



GOAL 11: MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

From the protection of site of historical value to the creation of sustainable living spaces for the present and future generations, the Government of Mauritius has implemented a series of measures that are fully in line with Goal 11.

A significant challenge, for the country, has been the provision of a decent housing to each one of its citizens so as to ensure that no one is left behind.

BRIGHT SPOTS

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

According to the 2011 Housing and Population Census, there were 356,900 housing units in Mauritius. This represented an increase of 20 % over a 10-year period. Home ownership was estimated at 89 %.

Social Housing Schemes

The National Housing Development Co. Ltd (NHDC) created in 1991, to provide affordable housing solutions to the socially and economically disadvantaged Mauritians has up to date, completed 12,000 houses.

Since 2015, Mixed housing development schemes has been created to favour the integration of people who are socially and economically disadvantaged. The housing schemes are fully serviced with road infrastructure and utility supplies as well as play and open spaces.

Under the new schemes, approximately 1,900 houses have been built and the Government plans to build some 9,800 over the next three years. In addition to the houses being built, some 200 modular type housing units will be put in place over the next 3 years for beneficiaries under the Social Register of Mauritius.

Caring for the Elderly

Three recreation centres have been set up along coastal areas to host residential holiday camps for senior citizens as well as persons with disabilities. Those centres provide accommodation in double bedrooms, food and beverages, indoor entertainment, swimming pool activities, outdoor tours in coach and targeted empowerment talk sessions. The aim is to ensure a comfortable, safe, recreational and hospitable retreat to our elderly people and disabled residents and thus giving them opportunities to cut off from their daily routine life.

As part of the overall Government vision, a number of state lands along the coastal areas have been identified for the building of additional recreation centres, day care and parks for the elderly.



PARTNERING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

In addition, to allow the private sector to take the lead in building sustainable societies, Government introduced two schemes in 2015: the *Smart City Scheme* and *Property Development Scheme*.

The *Smart City Scheme*, revolves around the *work-life-play* concept and offers a plethora of opportunities to share the vision of creating intelligent, innovative and sustainable cities of tomorrow. The *Property Development Scheme* allows the development of a mix of residences for sale to non-citizens, citizens and members of the Mauritian Diaspora.

To-date there are 5 Smart City Certificate holders and 6 others who have obtained a *Letter of Intent* from the authorities. It is expected that such schemes will boost a holistic approach to planning and *leave no one behind*.

SAFEGUARDING OUR HERITAGE

Mauritius is home to two UNESCO World Heritage Sites – Le Morne Cultural Landscape and AapravasiGhat, inscribed in 2008 and 2006 respectively.

Uniciti Project by Medine Group

The *Economic Development Board* (EDB), previously known as the *Board of Investment*, won the *United Nations Awards for Promoting Investment in Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) in 2017.

The award aims to recognize and disseminate best practices in promoting and facilitating Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the SDGs.

Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs), IPA associations, and Outward Investment Agencies (OIAs) were invited to submit their entry projects for the awards which meet the following criteria:

1. The FDI project should be in one of the key SDG areas.
2. The agency or association played an instrumental role in the realization of the FDI project.
3. The project was initiated in the period 2015 – 2017.

The EDB portrayed the Uniciti project by Medine Group. Uniciti (Medine Smart city) is a private mixed-use smart city project over an extent of 823 acres of land on the West Coast of the island. The development comprises (i) an education cluster consisting a university campus, private pre-primary, primary and secondary schools, student housing facilities, (ii) business parks, (iii) a regional hospital, (iv) a bus terminal, (v) a courthouse, (vi) a sports complex, (vii) a shopping mall, (viii) residential units including affordable housing, (ix) a solar farm, (x) an art centre, (xi) a green park and (xii) infrastructure inclusive of cycling and pedestrian tracks and roads.

The Education Hub is at the heart of Uniciti, which aims at creating a community where the population will benefit from quality education and unique lifestyle. Innovation, sustainability and education are the key drivers of the project. The full-fledged integrated university campus comprises several reputed international institutions, bringing quality education for Mauritians, Africans and global students.

Large scale mixed-use projects are complex in nature and require clearances, permits and licenses from various regulatory bodies. The EDB has been instrumental in coordinating and facilitating all the licensing requirements of the promoter by setting up technical committees to deal with the complexity and the diversity of the different components of the smart city project.

The project has successfully satisfied the selection criteria for the award that included the promotion of projects that are sustainable, eco-friendly, innovative and create local linkages among others.

Source: Economic Development Board, Mauritius

The Aapravasi Ghat is a 1,640 m² site, located in the centre of the Capital City, Port Louis, and where the modern indentured labour diaspora began. In 1834, the British Government selected the island of Mauritius to be the first site for what it called ‘the great experiment’ in the use of ‘free’ labour to replace slaves.

Between 1834 and 1920, almost half a million indentured labourers arrived from India at Aapravasi Ghat to work in the sugar plantations of Mauritius, or to be transferred to Reunion Island, Australia, southern and eastern Africa or the Caribbean. The buildings of Aapravasi Ghat are among the earliest explicit manifestations of what was to become a global economic system and one of the greatest migrations in history.



Since its inscription on the World Heritage List in 2006, a series of measures have been taken to protect and safeguard the site, which include *inter alia*; (i) The adoption of a Planning Policy Guidance to regulate development in the buffer zone of the; (ii) The adoption of a Development Plan for the buffer zone define objectives in favour of heritage rehabilitation and inclusion of heritage in development strategies; and (iii) The inclusion of heritage as part of the development strategies defined in the Outline Planning Scheme for Port Louis.

Le Morne Cultural Landscape, a rugged mountain, was used as a shelter by runaway slaves, maroons, through the 18th and early years of the 19th centuries. The oral traditions associated with the maroons, have made Le Morne a symbol of the slaves’ fight for freedom, their suffering, and their sacrifice, all of which have relevance to the countries from which the slaves came - the African mainland, Madagascar, India, and South-east Asia.

The *Le Morne Cultural Landscape Management Plan* has been established since 2008 to safeguard native/indigenous forests has been well established. The aim of this program is to re-establish the original state of our indigenous forests by removing invasive alien species through yearly weeding programs and to maintain that status until the restored forests self-regenerate and future interventions are not required.

National Heritage

189 sites, including 6 in Rodrigues, are on the list of national heritage of Mauritius and are managed by the National Heritage Fund.

Additionally, two reforestation projects covering a total of 3.5 hectares have been recently implemented. The work are being contracted out to the potential bidders of the Black River Region with a clause that workers of Le Morne village and surroundings are primarily employed. Future aim is to directly employ villagers to do the work on a contractual basis to alleviate poverty.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

It is estimated that Mauritius generates about 1,200 tonnes of waste daily. In 2017 alone, an estimated 482,000 tonnes of waste were disposed of in the sole landfill on the island.

Around Rs1 billion is spent annually on waste management, including waste collection around the island, operation and maintenance of transfer stations and transportation of wastes to landfill, and, operation and maintenance of the landfill site. The Local Authorities altogether spend around Rs500 million annually on waste collection services. Refuse collection services are provided by local authorities to urban areas and rural regions alike.

A compost plant with a capacity of 300 tonnes of waste daily has been set up by a private promoter, is also operational.

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre (NDRRMC) acts as the main institution for the State of Mauritius for the planning, organizing, coordinating and monitoring of disaster risk reduction and management activities at all levels. The NDRRMC coordinates with all stakeholders to ensure that risk reduction and preparedness planning is included at all levels of the country, from individuals and communities, to Government policy and strategy.

FUTURE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

CHALLENGES	WAY FORWARD
Enhancing the protection of our heritage Creating a thriving sustainable economic sector around the world heritage sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Master Plan for Port Louis currently under preparation in line with the Ngorongoro Declaration on Safeguarding African World Heritage as a Driver of Sustainable Development, adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2016 and the Policy Document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention (2015).• A Local Economic Development (LED) Plan is being prepared based on the UNESCO Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) recommendation and on the ICOMOS Paris Declaration (heritage as a driver of development, 2011).
The sole landfill on the island of Mauritius, is expected to reach saturation in 2018/2019. There is a need to ensure a sustainable Solid Waste Management system for the years to come.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Budget 2018/19, Government announced the expansion of <i>Solid Waste Management</i> facilities. Through vertical expansion, landfill capacity of Mare Chicose will be increased by at least 5 years. In parallel, additional land is being identified for waste disposal.• In addition, a comprehensive <i>Waste Recycling Framework</i> is being developed as well as a <i>waste-to-energy project</i> that will

	<p>generate at least 20 MW of electricity is to be set up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial training has been provided, companies are already engaged in energy efficiency management. The aim is to continue to accompany companies already in energy efficiency management and increase local expertise, while improving international networking. The programme is to be extended to other companies, in particular SMEs. In addition, efforts in establishing a <i>Système de Management de l'énergie</i> (SME) with ISO 50001 is envisaged.
<p>Limited availability of state lands for social housing, increased pressure for development, coupled with climate change issues give rise to the urgent need for a rethinking of the national planning process. There is a need to uphold good governance in the management of State lands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Land Register is being set up to provide a modern and updated land information system. It is expected that such a system would reduce turnaround time for delivery of services, thus increasing efficiency and productivity. • <i>National Planning and Development Commission</i> is being set up to improve the legislative and land use development framework is also in the pipeline.