

National Coastal Adaptation Strategy for the Republic of Mauritius (including Rodrigues)

Name of legal entity	Country	Overall project value (EUR)	Proportion carried out by candidate (%)	No of staff provided	Name of client	Origin of funding	Dates (start/end)	Name of partners if any
Sustainable Seas Ltd	Mauritius	29,000	100%	1	The Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Disaster and Beach Management	Adaptation Fund (UNDP)	Oct 2016 to Jan 2017	N/A

Detailed description of project

The coastal zones of Mauritius are also critically important to the economy in terms of domestic and international tourism, as well as fisheries. Mauritian communities at risk of flooding from storm surges and erosion of the shoreline (those living on the coast), such as Riviere des Galets and Quatre Soeurs, are the primary beneficiaries of the project, but with a multiplier value of many fold. It is indeed important to note that the coastal areas are home to about 30% of the RoM population. The beaches, from the high water mark down to the sea and into the lagoons, are public property. There has been a serious problem in the past with private entities, including hotel operators, undertaking their own civil works (often inappropriate for the intended function) on and near the beaches, which have in fact accelerated beach erosion in adjacent areas. The project is aiming to stop these ad hoc approaches by demonstrating the most technically appropriate measures for coastal protection, mostly addressing beach erosion. The objective of the UNDP/GEF project is to prepare a National Coastal Zone Adaptation Strategy (NCAS). Its purpose will be to address all perceived climate change risks and to mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services into coastal zone management (CZM), into the operations and policies of the tourism and physical development sectors in the Republic of Mauritius, through a ‘land- and seascape wide’ integrated management approach based on the Environmental Sensitive Areas’ (ESAs) inventory and assessment. The project aims at setting out a clear strategic coastal adaptation strategy that defines policy on island development plus how to conserve and sustainably manage land across six multi-use coastal and marine landscapes in the Republic of Mauritius (five in Mauritius Main Island and one in Rodrigues), by promotion and enforcement of resilience measures.

Type of services provided

SSL were employed to Team Lead the project and to help produce the final outputs as follows:

1. literature review;
2. assess the information and data needed for the assignment, and define the information gaps as well as the ways to fill them;
3. define vulnerability for the purpose of this project, and determine the most appropriate vulnerability index, depending on data availability;
4. interview key stakeholders and collect additional data;
5. start organizing and analyzing the data available to get a better and more empirical sense of vulnerabilities of different kinds (physical, economic, social, institutional, etc.);
6. assess the vulnerabilities of the coastal zone of Mauritius and Rodrigues;
7. design the adequate strategies to respond to these vulnerabilities.
8. hold workshops to vet the strategies and obtain stakeholder feedback;
9. Adjust the draft strategies if required;
10. Finalise report writing and map production.