

# UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



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## Country and intercountry programmes and projects

### COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR MAURITIUS

#### UNDP assistance requested by the Government of Mauritius for the period 1982-1986

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See document DP/526 which will be issued in June 1981.

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## INTRODUCTION

1. This country programme document, concerning the third cycle of UNDP assistance to Mauritius (1982-1986) was elaborated following a series of meetings between the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development and the UNDP office in Port Louis. In the preparation of the document, due consideration was given to advice and suggestions offered by United Nations Agency sectoral missions or through written proposals received from the Agencies' headquarters.
2. Preparing for the Interim Development Plan 1980-1982 gave the Government an opportunity to make a comprehensive review and identification of all technical assistance requirements, in the light of the development objectives. Although no formal plan was designed to cover the entire field of technical co-operation, bilateral and multilateral, the resources made available from UNDP have been allocated so as to have the maximum impact on the country's development, taking into account, to the greatest possible extent, the criteria established by the UNDP Governing Council.

### Country programming methodology

3. The programming exercise took place over a sixteen-month period that started with preliminary consultations between the Government and the Resident Representative of UNDP in March 1980. An assessment of the on-going (second) country programme for 1976-1980 was subsequently undertaken and the results thereof, as well as the recommendations arising from it, included in the Resident Representative's Note of 15 April 1980, constitute the basis for the present country programme. Sectoral missions were then requested by the Government from key agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to advise substantive Government Ministries on possible development themes and projects which could benefit from UNDP assistance. These and other proposals identified independently by the Ministries themselves were later submitted for consideration and screening by the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, which then decided on a final list of requirements for discussion with the Resident Representative.
4. Initial drafting of the programme document took place in early August 1980. This process was undertaken concurrently with detailed consultations with the Government on programme content, attended by a UNDP Headquarters staff member in addition to a consultant of the United Nations Department of Technical Cooperation for Development.

### I. DURATION, TIME FRAME AND ANTICIPATED RESOURCES

5. The present country programme covers the five years 1982-1986 of the third UNDP development cycle. Under normal circumstances, this duration would have largely coincided with the third Five Year Development Plan 1980-1985 which should have followed the first two Plans, 1970-1975 and 1975-1980. In view of the economic situation prevailing in the wake of the devaluation of the Rupee in October 1979, the Government has turned to a Two Year Interim Plan for the period 1980-1982 aiming at bringing back the economy to equilibrium.
6. The difference in the time frames of the UNDP cycle and of the National Development Plan does not, however, entail insurmountable difficulties as far as the

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content and scope of the programme is concerned. There has been, since Independence, a great continuity in the development objectives pursued by the country (namely, full employment and diversification). These long-term objectives continue to be the goals of all intermediate planning and the needs for technical cooperation for the years to come can be relatively easily identified as from now, provided that some flexibility is maintained in the exercise.

#### Programming of anticipated resources

7. Pending the establishment of a final IPF, to be known by January 1981, the present document is based on an illustrative IPF of \$ 7 million, subject to revision. With the provision for a reserve of 20 per cent to cover any downward adjustment, the actual amount to be programmed comes to \$ 5.6 million, subject to adjustments occasioned by over or under expenditures under the 1977-1981 IPF.

8. Mauritius has received and will continue to receive aid from many sources, bilateral as well as multilateral. (See Annex V: "Estimated external assistance resources for the programming period".)

## II. DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVE

### Review of past economic performance

9. The economic performance of Mauritius during the 1970s has been quite impressive in spite of the emergence towards the end of the decade of structural imbalances which, amid an unfavourable international context, led to the devaluation of the Mauritian Rupee in October 1979. After the largely successful implementation of two Five Year Development Plans, 1970-1975 and 1975-1980, the Interim Plan 1980-1982 intends to integrate corrective measures to bring the economy back to equilibrium with the long term development efforts towards employment creation, promotion of economic diversification and reduction of external dependence.

10. Since 1970, employment creation has been the main objective of development planning. Up to 1978, some 65,000 new jobs were created, leaving a backlog of about 20,000 job seekers, out of a labour force estimated at 301,000 persons in 1978. Full employment (admitting fictional unemployment of some 4 to 5 per cent remains the long term objective; but, given the circumstances, the Interim Plan expects the economy to be able to absorb the 10,000 new job seekers who show up every year and to prevent any further deterioration of the situation. Employment is expected to grow at a rate of 2.4 per cent per annum up to 1982 and unemployment be kept at under 10 per cent of the labour force.

11. Over the period 1970-1979 the gross national product grew at an average rate of about 7.5 per cent per annum, from 1970=191 (estimate). Growth, however, experienced a slowdown as from 1976 remaining, after that year, well below the 1971-1975 level. Economic relations with the rest of the world deteriorated significantly, with large deficits in the balance of payments that led eventually to the devaluation of the Rupee. Taking into account the changes occurring in the international environment and the impact of a world-wide recession, Mauritius enters a phase of structural adjustments and of slower rate of growth. GNP, at constant 1979 pre-devaluation prices will rise by an average of 5 per cent in the early 1980's, meaning a 3 per cent increase per annum of GNP per capita.

12. While placing emphasis on improving the balance of payments, restricting public and private consumption expenditure and reducing the Government's budget deficit, the Interim Plan will also pursue the policy of economic diversification which proved successful during the 1970s. Increases are planned in sugar, tea, foodcrop and live-stock production, but at a relatively modest rate of growth and without creating many new job opportunities. The manufacturing sector and, particularly, the Export Processing Zone are expected to regain some of the momentum of the early 1970s, thanks to measures to be taken to enhance their competitiveness. The industrial sector will be mainly responsible for employment creation: it should also receive a large share of new investment, either from domestic or from external sources. The service sector will also contribute substantially to GNP growth, and earnings from the tourist industry are expected to continue to rise as the result of promotional campaigns.

13. As an open economy and with limited natural resources, Mauritius is largely dependent on the rest of the world. The Interim Plan attempts to reduce external dependence: especially for food, by encouraging local foodcrop production; manufactured goods, by providing appropriate incentives to small-scale industries and import substitution; energy, by tapping more systematically all national resources; and investment, by developing domestic savings and fixed capital formation. Admittedly the limited size of the national market puts serious limitations to such a policy, making a good case for fostering regional co-operation.

14. With an estimated GNP per capita of 6300 Rupees in 1979, roughly equivalent to \$ 800\*, Mauritius belongs in the group of middle income developing countries. Some segments of the population, however, still live under unsatisfactory conditions as far as housing, health and social services are concerned. The outer island of Rodrigues and several parts of Mauritius itself lack basic economic and social infrastructure.

15. On the way to development, the country has to face a number of challenges:

- The educational system is still far from being responsive to development needs and training is not yet adequate to meet the requirements of the policy of diversification of the economy.

- Export promotion is an absolute must if the objective of full employment is to be attained. Appropriate schemes and institutions, co-ordinating and enhancing the administration's and the private sector's efforts have to be set up.

- Monitoring the development of the country requires more modern management methods on the part of the administration, and in many technical departments trained staff is not yet available in sufficient numbers.

16. Mauritius enjoys the support of many bilateral and multilateral sources of external aid. Such support remains a necessity in the years to come. During the Interim Plan, investment of Rs. 7,425 million should be provided to attain the objectives set by the Government, but the mobilization of domestic resources will supply only Rs. 5,365 million. The balance of Rs. 2,060 million should be met from exter-

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\*Official UNDP rate of exchange July 1980: US\$ 1.00 = Rupees 7.60

nal sources in the form of private investment and in official development assistance, especially for the public sector. In spite of the relatively high level in development of its human resources, Mauritius still needs technical co-operation which in some areas is called upon to play a significant part in the development process.

### III. DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES AND UNDP ASSISTANCE

#### A. General development issues, policy and planning

17. The development of Mauritius along the strategy defined by the Government is monitored by a system of indicative planning. The private sector traditionally plays a dynamic role in the country's economy; however, the public sector is instrumental in carrying out many large investment projects and in providing the basic framework and facilities for development. A good administrative tool has always been considered by the Government as a pre-requisite, even more so at a time when the great uncertainties besetting the world economy make planning both more difficult and more necessary than ever. Mauritius disposes of a relatively large number of young, suitable trained staff to prepare the decisions of the Government in terms of development strategy and implementation. For specific fields however, more individuals should be trained, locally or abroad, and some external expertise may be temporarily needed. The overall management techniques of the public sector should also be improved to bring them more closely in line with development needs.

#### On-going project:

##### Strengthening of Economic Planning Unit (MAR/79/006)

18. The Ministry of Economic Planning and Development has received during the 1977-1981 country programme UNDP assistance in the form of a few fellowships, the strengthening of its library, short term consultants to help in running refresher training courses for its staff and an expert to assist in setting up a new Economic Analysis Research Section. The young Mauritian economists and administrators on the manning table are perfectly able to fulfill most of the requirements of the Ministry. However, the Ministry has not yet gained appropriate experience on some specific subject matters. To supplement its capacities, it will call upon short term consultants in areas which will be identified during the current Interim Plan 1980-1982, especially for the preparation of the next Development Plan which will require some more sophisticated planning techniques. In addition short term overseas training is needed. The UNDP contribution to this project is \$ 130,000.

#### New project:

##### Public Sector Management Training

19. Mauritius inherited from the pre-independence era a civil service trained and equipped to cope basically with traditional tasks entrusted to the Administration. Since Independence, the public sector has been called upon to play a much more important part in line with development needs. Numerous parastatal organisations have been established and the civil service had to adjust to new functions, to deal with many development projects and programmes leading to major investments, and to develop new patterns of co-operation between Ministries in the framework of develop-

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ment planning. Many administrative procedures and methods, as well as the working attitudes of a number of civil servants (even with satisfactory training in their technical field of competence), and some aspects of the organization are no longer consistent with the requirements of a development oriented administration.

20. The envisaged project will be engaged in carrying out a critical review of the public sector (Administration and parastatal bodies), of its organization, procedures and overall performance; in proposing, accordingly ways and means to make it more dynamic; and in devising in co-operation with the University of Mauritius, appropriate in-service training for the top echelon of the staff to teach them modern management techniques. UNDP contribution, for consultancy services and some equipment for the local training courses, and overseas fellowships is estimated at \$ 250,000.

## B. Natural resources

### Energy planning and development

21. Mauritius has a limited natural resources base, especially for energy. The hydro-electricity installed capacity is around 25 megawatts (MW) at present, and it is estimated that some 90 MW will be available after the completion of the Champagne Project. Bagasse, as a by-product of the sugar industry, is used for thermal power plants but the bulk of electricity is generated from imported fuel. The increasing prices of oil (value of fuel imported and consumed in Mauritius in 1979 was around Rs. 270 million) are hitting the economy hard and are partly responsible for the growing import bill. Obviously, new and appropriate means need to be found to contain the expansion of energy consumption and to improve the security of supply. Substitutes can be developed on the island (ethanol from molasses, wind and solar energy and, in a more distant future, Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion) at a cost which remains to be assessed. Within a couple of years, Mauritius will have to renew a large part of its present stock of electricity generators and other decisions of strategic importance will have to be taken with heavy investment at stake. The Government intends to set up an overall energy policy which will take into account all technical and economic alternatives. UNDP assistance is expected in two different projects.

#### On-going project:

#### Wind and Solar Power Resources in Rodrigues (MAR/79/003)

22. The project's immediate objective is to carry out, through the provision of consultancy services and the procurement of suitable equipment, research work on wind and solar data on the island of Rodrigues and on appropriate sites for the installation of a wind generator. The data collection and analysis for Mauritius itself are going on under a bilateral technical assistance programme in co-operation with the University. On the basis of the findings, a fullscale wind energy programme will be devised, part of which could be in the form of a project for submission to the United Nations Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development. Project MAR/79/003 is expected to continue to provide short-term consultancies and some research equipment, for an amount of \$ 65,000.

New project:Consultancy in the Formulation of a National Energy Policy

23. Developing a sound prospective energy policy requires a wide variety of information and knowledge of the many aspects (technical, financial and economic) of the energy problem which encompasses an array of disciplines. Not all the necessary skill is presently available in Mauritius; this project will bring into the country the expertise needed, in the form of consultancy services to bridge the gaps, as they appear, in the capacity to deal with the technico-economic issues. The UNDP contribution for this new project will be \$ 70,000.

C. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries

24. Agriculture is, and will remain, the largest income generating sector of the economy, contributing about 25 per cent of GNP. The main objectives in this sector are to increase production for the export markets and to reduce the food import bill. This means diversification of agriculture (traditionally under the preponderance of sugarcane) and a greater tapping of marine resources. The food strategy aims at achieving self-reliance in specific food items, at improving the nutritional status of the population and also at bettering the lot of some poor segments of the population living in the remote island of Rodrigues or in some areas of Mauritius itself. Investment in the sector (about 11 per cent of projected investment during the Interim Plan) and technical co-operation when required, will be directed not only to production itself, but also to infrastructure, research, marketing, credit and other facilities.

New projects:Assistance to the Agricultural Diversification Programme (MAR/80/003)

25. In 1975, the Government of Mauritius requested assistance in the form of short term consultancies to help in devising an overall strategy for diversification. Project MAR/75/006 was postponed due to the financial crisis, and was implemented only sporadically during 1978 and 1979. Useful information has been obtained through this project and the Government would now like to embark upon a broad-based programme of agricultural diversification involving training and orientation of national cadres; establishment of a mechanism to co-ordinate foodcrop production throughout Mauritius; promotion of industrial horticultural production; and of sugarcane inter-line foodcrop production. The programme is also geared to strengthening poultry breeding and establishing a Tissue Culture Unit in the Veterinary Services Division.

26. Assistance has been requested from UNDP to support the programme. An umbrella project has been proposed under the aegis of which provision will be made for experts, consultants, fellowships and equipment, as appropriate, in the various components of the programme. The total UNDP contribution is estimated at \$ 900,000.

Rural development programme

27. The Rural Development Programme was initiated in 1972 to improve the living conditions of the poorest segments of the rural population by providing villages with basic amenities and by creating job opportunities for unemployed or underemployed persons. The first phase was an experimental one, covering 38 village council areas, under financing agreement with the World Bank/IDA.

28. A second phase of the Rural Development Programme is about to start, with a World Bank loan to finance basic infrastructure and a credit scheme for the poorest villagers. More emphasis will be laid on productive agricultural projects (live-stock, pigs, poultry and foodcrop). The Project Manager of the Rural Development Programme (Ministry of Economic Planning and Development) is responsible for its implementation. The Government requests the UNDP to provide the services of a Management Adviser, with appropriate agricultural background to assist the Project Manager to identify suitable projects, to assess them, to follow up on their implementation and to evaluate their results. Consultancy services will also be required to cover some technical aspects of the projects. UNDP contribution is estimated at \$ 240,000.

#### Integrated Rural Development in Rodrigues

29. Rodrigues, the principal outlying island, some 350 miles east of Mauritius, has a population of 29,500 inhabitants. The income per capita is, on average, lower than in Mauritius and the resources are limited. The Government endeavours to improve the physical infrastructure and to develop local production. The present project is intended to assist in this latter aspect. With the services of a few consultants and some equipment, a pilot project will be mounted aiming at producing sweet sorghum for animal feeding, introducing new livestock producing biogas from organic by-products and improving fishing. The UNDP contribution will be \$ 240,000.

#### National Fishing Company

30. The ocean represents one of the few important natural resources of Mauritius to which the new Exclusive Economic Zone has given an area of about 804,500 km<sup>2</sup>. Furthermore, the eight riparian countries of the Indian Ocean share an area of 5,500,000 km<sup>2</sup>. According to latest available scientific evaluation, the potential catch exceeds 1,000,000 tons annually but less than 300,000 tons of fish are taken annually in the region, half of them by foreign vessels.

31. The Mauritian bank fishing industry has declined since 1970. To date only two small vessels are operating and most of the frozen fish sold on the market has been purchased from Korean vessels fishing in Mauritian waters. With a view to reducing the bill on imported food and to take advantage of the economic opportunities deriving from marine fisheries, the Government believes it is time to revitalize this industry. In this connexion, the possibility of setting up a National Fishing Company is being considered. Under this project, UNDP is expected to provide consultancy services to carry out a feasibility study for such a Company, and subsequently, to provide expertise to assist in setting up the Company, as well as, some equipment and training for its staff in the field of management. UNDP contribution will be \$ 240,000.

#### D. Industry

32. The manufacturing sector has been a "success story" during the 1970s, a key element in the diversification of the economy and in the creation of employment. The Government has designed two schemes to encourage industrialization: the Development Certificates for the import substitute industries (some 200 units); and the Export Processing Zone (EPZ) for export manufacturing (90 units). The Interim Plan 1980-1982 expects the industrial sector to continue to play a major role by providing more than 50 per cent of the additional employment and 40 per cent of incre-

mental exports. However, such an evolution requires a series of efforts in various directions in order to maintain the competitiveness of the Mauritian industry in a world of increasing challenges.

On-going project:

Mauritius Standards Bureau Phase II (MAR/80/001)

33. UNDP has assisted in the setting up of this Bureau and of its laboratories for quality control tests and preparation of standards in industry and trade. Sophisticated equipment is now available, but there is need for continuation of staff training and for short term consultants to deal with specific sections of the MSB. UNDP contribution is \$ 55,000.

New projects:

Establishment of an Industrial Co-ordination Unit

34. A consultant is requested under UNDP financing to help in setting up this Industrial Co-ordination Unit within the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. This Unit will centralize all information for investors applying for a Development Certificate or an Export Enterprise Certificate and will assist these applicants through the somewhat lengthy, time-consuming procedures for appraisal and approval of investment projects. UNDP contribution will be \$ 35,000.

Strengthening of the Tourism and Handicrafts Industry

35. Tourism has developed during the 1970s and tourist arrivals increased by an average of 17 per cent annually up to 128,360 in 1979. Gross earnings from tourism have increased substantially from Rs. 39 million in 1971 to Rs. 300 million in 1979. The exact contribution of the sector to economic development in terms of employment, government revenues and net foreign exchange earnings will be studied under the current country programme at a cost of \$ 30,000. Without waiting for the findings of the study, two fields are deemed to require further UNDP assistance:

(i) Training: fellowships are needed to train relevant staff to monitor the performance of the tourism sector as a whole and to evaluate specific projects.

(ii) Handicrafts: a field that is considered as being able to create employment opportunities and to increase revenue from the tourists visiting Mauritius. Modest efforts have been consented so far by the Government and voluntary organizations to develop the handicrafts sector. Such efforts should be more systematic and it is proposed to obtain the services of an adviser for the design and marketing of local products, and for the training of Mauritian specialists. Fellowships are also required for monitors to be trained abroad before taking charge of handicraft training centres in Mauritius. The contribution of UNDP will be \$ 180,000.

E. Transport and communications

36. This sector is primarily under public ownership and management and is recognized by the Government as a fundamental component of the overall infrastructure

(overhead) required for development activities. Adequate air and sea transportation is of special relevance to an island depending so much on import and export and on a large tourist flow. The basic infrastructure has been built or improved over the last decade and will enable the sector to sustain, in the years to come, an average rate of growth of some 7 per cent per annum, higher than the average growth of GNP. The major needs appear to be in the fields of training and management, and UNDP is being called upon to continue its support to the sector.

#### Air transport

##### On-going project:

##### Civil Aviation Training (MAR/72/006)

37. UNDP has provided training to the Civil Aviation Department throughout the first two country programmes and is expected to continue to do so during the third development cycle. The international airport at Plaisance is constantly being modernized and upgraded in line with ICAO recommendations. As more sophisticated facilities are installed, proper training for the Mauritian personnel who operate and maintain them is needed. UNDP contribution will amount to \$ 200,000.

#### Water transport and shipping

##### New project:

##### Mauritius Marine Authority

38. The physical infrastructure of the deepwater port at Port Louis has been considerably improved in recent years to keep pace with the overall economic development of the country; new quays and a Bulk Sugar Terminal became operational in mid-1980. However, the labour force has not adjusted to the new developments: labour relations remain unsatisfactory, productivity very low and the absenteeism rate high. The Government is aware of the need to ensure that port employees at all levels are properly trained for their duties, taking into due account such new trends in sea transport as containerization and modern port handling techniques.

39. The objectives of the project are to provide training (mainly overseas) to the managerial and supervisory staff of the port and to organize, under the Marine Authority, a training centre for induction and in-service vocational training for middle and low levels technical staff. The UNDP contribution is expected to be \$ 190,000.

#### Telecommunications

##### On-going project:

##### Telecommunications Training (MAR/79/004)

40. To fulfil all its objectives, the project will be extended beyond the current country programme. It will continue to provide for the services of a resident training expert and for some equipment, training being expanded into new areas: switching and transmission. The UNDP contribution will be \$ 95,000.

Postal services

New project:

Postal Services Training

41. The postal administration is trying to improve the quality of the postal services through a programme of modernization of facilities. Training of low level technical staff is provided locally, but there is a need to upgrade skills at the managerial level in three areas: statistics and planning, external relations and training capacity. This project will provide for overseas fellowships in these three areas and for some training equipment and material to improve the quality of the current in-service training. The total UNDP contribution is \$ 35,000.

F. International trade and development finance

42. The major objective of the Government, both in the short and long terms, is to narrow the deficit in the trade balance by containing the growth of imports, and by increasing exports. Special attention is therefore directed to curtailing not only imports of goods but also of such services as freight and insurance, which represent an important part of the deficit in "invisible trade". As for exports, they face increasing competition and they cannot expand significantly unless appropriate action is taken, especially with a view to enhancing the efforts of all parties involved, in both the public and private sectors, and to create efficient institutions to back such efforts, notably by modern export credit facilities.

New projects:

Establishment of a Freight Study Unit

43. Freight accounts for an important part of the value of total external transactions and there is every indication that the large deficit in freight will continue to grow in the future. Mauritius depends heavily on foreign sources for this service and the Government has decided to establish, within the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, a Freight Study Unit to examine ways of rationalising cargo handling in Mauritius and to attempt to eliminate unnecessary costs, especially in the form of demurrage fees. UNDP contribution is estimated at \$ 35,000.

Strengthening of the Export Promotion Services

45. It is recognized that the export oriented industries of Mauritius will have to face, in the years to come, increased competition compared to the 1970s. Mauritius has, in spite of the devaluation of the Rupee, lost some of its comparative advantages and will have to cope not only with unfavourable worldwide circumstances but also with the challenges of newly created export processing zones in the region also aiming at the European market. The Mauritian export industries have to enhance their competitiveness and streamline administrative procedures to attract foreign investment.

46. The Government intends to strengthen the export promotion services provided by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The idea is to review the existing scheme of Export Processing Zones and the package of incentives it offers. UNDP

is requested to provide the services of an expert to advise on restructuring the existing set up and to train local staff. Some equipment will also be needed. UNDP contribution will be \$ 75,000.

#### Establishment of an Export Credit Guarantee Scheme

47. The World Bank/International Finance Corporation has agreed to help financially to establish an Export Credit Guarantee Scheme which will encourage Mauritian exporters to tap new and risky markets, as part of a drive to boost the export industry. The IFC will provide only its co-operation for the establishment of the scheme and UNDP assistance is requested to provide the services of an expert to monitor the initial phase of implementation of the scheme and to train Mauritian personnel. UNDP contribution is \$ 70,000.

#### G. Human settlements

48. The share of the housing sector in total investment has been very high in the past: some 30 per cent of total capital for the nation in 1979. The Government is trying to shift capital resources to more directly productive sectors and at the same time to reduce the bill of imported construction materials, in an effort to contain the trade deficit. But the Government also recognizes the social need and demand for more and better houses. It hopes to be in a position to reconcile these two constraints: the number of housing units constructed over a given period would not be reduced if the costs of the units could be lowered through improvement in the design and greater use of local materials.

#### New project:

#### Assistance to Human Settlements Programmes

49. UNDP assistance under the project "Assistance to Physical Planning Services" has mainly focused on assisting the Government in the implementation of the National Physical Development Plan advising the Ministry of Housing, Lands, Town and Country Planning on appropriate measures for the best utilization of the limited land available. Further assistance is needed in this field in the form of short term consultancies and training of local staff, but new dimension will be added: the housing demand during the Interim Plan and beyond will remain high and since, so far, the building materials are imported, meeting the demand in house construction will result in a heavy drain on foreign exchange. The Government wants to reduce the cost of the houses through standardization and improved designs, and turn as much as possible to local materials which can prove economical. This project will be requested to provide consultancy services on house design and use of local building materials. Contribution of the UNDP will be \$ 130,000.

#### H. Health

50. Mauritius still lacks many facilities and services to ensure an adequate cover of health needs of the population. This situation can be solved only through a long term policy, implying large investment and high recurrent costs. Within the limited resources now available, the Government places emphasis on the best possible service to be delivered by the public corporations dealing with environmental health (drinking water, sewerage systems) and on the basic needs of the poorest segments of the population in the most densely populated areas.

New projects:Medical and Paramedical Staff Training

51. Government policy is to provide an integrated health service, incorporating preventive, promotive and curative services and to improve the overall level of health of the population through the provision of a network of health facilities. For this purpose, a network of health centres is being established. Plans are also in hand for the improvement of existing health facilities. There is, however, a need to upgrade the skills of the medical and paramedical staff to ensure that they provide an efficient service, and to upgrade the existing health facilities through the provision of additional equipment. This project will enable the Government to take advantage of courses and seminars organized in the field of health by the WHO and other United Nations agencies. In addition, it will make it possible to acquire certain important items of equipment. The UNDP contribution at \$ 240,000 is broken down as follows:

(i) Training and Fellowships	-	\$ 180,000
(ii) Equipment	-	\$ 60,000

Assistance to Central Water Authority

52. The Central Water Authority (CWA) was established in 1973 as a parastatal organization but its performance remains largely unsatisfactory. A recent study commissioned by the Government has stressed the need for a re-organization of the management structure. To remedy the major weaknesses, it seems indispensable to place at the head of each division appropriately trained personnel, especially in Administration, where the management of the manning table leaves much to be desired, and in the Planning and Design Section which is not yet self-sufficient and relies too much on outside consultants. There is also a lack of well-defined corporate objectives and planning. This project should enable to bring to the CWA appropriate expertise to advise on ways and means to improve the situation and to organize, locally, training courses in managing skills, in financial, budgetary and accounting procedures and in techniques of water distribution. UNDP contribution is costed at \$ 200,000.

Improvement of Sewerage Services

53. The sewerage network no longer meets the requirements of the densely populated areas, especially the urban areas which keep growing, and of the industrial estates which have developed significantly over the last years. The old facilities are not up to existing public health standards because of problems of infiltration and the network must be extended. The present project has a two-fold objective:

(i) Duplication of St. Martin Sea Outfall: a feasibility study is needed for the construction of a second sea outfall at St. Martin Treatment Works, which services a major low-income, densely populated area. The present capacity of the outfall is not sufficient, creating much nuisance when the system overflows during heavy rains.

(ii) Strengthening the Sewerage Unit of the Ministry of Works: a short term consultant is required to look into the functioning of this Unit and advise on its improvement. Expertise will be necessary to set up a qualified team in the main-

tenance section and to rationalise the tariff system which does not take into account the real cost of the sewerage facilities. The UNDP contribution will amount to \$ 660,000 (\$ 400,000 for the feasibility study and \$ 260,000 for the Sewerage Unit).

## I. Education

54. Shortly after Independence, the Government embarked upon a long term programme to change the quality and content of education with a view to meeting the requirements of a rapidly changing society by laying more emphasis on development problems and on technical/vocational rather than academic orientation. This long and exacting task has made a promising start and several reforms have been introduced. The Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE), a semi-autonomous parastatal body, has the responsibility of proposing to the Ministry of Education ways and means of improving the system. Attention has so far been focused on the development of secondary education and of the new post primary community schools (curriculum development and teacher training examination system at primary and junior secondary levels, and for entrance to the Mauritius College of Education). The Government now feels it is time to undertake major reforms in the primary sector and to improve pre-primary education. It expects the support of UNDP to help in these two fields and to assist in more specific areas where training needs have emerged along with the development process.

### New projects:

55. UNDP has contributed to the establishment and strengthening of the Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE) under the first two country programmes, with concentration on the secondary education sector. In the third cycle, the Government expects UNDP support in four areas:

#### (i) Primary Teacher Training and Curriculum Development

56. Responsibility for training primary school teachers lies with the Mauritius College of Education but the MIE has been entrusted with the primary curriculum development project. The critical innovation is expected to be the introduction of active teaching methods. The main activity will be directed at setting up a preliminary intensive staff training programme for teachers and educators, followed by systematic in-service training for primary teachers through a network of school demonstration centres. UNDP contribution for an amount of \$ 400,000 will finance resident experts, fellowships for Mauritian counterpart staff and some equipment.

#### (ii) Designing of Form III Examination

57. The Government proposes to organize a national examination at Form III level with a view to reducing the high rate of dropouts and failures at the School Certificate level. Students will be selected on the basis of this examination, to follow either academic education, technical education, or vocational orientation courses. The MIE will be made responsible for designing such an examination, the first of this kind to be organized on a national basis. UNDP will provide expertise, fellowships and some equipment, for a total of \$ 150,000.

(iii) Strengthening of Pre-Primary Education

58. The Government is determined to raise standards in the country's thousand pre-primary schools, attended by children aged 3-5 years. There is a need to monitor the development of this sector and to improve the skill of the teachers, many of them having no training in pre-primary education. A Pre-Primary Unit has been set up in the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs to co-ordinate all activities in this sector. With the assistance of UNICEF, short training courses for young unqualified pre-primary teachers have been mounted and five pilot units established. UNDP assistance, including experts, fellowships and equipment is requested to extend the programme of in-service teacher training to those teachers who have not yet been to refresher courses. Emphasis will be laid on those working in rural areas. UNDP contribution to the project will be \$ 250,000.

(iv) Establishment of Mauritius Education Broadcasting Authority

59. The existence of two organizations involved in audio-visual education (the Audio Visual Section of the Ministry of Education and the Mauritius College of the Air) leads to some duplication of efforts. The Government has decided to set up a single body to make the best possible use of available media resources: the Mauritius Education Broadcasting Authority. Assistance is required from UNDP, in the form of consultancy services, to help draw up the legislation for the establishment of the new Authority as a statutory body incorporating the two existing organizations, setting up the appropriate organizational structure, establishing a programme for the maintenance of the equipment, and preparing in-service training for the staff. UNDP contribution will be \$ 70,000.

J. Employment

60. Employment generation is the main objective of Mauritius' development plan. To reach a situation as close as possible to full employment, appropriate policies are devised in each sector of the economy, and institutions and programmes are established to supply the required skilled manpower. Out of the many needs arising in this field, UNDP assistance has been selected to meet one which deals with a rather delicate subject matter and calls for a well thought out type of institution.

New project:

Workers' Education and Productivity Improvement

61. The development of Mauritius, especially as far as the industrial and tourism sectors are concerned, depends on its competitiveness in the world market. If, as in the past, the policy of employment creation has been implemented with great success, the overall output per employee, at constant prices, has remained unchanged and has even declined in certain sectors. A higher labour productivity is an absolute requirement if Mauritius is to survive international competition. The Government has contemplated the creation of a Productivity Advisory Council which will bring together representatives of the Government, the employers and the workers to make recommendations to increase productivity, and to foster good labour relations and involvement of all parties concerned in development.

62. This project will help the Government in setting up such a Council or any similar institution which may be fitting to the country's economic and social conditions

It will be implemented through experts or consultants who will also keep under review the progress made under past UNDP assistance (MAR/79/009 and MAR/78/002). UNDP contribution will be \$ 130,000.

K. Social conditions and equity

63. The Government is committed to equitable development and to a wide-distribution of the benefits of an expanding economy to all social groups and to all individuals. The welfare programmes and activities present many facets. UNDP will help the Government to develop vocational training of two groups of persons deserving special social attention: the disabled and prison inmates.

On-going project:

Rehabilitation of the Disabled (MAR/79/007)

64. The project is intended to establish a multi-purpose rehabilitation centre with a full range of services for disabled persons, to develop production workshops and to organize a special unit within the Social Welfare Division of the Ministry of Social Security. Under the third development programming cycle, the services of an expert would not be needed any more and the national counterpart would take over. The project would continue with the provision of equipment and training. UNDP will contribute \$ 65,000.

New project:

Vocational Training in Prisons

65. A limited programme for the training of prison officers has been successfully conducted in the past under a bilateral co-operation scheme. The Government wants to continue such a programme, which has social as well as economic significance, and to provide facilities for the training of inmates. The project will consist of providing a consultant to advise on the training programme, and equipment to carry it out. The UNDP contribution is \$ 65,000.

L. Science and technology

New project:

Assistance to the Meteorological Services

66. The Meteorological Department has, through a previous project, significantly improved its ability to perform its main functions: namely, provisions of meteorological services and tropical cyclone advance warning. It has received new equipment (VHF Air Sea Rescue Network - Weather radar) and the staff have increased their skill. The new project will provide equipment, especially to cater for the outlying islands, and to supplement the existing network in Mauritius itself. Along with the new material, it is imperative to strengthen the staff training programme. The cost for equipment and training under the third development programming cycle will be \$ 135,000.

#### IV. RELATIONSHIP WITH INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES

67. The Government of Mauritius is keenly aware of the existing interdependence between countries and national entities, particularly those that are neighbours. It recognizes that the interests of Mauritius and of the neighbouring states can be better served, fostered and safeguarded through the promotion of regional co-operation. It is in this connexion, therefore, that Mauritius has been an active partner in several regional programmes, projects and seminars financed by UNDP and other agencies of the United Nations system. These activities include, to mention only a few, the Indian Ocean Regional Fisheries project, training programmes in posts and telecommunications, economic and development planning, as well as several seminars and conferences on specific subject matters.

68. With regard to technical co-operation among developing countries, the Government of Mauritius will continue to explore appropriate areas of co-operation with its neighbours and distant developing countries. In this respect, the excellent research, experimental and pioneering facilities of the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute (MSIRI) have been made available to sugar producing countries of Africa through a UNDP funded regional project (RAF/79/005).

69. As a member of the international community, Mauritius has endeavoured to co-operate with others in the search for solutions, and formulation of action programmes in respect of issues of a global magnitude. The United Nations-sponsored discussions on the New International Economic Order, the Buenos Aires Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, and the Copenhagen World Conference on the United Nations Decade for Women are only a few of the more recent fora where Mauritius has joined with others in the search for ways and means of solving development problems. And Mauritius will continue to participate with, or lend its support to, other countries under the banner of UNDP and other United Nations bodies, in the furtherance of development and peaceful socio-economic change.

#### V. SIGNIFICANT FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME

70. The country programme concentrates the bulk of the IPF on the development of national human resources: training is one of the major components of the overwhelming majority of the projects presented; but the expertise required, very often in the form of consultancy services, will also contribute to the building up of local skills.

71. Thirty projects are presented in Annex II, 24 being new ones. A table has been established according to the ACC sectoral classification and indicates that priority has been given by the Government to agriculture (close to 30 per cent), health (20 per cent), and education (15 per cent) (Annex III). Another table (Annex IV) provides a functional categorisation of projects, in accordance with UNDP Governing Council guidelines.

72. Several projects consist of feasibility studies which should lead to capital investment, possibly with the financial assistance of the World Bank.

73. The tentative duration of each project has been shown in Annex II. The implementation of the projects will be phased according to UNDP's financial guidelines: namely, approximately 18 per cent, 19 per cent, 20 per cent, 21 per cent and 22 per cent respectively for 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985 and 1986.

74. Pending the decision on the definitive IPF, the Government holds a list of projects in reserve, to be presented in case of an upward revision of the amount to be programmed.

75. It is judged that some of the projects included in the present country programme could lend themselves to Government execution. Negotiations to this end will be carried out on a case by case basis and at the appropriate time.



ANNEX I

ALLOCATION OF UNDP RESOURCES

I. RESOURCES TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR PROGRAMMING

"Illustrative" IPF 1982 - 1986 \$ 7,000,000

II. USE OF RESOURCES

A. Programmed (all sectors)

1. On-going projects \$ 610,000

2. New projects \$ 4,990,000

Total 5,600,000

B. Reserve

Unprogrammed reserve \$ 1,400,000

Total resources programmed  
for period 1982 - 1986

\$ 5,600,000



ANNEX II

LIST OF PROJECTS WITH UNDP INPUTS FOR PERIOD 1982 - 1986

COUNTRY: MAURITIUS

"Illustrative" IPF : US\$ 7,000,000  
Third country programme

Sub-Sector ACC. Class.	Activities by sector	Total	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
	<b>A: GENERAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES, POLICY AND PLANNING</b>						
0210	(a) <u>On-going project</u> 1. MAR/79/006 - Strengthening of the Economic Planning Unit	130,000	30,000	25,000	25,000	20,000	30,000
	Sub-total (a)	130,000	30,000	25,000	25,000	20,000	30,000
0230	(b) <u>New project</u> 1. Public Sector Management Training	250,000	30,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	70,000
	Sub-total (b)	250,000	30,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	70,000
	<b>Total A. General Development Issues, Policy and Planning</b>	<b>380,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>
	<b>B: NATURAL RESOURCES</b>						
0350	(a) <u>On-going project</u> 1. MAR/79/003 - Wind and Solar Power Resources in Rodrigues	60,000	20,000	20,000	25,000	-	-
	Sub-total (a)	65,000	20,000	20,000	25,000	-	-
0350	(b) <u>New project</u> 1. Consultancy in the formulation of a National Energy Policy	70,000	-	25,000	25,000	20,000	-
	Sub-total (b)	70,000	-	25,000	25,000	20,000	-
	<b>Total B. Natural Resources</b>	<b>135,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>-</b>

ANNEX II

LIST OF PROJECTS WITH UNDP INPUTS FOR PERIOD 1982 - 1986

COUNTRY : MAURITIUS

"Illustrative" IPF : US\$ 7,000,000  
Third country programme

Sub-Sector ACC. Class	Activities by sector	Total	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
	<b>C: AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES</b>						
	(b) <u>New projects</u>						
0410	1. Rural Development Programme	240,000	70,000	70,000	55,000	45,000	-
0410	2. Integrated Rural Development in Rodrigues	240,000	30,000	30,000	50,000	65,000	65,000
0410	3. Assistance to the Agricultural Diversification Programme	900,000	100,000	100,000	150,000	250,000	300,000
0440	4. Feasibility Study for a National Fisheries Company	240,000	-	50,000	80,000	80,000	30,000
	Sub-total (b)	1,620,000	200,000	250,000	335,000	440,000	395,000
	Total C. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	1,620,000	200,000	250,000	335,000	440,000	395,000
	<b>D: INDUSTRY</b>						
	(a) <u>On-going project</u>						
0510	1. MAR/80/001 - Strengthening of the Mauritius Standards Bureau	55,000	55,000	-	-	-	-
	Sub-total (a)	55,000	55,000	-	-	-	-
	(b) <u>New projects</u>						
0510	1. Establishment of an Industrial Coordination Unit	35,000	-	35,000	-	-	-
0530	2. Strengthening of the Tourism and Handicraft Industry	180,000	30,000	40,000	70,000	20,000	20,000
	Sub-total (b)	215,000	30,000	75,000	70,000	20,000	20,000
	Total D. Industry	270,000	85,000	75,000	70,000	20,000	20,000

## ANNEX II

## LIST OF PROJECTS WITH UNDP INPUTS FOR PERIOD 1982 - 1986

COUNTRY : MAURITIUS

"Illustrative" IPF : US\$ 7,000,000  
Third country programme

Sub-Sector ACC. Class	Activities by sector	Total	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
	<b>E. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS</b>						
	(a) <u>On-going projects</u>						
0620	1. MAR/72/006 - Civil Aviation Training	200,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
0660	2. MAR/79/004 - Telecommunications Training	95,000	30,000	20,000	25,000	10,000	10,000
	Sub-total (a)	295,000	70,000	60,000	65,000	50,000	50,000
	(b) <u>New projects</u>						
0640	1. Strengthening of the Mauritius Marine Authority	190,000	20,000	25,000	50,000	40,000	55,000
0650	2. Postal Services Training	35,000	-	-	15,000	20,000	-
	Sub-total (b)	225,000	20,000	25,000	65,000	60,000	55,000
	<b>Total E. Transport and Communications</b>	<b>520,000</b>	<b>90,000</b>	<b>85,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>110,000</b>	<b>105,000</b>
	<b>F. INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCE</b>						
	(b) <u>New projects</u>						
0740	1. Establishment of a Freight Study Unit	35,000	35,000	-	-	-	-
0740	2. Strengthening of Export Promotion Services	75,000	-	15,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
0740	3. Establishment of an Export Credit Guarantee Scheme	70,000	60,000	10,000	-	-	-
	Sub-total (b)	180,000	95,000	25,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
	<b>Total F. international trade and development finance</b>	<b>180,000</b>	<b>95,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>

## ANNEX II

## LIST OF PROJECTS WITH UNDP INPUTS FOR PERIOD 1982 - 1986

COUNTRY : MAURITIUS

"Illustrative" IPF : US\$ 7,000,000  
Third country programme

Sub-Sector ACC. Class	Activities by sector	Total	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
	<b>G. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS</b>						
	(b) <u>New project</u>						
0920	1. Consultancy Services on House Designs	130,000	50,000	50,000	30,000	-	-
	Sub-total (b)	130,000	50,000	50,000	30,000	-	-
	Total G. Human settlements	130,000	50,000	50,000	30,000		
	<b>H. HEALTH</b>						
	(b) <u>New projects</u>						
1010	1. Medical and Para-Medical Staff Training	240,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	70,000	100,000
1030	2. Assistance to Central Water Authority	200,000	40,000	30,000	40,000	40,000	50,000
1030	3. Improvement of Sewerage Service	660,000	200,000	200,000	100,000	80,000	80,000
	Sub-total (b)	1,100,000	260,000	250,000	170,000	190,000	230,000
	Total H. Health	1,100,000	260,000	250,000	170,000	190,000	230,000
	<b>I: EDUCATION</b>						
	(b) <u>New projects</u>						
1130	1. Primary Teacher Training and Curriculum Development	400,000	-	60,000	80,000	120,000	140,000
1130	2. Designing of Form III Examination	150,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	40,000	40,000
1130	3. Strengthening of Pre-Primary Education	250,000	55,000	55,000	40,000	45,000	55,000
1140	4. Establishment of Mauritius Education Broadcasting Authority	70,000	20,000	10,000	10,000	15,000	15,000
	Sub-total (b)	870,000	95,000	145,000	160,000	220,000	250,000
	Total I. Education	870,000	95,000	145,000	160,000	220,000	250,000

ANNEX II

LIST OF PROJECTS WITH UNDP INPUTS FOR PERIOD 1982 - 1986

COUNTRY : MAURITIUS

"Illustrative" IPF : US\$ 7,000,000  
Third country programme

Sub-Sector ACC. Class.	Activities by sector	Total	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
1240	J: EMPLOYMENT						
	(b) New project						
	1. Improvement of Labour Relations for Higher Productivity	130,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
	Sub-total (b)	130,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
	Total J. Employment	130,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
1450	K: SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND EQUITY						
	(a) <u>On-going project</u>						
	1. MAR/79/007 - Rehabilitation of Disabled	65,000	15,000	15,000	10,000	10,000	15,000
	Sub-total (a)	65,000	15,000	15,000	10,000	10,000	15,000
1460	(b) <u>New project</u>						
	1. Vocational Training in Prisons	65,000	-	15,000	15,000	15,000	20,000
	Sub-total (b)	65,000	-	15,000	15,000	15,000	20,000
	Total K. Social conditions and equity	130,000	15,000	30,000	25,000	25,000	35,000
1640	L: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY						
	(b) <u>New project</u>						
	1. Assistance to Meteorological Services	135,000	20,000	20,000	25,000	25,000	45,000
	Sub-total (b)	135,000	20,000	20,000	25,000	25,000	45,000
	Total L. Science and Technology	135,000	20,000	20,000	25,000	25,000	45,000
	GRAND TOTAL	5,600,000	1,010,000	1,070,000	1,120,000	1,170,000	1,230,000

ANNEX III

Sectoral classification

<u>Sectors</u>	<u>P r o j e c t s</u>		<u>Allocation \$</u>	<u>%</u>
	<u>On-going</u>	<u>New</u>		
General development issues	1	1	380,000	6.8
Natural resources	1	1	135,000	2.5
Agriculture	-	4	1,620,000	28.9
Industry	1	2	270,000	4.8
Transport and communications	2	2	520,000	9.3
International trade	-	3	180,000	3.2
Human settlements	-	1	130,000	2.3
Health	-	3	1,100,000	19.6
Education	-	4	870,000	15.5
Employment	-	1	130,000	2.3
Social conditions	1	1	130,000	2.3
Science and technology	-	1	135,000	2.5
	6	+ 24	5,600,000	100.0
		= 30		

ANNEX IV

Functional classification

<u>Functions</u>	<u>Primary (US\$)</u>	<u>Secondary (US\$)</u>
Institution building	840,000	2,270,000
Direct support	3,610,000	1,220,000
Direct training	955,000	-
Experimental projects	-	65,000
Pilot projects	65,000	130,000
Special support projects	130,000	-
Relief projects	-	-
	<hr/>	
Total	5,600,000	

ANNEX V

ESTIMATED EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES FOR THE PROGRAMMING PERIOD (1982-1986)

SOURCE	AMOUNTS ( \$ : 000 )					
	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	T O T A L
Bilateral programmes <sup>1/</sup>	20,395	20,658	20,658	20,789	20,395	102,895
Multilateral programmes other than UNDP and the United Nations organizations specified below	84,868	91,184	87,895	84,474	78,289	426,710
<u>United Nations Organizations regular programmes</u>						
WFP	12	-	-	-	-	12
UNFPA	227	227	-	-	-	454
UNICEF	162	202	-	-	-	364
WHO	192	192	-	-	-	384
Sub-total	593	621	-	-	-	1,214
UNDP	1,010	1,070	1,120	1,170	1,230	5,600
GRAND TOTAL	106,866	113,533	109,673	106,433	99,914	536,419

1/ Including capital assistance (finance - loans/grants), capital equipment in kind - as well as technical assistance (resident experts, consultants and fellowships) and Food Aid.