



Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste
Management and Climate Change

Environment and Climate Change Division

ANNUAL REPORT

ON PERFORMANCE 2024/2025

October 2025



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Acronyms

AFD	<i>Agence Française de Development</i>
AGO	Attorney General's Office
BTR	Biennial Transparency Report
CBIT	Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency
COP	Conference of Parties
COP 29	29th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
CSF	Climate and Sustainability Fund
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	greenhouse gas
GIS	Geographical Information System
Hg	Mercury
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
IoT	Internet of Things
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISLANDS	Implementing Sustainable Low and Non Chemical Development in SIDs
IWA	Industrial Waste Audit
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LEU	Living Environment Unit
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MOI	Mauritius Oceanography Institute
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NECA	National Environment Cleaning Authority
NEF	National Environment Fund
NEL	National Environmental Laboratory
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NIP	National Implementation Plan
NOSCP	National Oil Spill Contingency Plan
PER	Preliminary Environment Report
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutant
PPC	Pollution Prevention and Control
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WED	World Environment Day

STATEMENT OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER AND HONOURABLE JUNIOR MINISTER



Returning to this Ministry after twenty years is deeply meaningful. My sense of duty and determination remain unchanged. This time, I am privileged to share this journey with Junior Minister Joanna Bérenger and her invaluable dedication to the environment.

We took office, guided by a cause that has always mattered to both of us. Protecting the air we breathe, the water we share, our lands, our citizens. For nature's rights. For our children's tomorrow.

We wish to express our appreciation to all staff members for their commitment, teamwork and support for this year of renewal. This Annual Performance Report for the Financial Year 2024-2025 reflects that commitment through key strategic initiatives and achievements aligned with the Government Programme 2025-2029 and anchored on four pillars namely, protection, resilience, enforcement and citizen participation.

Environmental protection is an urgent national priority. Mauritius faces pressing environmental challenges that demand collective action, namely coastal erosion, a

growing threat, with shorelines retreating by up to 20 metres in some areas. We are convinced that protecting our environment is a shared responsibility, with every citizen, private sector and NGOs. Together, through awareness, compliance, and enforcement, we are nurturing a culture of environmental stewardship.

One of the most symbolic achievements this year was the restoration of public access to Pomponette beach, after eight years of contention. This historic decision reaffirms the constitutional right of every Mauritian to enjoy equitable access to our natural heritage and stands as a strong message against coastal land capture.

Equally significant is the revitalisation of Île-aux-Bénitiers, with over 138 tonnes of waste removed and new sustainable operating rules in place.

Public cleanliness and environmental health also remain high on our agenda. To mark World Environment Day 2025, the Ministry hosted a workshop on *"Enhancing Living Environment through Better Environmental Enforcement"*, calling on Enforcement Officers to act firmly as frontliners for a healthier Mauritius.

The *"Police de l'Environnement"* playing a crucial role in ensuring compliance with environmental laws across the island, issued 3,784 notices for bare lands, 129 fixed penalties, and 112 prohibition notices for vehicle smoke emissions.

Likewise, pollution control remains a top priority. Air and noise standards from 1997 are being updated, with fines for black smoke emissions to be increased fivefold - from Rs 2,000 to Rs 10,000.

Furthermore, in an effort to protect the health and wellbeing of our elders, children and pawed friends, we are also working on a legislation to better regulate the use of firecrackers.

Following the Mare-Chicose fire, at the end of 2024, the National Environmental Laboratory has maintained continuous air and water monitoring, publishing real-time data on the Ministry's platforms.

Development projects are also being closely monitored to protect wetlands, mangroves, barachois, caves and other sensitive ecosystems.

The Ministry has also enhanced oil spill preparedness, trained over 200 responders and stakeholders and developed Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) maps and Coastal Sensitivity Atlases for Mauritius and Rodrigues. Work is ongoing on a Web GIS Platform for Environmental Planning and the Mauritius State of Environment and Outlook Report, in collaboration with UNEP.

The Ministry continues to spearhead national efforts to curb plastic pollution and is also honouring its commitments under the Stockholm Convention on POPs and the Minamata Convention on Mercury through the ISLANDS Project. Work is also underway to develop guidelines on herbicide and insecticide spraying and a glossary of eco-friendly alternatives to chemical pesticides.

A wastepaper recycling project in 22 schools, launched with the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, WeCycle Ltd and PIM Ltd, aims to instil recycling habits from an early age and prepare children for the upcoming national waste sorting project.

As we write this message, Mauritius is planning to participate actively in COP 30 in Belém, Brazil in November 2025 to make our voice as a Small Island Developing State heard, calling for fair climate finance, strengthened adaptation and a just transition. On the regional and international stage, Mauritius continues to strengthen its climate commitments. The country submitted its third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) on 29 September 2025, endorsed by Government. Developed with all stakeholders, this enhanced roadmap targets a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2035, while enhancing resilience in vital sectors such as water, coastal management, tourism, infrastructure, disaster risk reduction, agriculture, health and biodiversity.

The path ahead remains ambitious but clear. With collective effort, rigour, determination, innovation and a shared sense of purpose, we will continue to act for what matters. For Mauritius. For life.



Honourable R. A. Bhagwan
Minister



Honourable J. M. Bérenger
Junior Minister

STATEMENT OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

I am pleased to present this Report, which reflects our collective performance and highlights the achievements of the Environment and Climate Change Division for the Financial Year 2024 - 2025.

The Financial Year 2024-2025 has been one of operational consolidation and regulatory strengthening, reflecting our commitment to stronger governance and enhanced environmental performance.

Since my posting in January 2025, the Ministry has pursued a coherent and results-oriented approach to environmental protection, policy reform and climate resilience, guided at all times by the principles of transparency and inclusivity. Every rupee of public funding received and spent must deliver measurable results for people and nature alike.

During the reporting period, significant progress was achieved in strengthening the legal and institutional framework for environmental protection and governance. Following the promulgation of the Environment Act 2024 on 1 August 2024, three new sets of Regulations were enacted to modernise existing provisions. Work has already started to review and update the Environment Act 2024. In parallel, another three Regulations are under review to ensure that national environmental standards keep pace with international best practices. The review of key standards on air, noise, and industrial waste are ongoing to better reflect the realities of our island nation.

The Integrated Coastal Zone Management Division remains at the forefront of efforts to

safeguard the nation's coastlines, increasingly threatened by sea level rise, erosion and coral degradation due to the impacts of climate change. With 33 priority sites identified for coastal rehabilitation spanning 31 kilometres of shoreline, the Ministry has adopted a mix of hard, soft, and nature-based solutions to strengthen coastal resilience.

The Department of Climate Change successfully submitted the First Biennial Transparency Report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) ahead of the 31 December 2024 deadline while the National Determined Contribution 3.0, equally submitted on 29 September 2025 to the Secretariat of the UNFCCC, demonstrates the unwavering commitment of Government to climate transparency and accountability.

Under the Pollution Prevention and Control Division, 442 new complaints were received, and 304 site visits were undertaken between July 2024 and June 2025.

The Environmental Assessment Division, which plays a pivotal role in balancing economic growth with environmental protection, introduced revised EIA and PER procedures, including a Strategic Environmental Assessment mechanism to integrate sustainability at the earliest stage of planning across key sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, energy, and infrastructure. Public consultation is now central to both EIA and PER processes, reflecting a strong commitment to transparency and participatory governance. The EIA/PER Monitoring Division conducted 186 inspections to ensure compliance with

licence conditions and monitored 82 projects for existing undertakings. 28 Environmental Monitoring Plans were approved and thirteen projects with non-compliance issues were followed up to mitigate environmental and health impacts. The Ministry is committed to ensure the timely implementation of initiatives under the Circular Economy Roadmap, comprising 110 targeted actions in Mauritius and Rodrigues to promote resource efficiency, green skills, and inclusive growth. A new Roadmap for a Plastic Pollution-Free Mauritius, developed with UNEP support, is under preparation to ensure a holistic response to plastic pollution.

The Ministry shall continue to support the Greening of the Public Sector initiative, with 50 measures being implemented across procurement, infrastructure, mobility, behaviour, and digital transformation. These actions demonstrate the Ministry's commitment to policy delivery, environmental protection, and sustainable growth while social inclusion initiatives empowered women detainees through the production of eco-bag, a tangible example of sustainability driving opportunity.

Our staff will continue to work in close alignment to implement projects announced in

the Government Programme 2025-2029 and in line with international commitments. Together, through discipline, dedication, and collective effort, we will continue to build an environmentally secure Mauritius and ensure that the rights of nature are safeguarded.

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the staff of the Ministry for their continuous dedication and active support in the implementation of environmental policies and projects. Under the dynamic leadership of the Honourable Minister and Honourable Junior Minister, we remain highly committed to delivering on the Government Programme and the national budgetary objectives, working tirelessly to protect our environment, strengthen resilience and ensure that sustainable development becomes the cornerstone of Mauritius' future.



Mrs J. Lan Hing Po
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste
Management and Climate Change
(Environment and Climate Change Division)



PART I

ABOUT THE MINISTRY



CHAPTER ONE

ABOUT THE MINISTRY



1 CHAPTER ONE – ABOUT THE MINISTRY

1.1 MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

1.1.1 Mission



- Devise appropriate legal and policy framework regarding sound environment management while addressing emerging challenges;
- Incorporate climate change adaptation and mitigation measures to ensure sustainable development initiatives; and
- Preserve our beaches through integrated coastal zone management.

1.1.2 Vision



To achieve a “cleaner, greener and safer Mauritius” in a sustainable manner, through protection and management of our environmental assets, mainstreaming sustainable development principles in different sectors of the economy and conservation and rehabilitation of beaches.

1.2 ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY

Shifting to a cleaner and greener Mauritius in line with the measures enunciated in the Government Programme 2020-2024 is the primary objective of the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change.

The main roles and functions of the Ministry are *inter alia*, to:

- devise policies, strategies and action plans for a sound environment management;
- implement rehabilitation measures for degraded sites;
- monitor ambient air quality;
- process Preliminary Environmental Report (PER) /Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) reports;
- advise industrialists and the public on appropriate pollution abatement measures;
- attend to complaints made by the public regarding environmental pollution;
- impart public awareness and environmental education to the non-formal sector; and
- upgrade and embellish infrastructure and enhance the environment, among others.

Activities of the Ministry are organised under the Department of Environment, the Department of Climate Change and the Living Environment Unit (LEU).

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1.4 GENDER STATEMENT



Guided by the National Gender Policy 2022-2030, which outlines a clear vision and framework for a gender inclusive society, the gender policy statement of the Ministry reflects our commitment to mainstream gender in its sector specific interventions as a means of achieving gender equality as well as attaining Sustainable Development Goal 5 'Achieve Gender equality and empower all women and girls'. Its overall goal is to promote gender equity, equality, social justice and sustainable development.

The Ministry is committed to promoting gender equality, equity, and social inclusion across all its programmes and policies. We recognise that climate change impacts are not gender-neutral, and, therefore, adopt a gender-responsive approach in all key sectors including low-carbon development, agriculture, energy, waste management, and disaster risk reduction.

Gender mainstreaming is integrated in national climate planning, such as the National Adaptation Plan, NDC 3.0, and Facilité 2050, with targeted consultations and actions to address the specific vulnerabilities and capacities of women and men. A Gender Analysis and Action Plan has been approved in April 2025 under the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions for Low Carbon Island Development Strategy (NAMA) project for Mauritius to mainstream gender in climate mitigation actions through cross-sectoral approaches.

Initiatives such as the donation of sewing machines to the Mauritius Prison Service for eco-friendly bag production demonstrate our commitment to empower women, create green job opportunities, and support social reintegration.

Through collaboration with international partners, development of a Gender Action Plan, and continued awareness campaigns in Women Centres, we aim to ensure that environmental sustainability and gender equality go hand in hand.

1.5 OUR PEOPLE



The Ministry is manned by a workforce of 848 staff comprising officers with diverse administrative, technical and professional competencies, as well as employees at support (Information Technology, Financial Operations, Human Resources and Procurement and Supply) and operational levels (General Services grades and Workmen's Group).

The Department of Environment is headed by the Director of Environment and the Department of Climate Change is headed by the Director, Climate Change. The Living Environment Unit is headed by the Project Manager.

Our people are committed to perform at set standards in a continuously changing environment while our country faces developmental challenges on the socio-economic and cultural arenas.

The key competencies, abilities and expertise possessed by the key staff of the Environment and Climate Change Division spread over various fields as follows:

- Public Administration and Management/ Business Administration;
- Agriculture/Horticulture;
- Biology/Chemistry;
- Civil Engineering/Chemical Engineering;
- Environmental Engineering/Environmental Management;
- Environmental Science and Technology/Environmental Studies/Environmental Systems;
- Food and Agricultural Biotechnology;
- Geography; and
- Sustainable Development.



PART II

ACHIEVEMENTS



CHAPTER TWO

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT



2 CHAPTER TWO – DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

2.1 MANDATE OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Environment, which was established in 1989 as an institutional response to emerging environmental challenges, maintains the primary responsibility of ensuring environmental protection, planning, monitoring, coordination, enforcement and awareness-raising. Owing to the multi-disciplinary nature of environmental management, the task of environmental protection is assigned to various other Departments, the Enforcing Agencies, with respect to specific environmental media and pollutants.

The Department of Environment comprises ten Divisions namely:

- (i) Environmental Assessment Division;
- (ii) Sustainable Development and Policy and Planning Division;
- (iii) Plastic Management Division;
- (iv) Coordination and Project Implementation Division;
- (v) Pollution Prevention and Control Division;
- (vi) Information and Education Division;
- (vii) Integrated Coastal Zone Management Division;
- (viii) Environmental Law and Prosecution Division;
- (ix) EIA/PER Monitoring Division; and
- (x) National Environmental Laboratory.

2.2 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DIVISION

2.2.1 Roles and Functions of the Division

The main responsibilities of the Environment Assessment Division are:

- To ensure timely processing of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and Preliminary Environment Report (PER) applications in line with the provisions under Part IV of the Environment Protection Act; and
- To ensure that potential environmental impacts foreseen at the project inception stage are adequately addressed and mitigated at the project design and implementation stage.

The duties of the Division are the following:

- Processing of EIA and PER applications;
- Follow-up on appeal cases at the Environment & Land Use Appeal Tribunal and Supreme Court cases;
- Processing of Morcellement Board applications;
- Processing of Land Conversion Permit applications;
- Processing of request for views from the Economic Development Board (Property Development Scheme and Smart City), Local Authorities and other Authorities;
- Processing of Requests from proponents; and
- Attending Committees and Board Meetings namely EIA Committee, PER Committee, EIA/PER Monitoring Committee, Environment Coordination Committee, Morcellement Board Meeting, Land Conversion Committee, National Heritage Fund Board, Traffic Impact Committee, Appravasi Ghat Committee, Economic Development Board Committee, Fast track Committee at the Ministry of Finance and other Ministries.

2.2.2 Main Achievements for the Period July 2024 to June 2025

In accordance with its core duties, the EA Division has been essentially involved in the processing of EIA and PER applications from July 2024 to June 2025. The Division has issued 28 EIA licences and 10 PER approvals, as per Tables 1 and 2 below.

The Division has also processed 450 Morcellement Board applications, 500 applications for Land Conversion Permits, 320 environmental clearances, including applications for PDS Certificates & Smart Cities (Letter of Comfort) and attended to about 150 meetings /committees (including meetings held online).

Table 1: EIA Applications from July 2024 to June 2025

EIA APPLICATIONS

Number of new applications received	47
Number of EIA licences issued	28
Number of exempt undertakings	3

Table 2: PER Applications from July 2024 to June 2025

PER APPLICATIONS

Number of new applications received	20
Number of PER approval granted	10

Major development projects for which EIA licences/Approvals were issued included the coastal protection works at Souillac and Trou aux Biches, proposed renal unit, morcellement project, Photovoltaic Farm, bunkering projects, amongst others. Some examples are:

- Proposed Construction of Coastal Protection Works at Souillac by the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change (Environment and Climate Change Division);
- Proposed Coastal Protection, Landscaping and Infrastructural Works at Trou Aux Biches by the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management & Climate Change;
- Proposed Renal Transplant Unit at J. Nehru Hospital by the Ministry of Health and Wellness;
- Proposed Subdivision of Freehold land of an extent of 125ha8200m² into 1901 plots (consisting of 1789 Residential plots, 72 Residential/Commercial plots, 39 Greenspaces and 1 gatehouse and Syndic plot) and 1 plot dedicated to Green Forest Area by Medine Ltd;
- Proposed Photovoltaic Farm of 10 MWAC at Bon Air, Plaines des Papayes by SPV 10MW Belle Vue 1 Ltd;
- Proposed Photovoltaic Farm of 16 MWp at Petite Rivière by Tianli Spinning (Mauritius) Co Ltd; and
- Proposed operation of Bunker Barge MT Hercules Star for Bunkering activities at Port Louis Harbour by Peninsula Petroleum (Mauritius) Ltd.

2.3 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY AND PLANNING DIVISION

2.3.1 Roles and Functions of the Division

The role and functions of the Division are to:

- Follow-up on international sustainable development governance and coordinate the mainstreaming of sustainable development into national policies and decision making processes; and
- Formulate policies and coordinate measures to mainstream sustainable consumption and production through greening of the economy and circular economy, in key sectors.

2.3.2 Main Achievements for the Period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

2.3.2.1 Greening of Public Sector

'Greening of the Public Sector' is one of the areas where Government is committed to lead by example by encouraging public organisations and institutions to green their activities through the adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns, resource efficiency and smart green practices. Under the 'Switch to Green' facility, an Action Plan, a Green Charter and an Institutional Mechanism have been developed. The Action Plan comprises 50 measures in five focus areas, namely:

- (i) supply chain and procurement;
- (ii) buildings and infrastructure;
- (iii) mobility and fleets;
- (iv) culture and behaviour; and
- (v) digital transformation.

Green cells have been set up in all Ministries including the Office of the President, some public departments and parastatal bodies to implement the measures in the Action plan.

As recommended in the Action Plan, the Ministry is leading the focus area 'Culture and behaviour', thus responsible for awareness raising, promotion of development of green initiatives and implementation of green competitions and awards. In this context, focused awareness raising and capacity building workshop for green cell focal points as shown at Figure 1 was held with the participation of 50 officers from public departments and parastatal bodies in September 2024 to encourage a behavioural change and create a green culture

amongst public officers. Moreover, roller banners were developed to raise awareness and to foster a sense of ownership in the public sector.



Figure 1: Capacity building workshop for Green Cell focal points in September 2024

With the recent changes in posting of officers within Ministries, the list of Green Cells set up within Ministries has been updated. Additionally, with a view to promote green initiatives development in public organisations, office waste paper recycling was put in place at the Head office of the Ministry since 2024. As at 30 June 2025, some 2.4 tons of office waste paper has been collected and sent for recycling.

2.3.2.2 Roadmap and Action Plan on Circular Economy

a) Capacity Building Workshop on Circular Economy for Senior Officials



A one-day Capacity Building Workshop on Circular Economy for Senior Officials as depicted at Figure 2 was held on Thursday 10 April 2025 to build capacity of stakeholders in implementing the Action Plan. The target audience were senior officials of Ministries and parastatal institutions, who are members of the Circular Economy Platforms and Technical Working Groups, which have been set up to coordinate and guide implementation of the 80 actions of the Roadmap and Action Plan for a Circular Economy in the Republic of Mauritius (2023-2033). The workshop was facilitated by the Consultant, Professor T. Ramjeawon, who is also the lead Consultant appointed by UNEP responsible for the development of the Roadmap on Circular Economy.



Figure 2: One-day Capacity Building Workshop on Circular Economy

The workshop was opened by the Honourable Joanna Marie Bérenger and some 65 participants attended the workshop comprising representatives of Ministries, parastatal bodies and academia. The main activities carried out during the workshop included the following:

- an overview of the fundamentals of Circular Economy, identification of barriers and the formulation of appropriate policies;
- opportunity and entry points for circular principles to address barriers and emerging challenges; and
- sharing of best practices including the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme and the Sustainable Public Procurement Framework for the construction sector being developed by the Procurement Policy Office.

b) Scoping Meetings for the Operationalisation of Circular Economy Platforms

Following the Capacity Building Workshop on Circular Economy for Senior Officials held on 10 April 2025, a series of Scoping meetings for the Operationalisation of Circular Economy Platforms as shown at Figure 3 were set up for each of the five (5) priority focus areas were organised between 29 April 2025 and 23 May 2025.

The objectives of these Scoping meetings were to identify barriers and gaps for the specific focus area, explore key opportunities and entry points for circular economy policies and principles, and discuss how the platform could support the mainstreaming of circularity in the relevant priority focus area. Technical assistance and guidance were provided by the Resource Person, Professor T. Ramjeawon.

During the Scoping meetings, the Consultant provided support to the stakeholders of the platforms in identifying priority circular economy opportunities for the platform to focus on. It was also an opportunity to discuss and generate ideas for activities of the platform in its next two years of operation. The participants were also encouraged to explore how the platform could effectively engage various policymakers /stakeholders, while ensuring buy-in from the Government and private sector.



Figure 3: Scoping Meetings for the Operationalisation of Circular Economy Platforms

2.3.2.3 “La Foire Anti-Gaspillage”

Following the success of the first “La Foire Anti-Gaspillage” in October 2024, a second edition as depicted at Figure 4 was held in July 2024 in the context of the World Environment Day 2024. This two-day’ event provided an ideal platform for some 40 exhibitors, comprising Small and Medium Enterprises, local manufacturers, recyclers and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to showcase their products and skills. There were provisions made to engage the public in re-use through donation and collection points; repair through facilities offered by the Officers of the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development; recycled, re-furbish and re-manufacture through products exhibited by manufacturers and artisans.



Figure 4: Second Edition of “La Foire Anti-Gaspillage” – Photo Courtesy of GIS

The ‘La Foire Anti-Gaspillage’ was organised in collaboration with Municipal Council of Quatre-Bornes with its participation as the level of governance closest to the people and hence a key player to reach out to citizens to mainstream circularity.

The public showed a keen interest and participated fully in the event. Some 2,500-3,000 people visited the fair which provided them with a platform and opportunity to put their environmental principles into practice.

2.3.2.4 Rain Water Harvesting Scheme

In view of the rise in demand for water, the objective of this Scheme is to promote sustainable consumption of water through installation of Rainwater Harvesting Systems. Rainwater harvesting is also a climate change adaptation measure.

The contract was awarded on 16 May 2025 for the installation of 17 rainwater harvesters. A sum of Rs. 4 million was allocated in Financial Year 2024-2025. Preliminary works for the installation of rainwater harvesters are ongoing.

2.4 PLASTIC MANAGEMENT DIVISION

2.4.1 Roles and Functions of the Division

The Division is responsible to, *inter alia*:

- coordinate the implementation, enforcement and formulation of plastic regulations;
- promote research on alternatives to plastic; and
- align with international as well as regional obligations to manage plastic pollution.

2.4.2 Main Achievements for the Period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

2.4.2.1 Registration/ Clearances/Enforcement under the two plastic regulations

a) Registration and Clearances issued

184 Registration Certificates and 443 Clearances have been issued under the Environment Protection (Control of Single Use Plastic Products) Regulations 2020 and Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020 as detailed in Table 3 below:

Table 3: Registration/Clearances issued for the period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

	Registration Certificates		Clearances	
	Applications received	Applications processed	Applications received	Applications processed
Environment Protection (Control of Single Use Plastic Products) Regulations 2020	64	64	413	412
Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020	120	120	31	31

b) Extension of moratorium to use plastic cups, bowls and trays for Modified Atmosphere Packaging

Following agreement of Government on 27 December 2024, the moratorium period to use single use plastic cups, bowls and trays for specific packaging was extended up to 14 January 2026. A Multi-Stakeholder Technical Committee was set up to re-assess the situation and come up with appropriate measures in ensuring the enforcement of the Environment Protection (Control of Single Use Plastic Products) Regulations 2020. The Committee met on four occasions and the views/recommendations of the Committee are being finalised.

c) Implementation of the Tradelink Online Platform

In view of enhancing the delivery and effectiveness of the Government Services while also improving the ease and cost of doing business, a Tradelink Online Platform is operational since January 2023 for the online applications for clearances and verifications at airport and seaport.

284 applications for verification and 20 applications for clearance have been received through the Tradelink Online Platform and were processed for the period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

d) Enforcement at airport and seaport

504 verifications were conducted and 546, 898 banned plastic bags/plastic products were seized as detailed in Table 4 below:

Table 4: Number of products seized at Port

	Environment Protection (Control of Single Use Plastic Products) Regulations 2020	Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020
Number of verifications conducted	175	329
Products seized due to non-compliance to Regulations in units	485,778	61,120

e) Enforcement inland, targeting markets, fairs, hypermarkets, hawkers and food outlets

Out of 102 site inspections carried out with representatives from “Police de L’Environnement”, officers of the Department of Environment and Local Authorities:

- 69 contraventions were established under both Regulations;
- 130 units and 5.5 kg non-biodegradable single use plastic items were seized; and
- 33,709 units and 192.55 kg of plastic bags and three units of plastic roll-on were seized.

2.4.2.2 Plastic Management Committee

Pursuant to Section 100 of the Environment Act 2024, a Plastic Management Committee was set up in March 2025. The Committee comprises Government, Private and NGOs. The main objectives of the Committee are to coordinate the implementation of policies, strategies and action plan towards a plastic pollution free Mauritius. The Committee met on two occasions from March 2025 to June 2025.

2.4.2.3 Road Map for a Plastic Free Mauritius

Funding from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to the tune of USD 150,000 was secured for the development of a Roadmap for a Plastic Pollution Free Mauritius. Developing the roadmap involves undertaking a situational analysis of the country's current status with regard to plastic management, carrying out an inventory, and reviewing the legislative framework and policy instruments to enable the formulation of future policies as well as action plans to safeguard the environment and public health. The contract has been awarded to the University of Mauritius on 02 September 2024 for a period of 14 months.

A Project Steering Committee and a Technical Committee were set up to monitor work progress, as per the Terms of Reference for the project. Under this project, the following deliverables have been submitted, namely; (i) Inception report, (ii) a State of knowledge report, (iii) a National Source Inventory report, (iv) a draft Legal and Policy Analysis Report, (v) a draft National Strategy Plan/Roadmap, and (vi) a draft National Awareness and Education Programme. The Roadmap is expected to be ready by September 2025.

2.4.2.4 Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS) Indian Ocean Project

One of the components under the ISLANDS Project includes a comprehensive supply chain analysis for plastic pellets. The objective of the project is to establish an inventory of plastic pellets flow in Mauritius and provide a detailed understanding of the different sectors, processes and products manufactured from these pellets, to help enhance decision making. The services of Grant Thornton were enlisted for the Consultancy Services and their report is expected in August 2025.

2.4.2.5 Sensitisation, Awareness Raising and Capacity Building on Plastics

For the period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, information was disseminated through the following means:

- every four months, information was posted on website (these include information pertaining to the number of enforcement operations carried out and the amount of plastic bags and single use plastic products seized at the Port (seaport and airport);
- every four months, information was displayed on the electronic billboards of five Local Authorities;
- two radio talks, one TV Programme were aired; and
- participation in panel discussion in the context of visit of the Plastic Odyssey Vessel.

2.5 COORDINATION AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION DIVISION

2.5.1 Roles and Functions of the Division

- Ensure effective implementation of environmental projects;
- Implement/coordinate national, regional and international environmental projects such as those funded by development partners/donors such as United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/ Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNEP and regional organisations;
- Provide technical inputs on Environmentally Sensitive Areas;
- Preparation of oil spill contingency planning and sensitivity mapping; and
- Coordinate regional and international oil spill contingency planning projects.

2.5.2 Main Achievements for the Period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

2.5.2.1 Draft Mauritius State of Environment and Outlook Report 2024

Mauritius is benefitting from the support of UNEP to prepare the Mauritius State of Environment and Outlook Report. UNEP has hired the Environmental Pulse Institute to prepare the report.

The Mauritius State of Environment and Outlook Report will highlight where good practices have been established, what are the barriers to policy implementation, where adverse trends are overwhelming natural resources and where damaging practices remain a continuing threat to the natural resources and wealth of the country. The report will guide the Ministry on future endeavours to make Mauritius a sustainable and resilient island.

Around 59 participants from various Ministries, Academic bodies and NGOs attended a two-day discussion workshop held in October 2024, as illustrated at Figure 5 below was facilitated by UNEP and the Environmental Pulse Institute to review the first draft of the report.

The report is in finalisation phase and tentatively expected to be published by end of year 2025



Figure 5: Two-day discussion workshop held in October 2024 – Photo Courtesy of GIS

2.5.2.2 Development of a Web Geographical Information System (GIS) for Environmental Planning

The Ministry, in collaboration with the Mauritius Digital Promotion Agency, is developing a Web GIS platform for Environmental Planning.

The main objective of the Web GIS is to enable remote access of GIS data by government stakeholders for informed decision making prior to any development in the vicinity of Environmentally Sensitive Areas, amongst others. An extract of the Web GIS Platform is at Figure 6



Figure 6: Extract of the Web GIS Platform

The Mauritius Digital Promotion Agency awarded the contract to GISCAN Ltd represented by Mr Sylvian Poulain, on 28 February 2025. The Mauritius Digital Promotion Agency would host the Web GIS. The Platform is expected to go live in September 2025.

2.5.2.3 Technical Assistance on Oil Spill Preparedness and Response by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

The Government of Mauritius signed an agreement with JICA on 17 May 2022 for a three-year technical assistance project on 'Enhancement of Institutional Capacity in Oil Spill Response for the Republic of Mauritius'. The duration of the project, which is managed by the Ministry and co-managed by the National Coast Guard, is of three years.

The activities undertaken during the period July 2024 to June 2025 were the following:

- (i) development of Tactical and Operational maps of three (3) vulnerable sites most prone to oil spill with corresponding oil spill trajectory simulation model – Port area, Blue Bay to 'Pointe du Diable' and 'Poste De Flacq' to 'Cap Malheureux';
- (ii) disseminate International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Level 0 training to 133 participants of the civil society such as fishers, media, NGOs, youth, women association, hotel sector, amongst others and IMO Level 1 training to 78 Government first responders, and
- (iii) holding of a handing over ceremony of the Tactical and Operational maps on 18 February 2025 as shown at Figure 7. The maps were handed over to the Ministry in presence of two Senior Officials from JICA Head Office (Tokyo), Mrs. Shimada Aya and Mr. Yoshizaki Tatsuya.



Figure 7: Handing over ceremony of the Tactical and Operational maps

2.5.2.4 Development of Coastal Sensitivity Atlas for Mauritius and Rodrigues

On 14 January 2025, the Ministry awarded the contract to CLAMS Ltd for the development of a Coastal Sensitivity Atlas for Mauritius and Rodrigues. The Atlas comprises of Coastal Sensitivity Map, Tactical and Operational Map for Mauritius and Rodrigues to identify and categorise the vulnerability of coastal areas to oil spill thus aiding in preparedness and response efforts. The project was completed in June 2025.



Figure 8: Meeting with Chief Commissioner of Rodrigues and Survey of coastal area in Rodrigues

2.5.2.5 National Oil Spill Contingency Planning

The National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) 2003 is presently being reviewed and updated. Following the promulgation of the Environment Act 2024 on 01 August 2024, the NOSCP was further amended and updated to include new provisions of the Act. In view of administrative and structural changes of several concerned Ministries in November 2024, further amendments were brought to the Plan and completed in January 2025. The Plan, being a dynamic document, can be amended in case of further changes.

2.5.2.6 Procurement of Oil Spill Combat Equipment

In July 2024, the Ministry allocated contract to four bidders for the supply of oil spill combat equipment to enhance preparedness capability regarding oil spill in our Exclusive Economic Zone to tune of around Rs54 million for the purchase of booms, skimmers, power packs, storage tanks and containers. As at June 2025, the equipment received consisted of skimmers, power packs, oil spill portable tanks and hose reels. Figure 9 depicts the verification of the equipment received.



Figure 9: Verification of delivered storage tanks

2.5.2.7 Update of Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) GIS datasets for coastal marshlands, upland marshlands and mangroves

On 15 January 2025, the Ministry awarded the contract to CLAMS Ltd for the review and update of ESA GIS datasets for coastal marshlands, upland marshlands and mangroves through ground-truthing and to formulate a policy for development on sand beaches and sand dunes as well as a guideline for development on the three ESAs. The project is expected to be completed by September 2025.



Figure 10: Marshland and Mangrove areas

2.6 INFORMATION AND EDUCATION DIVISION

2.6.1 Roles and Functions of the Division

- Conduct sensitisation campaigns to disseminate information through talks, radio/TV programmes, exhibitions, film shows, radio and TV clips and competitions for various target groups;
- Develop resource materials, such as posters, pamphlets, booklets, leaflets, and flyers to disseminate environmental information; and
- Organise the celebration of major international environmental events annually, namely, Earth Day on 22 April and World Environment Day on 05 June.

2.6.2 Main Achievements for the Period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

2.6.2.1 Sensitisation and Awareness Campaign

During the Financial Year 2024/2025, 45 awareness raising sessions have been carried out as follows:

- 45 Awareness raising activities with different target groups at different locations around the island namely the, National Women Councils, Social Welfare Centres, Community Centres, NGOs (Brahma Kumari, Mouvement d'Aide à la Maternité), Private Sector (SICOM), Citizen Support Unit (CSU), Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre, Mauritius Oceanography Institute, Mauritius Institute of Training and Development, the School community including Pre- primary/Primary/Secondary Schools;
- 3 radio programmes;
- 2500 people sensitised during awareness campaigns; and
- Radio quiz on environmental issues in the context of the Independence Day from 10 March to 14 March 2025.

2.6.2.2 Celebration of major International Environmental Events

a) Earth Day 2025

Earth Day, celebrated on 22 April was marked by a Tree planting activity as shown at Figure 11, at the SOS Children's Village in Beau-Bassin on Tuesday, 22 April 2025. This initiative aimed at highlighting the important role that young people can play in protecting and nurturing our natural environment through simple yet impactful actions that should become part of our everyday routine.



Figure 11: Tree Planting ceremony at the SOS Children Village at Beau Bassin

The Ministry also held an activity for the restoration of forests and wetlands as shown at Figure 12. In collaboration with the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, a tree planting activity was conducted at Bras D'Eau National Park on Saturday 26 April 2025.



Figure 12: Wetland restoration activity at Bras d'Eau National Park

b) World Environment Day (WED) 2025

World Environment Day is the most significant international day dedicated to environmental issues. A workshop, as at Figure 13, on 'Enhancing our Living Environment through Better Environmental Enforcement' was held in the context of the World Environment Day 2025, on Tuesday 03 June 2025 at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation (Civil Service College) in Réduit. Some 140 participants attended the workshop, including representatives of enforcement agencies and authorities responsible for environmental enforcement, such as local authorities, ministries and parastatal organisations.

The aims of the workshop were to:

- (i) Take stock of the current state of our living environment and nuisances affecting our health and quality of life;
- (ii) Review ongoing challenges in environmental enforcement as well as best practices and achievements; and
- (iii) Reflect on ways to improve service delivery, strengthen enforcement and mobilise the community.



Figure 13: Workshop organised to mark WED 2025 - Photo Courtesy of GIS

2.6.2.3 Resource Materials Development

a) Development of Factsheets on environmental issues

A series of 10 fact sheets has been developed to raise awareness among youth, women, and the general public on key environmental issues. The topics covered include Benefits of Trees, Earth Overshoot Day, Air Quality, Ozone Layer Depletion, Plastic Pollution, Coastal Ecosystems, Water Conservation, Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Lifestyles, and Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Each fact sheet features cartoon-style illustrations to make complex environmental themes easy to understand and engaging for a broad audience.

The factsheets were distributed to all secondary schools and are being used as an awareness raising tools during ongoing awareness and sensitisation campaigns.

b) Production and Airing of Short videos – “La minute Eco Info”

A series of 10 short videos entitled “La Minute Eco Info”, which are cartoon like videos, were produced to support ongoing awareness raising. The short videos cover themes such as Benefits of Trees, Earth Overshoot Day, Air Quality, Ozone Layer Depletion, Plastic Pollution, Coastal Ecosystems, Water Conservation, Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Lifestyles, and Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

2.6.2.4 Exhibitions

The Ministry also participated in exhibitions organised by the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre in the context of the Science Week from 25 to 28 March 2025. Around 8,000 students visited the various stands and exhibits. A glimpse of the exhibition is shown at Figure 14.



Figure 14: Science Week at the Cote d’Or Complex from the 25 to 28 March 2025

The Ministry also participated in the exhibition organised by the Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI) at Albion on Saturday 10 May 2025 in the context of Earth Day 2025. A glimpse of the exhibition is shown at Figure 15.



Figure 15: Exhibition by the MOI on the 10 May 2025

2.6.2.5 Seminar with the Youth

The Ministry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, organised a 3-day Youth Seminar on the Environment, as shown at Figure 16, from Tuesday 26 November to Thursday 28 November 2024.

The seminar brought together some 40 youth participants, aged 14 to 20, from the southern regions, including Bois Cheri, Savanne, and Souillac. Throughout the three days, participants have been empowered with knowledge on a variety of environmental issues through outdoor learning, interactive activities and environmental awareness sessions and art and culture activities such as slogan, slam, poem and role play.



Figure 16: Seminar with the Youth Community from 26 to 28 November 2024

2.7 INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

2.7.1 Roles and Functions of the Division

- Implement the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Framework;
- Conduct and recommend studies on beach erosion and propose appropriate measures for its control and monitor progress of implementation;
- Provide views and comments with regard to development in the coastal zone;
- Coordinate Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and regional/international projects in the coastal zone; and
- Act as Secretariat to the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Committee.

2.7.2 Main Achievements for the Period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

2.7.2.1 Consultancy Services:

a) Consultancy Services for Deux Freres Waterfront Project

A revised bid document was submitted by the Consultant on 10 September 2024 for relaunching of tender. Financial clearance for the updated cost estimate was sought in October 2024. Due to the economic situation of the country, the project has been kept in abeyance.

b) Consultancy Services coastal protection works at Souillac Cemetery

The Consultancy Services were awarded to Scene-Ries Consult Ltd in June 2023 and the Consultancy started in July 2023. The list of EIA conditions was issued on 20 June 2025. Bid documents are awaited.

c) Consultancy Services coastal protection works at Flic en Flac

The Consultancy Service that started in September 2022, is at the Detailed Design Stage. The detailed design report is in the process of being finalised. Consultations are ongoing with stakeholders.

d) Consultancy Services coastal protection works at 16 sites

The Consultancy contract awarded to Luxconsult (Mtius) Ltd in 2022 is at EIA stage. Out of the 16 sites the list of conditions for one site namely Trou aux Biches has been granted on 20 June 2025. The application for the remaining 15 sites is under process.

e) Consultancy Services for coastal protection, landscaping and infrastructural works at Riviere des Creoles and Vieux Grand Port

The Preliminary Design Reports for Vieux Grand Port sites was submitted in September 2024 approved in December 2024.

The Preliminary Design Reports for Riviere des Creoles was submitted in December 2024 and approved in May 2025. The Detailed Design Reports are awaited.

f) Consultancy Services for coastal protection, landscaping and infrastructural works at Belle Mare

The Consultancy Services started in September 2024. The Preliminary Design Report for the site was submitted in April 2025 and consultations are ongoing with stakeholders.

2.7.2.2 Coastal protection works

a) Coastal Protection Works at Bois des Amourettes

The progress of works at Bois des Amourettes is 90%. On 18 April 2025, the contract for works was terminated due to continuous delay in the completion of the project and non-submission of Environmental Monitoring Reports by the Contractor.

The outstanding works are being assessed and the bid document is being prepared for relaunching of tender.

b) Coastal Protection Works at Grand Baie Le Capitaine

Contract for works was awarded on 24 October 2024. Works started on site in March 2025 and 30% of works were completed by June 2025. The works are expected to be completed by November 2025.

2.7.2.3 Guidelines for Urgent Coastal Rehabilitation Measures against Beach Erosion at Beach Resorts

The Ministry recruited a Consultant in September 2024, for the preparation of guidelines to assist affected beach resorts to implement sustainable rehabilitation measures to control beach erosion and increase their resilience to the impacts of climate change and sea level rise. The guidelines were finalised in May 2025.

2.7.2.4 Nairobi Convention

The Ministry is the National Focal Point for the Nairobi Convention, a regional agreement for the protection and management of the coastal and marine resources in the Western Indian Ocean. The Ministry attended the 11th Conference of Parties of the Convention from 20 to 24

August 2024. Under the Convention, an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol has been developed for promoting regional and national integrated coastal zone management. The Ministry has completed stakeholders' consultation on the accession to the instrument in April 2025 and procedures for accession are ongoing.

2.8 ENVIRONMENTAL LAW PROSECUTION DIVISION

2.8.1 Roles and Functions of the Division

- To ensure protection, management and conservation of the environment by reviewing/amending the Environment Act 2024, the Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) Bill 2009 and existing standards, regulations as well as formulate new regulations as required;
- Seek legal assistance from the Attorney General's Office (AGO) in matters which are at the level of the Supreme Court and Intermediate Court and Environment and Land Use Appeal Tribunal;
- To peruse Affidavits in order to prepare replies and submit stand of the Ministry to the AGO;
- To follow-up court cases before the Supreme Court, Intermediate Court and ELUAT, with the assistance of the AGO;
- Seek approval of the Office of Director of Public Prosecutions to initiate criminal proceedings;
- To conduct prosecution of environmental offences under the EPA 2002 and Environment Act 2024 at District Courts island-wide; and
- Provide inputs/views on upcoming Bills/legislations and legal reports circulated to the Ministry.

2.8.2 Main Achievements for the Period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

2.8.2.1 Promulgation of the Environment Act 2024

The Environment Act No 3 of 2024 came into force on 01 August 2024.

2.8.2.2 New Regulations Promulgated

New Regulations promulgated between July 2024 and June 2025 have been listed at Table 5, below.

Table 5: Promulgation of New Regulations

SN	Name of Regulations	Date Gazetted	Date came into Force	Remarks
1	Environment (Application Fee) Regulations 2025	3 April 2025	7 April 2025	New application fees for the processing of a PER licence, an EIA licence, and a SEA licence under sections 33(2)(i), 40(2)(d), and 47(2)(d) of the Environment Act 2024, respectively.
2.	Environment Protection (Control of Single Use Plastic Products) (Amendment) Regulations 2025	14 June 2025	Deemed to have come into operation on 15 January 2021	Extension of the moratorium period for use of plastic trays for the packaging of fresh foods under modified atmosphere of plastic cups and plastic bowls and from 14 January 2025 to 14 January 2026.
3	Environment (Amendment of Schedule) Regulations 2025	28 June 2025	01 July 2025	Amendments were brought to the Tenth Schedule of the Environment Act 2024 to increase the environment protection fee.

2.8.2.3 Review of Existing Regulations

a) Review of Air Regulations

The Environment Protection (Standards for Air) Regulations 1998 are being reviewed to align the existing standards with international guidelines. Also, activities such as foundries and incinerators will be captured under the forthcoming set of standards with the ultimate goal of achieving a cleaner air in Mauritius. The draft regulations are being finalised in collaboration with the AGO.

b) Environment Protection (Industrial Waste Audit) Regulations 2008

The Environment Protection (Industrial Waste Audit) Regulations 2008 are being reviewed in collaboration with the AGO in order to facilitate the reporting process of industrialists and address some shortcomings noted in the existing Regulations.

c) Environment Protection (Declaration of Environmental Laws) Regulations 2005

Since the promulgation of the regulations in 2005, several legislations declared as environmental laws were repealed. The Environment Protection (Declaration of Environmental Laws) Regulations 2005 are under review in collaboration with the Attorney's General Office to update the list of enactments declared as environmental laws and declare new environment related enactments as environmental law.

d) Noise Regulations

The current noise standards and regulations are being reviewed to better protect public health. Provision has been made in the Ministry's Budget 2024-2025, for a feasibility study to review the existing noise standards and regulations in light of international recommendations from the World Health Organisation. Consultancy services have been accordingly enlisted.

2.8.2.4 Prosecution and Court Cases

The number of court cases at Supreme Court, Intermediate Court, District Court and the Environment and Land Use Appeal Tribunal that are under process are displayed in Table 6 below:

Table 6: Number of Court Cases under process

<i>Tribunal/Court</i>	Environment and Land Use Appeal Tribunal	Prosecution cases at District Courts	Intermediate Court	Supreme Court	Total
<i>Number of cases</i>	2	8	1	8	19

2.8.2.5 Completed Cases

The number of completed cases at the Level of District Court and Supreme court for the Period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 are listed at Table 7, below.

Table 7: Completed Cases for the Period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

DISTRICT COURT		
Offences	Number of cases	Fine (Rs)/ Judgment
Supply of plastic bags and banned single use plastic products	2	2,500
Noise nuisance	1	2000
Failure to comply with stop order (related to rock quarrying activity)	1	Nil (Case dismissed)
Total	4	4,500
SUPREME COURT		
Operation of a waste carrier and disposal business causing noise, leachate and odour nuisance	1	N/A (A settlement agreement was reached between the parties)
Illegal activities on the property situated in the District of Savanne by running an illegal garage	1	The matter has been set aside with costs against the Respondents on 30 Aug 2024
Playing loud music at Le Poivrier Restaurant over and above the noise exposure limits prescribed by the Environment Protection (Environmental Standards for Noise) Regulations 2022 (GN 250 of 2022).	1	The case has been withdrawn on 13 November 2024.

2.9 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT/PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENT REPORT MONITORING DIVISION

2.9.1 Roles and Functions of the Division

With a view to reinforce monitoring of undertakings at the level of the Ministry, the Department of Environment was re-engineered and an EIA/PER Monitoring Division was set up in March 2013. As such, the main objective of the Division is to ensure compliance to the conditions imposed in Strategic Environment Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Licences and Preliminary Environmental Report (PER) licences so as to avoid any potential adverse impacts during the whole life-cycle of a particular project.

The Division is also responsible for the coordination and implementation of measures under two chemical-related Conventions namely:

- (i) the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs); and
- (ii) the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

2.9.2 Main Achievements for the Period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

2.9.2.1 EIA/PER Monitoring

The main achievements regarding monitoring are:

- 186 site visits have been carried out;
- 82 projects have been monitored for existing undertakings;
- For 13 projects where non-compliances to conditions were detected, close follow up were carried out to redress the situation; and
- 28 Environment Monitoring Plans have been approved.

The outcomes and details of the monitoring are shown at Table 8, below.

Table 8: Outcomes of Monitoring

EIA Projects		PER Projects	
Item	Total	Item	Total
Number of EIA undertakings monitored	64	Number of PER undertakings monitored	18
Number of site monitoring	182	Number of site monitoring	4
Number of EMPs approved	28	Number of EMPs approved	N/A

EIA Projects		PER Projects	
Item	Total	Item	Total
Number of non-compliances observed	13	Number of non-compliances observed	1
Number of non-compliances rectified	4	Number of non-compliances rectified	0
Number of notices issued in collaboration with other authorities	0	Number of notices issued	0
Number of projects at prosecution level	1	Number of projects at prosecution level	0

2.9.2.2 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

a) Review of the National Implementation Plan (NIP) on POPs

The Stockholm Convention on POPs was ratified in 2001. The aims of the Convention are; eliminating the production, use and emissions of POPs while preventing the introduction of new related chemicals, and ensuring the environmentally sound destruction of POPs waste stockpiles.

To comply with the relevant obligations of the Convention, the updating of the NIP on POPs has started in October 2024 and the expected completion is in December 2025. An amount of USD 250,000 has been allocated from GEF for the review and revision process with UNDP as the implementing agency.

From July 2024 to June 2025, the following have been achieved:

- Recruitment of Project Coordinator on 01 October 2024;
- The Consulting firm RedSky Technologies Ltd has been recruited in February 2025;
- The inception and training workshops held from 26 to 28 March 2025 as shown at Figure 17 below; and
- Assessment reports for legal, institutional and regulatory framework and socio-economic impacts have been completed in May 2025.



Figure 17: Participants of the Inception and training workshops held from 26 to 28 March 2025

b) Project on Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS - (ISLANDS)

Mauritius is participating in the project within the Indian Ocean along with other three participating islands namely, Comoros, Maldives, and Seychelles. The Programme is meant to assist SIDS in addressing challenges being faced in the sound and sustainable management of chemicals and wastes under the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions.

The project for Mauritius is GEF funded to the tune of USD 4.5 M with UNDP, as the implementing agency. The Project Document was signed on 19 September 2022 and expected closure is March 2027. A Project Assistant was recruited on 06 November 2023.

From July 2024 to June 2025, the following have been achieved:

- Two Project Steering Committee meetings and 15 meetings of Implementation Committees were held;
- Five out of 11 Experts have been recruited.
- The milestones achieved between July 2024 to June 2025 are as hereunder:
 - Three officers of the National Environmental Laboratory were trained in Scotland and Sweden in April 2025 on mercury and POPs monitoring in ambient air.
 - Report on Environmental and Social Management Plan was submitted by National Safeguard Expert on 29 April 2025.
 - Mid-term evaluation by International Mid Term Evaluator completed in 23 to 26 June 2025; and
 - Participation in the 3rd Regional Meeting for ISLANDS regrouping Indian Ocean SIDS organised in Seychelles from 09 to 11 June 2025 as shown at Figure 18 below. One of the key outcome was the recruitment of a Support Expert for the Solid Waste Management Division.



Figure 18: Participation by Mauritius at the 3rd Regional Meeting for ISLANDS in Seychelles

2.9.2.3 Minamata Convention on Mercury

a) Implementation of Mercury Action Plan

One of the key milestones to the implementation of the provisions of the Minamata Convention on Mercury is the implementation of the Mercury Action Plan. This Mercury Action Plan, which was prepared in 2018, identifies key activities to be implemented to comply with the provision of the Minamata Convention.

The implementation of the Mercury Action Plan is being carried out *via* the ISLANDS project.

Additionally, the recruitment of a National Mercury Expert is currently on-going. Procurement of equipment for the calibration of non-mercury thermometers is also ongoing and is expected to be advertised by end August 2025.

2.10 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY

2.10.1 Roles and Functions of the Division

As the scientific arm of the Ministry, the role of the National Environmental Laboratory (NEL) is to monitor environmental quality to ensure compliance with prescribed environmental standards.

The functions of the NEL consist of:

- Performing regular environmental monitoring to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Guidelines and Standards;
- Assessing the quality of air, water and other environmental media to track the impact of pollution and evaluate pollution trends;
- Carrying out continuous ambient air quality monitoring exercises around the island so as to ensure that the quality of air people are breathing is good;
- Testing of Plastics to ensure compliance with Banning of Plastics Bags Regulations 2020 and Control of Single Use Plastic Products Regulations 2020;
- Developing analytical methods and recommendations for new test parameters; and
- Maintaining accreditation of the laboratory to the ISO/IEC 17025 international standards so as to submit valid analytical results in a court of law.

2.10.2 Main Achievements for the Period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

2.10.2.1 Air Monitoring

Ambient Air Quality has been continuously monitored with the network of Fixed Ambient Air Monitoring Stations, including Internet of Things (IoT) sensors. Monitoring of hotspots was carried out using mobile stations and the Portable Gas Analyser as follows:

- a) Continuous Ambient Air Quality monitoring by six fixed stations and four IoT sensors is ongoing to generate data for the Air Quality Indexing System (AQI) which is publicly accessible via website airquality.govmu.org and on the mobile App "*MoNatir*". All parameters (gaseous and dust) measured were within their respective norms prescribed in the Environmental Protection (Standards for Air) Regulations 1998, Second Schedule, GN 105 of 1998 except for ground level ozone at Morcellement La Tourelle which exceeded the hourly limit of 100 ug/m³ occasionally.
- b) Ambient Air Quality monitoring using mobile stations was completed at 17 hotspots (five with mobile stations and 12 with Portable Gas Analyser).

Ambient Air Monitoring at Mare Chicose

Further to the fire outbreak at Mare Chicose, NEL carried out 33 spot check measurements using the Portable Gas analyzer from 06 November 2024 to 08 December 2024 on a daily basis to measure Volatile Organic Compounds. Moreover, continuous monitoring (over 24 hours) using Air Monitoring Caravan was carried out at the Nouvelle France Health community Centre from 15 November 2024 to 08 December 2024 to measure gaseous pollutants and dust in ambient air. Continuous Monitoring (over 24 hours) using mobile Particulate Matter Analyser was also carried out at the Cluny Government School from 20 November 2024 to 08 December 2024 to measure PM - 10 (Particulate Matter of size less than 10 microns) and PM - 2.5 (Particulate Matter of size less than 2.5 microns) in ambient air. All the monitoring reports were daily uploaded on the Ministry's website and accessible to the public.

2.10.2.2 Background Monitoring of POPs and Polyaromatics Hydrocarbon in ambient air near Mare Chicose landfill site and Transfer Stations

NEL carried out the assessment of background level (ambient air) of POPs and Polyaromatics Hydrocarbon near the Landfill and the major transfer stations. The project ended in May 2025 whereby two monitoring campaigns of POPs sampling (3 months each) were carried out at nine sites covering residential areas near Mare Chicose Landfill, La Chaumière and Roche Bois Transfer Stations. The monitoring also captured the fire incident at Mare Chicose landfill.

2.10.2.3 ISLANDS Project: Measuring POPs and Mercury (Hg) in Ambient Air Near Major Point Sources in Mauritius

Under the ISLANDS project, the staff of the Air Monitoring Section acquired the training/capacity building from 23 – 29 April 2025 to develop a national monitoring plan for measuring POPs/Hg levels in ambient air near major point sources to support regulatory actions.

2.10.2.4 Water Monitoring

- a) The water quality of 27 rivers was monitored around Mauritius four times from July 2024 to June 2025.
- b) Four joint sampling exercises for the Monitoring of Mare Chicose Landfill site for groundwater and surface water have been completed from July 2024 to June 2025.
- c) Following Press article published in Weekend newspaper on 01 June 2025 regarding the alleged discharge of leachate into a river at Mare Chicose landfill Site, the NEL has completed eight monitoring exercises from 01 June to 27 June 2025.

2.10.2.5 Pesticides

Following the setting up of a Pesticide Residue Testing unit, NEL is implementing an environmental monitoring plan which consists of the monitoring of pesticides residues (14 groups of pesticides including Organochlorines, Triazines, Carbamates, Ureas, Imidazoles and others) and 14 Trace Metals in water samples from 39 river sites and 52 boreholes around the island of Mauritius in a phase-wise manner. From July 2024 to June 2025, 26 river sites and 14 boreholes were monitored. Reports on the findings have been prepared and are being finalised.

2.10.2.6 Plastic Monitoring

In the context of the enforcement of the two plastic Regulations namely; Control of Single Use Plastic Products (GN 156 of 2020) and Banning of Plastic Bags (GN 197 of 2020), NEL has carried out 566 tests with regards to single use products and plastic bags. Moreover, NEL has carried out more in-depth study on plastic composition using Thermogravimetric Analyzer and a Differential Scanning Calorimeter with the collaboration of the University of Mauritius for determination of percentage lining of LDPE in Cellulose/LDPE Single-use Plastic Products.

2.10.2.7 Integrated Environmental Monitoring Programme (IEMP) post MV Wakashio Oil Spill

The IEMP post MV Wakashio oil spill was approved by Government in December 2020 whereby about Rs 76 million were allocated for five monitoring themes with an assigned Lead Institution for each theme, namely, (i) Physical Impact (Mauritius Oceanography Institute); (ii) Ecological Monitoring (Albion Fisheries Research Centre); (iii) Environmental Quality Monitoring (National Environmental Laboratory); (iv) Terrestrial Biodiversity (National Parks and Conservation Service); and (v) Fisheries monitoring and Food Safety (Albion Fisheries Research Centre).

A Steering Committee and a Technical Committee, coordinated by NEL, have been set up to monitor progress of the IEMP. Three monitoring exercises were completed by the NEL for Year 2024-2025 and the last monitoring exercise was done in May 2025. Surveys pertaining to all other themes have been completed by their respective lead Institutions as per their workplans.

A Compiled Report is being updated to include findings till June 2025 and the Technical Reports for the Year 2024-2025 are under preparation for each theme.

2.10.2.8 Monitoring of Algal Bloom

In response to the increasing occurrence of algal blooms along the eastern and northern coasts of Mauritius, the NEL and the Department of Environment conducted targeted monitoring at Belle Mare and Bassin Requin to assess bloom progression through physicochemical analysis. An inter-Ministerial committee was also established to review monitoring data, track progress, and address existing gaps.

NEL submitted a budget proposal to the Ministry of Finance for consultancy services aimed at developing an Integrated Algal Bloom Monitoring Framework. The Terms of Reference were circulated for stakeholder review.

Two Technical Committees have been scheduled for August 2025 to review technical specifications for Terms of Reference for Consultancy Services.

Capacity building on use of Radon-7 (RAD-7) analyser to the NEL, the Mauritius Oceanography Institute, and the Albion Fisheries Research Centre in June 2025 to help to understand groundwater contributions to algal blooms.

2.10.2.9 Surface and Ground Water Quality Monitoring

As part of its strategic vision to adopt modern, technology-driven solutions for environmental monitoring, the Ministry launched the pilot phase of the *"Surface and Ground Water Quality Monitoring"* project using IoT technology. With an investment of Rs. 4,905,883.90 (VAT inclusive), the project aims to strengthen national water resource management by providing accurate, real-time data on water quality and trends, thereby supporting timely and effective protective measures.

A project steering committee was established and six meetings were held during the period 04 Oct 2024 - 18 June 2025 to ensure the successful execution and oversight of the project.

In parallel, eight project monitoring meetings were held on a weekly basis during the period of 11 October to 06 December 2024, to monitor progress of activities.

Installation and commissioning of IoT-based water monitoring device at Rioux, La Flora, to monitor the water quality of Rivière du Poste, was completed on 16 June 2025.

2.10.2.10 Lagoonal Monitoring in the region of Port Louis

An Inter-Ministerial Monitoring Committee was set up under the chairmanship of the Director of Environment in December 2000. The objectives of the Committee were to monitor the seawater quality and the quality of seafood to ascertain whether there were any health risks through bathing or consuming seafood caught in the lagoon of Port Louis.

In January 2025, the report for the monitoring period, January 2021 to December 2023, was submitted and circulated to all stakeholders for no objection in March 2025.

Ten monitoring exercises were carried out from July 2024 to June 2025. The monitoring is on-going.

2.10.2.11 Guideline on Best Practices for spraying of Herbicides on roads for Weed Control in Mauritius

A Technical Committee was set up at NEL to draft a guideline on best practices for spraying of Herbicides on roads for Weed control. First meeting was held on 24 April 2025. A second draft of the guideline was prepared in June 2025 and is being finalised.

2.10.2.12 Quality Management System

The NEL's Quality Management System, which is in line with the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard for laboratory accreditation, was successfully re-assessed on 9 and 10 July 2024 by MAURITAS. The accreditation certificate of NEL was renewed for the next five years until 2029. Moreover, NEL extended its scope of accreditation in January 2025 for chemicals parameters and to include new technical signatories.

2.10.2.13 Return of Analyses for the period July 2024 to June 2025

- Water Analysis – 13,350 analyses were carried out and 92 Test Reports were issued.
- Plastic Analysis - 566 samples were analysed and reported.
- Air Monitoring – 75, 372 validated data were obtained for gaseous and dust pollutants from Mobile monitoring (particulate matter analyser and Portable Gas Analyser).
- Additionally, 1,235,291 validated data were obtained for gaseous and dust pollutants monitoring from the six fixed ambient air monitoring stations and four IoT sensors.

2.11 POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL DIVISION

2.11.1 Roles and Functions of the Division

The Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) Division ensures compliance to environmental legislation and standards under the Environment Act 2024. The Division registers and attends to environmental complaints through established protocols and works closely with the “*Police de L’Environnement*” and other enforcing agencies to address environmental complaints. It also attends to environmental emergencies by taking appropriate actions as set out in the Environment Act 2024. Moreover, the PPC Division ensures the proper implementation of the Environment Protection (Industrial Waste Audit) Regulations 2008, with a view to enable scheduled industries to develop a culture of self-compliance.

Additionally, the PPC Division is monitoring projects for Consultancy Services for review of the siting criteria for stone crushing plants and crematorium / cremation grounds and use of portable smoke meters to monitor vehicular emissions.

2.11.2 Main Achievements for the Period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

2.11.2.1 Handling of complaints

Complaints are received *via* letters, email, press articles, Citizen Support Portal and call-in person. For the period of July 2024 to June 2025, 442 new complaints have been received, 304 site visits have been effected, ten environmental emergencies have been attended to, 22 court cases have been looked into and five notices have been issued under the Environment Act 2024.

The complaints processed have been categorised as per Figure 19 hereunder:

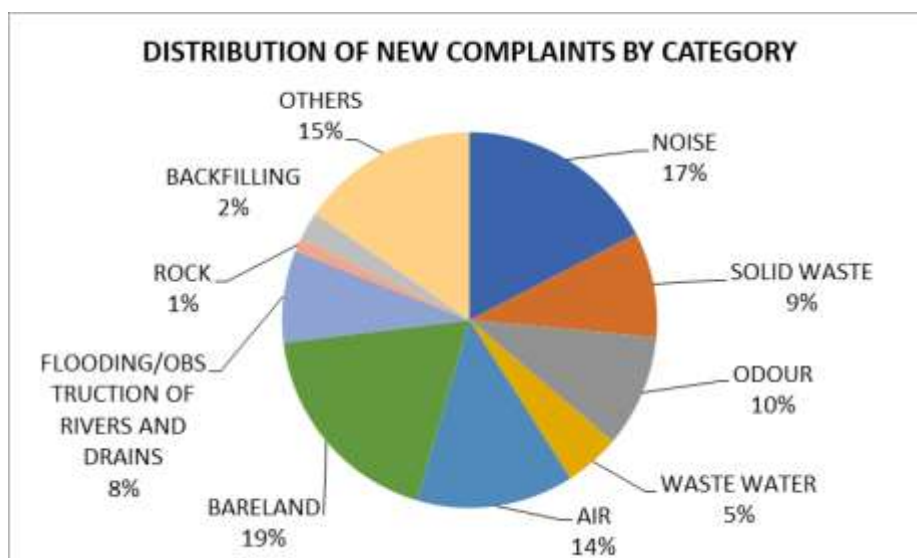


Figure 19: Percentage distribution of new complaints processed by categories

2.11.2.2 Processing of Tickets received on the Citizen Support Portal

For the period July 2024 to June 2025, a total of 663 tickets including complaints, suggestions and general inquiries concerning the Ministry and the “Police de L’Environnement” have been received. These tickets related mainly to neighbourhood noise nuisances, dumping of solid waste, nuisances associated with barelands and air pollution, amongst others. Out of these, 392 have been already closed or resolved, representing 59% and 271 tickets, representing 41%, are still under process. Additionally, 268 tickets, which were received prior to July 2024, were resolved from July 2024 to June 2025.

2.11.2.3 Coordination and follow up on recommendations of the Environment Liaison Officers Committee

For the period July 2024 to June 2025, the Environment Liaison Officers Committee met on nine occasions to discuss, amongst others, the coordination of enforcement for complex cases, eyesores and barelands, sensitisation and enforcement regarding Regulations on plastic bags and single use plastic products.

During that period, a total of 3,784 notices had been issued by the different Enforcing Agencies as follows:

- Environmental Sanitation Notice by Local Authorities under the Local Government Act for bare lands (730);
- Warning Notice by Local Authorities under the Local Government Act for bare lands (2741);
- Notice of Intended Prosecution by Local Authorities under the Local Government Act for bare lands (1);

- Eyesore Abatement Notice by Local Authorities and “*Police de L’Environnement*” under the Environment Protection Act for bare lands (313).
- On 03 June 2025, a workshop on “Enhancing our living environment through better Environmental Enforcement” was held with Enforcing Agencies where three working groups were set up to discuss on:
 - Improve Service Delivery;
 - Regular enforcement on environmental laws; and
 - Mobilising the Community.

The Committee came up with a list of challenges that needed to be addressed and also recommendations to be implemented in the short, medium and long term. The Ministry had drafted a Strategy on Enforcement for implementation in the short term (July to December 2025).

2.11.2.4 Implementation and Compliance Monitoring of the Industrial Waste Audit (IWA) Regulations 2008

For the period July 2024 to June 2025, the PPC Division has monitored 96 industries (43% of active cases and carried out 42 IWA monitoring exercises, processed 20 IWA Forms, 29 Environmental Management Plans, 17 Progress Reports and attended 12 complaints. The IWA Committee met on seven occasions during that period. With regard to preparedness to liquid fuel spill, 15 contingency plans have been assessed.

2.11.2.5 Monitoring of Vehicular Smoke Emissions

15 units of portable smoke meters were procured in 2021 and had been handed over to enforcing authorities, namely, “*Police de L’Environnement*” (Mauritius & Rodrigues), National Land Transport Authority and Traffic Branch for road side enforcement and the Ministry of National Infrastructure for monitoring of Government vehicles.

During the period August 2024 to June 2025, a total of 423 diesel-driven vehicles had been tested with the portable smoke meters, out of which:

- 69 vehicles were found to be emitting smoke at an opacity between 50%- 70%;
- 95 vehicles were found to be emitting smoke at an opacity above 70%;
- 129 Fixed Penalties were issued; and
- 112 Prohibition Notices were issued.

2.11.2.6 Monitoring of Project Implementation – Consultancy Services for the Review of Siting Criteria for Stone Crushing Plants, Crematoria /Cremation Grounds

Contract was awarded to Luxconsult (Mtius) Ltd on 16 December 2022 for the implementation of the project “Review of the Siting Criteria for Stone Crushing Plants and Crematoria/Cremation Grounds”.

On 21 May 2025, the Consultant submitted the final reports of all deliverables, including maps indicating the proposed new buffer for stone crushing plants, crematoria and cremation grounds. Same were validated by the Project Steering Committee on 29 May 2025. The project has been completed.

2.11.2.7 Clearances Issued

Several requests pertaining to activities causing noise nuisances as well as other types of requests are also received and processed at the level of the PPC Division. From July 2024 to June 2025, a total of 12 clearances have been processed.

2.12 POLICE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

2.12.1 Roles and Functions of the "*Police de L'Environnement*"

The "*Police de L'Environnement*" was established in December 2000 by the Ministry in collaboration with the Mauritius Police Force to assist the Department of Environment in pollution management. Provision for same was also made in section 14 of the Environment Act 2024. The "*Police de L'Environnement*" shall, for the purposes of the Act, provide the Director and the Island Chief Executive such assistance as may be required to enforce environmental law.

The mission of the unit is the protection and preservation of the environment by enforcing environment related legislations whilst assisting other enforcing agencies in their tasks.

2.12.1.1 Staffing of the "*Police de L'Environnement*"

The "*Police de L'Environnement*" is manned by thirty-six Police Officers who are deployed in seven teams to provide service island-wide. Its current staffing position is as follows:

- One Inspector;
- Two Sub Inspectors;
- 13 Police Sergeants;
- One Woman Police Sergeant;
- 12 Police Constables; and
- Seven Woman Police Constables.

The "*Police de L'Environnement*" occupies seven offices, one provided by the Ministry comprising of the Head Office and the others by the Police Department.

2.12.1.2 Duties of the "*Police de L'Environnement*"

- Attending to complaints and requests received on hotlines, through letters, WhatsApp and in person.
- Giving assistance to the Ministry other agencies to address environmental issues.
- Initiating enforcement actions for illegal littering and illegal dumping.
- Use of drones to track offenders in relation to illegal dumping.
- Auto/moto checks with respect to noise emissions.
- Checking of vehicles emitting heavy black smoke.
- Carrying out operations to enforce Plastic Regulations.
- Tracing out owners of bare lands and issuing Eyesore Abatement Notices.
- Removal of vehicle wrecks from public road.
- Carrying out sensitisation campaigns.

Additionally, the "*Police de L'Environnement*" operates at night as follows:

- Night Duty Team (16 00 to 00 00 hrs) - Duties consist of noise monitoring targeting licensed premises causing noise nuisances and attending to all environmental complaints received during the day.
- Saturdays (16 00 to 20 00 hrs) - Intelligence led policing
- Saturdays (20 00 to 04 00 hrs)- Duties consist of Noise Monitoring targeting licensed premises causing noise nuisances.
 - One team patrolling the Northern Coastal region (Pereybere, Grand Baie, Trou aux Biches)
 - One team patrolling the Western & Southern Coastal region (Flic en Flac, Albion, Tamarin, Blue bay, Ebene).
- Duty Hotline - The Hotline is manned between 07 00 hrs and 23 00 hrs by personnel of *Police de l'Environnement* and after 23 00 hrs all calls are being diverted to Police Main Command and Control Centre till 07 00 hrs on the next day, except on Saturdays where the hotline is managed overnight by this unit.

2.12.2 Main Achievements for the Period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

A total of 2329 contraventions have been established by the "*Police de L'Environnement*" for the period 01 July 2024 to 20 June 2025. Offences include illegal littering, illegal dumping, playing of music causing nuisance, smoking in public place, inefficient silencer in motorcycles, smoke emission from diesel driven motor vehicles, possession/supplying plastic bags. 103 Eyesore Abatement Notices have also been issued during that period.

The detailed list of contraventions/notices issued from 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 is at Table 9.

Table 9: Detailed list of contraventions/notices issued by the "Police de L'Environnement"

Nature of offence	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
	2024						2025						
Illegal Littering	85	125	72	94	61	128	101	101	91	76	101	113	1148
Inefficient Silencer	01	02	02	01	01	02	12	06	0	03	01	03	34
Smoking In A Public Place	28	45	32	23	12	71	71	67	59	35	71	51	565
Illegal Dumping	0	0	1	0	0	0	01	02	0	01	0	0	05
Fixed Penalty Notice (Depositing Wastes)	02	02	10	07	05	17	09	07	07	04	03	02	75
Throwing Litter Rs 3000	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	02	05	08
Other Road Traffic Offences	1	1	0	03	01	03	34	03	0	12	06	02	66
Fixed Penalty Notice (Road Traffic Offences)	02	02	10	07	05	17	21	14	02	18	11	10	119
Playing Music Causing Nuisance	03	12	04	09	02	03	21	06	03	10	07	06	86
Dealing In Scrap Metal Without Permit	01	01	01	0	0	0	01	01	0	0	0	0	05
Carrying Wastes Without Waste Carriers Licence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	01	01
Failing To Comply with Waste Carrier's Licence	0	0	01	0	0	01	0	0	0	0	0	0	02
Load Not Properly Secured	03	0	0	0	0	0	01	02	0	0	0	0	06
Possession/Supplying Plastic Bags	06	05	03	07	03	03	23	12	02	03	0	0	67
Supplying/ Possession of Single Use Plastic Product	0	0	0	0	0	0	01	0	0	0	0	0	01
Manufacturing Plastic Products	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	01	0	0	01

Nature of offence	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
	2024					2025							
Fpn-Failing to Comply with Eyesore Abatement Notice (Ean)	0	0	0	01	0	0	0	0	0	0	01	0	02
Using A M/Vehicle Discharging Clearly Visible Smoke for More Than 10 Consecutive Seconds	0	0	0	0	0	05	03	01	0	0	0	0	09
Using Diesel Driven Motor Vehicles Emitting Smoke Over Opacity Limit Of 50 %	09	09	06	10	0	0	0	0	0	13	03	06	56
Using Diesel Driven Motor Vehicles Emitting Smoke Over Opacity Limit Of 70 %	03	05	03	03	0	0	0	0	0	33	07	14	68
Discarding Liquid Wastes in Nature Fpn 25000	0	0	0	0	0	01	0	0	0	0	0	01	02
Illegal Discharge of Effluent	0	0	0	0	0	0	02	0	0	0	0	0	02
Allowing Filthy Water to Flow on Public Road	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	01	0	0	0	0	01
TOTAL	144	210	145	165	90	251	301	223	164	209	213	214	2329
Number of Eyesore Abatement Notices issued	03	02	11	03	0	09	14	08	07	20	12	14	103

CHAPTER THREE

DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE



3 CHAPTER THREE – DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

3.1 ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT

- Promote adaptation and mitigation measures to address climate change in relevant sectors;
- Develop and coordinate policies, projects, strategies, programmes and action plans to address the adverse effects of climate change;
- Formulate and update guidelines for the conduct of vulnerability and risk assessments relating to climate change;
- Establish procedures and issue guidelines to reduce emissions of greenhouse gas;
- Establish reporting mechanisms relating to climate change;
- Establish and maintain a climate change database system to enable the assessment, monitoring, reporting and verification of measures relating to climate change;
- Compile, analyse and disseminate information on climate change;
- Provide technical support in relation to adaptation and mitigation measures relating to climate change;
- Promote the implementation of Article 6 of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on education, training and public awareness on climate change and related matters;
- Prepare, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the reports required to meet the obligations of Mauritius under UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement and any other instrument relating to climate change;
- Promote and enhance the participation of stakeholders in climate change matters;
- Commission studies on climate change;
- Identify the vulnerabilities and susceptibilities of Mauritius to climate change and the measures to address them;
- Publish information relating to climate change;
- Monitor the level of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and removal by sink; and
- Monitor the implementation of sectoral climate change adaptation policy and measures.

3.2 MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 01 JULY 2024 TO 30 JUNE 2025

3.2.1 Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Plan

3.2.1.1 Formulation of the Nationally Determined Contribution 3.0 for the Republic of Mauritius

The formulation of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 3.0 for the timeline 2025-2035 has started since November 2024. NDC 3.0 will outline ambitious yet realistic commitments for climate action up to 2035, conditional on significant international support. The key pillars of NDC 3.0 will include accelerated decarbonisation; enhancing our adaptive capacity and building resilience; and inclusiveness.

Mitigation efforts will be strategically concentrated on the energy, transport, and waste management sectors, involving a decisive shift towards renewable energy, enhanced energy efficiency, and innovative waste management solutions. Recognising the escalating threats of climate change, NDC 3.0 will place paramount importance on building resilience across all sectors, including climate-proofing of critical infrastructure; ensuring robust food and water security through sustainable practices; implementing comprehensive coastal protection measures; safeguarding vital marine ecosystems (coral reefs, mangroves) and terrestrial biodiversity; and addressing climate-related impacts on public health.

Acknowledging that climate change disproportionately affects certain segments of the society, NDC 3.0 will be designed with a strong focus on gender integration and support for vulnerable communities, particularly those in poverty. This commitment will ensure that gender considerations are mainstreamed across all climate policies and programs; and targeted interventions will be developed to enhance the adaptive capacity and resilience of low-income households and communities most exposed to climate risks, preventing further marginalisation



3.2.1.2 National Adaptation Plan for the Republic of Mauritius

Given that adaptation is a top priority, the Ministry is embarking on the formulation of the National Adaptation Plan, which will guide future climate change adaptation investments and policies into the following sectors:

- (i) Water demand and supply;
- (ii) Agriculture and terrestrial ecosystems;
- (iii) Fisheries and marine ecosystems;
- (iv) Tourism and coastal management; and
- (v) Infrastructure and disaster risk reduction.

An amount of USD 1,885,105 has been secured from the Green Climate Fund to implement the 30 months' project. The Indian Ocean Commission is the Delivery Partner, the Ministry of Finance is the National Designated Authority and the Ministry is the primary beneficiary of the project.

3.2.2 Adaptation to Climate Change

3.2.2.1 Coastal Erosion and Marine Submersion Risk Assessment for Mauritius and Rodrigues

An agreement has been signed between the Ministry of Finance and the *"Agence Française de Développement"* (AFD) on 15 February 2022 to the tune of EUR 1 million, for the execution of the project by the Ministry with a view to:

- a) assess the risks associated with coastal erosion and coastal submersion for Mauritius and Rodrigues; and
- b) produce GIS maps for the current period and for incremental impacts of climate change up to year 2050 and year 2100.

The Phase 1 of the project which was completed in July 2023 comprised field surveys by the experts to identify the most sensitive hotspots with regard to coastal erosion and submersion. The *"Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières"* (BRGM) has submitted the Final Phase 2 Reports on 19 June 2025, comprising further analysis of the hotspots and the mapping of the coastal risks in GIS. A capacity building workshop (Phase 3) for the stakeholders was held from 26 to 27 June 2025, whereby the national stakeholders were trained by BRGM Experts to use the products of the project.

The GIS maps will strengthen planning in the coastal zone for Mauritius and Rodrigues and thus enhance adaptation measures to address the impacts of climate change.

3.2.2.2 Projects contributing to Enhanced Transparency Framework

a) Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) project

The CBIT project entitled "Strengthening the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory of the Republic of Mauritius to improve Climate Reporting and Transparency" has benefitted grant funding support of around USD 1.3 million from the Global Environment Facility.

The objective is:

- To assist Mauritius to improve the quality of the national GHG inventory and strengthen the underlying inventory processes, which have immediate benefits for national reporting (the National Communications and Biennial Transparency Reports), for the tracking of emissions progress against the NDC targets and for future revisions to the NDC target; and
- To increase broader institutional engagement in GHG transparency from the private sector and from civil society, resulting in improved evidence-led policy-making and better integration of the inventory in national development policies and programmes.

The CBIT project will come up with country specific emission factors in the Energy, Transport, Forestry, Livestock sectors to improve the accuracy of the national greenhouse gas inventory. In this context, several workshops were held to provide capacity building to concerned stakeholders for the development of Tier 2/ Tier 3 emission factors:

- Capacity Building Workshop as shown at Figure 20, on 2006 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Methodologies and Estimating the Impact of Mitigation Actions in the Energy Sector and Gender Mainstreaming in Mitigation Actions held on 15 July 2024 and 16 July 2024;



Figure 20: Capacity Building Workshop on 15 and 16 July 2024

- A Validation Workshop on GHG Emission on Real Time Grid Emission Factor was held 17 July 2024;
- Capacity Building Workshop on IPCC Methodologies held from 30 September 2024 to 02 October 2024;
- Methodology Validation Workshop for Ground-Truthed Forest Inventory of Privately held Forestland and Non-Forest Tree Cover held on 04 October 2024; and
- Capacity Building Workshop on Introduction to Inventory Development and Carbon Stock Estimation in the Forestry Sector and Gender Mainstreaming held on 07 October 2024 and 08 October 2024 as depicted at Figure 21.



Figure 21: Capacity Building Workshop on Forest Inventory and Carbon Stock Estimation

b) First Biennial Transparency Report for the Republic of Mauritius

The Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) represents the main reporting instrument under the Enhanced Transparency Framework, established under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.

In 2024, the Ministry received a grant funding to the tune of USD 600,000 from the Global Environment Facility, through the UNEP, for the preparation and submission of its first BTR. In that context, five Technical Working Groups, namely, Energy, Transport, Industrial Processes and Product Use, Agriculture, Forestry and other Land Use as well as Waste, involving some 50 institutions from the public and private sectors, parastatal bodies, academia, research institutions and non-governmental organisations were set up to enable a multi stakeholder approach. Some 25 meetings were held over the months of October and November 2024 which enabled the collection of data and information required. A three-day workshop was subsequently held from 09 December to 11 December 2024 with stakeholders for the validation of the BTR1. Further to Government Agreement, the BTR1 was submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat on 26 December 2024, that is, before the deadline of 31 December 2024 to show our commitment and in a spirit to gain visibility, though as a SIDS, Mauritius had the flexibility to submit its BTR1 at its discretion.

The main components of the BTR1 includes a National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report for the period 2017 to 2022 and a National Report on progress made in implementing and achieving our Nationally Determined Contributions, information related to climate change impacts and adaptation, levels of financial support, technology development and transfer as well as capacity building needs and support and areas of improvement.



Figure 22: Mauritius First BTR 2024 and National Inventory Document 2024

3.2.2.3 Initiative for Climate Action Transparency

The Initiative for Climate Action Transparency was established in 2015 at the Conference of Parties (COP) that adopted the Paris Agreement to support the implementation of the Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework. Under this project, the UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre is providing Mauritius with support to build capacity of stakeholders to operationalise the Mau NDC Registry, to assess the impact of climate policies and to demystify the Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

The Project Cooperation Agreement was signed in May 2024 whereby the approved fund to be managed by the Ministry amounts to USD 42,922. The project has started as from 1 May 2024 and will end in December 2025. Five webinars were organised from 25 June 2024 to 13 September 2024 to sensitise and build capacity of stakeholders on demystifying Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. An Article 6 Guidance Report for Mauritius has also been prepared.

Additionally, a one-day workshop as shown at Figure 23 was organised on 13 February 2025 to identify data gaps in the information to be reported in the MauNDC Registry. Eventually, a Gaps and Recommendations Report has been prepared on the restructuring of the MauNDC registry platform to facilitate its operationalisation.



Figure 23: Workshop to identify gaps and needs under the MauNDC Registry

3.2.2.4 Climate Change Negotiations

a) Participation at the 29th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 29)

The COP 29 to the UNFCCC was held from 11 to 22 November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The Mauritius delegation comprised nine public sector officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Environment, Blue Economy, Mauritius Meteorological Services, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre, Beach Authority and some private sector organisations. The Conference focused on enhancing ambition and enabling action, particularly through climate finance, to reduce emissions, adapt to climate change, and address loss and damage.

The preparation for the COP was launched in July 2024 by the National Focal Point at the Ministry. Thematic meetings and consultations were held with all concerned stakeholders to finalise the national position paper which was renamed 'Issues of concern for Mauritius'.

The Mauritian delegation attended the preparatory meetings for the Alliance of Small Island States, Africa Group of Negotiators, and G77+China followed by formal and informal sessions under the three streams of the negotiations, namely the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC, Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, and the Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of Parties to the Paris Agreement, and relevant side events.

The outcome document for the COP termed the 'Baku Climate Unity Pact' comprised several agreements on mitigation, climate finance and adaptation.

The key outcomes, which are of interest to Mauritius, include:

- An agreement on a New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance for tripling finance to developing countries, from the previous goal of USD 100 billion to USD 300 billion annually by 2035;
- Scaling up of finance to developing countries to the amount of USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035;
- Finalisation of arrangements for the operationalisation of the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage;
- Launching of the Baku Adaptation Roadmap;
- Renewal of the enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender for a period of ten years; and
- Agreement on the rules underpinning the establishment of carbon markets under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

CHAPTER FOUR

LIVING ENVIRONMENT UNIT



4 CHAPTER FOUR – LIVING ENVIRONMENT UNIT

4.1 ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE UNIT

The Living Environment Unit (LEU) comprise a Project Management Cadre which is based at the head office of the Ministry, and an Inspectorate Cadre and a workforce of about 560 workers based at five sub-offices.

Five nurseries at Bois Marchand, Ebene, D'Epinay, Mahebourg and Verdun are operated by the LEU to facilitate propagation of decorative, medicinal plants and trees in desirable quantities which are used for embellishment of various sites around the island.

The LEU is responsible, *inter alia*, for the conception, design, management, realisation and up-keeping of various projects, pertaining to the improvement of the immediate environment, as well as to enhance the quality of life of the citizens of Mauritius. The Unit is dedicated to creating sustainable initiatives that prioritise environmental preservation, green spaces, health tracks, and community well-being.

The following projects/responsibilities fall under the Unit:

- a) Project Management and Contract Administration of projects related to the setting up, upgrading and maintenance of green spaces, health tracks, endemic gardens, children gardens and wellness parks, in view to encourage people to do regular physical activities in the natural environment and help to improve their physical and mental health, to enhance the environment through embellishment and upgrading works and to promote social interactions;
- b) Implementation of upgrading works, maintenance works, desilting works for the celebration of National Festivals at places of worship by contracted services and through its in-house team, as well as administration of the contract for cleaning services at Grand Bassin in the context of Maha Shivaratree, in line with the recommendations of the National Task Force;
- c) Management of Consultancy Services for coastal protection projects and project management and contract administration for coastal rehabilitation projects in collaboration with the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Division; and
- d) Project Management and Contract Administration for projects such as Rainwater Harvesting Scheme and Endemic Gardens in collaboration with the Sustainable Development and Policy and Planning Division.

The primary functions of the LEU are listed below:

- preparation of feasibility reports and estimates;
- preparation of Terms of References, specifications, request for proposals, tender documents;
- project management;
- administration of contracts, site supervision, monitoring and inspection;
- construction management, implementation of projects by in-house workers; and
- maintenance and up-keeping works.

4.2 MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 01 JULY 2024 TO 30 JUNE 2025

The main achievements of the Unit during the Financial Year of 2024-2025 are described below:

a) National Festivals

In the context of national religious festivals, the LEU undertakes upgrading works in line with the National Task Force, set up under the chairpersonship of the Honourable Prime Minister. The following works are usually undertaken by the Unit each year:

- Cavadee Festival - 76 sites were upgraded and cleaned by the LEU;
- Maha Shivaratree Festival - Upgrading works were undertaken at 27 sites. Moreover, the Unit was also responsible for administering the contract for the cleaning services at the Grand Bassin Compound, Lake Belt, Temples' Vicinities, Parking Areas, Toilet Blocks and Roads leading to Grand Bassin by a private contractor during the festival;
- Ganesh Chaturthi Festival - Upgrading works were carried out at 44 sites in addition to the cleaning and desilting of 39 rivers; and
- "*Pelerinage Père Laval*" - The "*tombeau Père Laval*" and its vicinity were cleaned and upgraded prior to the pilgrimage.

b) Cleaning and Embellishment of Other Places of Worship and Public Sites

During the Financial Year 2024-2025, the LEU successfully completed upgrading and embellishment works at 168 public sites/places of worship at a total cost of Rs 256.3 million.

Some of the key projects completed are as follows:

- Construction of Dry Toilets at Ile aux Benitiers as shown at Figure 24;



Figure 24: Construction of Dry Toilets at Ile aux Benitiers

- Construction of footpath and Construction of metallic shelter at Chapelle Notre Dame de la Paix, La Caverne as shown at Figure 25;

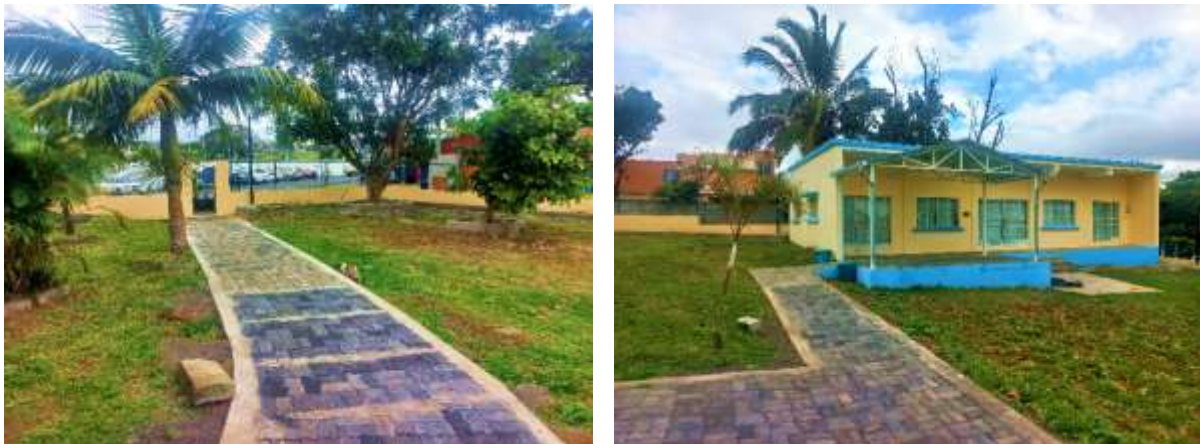


Figure 25: Construction of Footpath and Metallic Shelter at Chapelle Notre Dame de la Paix, La Caverne

- Construction of Mini Soccer pitch and jogging track at Allée Brillant Floreal Football Ground as shown at Figure 26;



Figure 26: Construction of Mini Soccer Pitch and Jogging Track at Allée Brillant Floreal Football Ground

- Painting works, Reinstating concrete steps and Construction of metallic shelter at La Source Football playground as shown at Figure 27;



Figure 27: Painting, Reinstating Concrete Steps and Construction of Metallic Shelter at La Source Football playground

- Enlargement of Access to parking, laying of kerbs and Asphaltting works at Ste Therese Church as shown at Figure 28;



Figure 28: Enlargement of Access to Parking, Laying of Kerbs and Asphaltting works at Ste Therese Church

- Setting up of Health Track at Icery as shown at Figure 29;



Figure 29: Setting up of Health Track at Icery

- Tarring works, laying of interlacing paviments and Construction of metallic shelter at Trianon Mariamen Temple Society as shown at Figure 30;



Figure 30: Tarring works, Laying of Interlacing Paviments and Construction of metallic shelter at Trianon Mariamen Temple Society

- Embellishment works and Resurfacing of yard at Chapelle Notre Dame de Lourdes (Paroisse St Helene), Curepipe as shown at Figure 31;



Figure 31: Embellishment Works and Resurfacing of Yard at Chapelle Notre Dame de Lourdes Curepipe

- Fixing of Children Equipment and Construction of blockwall around trees at Candos Government School as shown at Figure 32; and



Figure 32: Fixing of Children Equipment and Construction of Blockwall around trees at Candos Government School

CHAPTER FIVE

MONITORING AND EVALUATION



5 CHAPTER FIVE – MONITORING AND EVALUATION

5.1 STATUS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BUDGET MEASURES

Table 10 shows the status of the budgetary measures announced in the Budget Speech 2024-2025 relating to the Ministry.

Table 10: Status on Implementation of Budget Measures 2024-2025

Budget Paragraph	Budget Measure	Status as at 30 June 2025
225	During the next five years, we are restoring more than 26 km of shoreline and rehabilitate some 30 degraded sites across the island:- (a) In the North: Trou aux Biches, Pointe des Lascars, Grand-Baie, Mon Choisy, Bain Boeuf, and Bras D'Eau; (b) In the South: Bel Ombre, Riambel, Rivière des Galets, Saint Felix, Blue Bay, Pointe d'Esny, Pointe des Régates, Bois des Amourettes, and Rivière des Créoles; (c) In the East: Poste de Flacq, Belle Mare, Grand River South East, and Palmar; and (d) In the West: Albion, La Preneuse, La Mivoie Rivière Noire, Le Morne Trou Chenille, La Prairie, Flic en Flac, Wolmar, Le Morne Village, and Petit Verger.	(i) <u>Trou aux Biches</u> The EIA conditions were issued on 20 June 2025. Finalisation of the bidding documents is expected by the end of July 2025. Tenders will be floated between November 2025 to January 2026. Bid evaluation will take place from February to March 2026, and the award of contract for the works is expected in April 2026. Construction works are anticipated to start in April 2026, with completion targeted for June 2027. (ii) <u>Grand Baie</u> Works started in March 2025 and are expected to be completed by November 2025. The Defect Liability Period will then run for one year, ending in November 2026. (iii) <u>Belle Mare</u> The Inception Report was submitted on 20 November 2024, and the Preliminary

Budget Paragraph	Budget Measure	Status as at 30 June 2025
		Design Report (PDR) has submitted on 23 April 2025. The Detailed Design Report (DDR) is expected to be submitted within three months after the approval of the PDR. (iv) <u>Albion</u> The EIA application is under process. The final bidding document is expected to be completed by July 2025. Tenders will be floated between November 2025 to January 2026 and bid evaluation scheduled between February to March 2026. The contract for the works is expected to be awarded in April 2026, with construction works commencing in the same month and completion targeted for June 2027.

5.2 STATUS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF KEY ACTIONS

Table 11 below depicts the status of the Key Actions and the Key Performance Indicators pertaining to the Ministry which were included in the Budget 2024-2025.

Table 11: Status on Implementation of Key Performance Indicators 2024-2025

Delivery Unit	Main Service	Key Performance Indicator	Target 2024/2025	Actual Target as at 30 June 2025	Remarks
Integrated Coastal Zone Management Division	Rehabilitation of eroded sites eroded beaches	Number of sites rehabilitated	2	0	(i) <u>Bois des Amourettes</u> 93% of works have been completed as at date. The contract of Contractor JV Sotravic/EAP has been terminated on 18 April 2025 due to continuous delay in the completion of the project and non-submission of Environmental Monitoring Reports. Arrangement is being made for completion of outstanding works either in-house or by a contractor.
					(ii) <u>Grand Baie</u> Contract was awarded to Prakash Foolchund Contractor Ltd in October 2024 30 % of works completed as at date. Delays in finalisation of bidding documents and drain works envisaged by NDU on the same site.

Delivery Unit	Main Service	Key Performance Indicator	Target 2024/2025	Actual Target as at 30 June 2025	Remarks
Plastic Management Division	Coordinate actions for plastic management and enforcement of Regulations	Recycling rate of post-consumer PET bottles	45%	30.3%	The target of 45% was based on (i) approximately 151 million PET bottles produced from period Jul 23 to June 24; (ii) 169 million PET bottles produced from period Jul 2024 to June 2025; (iii) Collection for recycling (which remained at around 1550 tonnes for both above mentioned periods); and (iv) The EPR regulations coupled with a deposit refund scheme to boost the rate of PET recycling, which is being worked out by the Solid Waste Management Division.
Living Environment Unit	Greening and Embellishment of Public Sites and Places of Worship	Number of sites embellished	120	168	140%

Note:

- A.** Export of scrap PET bottles for period July 2024- June 2025 (Kg): **1,550,025**
- B.** Quantity of PET bottles on which excise duty have been collected from local manufacturers for period July 2024- June 2025 (Kg): **5,122,974.52**

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Recycling rate} &= \frac{A}{B} \times 100 \\
 &= \frac{1,550,025}{5,122,974.52} \times 100 = 30.3\%
 \end{aligned}$$

5.3 RISK MANAGEMENT, CITIZEN ORIENTED INITIATIVES AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

5.3.1 Internal Control

An Internal Control Unit comprising three officers of the Internal Control Cadre operates on a full-time basis at the Ministry. The objective is to ensure compliance to rules, procedures, regulations and ethical standards at all levels of decision-making and activities. The Manager, Internal Control is expected to review the control systems and submit recommendations accordingly to assist management in accomplishing its objectives.

5.3.2 Service Delivery

The Ministry has a dedicated Registration Desk under the aegis of the Plastic Management Division. Located on the ground floor, the Registration Desk is accessible, and provides guidance, support and administrative assistance to:

- a. manufacturers/importers of exempt plastic bags and biodegradable and compostable plastic bags, as per the requirements of the Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020; and
- b. manufacturers/ importers of biodegradable single use products (e.g. cellulose/polylactic acid cups, plates, bowls and cutlery) under the Environment (Control of Single Use Plastic Products) Regulations 2020.

The Registration desk:

- does a screening of all applications for certificate of registration and clearances with respect to the Environment (Control of Single Use Plastic Products) Regulations 2020 and the Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020;
- prepares draft letter of approvals and certificates;
- provides guidance to manufacturers and importers on the modus operandi for the various modes of applications including all relevant/missing documents to be submitted;
- receives all applications for registration/clearances/authorisation, including queries and requests for verification of consignments at port and airport;
- issues certificate of registration, clearance letter and authorisation letter to importers and manufacturers, as per the requirements of the above mentioned Regulations; and
- provides monthly statistics on number of applications for registrations and clearances received and issued and prepares quarterly statistics on items seized at port/airport

5.3.3 Safeguard of Assets and Data

Assets are checked twice a year through inventory verification. Assets are registered in Government Asset Register

Furthermore, other registers, such as Plant, Maintenance, Battery and Tyre Registers, are maintained to keep track of assets and records of vehicles purchased, repairs effected and tyre renewal.

5.4 IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMENTS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT

5.4.1 Audit Committee

The Audit Committee plays a vital role within the governance framework of the Ministry by offering advice on the implementation and promotion of sound governance practices. In particular, the objectives of the Audit Committee are, *inter alia*, to:

- assist the Accounting Officer in maintaining sound control systems and in promoting good governance;
- oversee compliance with financial, administrative and procurement regulations;
- ensure that the criticisms and weaknesses levelled against Ministries and Departments by the Director of Audit, the Public Accounts Committee and the Internal Control Unit are reduced progressively; and
- assess the risk management system in Ministries/ Departments and identify procedures that would avoid or mitigate the impact of those risks.

During the Financial Year 2024-2025, the Audit Committee met on six occasions and considered the following aspects:

- (i) reviewing and recommending the draft Annual Internal Audit Plan for the Financial Year 2024-2025 while taking into consideration that risk areas identified by the Committee had been integrated as auditable areas in the Plan;
- (ii) observations and recommendations made in reports of the National Audit Office for the Financial Year 2023-2024 as well as for previous financial years;
- (iii) the implementation of recommendations contained in Corruption Risk Assessments (CRAs);
- (iv) the recommendations contained in reports submitted by the Internal Control Unit; and
- (v) the recommendations made in the report of the Office of Public Sector Governance in 2021.

5.4.2 Reports of the Director of Audit

The Report of the Director of Audit for the Financial Year 2023-2024 has highlighted that a follow-up of matters raised in the Audit Report for the Financial Year 2022-2023 has been carried out and the remedial actions are depicted at Table 12.

Table 12: Follow-up on matters raised in the Audit Report 2022-23

SN	OBSERVATIONS	REMEDIAL ACTIONS/STATUS
1	Coastal protection Projects – Lapses in Planning and Execution of Works	With a view to ensure timely execution of works, necessary action was taken to establish adequate planning and close monitoring for compilation of all relevant information required from stakeholders prior to the preparation of tender documents for coastal protection, landscaping and infrastructural works.
2	Cleaning and Embellishment Works at Places of Worship and Other Public Sites – Lapses in Execution of Projects	Guidelines for the implementation of cleaning and embellishment projects undertaken by the Ministry have been developed. In addition, the Ministry of Information and Technology has been requested to design a digital system which shall facilitate the effective management of projects and allocation of resources. Moreover, with a view to ensure effective contract management, prompt remedial actions are being taken as deviations from milestones occur. The Project Management Unit of the LEU ensures that all issues relating to contract management are reported to the Departmental Bid Committee and performance reports submitted to the Performance Review Committee in line with PPO Directives. Furthermore, with a view to strengthen organisational capacity and establish proper control within the inspectorate cadre, request for additional posts of inspectors has been made during the budgetary exercise for Financial Year 2025-26. In view that the proposal has not been retained, reporting from inspections is being undertaken through site inspection forms. The LEU remains committed to pursue action with regard to the recruitment exercise to ensure effective monitoring of works for prompt service and project delivery.

SN	OBSERVATIONS	REMEDIAL ACTIONS/STATUS
3	Greening and Embellishment of M1 and M2 Motorways – Lapses in Implementation of Projects	The project has been completed and handed over to the National Environment Cleaning Authority (NECA). The NECA henceforth ensures the cleaning and maintenance of the motorways M1 and M2 in accordance with the Master Plan.
4	National Roadmap for Making Mauritius Plastic-free - Delay in Development	The contract was awarded to the University of Mauritius in September 2024 for charting out the National Roadmap for making Mauritius plastic-free.
5	Review of Key Performance Indicators in Strategic Overview 2022-2023 - Reducing Greenhouse gas emissions in Mauritius – Aim not achieved - Key Performance Indicators – Unachieved Targets in respect of: (a) "Number of beach sites rehabilitated"; and (b) the "Recycling rate of post-consumer Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) bottles".	The main contributor for GHG emissions, the energy (electricity sector) has pushed the renewable energy target of 60 % to 2035. The Ministry is henceforth responsible for the coordination of mitigation measures rather than the implementation of the measures for reporting and tracking purposes in view that the KPI to reduce gas emission by 40 per cent is no longer under the responsibility of the Ministry. (a) To address the impact of climate change along our coastline and enhance resilience, 16 km of eroded coastline were rehabilitated from Bambous Virieux to Anse Jonchee while works were on-going over some 450m of coastline at Bois des Amourettes. Delays have been encountered for the completion of works at Bois des Amourettes due to the poor performance of the Contractor during the financial year. Works have been completed at 90 per cent. Following termination of the contract, the Ministry will consider implementation of the outstanding works through a separate contract in the next financial year. (b) The Regulations with regard to post-consumer PET bottles are under the purview of the Solid Waste Management Division
6	Government Asset Register not updated	The Valuation Department has carried out assessments of the seven buildings for a total estimated value of Rs 87 Million. Action has been taken to update the Government Asset Register accordingly.

5.4.3 Reports from Internal Control Unit

The Audit Committee monitored the implementation of recommendations contained in the Internal Control Unit Reports and remedial actions have been taken as hereunder: -

(i) Warehouse Management at Ebene Store

With a view to enhance control of procurement activities and management of the store, staff capacity has been reinforced.

(ii) Department Surveys

In line with provisions of the FM Kit Vol.1, the Cash Survey was undertaken in October 2024 by an independent team and a report thereon has been transmitted to the Director, Financial Operations in November 2024. The cash survey will be carried out on an annual basis with a reconstituted team.

(iii) Inadequate Physical Control over Assets

To ensure compliance with the Financial Management Manual (FMM), appropriate actions have been initiated to establish a proper cash office for the public with a view to restrict access to authorised persons.



PART III

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



CHAPTER SIX

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



6 CHAPTER SIX – FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



The Recurrent and Capital Budget of the Ministry amounts to Rs475,000,000 for Financial Year 2024/2025 and Vote 11-1 has three Expenditure Subheads as follows:

- 11-101: General;
- 11-102: Environmental Protection, Conservation and Monitoring; and
- 11-103: Climate Change Resilience, Greening and Embellishment.

In addition to the 2024/2025 Budget, several environment-related projects are financed by the National Environment Fund (NEF) and the Climate and Sustainability Fund (CSF). The Funds cover projects, programmes and schemes relating among others, to:

- Cleaning and Embellishment works;
- Rehabilitation, protection and management of beaches, lagoons and coral reefs;
- Flood management and cleaning, rehabilitation and upgrading of drains, rivers; and
- Sustainable economy;
- Circular Economy; and
- Environment monitoring , awareness and culture.

6.1 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

6.1.1 VOTE 11-1: Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE by SUB-HEAD

Table 13: Summary of Expenditures

Details	2023/2024 Estimates Rs'000	2023/2024 Actual Rs'000	2024/2025 Estimates Rs'000	2024/2025 Actual Rs'000
VOTE 11-1 TOTAL EXPENDITURE	433,000	421,869	475,000	462,606
<i>of which</i>				
Recurrent	418,900	411,307	463,000	454,967
Capital	14,100	10,562	12,000	7,639
Sub-Head 11-101: GENERAL	92,800	93,722	106,700	107,767
Recurrent Expenditure	91,800	92,792	106,100	107,186
Capital Expenditure	1,000	930	600	581
Sub-Head 11-102: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, CONSERVATION AND MONITORING	108,500	112,938	114,600	119,939
Recurrent Expenditure	98,000	105,458	105,900	114,561
Capital Expenditure	10,500	7,480	8,700	5,378
Sub-Head 11-103: CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE, GREENING AND EMBELLISHMENT	231,700	215,209	253,700	234,900
Recurrent Expenditure	229,100	213,057	251,000	233,220
Capital Expenditure	2,600	2,152	2,700	1,680

Figure 33 below provides an illustration of expenditure incurred by the Ministry in Financial Year 2024-2025 under Vote 11-1.

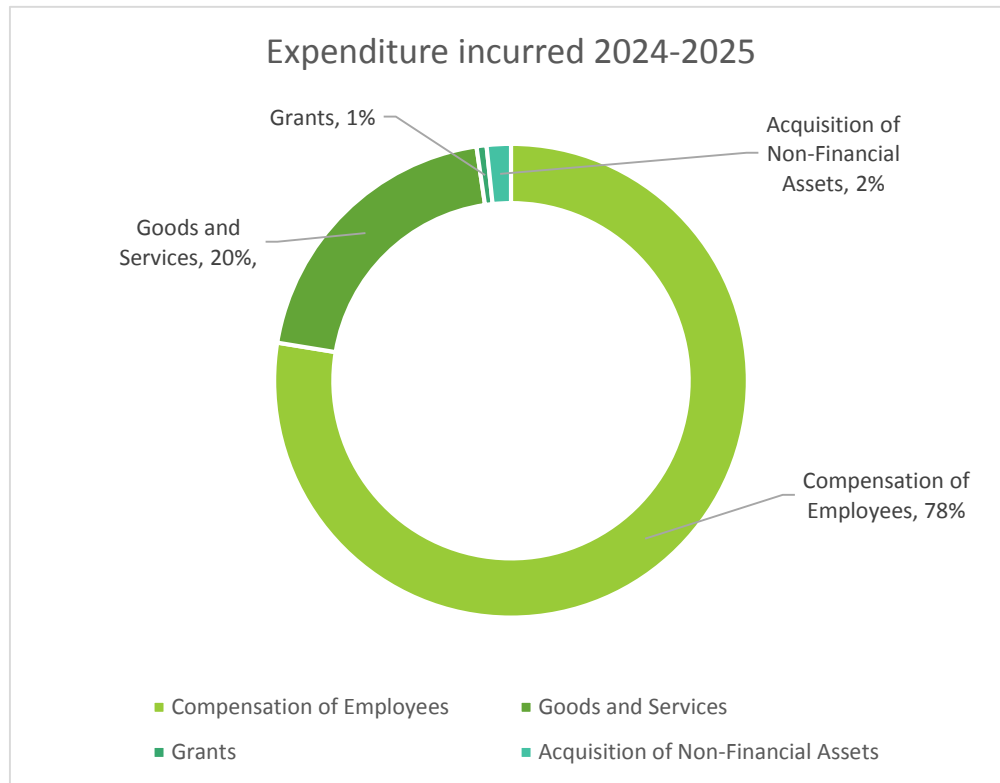


Figure 33: Expenditure incurred during Financial Year 2024-2025

6.2 STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURE

6.2.1 VOTE 11-1: Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change

Sub-Head 11-101: GENERAL

Table 14: Statement of Expenditure (General)

Economic Details		2023-2024	2024-2025	2024-2025
	Category	Actual Rs	Estimates Rs	Actual Rs
	Sub-Head 11-101:			
21	Compensation of Employees	65,080,143	77,100,000	77,898,461
22	Goods and Services	24,944,425	25,800,000	26,130,125
26	Grants	2,767,774	3,200,000	3,157,717
31	Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	930,000	600,000	580,587
	Total	93,722,342	106,700 ,000	107,766,890

Sub-Head 11-102: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, CONSERVATION AND MONITORING

Table 15: Statement of Expenditure (Environmental Protection, Conservation and Monitoring)

Economic Details		2023-2024	2024-2025	2024-2025
	Category	Actual Rs	Estimates Rs	Actual Rs
	Sub-Head 11-102:			
21	Compensation of Employees	77,880,582	82,700,000	81,728,123
22	Goods and Services	27,577,121	23,200,000	32,832,364
31	Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	7,480,112	8,700,000	5,378,381
	Total	112,937,814	114,600,000	119,938,868

Sub-Head 11-103: CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE, GREENING AND EMBELLISHMENT

Table 16: Statement of Expenditure (Climate Change Resilience, Greening and Embellishment)

Economic Details		2023-2024	2024-2025	2024-2025
Category		Actual Rs	Estimates Rs	Actual Rs
	Sub-Head 11-103:			
21	Compensation of Employees	184,536,642	199,800,000	199,228,815
22	Goods and Services	28,520,925	51,200,000	33,991,355
31	Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	2,151,595	2,700,000	1,680,512
	Total	215,209,162	253,700,000	234,900,682

Table 17: Summary of Projects funded under the NEF and CSF

PSIP Code	Description	Implementing Agency	2023/2024 Actual	2024/2025 Estimates	2024/2025 Actual
			(Rs) Million		
	Rehabilitation, Protection and Management of Beaches and Lagoons Programme		70.6	101.0	45.0
D0089	Coastal Rehabilitation-(AFB-Climate Change Adaptation Programme) Refuge Centre at Quatre Soeurs	M/Environment	--	1.0	0.6
D0167	Replacement of Casuarina Trees on Beaches	M/Environment	0.6	--	--
D0032	Rehabilitation of Beaches	M/Environment	70.0	93.0	42.4
D0033	Reprofiling of Beaches	M/Environment	--	5.0	--
D0271	Consultancy Services for the Evaluation of Coastal Works at Beach Resorts	M/Environment	--	2.0	2.0
	Clean-Up Mauritius and Programme	M/Environment	104.1	56.0	262.3
D0042	Cleaning and Embellishment of places of worship and other public sites	M/Environment	95.5	50.0	256.3
D0041	Improvement/Upgrading/Rehabilitation of Rivers	M/Environment	8.6	6.0	6.0
	Sustainable Economy		5.9	30.0	12.5
D0225	Greening of the Public Sector	M/Environment	0.8	1.0	0.2
D0098	Rain Water Harvesting	M/Environment	1.0	4.0	--
D0253	"Observatoire de L'Environnement"	M/Environment	0.3	9.0	--
D0270	Consultancy Services to Review Siting Criteria (Stone Crushing Plants, Crematorium, Crematorium Ground)	M/Environment	0.9	6.0	6.6
D0272	Procurement of Oil Spill Combat Equipment Including Capacity Building	M/Environment	--	10.0	5.7

PSIP Code	Description	Implementing Agency	2023/2024 Actual	2024/2025 Estimates	2024/2025 Actual
	Promotion of Circular Economy		--	1.0	0.1
D0324	Implementation of the Circular Economy Roadmap and Action Plan	M/Environment	--	1.0	0.1
	Environmental Monitoring and Sanitation Programme			29.0	8.3
D0289	Creating Sustainable Communities through Local Authorities	M/Environment	2.1	1.0	0.7
D0290	Training of Trainers to Promote Circular Jobs at Mauritius Prison Service	M/Environment	0.5	--	--
D0291	Climate Change outreach programme for youth and women	M/Environment	0.3	2.0	0.7
D0316	Development of Coastal Sensitivity Atlas, Tactical and Operational Maps for Mauritius and Rodrigues	M/Environment	--	5.0	1.9
D0308	Initiative for Climate Action Transparency	M/Environment	--	1.0	0.1
D025099	Surface and Ground Water Quality Monitoring	M/Environment	--	20.0	4.9
	Environmental Monitoring and Awareness Programme		215.3	23.3	12.8
D0224	Pesticide Residue Testing of Water Resources	M/Environment	31.0	--	--
D0249	Lagoon Water Quality Index for Mauritius – Consultancy Services	M/Environment	3.7	--	--
D0293	Laboratory Automated Discrete Analyzer, Auto-claves and Oven	M/Environment	4.5	1.0	0.1
D0258	Environment and Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (MV Wakashio)	M/Environment	152.2	--	--
D0259	Integrated Environmental Monitoring Programme Post-MV Wakashio Oil Spill	M/Environment	9.8	5.0	4.0
D0298	Assessment of Persistent Organic Pollutants level in ambient air	M/Environment	--	1.0	0.5

PSIP Code	Description	Implementing Agency	2023/2024 Actual	2024/2025 Estimates	2024/2025 Actual
D0307	Feasibility Study for the review of existing noise standards	M/Environment	--	1.0	--
D0311	Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) maps	M/Environment	--	1.3	0.2
D0296	National Environmental Awards	M/Environment	2.9	2.0	0.1
D0251	Sensitisation and Awareness Raising Programmes	M/Environment	7.3	6.0	3.3
D0252	Implementation of The Action Plan on <i>"La Culture Environmentale"</i>	M/Environment	3.0	1.0	--
D0254	Consultancy Services to develop a Roadmap for a Plastic Free Mauritius	M/Environment	--	2.0	3.5
D0255	Research and Development for Control of Plastic Pollution	M/Environment	0.9	--	--
D0257	Capacity Building on Strategic Environmental Assessment	M/Environment	--	1.0	0.9
D0273	Development of a Web GIS for Environment Planning	M/Environment	--	2.0	0.2
	TOTAL		395.9	240.3	341.0



PART IV

WAY FORWARD

CHAPTER SEVEN

WAY FORWARD



7 CHAPTER SEVEN – WAY FORWARD

7.1 STRATEGIC DIRECTION

- (i) Support the transition to an enhanced climate resilient and low-emission economy;
- (ii) Strengthen and harmonise the legislative and regulatory framework to ensure comprehensive protection, conservation and sustainable management of all environmental media, supported by effective enforcement, stakeholder participation and adaptive governance;
- (iii) Increase the resilience of the coastal zone to natural hazards and anthropogenic impacts to preserve biodiversity and sustainability of livelihoods;
- (iv) Ensure an integrated approach for the cleaning and embellishment of public sites;
- (v) Combat plastic pollution;
- (vi) Enhance oil spill preparedness and management;
- (vii) Accelerate the transition to a greener, sustainable and circular economy;
- (viii) Upgrade the physical environment to achieve a “Cleaner, Greener and Safer Mauritius”; and
- (ix) To promote environmental awareness and culture in order to foster a shift in citizens' behaviour that prioritises sustainability.



With a view to achieving our engagement, the Ministry will:

- enhance the climate change adaptation and mitigation policies;
- domesticate international environmental commitments and harmonise the implementation of MEAs;
- Review the Environment Act 2024, promulgate new Acts on Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Circular Economy; harmonise existing laws and address regulatory gaps across different environmental media;
- formulate policies, strategies and action plan for plastic management towards a plastic-free Mauritius;
- enhance pollution control and enforcement as well as improve monitoring of prevailing air and water quality at different regions and to generate an environmental performance index;
- Conduct International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Level Zero and Level One training to first responders and the civil society;
- reinvigorate environmental stewardship at all levels;

- reduce vehicular emissions and move towards a more sustainable land transport sector;
- devise and implement appropriate legal and policy framework regarding environment related issues;
- incorporate sustainable consumption and production through greening of the economy and circular economy practices in key sectors at national level;
- pursue coastal protection, landscaping and infrastructural works, including nature-based solutions to increase the resilience of our beaches and preserve the natural assets of Mauritius;
- re-engineer its processes to generate improvements in critical measures in quest for excellence; and
- promote environmental culture through public awareness, information dissemination, education, and community engagement, to foster a societal shift toward sustainable consumption, and lifestyle.

7.2 SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

S.W.O.T Analysis

STRENGTHS

- A structure and multi-disciplinary staff that support the vision and mission of the Ministry.
- Professionalism displayed by the staff.
- Training being imparted to staff.
- Adoption of e-services and digitalisation.
- Adherence to recommendations of Multilateral Environment Agreements.
- Fruitful collaboration with diverse stakeholders.
- Responsive Service Delivery.

WEAKNESSES

- Limited budget: lack of sustainability in securing funds.
- Insufficient concertation leading to unsynchronised actions.
- Inadequate logistics (IT equipment and other facilities/office space).
- Monitoring of water and air quality requires improvement.
- Skills Gap in certain specialised areas.
- Human Resource Constraints.
- Legislative Gaps.



OPPORTUNITIES

- Funding from international donor agencies for the implementation of projects.
- Recruitment of staff.
- Training available at national and international level.
- Rethinking and reinvigorating environmental stewardship policies and strategies.
- Modern legislative framework and formulation of new regulations.
- International commitment to address climate change and environmental issues.
- Use of modern and innovative approaches and technologies.

THREATS

- Complex environmental challenges requiring multidisciplinary solutions.
- Economic recession and rising inflation.
- Limited access to capacity, technology financial resources.
- Challenges related to climate change.
- Lack of adequate legislative and/or regulatory framework.
- Inadequate information sharing between institutions.
- Limited creation of new posts resulting in a lack of adequate human resources.
- International consensus to end plastic pollution not yet reached.
- Complex Environmental Challenges: Escalating complexity of complaints requires systemic, multidisciplinary solutions.
- Coordination with relevant stakeholders is challenging.



**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE**

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