use of sensitive areas which includes forests, mountains, caves, beaches, lagoons, coral reefs, wetlands, mangroves, rivers, surfaces as well as underground water and islets, amongst others.
- The Maurice Ile Durable (MID) concept was launched in the year 2008 with a view to transform the environmental, economic and social landscape of the country. MID has been defined by the Prime Minister as a societal project aimed at delivering sustainable growth with a vision for Mauritius to become a model of sustainable development. It is embedded in a strategic framework embracing 5 development pillars, commonly known as the 5E's, i.e. Energy, Environment, Education, Employment (which also comprises Economy) and Equity. The MID Policy, Strategy and Action Plan is anchored in the concept of sustainable development as defined in the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and subsequent international meetings leading up to the RIO+20 Conference in 2012. The aim of MID is to reconcile the three pillars of sustainable development, namely environmental protection, economic and social development with the ultimate goal of providing a better quality of life to all citizens.
- National Climate Change Adaptation Policy Framework for Republic of Mauritius (2012) emphasis the importance of forests & ecosystems for climate change adaptation. Action plans are being prepared.

Have these steps resulted in:

- ☒ More Official Development Assistance (ODA) being programmed to SFM-related activities
- ☒ More domestic public resources devoted to SFM-related activities
- ☒ Increased awareness of the importance of forests/SFM to sustainable development
- ☐ Increased awareness of the importance of forests/SFM to poverty eradication
- ☐ Other, please list below:

Please describe these steps, and, if possible, provide 2-3 examples and web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

- Domestic public resources have increased by about 15%
- "Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in Mauritius including Rodrigues", (2007-2011) funded by the UNDP/GEF/FAO/Government of Mauritius. The objective of the project was to build capacities for sustainable land management (SLM) in appropriate government and civil society institutions/user groups in Mauritius and Rodrigues, and SLM is mainstreamed into government planning and strategy development. It benefited a land surface area estimated at 50,000 ha and contributed towards the achievement of the following long-term goal: The agricultural, pasture, forest and other terrestrial land management in Mauritius and Rodrigues are sustainable, productive systems that maintain ecosystem productivity and ecological functions while contributing directly to the environmental, economic and social well-being of the country. The Project on Building Capacity and Mainstreaming Sustainable Land

Management in Mauritius, including Rodrigues, is a Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded Project through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The Project has been implemented by the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security through the National Directorate of Forestry from 2007 to 2011. Total Project Cost: US\$ 1,338,073.SLM Project Weblink:

http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/gef_prj_docs/GEFProjectDocuments/

- The Maurice Ile Durable (MID) concept was launched in the year 2008 with a view to transform the environmental, economic and social landscape of the country.MID weblink : www.mid.mu

4. **Since 2007, has your government taken measures to strengthen coordination across ministries and departments whose policies have an impact on or may affect forests and SFM?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please specify which ministries and/or departments are involved and how effective these measures have been in implementing SFM:

| Institution/Organization | Area of interaction |
|--|---|
| Ministry of Finance & Economic Development | National level projects planning strategies & Forestry budget. |
| Ministry of Housing and Lands | Land use planning issues, particularly in relation to allocation of state-owned forest lands for development projects. |
| Ministry of Local Government and Local Authorities. | District level land use planning matters. |
| Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development | Responsible for Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Environmental Impact Assessment, role of forests in rural development. |
| Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security- Forestry Service, National Parks & Conservation Service; Remote Sensing Unit; Mauritius Wildlife Foundation; Private Forest Owners; Nature Reserves Board and Wildlife and National Parks Advisory Council. | National Forestry Policy implementation. Degraded agricultural lands and Improvement of soil fertility. Deer ranching; fishing in rivers, lakes and mangroves. Mapping of natural resources and all land based mapping. Management of privately owned forests. Board and Council provide advice to the Minister. |
| University of Mauritius, Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute; Mauritius Research Council. | Forest staff training and Research. |
| Attorney-General's Office | Legislative matters, legal advice |

| | Effective | Partially effective | Not effective | Not in place |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Agriculture/Rural Development | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Climate Change | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Environment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mining | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Energy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Water | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tourism | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please provide 2-3 examples of cross-sectoral cooperation and, if possible, web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

1. Regional capacity building for sustainable National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Management Systems in Eastern and Southern Africa in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment (2011 – 2013) (www.environment.gov.mu)
2. A study of Environmentally Sensitive Areas in Mauritius and Rodrigues (2008) was commissioned by the Ministry of Environment and National Development Unit, Government of Mauritius. (www.environment.gov.mu)
3. A Tree Planting Project for Clean Air in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment & SD has been initiated to plant 50,000 trees in 2014 and 100,000 trees in 2015. About 50000 plants/trees have already been issued to the Ministry of Environment to implement the project and it is ongoing.
4. A Protected Area Network (PAN) is in progress under the project (2013) "Expanding coverage and Strengthening Management Effectiveness of the Terrestrial Protected Area Network on the island of Mauritius" funded by UNDP/GEF/Government of Mauritius. (Web link: agriculture.gov.mu). The project is undertaken in collaboration with the National Parks & Conservation Service.

5. Does your government's national forest policy/strategy or national forest programme contain time-bound and quantified targets related to the forest area?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please list the targets and dates by which they are to be achieved and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

6. Since 2007, what activities has your government undertaken to reverse the loss of forest cover and/or to enhance the area and quality of forests? Please specify:

☒ Afforestation 3 ha
☒ Reforestation 360.4 ha

☒ Restoration 1363 ha

Introduction or enforcement of:

- ☒ Existing legislation aimed at reduction of deforestation and/or support afforestation and or reforestation
- ☐ New legislation aimed at reduction of deforestation and/or support of afforestation and/or reforestation
- ☐ New legislation and actions aimed at conservation and protection of forests
- ☐ Subsidies for forest owners to prepare and implement management plans
- ☐ Subsidies for forest protection
- ☐ Reduced/deferred taxes for forest land
- ☐ Low-interest loans for forest activities/management
- ☐ Other, please list below:

- The National Forest Policy (2006) aims at a gradual phasing out of wood exploitation and unconditionally favours the environmental functions of forests.
- The Forests and Reserves Act (1983) consolidates laws regarding forests, reserves and related matters.

Please describe, and, if possible, provide 2-3 examples and web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Projects listed hereunder are included in the recurrent budget (2014) of the Forestry Service which forms the Programme Based Budgeting (PBB) System:

- (i) Reforestation/afforestation project of 5 hectares within Ile aux Benetiers with native plants of coastal vegetation types – Plants are being propagated at the nursery and planting will be commenced by Novemebr 2014.
- (ii) Reforestation/afforestation operations at Signal Mountain for a targeted extent of 10 hectares - Plants are being propagated at the nursery and planting will be commenced by October 2014.
- (iii) Land clearing and forest plantation at Thorel Section, Mare aux Vacoas, Grand Bassin and Rivere du Poste Section. About 50 ha of land will be cleared for forest plantation – About 20 ha has been cleared and planting has been completed this year.
- (iv) Creation of coastal native forest at Pas Geometrique Surinam/Souillac (2ha) – Plants is being propagated at the nursery and planting will start by Novemebr 2014.

7. What types of mechanisms are currently in place for involving stakeholders in forest/SFM policy formulation, planning and implementation?

- ☐ Roundtables/committees have been established which meet regularly
- ☒ Forest authorities meet with stakeholders on an *ad hoc* basis as issues affecting them arise
- ☐ Other, please list below:

How effective are these mechanisms in promoting consensus approaches:

| | Effective | Partially effective | Not effective | Not in place |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Private sector | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Forest workers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Local communities | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indigenous communities | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| NGOs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| General Public | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

- The Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (MWF) is the only non-governmental organization (NGO) in Mauritius to be exclusively concerned with the conservation and preservation of the nation's endangered plant and animal species. (<http://www.mauritian-wildlife.org>). MWF has been leased Ile aux Aigrettes (27 ha) island a nature reserve under the Forests & Reserves Act (1983) situated in the Mahebourg Bay, about 850 m off the south-east coast of Mauritius. In 1965 the island was declared a nature reserve and MWF manages and restored the forest by reintroduction of rare species that had long since disappeared from the island.
- About 50 ha of private forest lands are being restored as protected area under the project "Expanding coverage and Strengthening Management Effectiveness of the Terrestrial Protected Area Network on the island of Mauritius" funded by UNDP/GEF/Government of Mauritius. (Web link: agriculture.gov.mu).

8. To what extent do local and indigenous communities have tenure or user rights over publicly-owned forests?

- ☐ Completely
☐ Partially
☐ None
☒ Not applicable

Please provide 2-3 examples how local and indigenous communities are benefiting from goods and services produced by forests and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

9. Since 2007, has your government developed or updated financing strategies to achieve SFM and to implement the Forest Instrument?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, what is the timeframe of these strategies?

- ☒ 2-5 years
☐ 5-10 years
☐ 10-20 years
☐ Other, please specify:

These strategies take into account:

- ☒ Domestic public funding
☐ Domestic private funding
☐ Public international (including ODA and REDD+)
☐ External private funding

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

The recurrent budget of the Forestry Service includes Domestic Public funding of SFM projects such as Afforestation, Reforestation, Management of ESAs, Management & Rehabilitation of firebreaks, etc.

10. Has your government established one or more systems/mechanisms for payment for ecosystem services (PES) provided by forests?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, please specify, and, if possible, provide the estimated total value of these payments since 2007:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed protection/water supply | USD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon storage (including REDD+) | USD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature conservation | USD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please list below: | USD |

Please provide 2-3 examples of PES and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

11. Since 2007, has your government been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources for the implementation of SFM? If yes, please specify sources:

| | 2007 | 2013 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Domestic public funding | About USD 75,000 | About USD 85,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic private funding | USD | USD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public international funding (including ODA and REDD+) | USD | USD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> External private funding | USD | USD |

If there has been no increase, please describe the main challenges in mobilizing funds:

Note: The domestic public funding is part of the recurrent budget for SFM Projects. Salary & Wages including other services for the Forestry Service has not included.

12. Since 2007, what steps has your government taken to encourage private sector investment in SFM and forests?

- ☐ Policy and legal reforms that encourage greater private investment
- ☐ Financial incentives, such as credit guarantees, tax breaks, employment subsidies etc.
- ☐ Establishment of markets for ecosystem services provided by forests
- ☐ Outreach to the private sector (leaflets, conferences, fairs promoting investment in forests)
- ☐ Development and improvement of infrastructure and other public services related to SFM
- ☐ Other; please list below:

About 50 ha of private forest lands are being restored as protected area under the project "Expanding coverage and Strengthening Management Effectiveness of the Terrestrial Protected Area Network on the island of Mauritius" funded by UNDP/GEF/Government of Mauritius. (Web link: agriculture.gov.mu). The private forests are being restored in collaboration with private sector.

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

13. Is your government engaged in international cooperation to promote SFM?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please specify with whom:

- ☐ Government
- ☐ Intergovernmental Organization
- ☐ Private sector/philanthropy

- ☐ NGOs
☒ Others

Type of cooperation:

- ☐ North-South
☐ South-South
☒ Technical
☐ Financial
☐ Others

And specify the areas of cooperation:

- ☒ Forests and climate change
☒ Forest biodiversity
☐ Valuation of ecosystem services provided by forests
☐ Socio-economic issues, including livelihoods
☒ Forest degradation and rehabilitation
☐ Scientific cooperation
☒ Forest monitoring/data collection
☒ Technology transfer and capacity development
☐ Other, please list below:

Please provide 2-3 examples of international cooperation, and, if possible, web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

- South African Development Community (SADC) : Mauritius is a member of the Protocol on Forestry. Forestry Service collaborates in SADC forestry issues and also attends regional trainings/workshops/seminars. (<http://www.sadc.int/themes/natural-resources/forests/>)
- “Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in Mauritius including Rodrigues”,(2007-2011) funded by the UNDP/GEF/FAO/Government of Mauritius.
- Regional capacity building for sustainable National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Management Systems in Eastern and Southern Africa (2011 – 2013) (environment.gov.mu)
- PAN Project “Expanding coverage and Strengthening Management Effectiveness of the Terrestrial Protected Area Network (PAN) on the island of Mauritius” funded by UNDP/GEF/Government of Mauritius (2013).

Please list the key challenges faced by your government in implementing SFM:

- Limited land area
- Lack data for private forests mainly on eco-tourism activities, harvest, management etc
- Absence of a national forest management plan.
- Pending approval of the revised legislations to manage private forests lands.

- There is some capacity and technology available in the country, especially within the governmental institutions to implement SFM. However, strengthening institutional capacities including training forestry staff is required.
- Constrained due to inadequate means of implementation, particularly financing; equipment and technology, information management, developing national accounting and valuation systems for forest goods and services;
- Strengthening forest monitoring capabilities and forest management information systems
- Improving and diversifying economic benefits generated by forest goods and services for the Private forested land owners as most part of the forests are owned by private.

14. Does your country have one or more institutes or centers of excellence engaged in the development and application of scientific, technical and technological innovations for SFM?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, what areas do these technical/scientific activities focus on:

- ☐ Forest inventory systems
- ☐ Low-impact logging or other harvesting techniques
- ☐ Wood production for energy
- ☐ Wood processing technology
- ☐ Waste reduction and recycling
- ☐ Other, please list below:

Are these programs directed at:

- ☐ Forest owners
- ☐ Timber companies/forest products industry
- ☐ State agencies
- ☐ Local communities
- ☐ Indigenous communities
- ☐ NGOs
- ☐ General public

Since 2007, has funding for forest-related science and research increased?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

15. What actions has your country undertaken to increase public awareness of the important benefits provided by forests?

- ☒ Published broadcasts on TV and/or Radio
- ☒ Published materials, e.g. brochures, pamphlets, leaflets, or/and posters, etc.
- ☒ Meetings with the general public
- ☒ Art events/Exhibitions
- ☒ Activities in support of the International Day of Forests
- ☐ Other

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

- Regular sensitization campaigns in schools, colleges & to the general public.
- Participation in science exhibitions
- Nature Walks & Visitor's Centers for public
- Preparation of Billboards, distribution of Pamphlets and brochures for sensitization & awareness, including organizing events such as International Day of Forests, Biodiversity Day & Environment Day.

16. What sets of criteria and indicators (C&I) for SFM are used in your country:

- ☐ National set of C&I
- ☐ Regional/international set of C&I (e.g. ITTO, Forest Europe, Montreal Process, Tarapoto etc.)
- ☒ Other

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

- SADC Forestry Protocol (http://www.sadc.int/documents-publications/show/Protocol_on_Forestry2002.pdf) The Protocol provides guidance on the undertaking of national forest assessments and national forest policies, programmes and laws. Policies and mechanisms adopted in Member States should enable local people and women to effectively participate in forest management activities as well as respect the traditional knowledge related to forests.
- National Forest Policy (2006) (www.agricultur.gov.mu)
- Periodic national state of forest report based on Annual Reports prepared and published by the Forestry Service.

Are these C&I used to:

- ☒ Generate information to national reports on forest conditions and management
- ☒ Monitor and assess and monitor forest conditions and management
- ☐ Review and develop national forest policies and tools for SFM
- ☒ Communicate with society and carry out dialogue with stakeholders
- ☒ Report on forests to regional and international organizations If so, which ones:

17. **Has your country translated the Forest Instrument into another language (not including the official UN languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish)?**

N/A.
Mauritius's official language is English.

18. **Please give examples of your country's success stories and lessons learned related to the implementation of the Forest Instrument, including contributions towards the four Global Objectives on Forests:**

1. Reafforestation

- Creation and maintenance of forest plantations for the production of timber, poles and firewood (Annually some 50 hectares of new plantations are created and about 200 hectares of young plantations maintained through tending operations)
- Increasing tree cover in water catchment areas and establishing tree cover on hilly slopes for soil and water conservation (some 100,000 trees are planted annually)
- National Tree Planting Campaign to embellish and enhance the environment (some 25,000 plants are issued free of charge annually)
- Increasing tree cover to enhance carbon sequestration (some 150,000 trees are planted annually)

2. Conservation of Biological diversity

Management of the Nature Reserves and other state native forests for the protection of the indigenous fauna and flora

- In-situ conservation (10 hectares are rehabilitated and maintained annually)
- Ex-situ conservation – Planting of native plants in gardens, public compounds, etc. Creation of gene bank
- Raising of native plants including rare endemic/medicinal plants (100,000 plants produced annually)
- Creation of Nature Corner in schools/colleges (40 Nature Corners created)

- Conservation education talks at schools/colleges as well as to local communities
- Raising awareness through the media (radio, TV, newspapers)

3. Recreational Forestry

- Creation of Nature Walks for leisure and recreation (Four Nature Walks have already been created namely: Monvert, Pamplémousses, Sophie and Ile D'Ambre)
- Creation and maintenance of forest plantations on Pas Geometriques for aesthetic, protective and recreational purposes

4. Production of Plants

Some 500,000 plants are produced annually:

- For reforestation programme
- Sale to the Public
- Free Issue of plants under the National Tree Planting Campaign

5. Exploitation of Forest Produce

Annually some 4000 m³ of logs, 1000 m³ of poles and 5000 m³ of firewood are sold to registered Wood merchants.

- Control of felling operation
- Sale of timber, poles and firewood
- Delivery of forest produce
- Sale of Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) like bamboo.

6.Others:

- In order to increase protected areas, an extent of about 497ha of planted forest with several environmentally sensitive areas(ESA's) was proclaimed as Bras d'Eau National Park in the year 2011.
- The Vallee D'Osterlog Endemic Garden was proclaimed in 2007 which has an extent of about 275ha for the conservation of endemic and native forests.
- A Nature Walk at Plaine Sophie of an extent of 10ha which comprises upland forests and ESA's was created in the year 2013 for public and tourists.No fees are charged to visit nature walks.
- A Protected Area Network (PAN) is in progress under the project "Expanding coverage and Strengthening Management Effectiveness of the Terrestrial Protected Area Network on the island of Mauritius" funded by UNDP/GEF/Government of Mauritius. (Web link: agriculture.gov.mu)
Date started: May 2013. Extent restored as at 30 June 2014: 269 ha which includes about 50ha of private forest lands.

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PART II

Contribution of forests and SFM to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The aim of Part II of this reporting questionnaire is to learn how forests and SFM have contributed to achieving the MDGs in your country, particularly with respect to poverty and hunger eradication (MDG1), environmental sustainability (MDG7) and developing a global partnership for development (MDG8).

19. How have forests/SFM contributed to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (MDG1) in your country?

Please rate the scale of contribution on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

| By: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Improving livelihoods | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Supporting subsistence needs, including fuel wood, fodder and shelter | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Contributing to food security, including through agroforestry systems | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Providing employment, including employment in informal economy | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

- Provide employment to wood merchants, woodcutters & fruit collectors
- State Forest lands are leased for deer ranching as silvopasture activity. The venison produced is contributing to food security.

20. How have forests/SFM contributed to ensuring environmental sustainability (MDG7) in your country?

Please rate the scale of contribution on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

| By: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Providing habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Supporting ecosystem, species and genetic diversity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Stabilizing soils and slopes | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Safeguarding water resources | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sequestering carbon | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Providing timber, energy and other | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

products

Other

☐☐☐☐☐

Please describe, and, if possible, provide a web-link to relevant document(s):

According to the MDGs Status Report (2013) for Mauritius indicates that the Target 7B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss *is struggling to achieve.*

- Web link for MDGs for Mauritius 2013. <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/MDG/english/MDG%20Country%20Reports/Mauritius/2013.pdf>
- Mauritius Environment Outlook Report (2011) <http://environment.gov.mu>
- MDGs Addendum Report, 2010 and the official United Nations site for the MDG indicators (<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Data.aspx>)

21. How have forests/SFM contributed to developing a global partnership for development (MDG8) in your country?

Please rate the scale of contribution on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

| By: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Engaging in regional and international collaboration on issues related to improved governance | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Through trade agreements involving forest products (e.g. bilateral/sub-regional/regional/inter-regional free trade agreements, EU voluntary partnership agreements, etc.) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fostering partnerships with the private sector | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Attracting foreign investment in the forest sector | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fostering bilateral and international financial cooperation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fostering north-south, and south-south technical, technological and scientific partnerships | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

SADC Forestry Protocol (http://www.sadc.int/documents-publications/show/Protocol_on_Forestry2002.pdf)

22. Have forests/SFM contributed to making progress in achieving any of the remaining MDGs in your country?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Web link for MDGs for Mauritius
2013. <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/MDG/english/MDG%20Country%20Reports/Mauritius/2013.pdf>

MDG2: Achieving universal primary education

Web link for MDGs for Mauritius
2013. <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/MDG/english/MDG%20Country%20Reports/Mauritius/2013.pdf>

MDG3: Promoting gender equality and empowering women

Web link for MDGs for Mauritius
2013. <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/MDG/english/MDG%20Country%20Reports/Mauritius/2013.pdf>

MDG4: Reducing child mortality

Web link for MDGs for Mauritius
2013. <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/MDG/english/MDG%20Country%20Reports/Mauritius/2013.pdf>

MDG5: Improving maternal health

Web link for MDGs for Mauritius
2013. <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/MDG/english/MDG%20Country%20Reports/Mauritius/2013.pdf>

MDG6: Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Web link for MDGs for Mauritius
2013. <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/MDG/english/MDG%20Country%20Reports/Mauritius/2013.pdf>