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ANNEX

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of the Republic of Mauritius for 2024-2025

Action Document for Implementation of the Circular Economy Roadmap

MULTIANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Implementation of the Circular Economy Roadmap OPSYS number: ACT-62670 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in the Republic of Mauritius.
4. Programming document	Multiannual indicative programme 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	<p>Multiannual indicative programme 2021-2027</p> <p><i>Priority Area 1 - Environment Protection and Climate Change adaptation and resilience</i></p> <p>Specific objective 1: To support the Government in achieving its targets on renewable energies production, waste management and environment protection, as formulated in the National Environmental Strategy 2020 - 2030.</p> <p>1.1.1 A more efficient management of Energy and Waste is achieved</p> <p>1.1.2 Biodiversity loss is reduced at land and at sea</p> <p><i>Priority Area 2 – Policy Coherence and Financial Governance</i></p> <p>Specific objective 2: To have quality policy formulation and implementation, thanks to a sound, accountable and transparent institutional framework, allowing the civil service to perform efficiently and ethically in the implementation of government reforms and actions.</p> <p>2.2.1 Improved business environment</p>
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	

6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Ecological transition for a green recovery (DAC 232) Integrated management of ecosystems (“From ridge to reef” approach) – Transition for developing a sustainable blue economy (DAC 410) Transition towards sustainable agri-food systems (“From farm to fork” approach) to ensure food safety and food security (DAC 310) Government and Civil Society-general (DAC 151) Trade Policies & Regulations (DAC 331)			
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG (1 only): SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure); SDG 13 (Climate Action); SDG 15 (Life on Land); SDG 14 (Life below Water); SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities); SDG 5 (Gender Equality); SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic growth); SDG 1 (No poverty); SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals).			
8 a) DAC code(s)	25040 Responsible business conduct (35%) 25030 Business development services (35%) 41010 Environmental policy and administrative management (10%) 32310 Construction policy and administrative management (15%) 43030 Urban development and management (5%)			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	If Contribution Agreement: Other public entities in donor country - 11004 If Procurement: Private sector institutions – 60000			
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women’s and girl’s empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity energy transport health education and research	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	BUDGET INFORMATION			
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line: 14.020122 Total estimated cost: EUR 3 500 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 3 500 000 The contribution is for an amount of EUR 2 500 000 from the general budget of the European Union for year N and for an amount of EUR 1 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for year N+1, subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.4.1.			

1.2 Summary of the Action

Problem analysis: The Republic of Mauritius considers the adoption of the Circular Economy (CE) model a priority to effectively tackle the challenges of environmental degradation, climate change, biodiversity loss, women empowerment, and inequalities. This is translated in the Vision 2050 included in the Mauritian CE Roadmap, by which a circular economy embedded in the culture generates sustainable production and consumption, drives the regeneration of nature, positively impacts the lives of people and the environment, and promotes the creation of green jobs and sustainable business opportunities. By encouraging the reuse, recycling, and regeneration of materials, CE inherently reduces environmental impacts. This approach can have a wide-ranging effect on climate action, helping to lower carbon emissions and conserve natural resources. It also plays a crucial role in addressing various environmental issues, from reducing waste to lowering energy consumption, ultimately creating a more sustainable and resilient economy. When delving into specific areas like climate change, biodiversity, gender equality, and social inequalities, it is important to recognise that a robust CE strategy contributes to these broader environmental goals by promoting a holistic approach to sustainability and climate action. By supporting the integration of circular economy principles, the Action will foster inclusive economic development meeting the needs of vulnerable populations (including people with disabilities) and improve living conditions in marginalized areas by reducing pollution, health hazards and reliance of fossil fuel energy. Circular economy initiatives such as waste prevention through redesign, reuse, refill, remanufacturing, product-as-a-service, valorisation of secondary material, sharing platforms, can also create new and formalised job opportunities, including for marginalized communities (such as people with disabilities) and in social enterprises, and better employment quality, thus empowering marginalized populations (such as people with disabilities), youth and women with new skills, and/or safer conditions, allowing them to harness employment opportunities stemming from intersectoral synergies (e.g., agricultural waste and construction material). Promoting the reuse, repair, resource sharing and repurposing of goods will also make essential quality products, components and materials more affordable and accessible to marginalized communities, notably in the essential housing sector, and at the same time contribute to mitigate Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of virgin materials. The Action proposes to mainstream gender-sensitive planning and budgeting when it comes to legislative and policy review, and to prioritise women-led initiatives for the foreseen circular economy demonstration initiatives.

The proposed Action refers to the multiannual indicative programme 2021-2027¹ and contributes to both its Priority areas, with an emphasis on Priority Area 1 “Environment Protection and Climate Change adaptation and resilience” with its Specific objective 1: *“To support the Government in achieving its own targets on renewable energies production, waste management and environment protection, as formulated in the National Environmental Strategy 2020-2030”*. While the first two results can be directly addressed by the proposed Action (1.1.1 A more efficient management of Energy and Waste is achieved; 1.1.2 Biodiversity loss is reduced at land and at sea), the third result (1.1.3 Increase usage of eco-sustainable practices in agriculture) is possible, if actors from the agricultural sector get involved, e.g., through the utilisation of agricultural/ food waste for innovation in the construction/ built environment value chain; valorisation of construction and demolition waste types in agricultural facilities, etc.). In addition, the Action contributes to Priority Area 2 – “Policy Coherence and Financial Governance”, Specific objective 2.2: *“To have quality policy formulation and implementation, thanks to a sound, accountable and transparent institutional framework, allowing the civil service to perform efficiently and ethically in the implementation of government reforms and actions”*, and the corresponding result 2.2.2 (Improved business environment).

SDGs: The Action contributes principally to SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) – exemplarily applied to the built environment value chain, which contributes to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure). It aims to achieve the benefits that are implied in the CE concept when implemented at upstream value chains level, regarding its positive environmental impact in terms of climate mitigation and climate adaptation/ resilience – SDG 13 (Climate Action) – and biodiversity/ ecosystem protection or restoration both on land and in water resources – SDG 15 (Life on Land), SDG 14 (Life below Water), and its positive social impact in terms of inclusiveness, gender equality, jobs creation – SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic growth), SDG 1 (No poverty) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). The Action will coordinate with the EU MS in a Team Europe Approach and create complementarities to other development partners: SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals).

¹ Within the maximum contribution of the European Union, the authorising officer responsible may adjust the allocation to the respective budgetary years subject to the availability of the commitment appropriations.

Markers: The Action contributes to six DAC markers, of which “Climate Change Mitigation” is proposed as principal objectives, and five, notably “Aid to Environment”, “Climate Change Adaptation”, “Disaster Risk Reduction”, “Biological diversity”, and “Gender equality and women’s and girl’s empowerment” as significant objective. Also, the internal marker “Reduction of Inequalities” is addressed as a significant objective. The Action will contribute to the Disability marker.

Objectives/ Results: The Action’s Overall Objective of this action is to strengthen socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable development in the Republic of Mauritius. The Specific Objectives of this action are:

1. To improve the institutional and regulatory frameworks for the implementation of the national Circular Economy Roadmap and Action Plan.
2. To increase effectiveness of circular economy initiatives within the built environment value chain, prioritising women entrepreneurs in the circular economy.

In this context, the Action will – under its Component 1 (macro level) – support the CE Roadmap and Action Plan implementation by strengthening the institutional and regulatory framework foundations, bolstering the technical and coordination/communication capacities of steering and implementing institutions, assisting in the relevant legislative and fiscal reform process, engaging private sector into informed dialogue, to guide involved stakeholders to together create the environment to implement the CE principles in Mauritius and Rodrigues.

Under its Component 2 (micro and meso level), the Action will assist with generating opportunities for public and private sector to demonstrate that the circular economy can deliver the positive impact that is intended by the concept, and to inspire cross-sectoral fertilisation through the development of model approaches in the proposed anchor value chain of the built environment. In this context, the Action will support the adoption of CE practices in the built environment sector and the better management of construction and demolition waste (CDW) by mainstreaming circular economy principles into the daily operations of intermediaries (e.g., business membership organisations, accelerators/incubators/venture capital, NSIF) and generates opportunities for public and private sector to demonstrate that the circular economy can deliver the positive impact that is intended by the concept, and can inspire cross-sectoral fertilisation through the development of model approaches in the proposed anchor value chain of the built environment. The mobilisation of a broad array of stakeholders (urban planners (including coastal zone management), architects, constructors, infrastructure builders, financiers, local communities, manufacturers, etc.) will direct investment towards likely multi-sectoral projects (e.g., construction/tourism, agriculture/building materials) and multi-stakeholder projects (businesses, local communities, civil society organisations (CSOs), public sector) generating co-benefits. This initiative will embrace a Team Europe approach² to enable the finance ecosystem and facilitate access to finance.

Partners acting under a Team Europe approach currently complement the proposed Action in the field of green banking services (the AFD, EIB, or Proparco/DEG) as well as solid waste management (ADEME). Other EU partners include EU Africa RISE (e.g., recent Engagement for Women in Finance workshop), in the field of gender responsive planning and the Team Europe Initiative “Circular Economy Promotion and Investment in COMESA region” (EU Delegation to Zambia).

The Action contributes to GAP III’s Thematic Areas “*Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation*” and “*Promoting economic and social rights and empowering girls and women*”.

1.3 Zone benefitting from the Action

The Action shall be carried out in the Republic of Mauritius, which is included in the list of ODA recipients.

² Actions in the field of CE and more broadly environmental sustainability and climate are closely coordinated with AFD, ADEME (both in France and particularly the Department La Reunion, a French Overseas region in the Indian Ocean). Proparco, part of the AFD Group, partners with DEG (German Development Bank, part of KfW Group) in two green credit lines addressing commercial banks for private sector investment. As France is currently the only EU Member State with physical presence in Mauritius, there is no particular value added to superimpose on this close coordination the formal documents required to label it “Team Europe Initiative”.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

Being a reliable key partner of the European Union in the Indo-Pacific region, the Republic of Mauritius can be a champion for the implementation of the EU Indo-Pacific Strategy that, jointly with the Global Gateway, aims to contribute to stability, security, prosperity and sustainable development in the Indo-Pacific region, fostering the principles of democracy, rule of law, human rights and international law for a like-minded globally connected community, including through, joint research, and trade and investment. Both partners strive at delivering multilateral commitments and tackling issues of common interests, including peace and security, blue and green economy, sustainable trade and inclusive economic governance, climate action, and gender equality. Transitioning to a circular economy model will facilitate inclusive economic development while achieving biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and restoration, climate adaptation and mitigation, and the creation of decent green jobs in local and regional value chains. The adoption of CE principles will further help EU and Mauritian businesses to adapt to rising sustainability standards on the international and EU markets, in line with policy objectives of the EU Green Deal, as well as to make the country more attractive to conscious tourists and investors. This angle is important as the EU and Mauritius are linked by the upcoming deepening of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the EU and five Eastern and Southern African countries, including Mauritius³, from which particularly the private sector is expected to benefit.

The priorities of the Mauritian government include the promotion of a more inclusive and sustainable growth model thanks to the adoption of circular economy principles that at the same time will enhance the country's resilience to external shocks⁴, climate change, resource depletion, and biodiversity loss. This engagement translates into national development strategies targeting an inclusive, greener, sustainable, low-emission and climate resilient growth as well as commitments in UNFCCC⁵ and UNCBD⁶. In this area, the EU and its member states, notably France and Germany (through AFD, ADEME, Proparco, and DEG) are longstanding, reliable and pioneering partners of Mauritius. This is demonstrated through a series of financial and non-financial support programmes⁷, and the development, alongside UNEP, of the Roadmap and Action Plan for a Circular Economy in Mauritius (2023-2033). The proposed EUR 3.5 million programme is a substantial part of the Multi-Indicative Programme 2021-27 for Mauritius which comprises EUR 8 million in total. At the same time, it constitutes a limited budget with regards to the financial resources needed for the country's climate change mitigation and adaptation (estimated needs of EUR 6 billion by 2030⁸) as well as economic transformations such as envisaged by the vision of the Republic of Mauritius CE Roadmap, notably that "by 2050, the circular economy has been embedded in the culture of the country, generating sustainable production and consumption patterns in all levels of society, driving the regeneration of nature, positively impacting the lives of people and the environment and promoting the creation of green jobs. This can position Mauritius as a role model for the circular economy in the region and among Small Island Developing States (SIDS)".

The Mauritian roadmap aligns with the EU Circular Economy definition⁹ and incorporates the five pillars of the EU Circular Economy Action Plan¹⁰. Furthermore, it is consistent with the adopted Declaration of the Ministers and High representatives of the Island States of Africa and the Indian Ocean for the development of the Circular Economy in September 2023. In 2023, Mauritius joined the African Circular Economy Alliance (ACEA) and counts as a pioneer in having developed a CE Roadmap and Action Plan both among the SADC and the COMESA, of which it is also a member. The action plan, which was developed based on a participative approach and inclusive

³ A regional Interim EU-Eastern and Southern Africa EPA, in which Mauritius participates, has been formally applied since February 2019 with three key components, notably trade in goods, fisheries and Economic Development Cooperation.

⁴ Notably, supply chain disruptions and price spikes caused by the protective measures during the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing wars (e.g., between Israel/Gaza and Ukraine/Russia).

⁵ UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

⁶ UNCBD United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity

⁷ EnSAM Technical assistance facility, ADEME FEXTE, SUNREF Programmes I, II, III, AdaptAction etc.

⁸ According to the Republic of Mauritius' latest NDC (2021), USD 6.5 million are required by 2030, of which USD 4.5 billion external funding, over the next six years (2025-2030); The total needs for implementing the mitigation and adaptation actions identified in this NDC are estimated respectively USD 2 billion and USD 4.5 billion. The circular economy transition can play a role to meet these needs.

⁹ The EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy (2015, revised 2020) defines the Circular Economy as "a regenerative system in which resource input and waste, emission, and energy leakage are minimized by slowing, closing, and narrowing energy and material loops. This can be achieved through long-lasting design, maintenance, repair, reuse, remanufacturing, refurbishing, and recycling."

¹⁰ Namely: Product Policy; Waste Management and Recycling; Sustainable Consumption and Production; Market Development and Investment; Research, Innovation and Skills.

dialogue with the private sector and civil society, consists of 80 actions for Mauritius and 30 actions for Rodrigues at macro, meso and micro levels totalling a budget of EUR 28.5 million over 5 years.

The Circular Economy Roadmap and Action Plan received strong support from both public and private stakeholders, as well as development partners. Private sector operators have expressed interest in applying sustainability principles inspired by the EU and regional good practices (Indian Ocean Region, La Réunion). However, due to the cross-cutting nature of the circular economy, implementing the roadmap presents specific challenges that require reinforcing the central capacity of key institutions, as well as the encouragement of the critical mass to join into the circular economy transition. This reinforcement is necessary to bring together the knowledge, technology, and finance required to support the public and private sector adopting circular economy principles.

In response, Mauritius aims to enhance the public sector's institutional capacities for coordinating stakeholders, adjusting policies and regulations, and creating the regulatory, infrastructure, and enterprise support systems that enable the development of circular economy projects and the implementation of its Circular Economy Action Plan. Likewise, the CE Roadmap and Action Plan seeks to address the enabling ecosystem (knowledge/skills, finance, incubation, innovation/research, advocacy). Both aspects shall be supported with the proposed Action.

The governance structure of the roadmap is currently being established¹¹. It comprises an Inter-Ministerial Committee chaired by the Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management, and Climate Change (MOESWMCC or MOE). A Steering Committee reports to this Inter-Ministerial Committee. The latter Steering Committee is co-chaired by the MOE and Business Mauritius¹², which coordinates five sector platforms (Agri-food, Construction and Real Estate, Consumer Goods, Mobility and Logistics, and Waste Management) and one committee for cross-cutting actions (Governance, Education and Awareness, Research and Development, Business Support, Public Procurement, Greening of Fiscal Policies, and Financing). Through this mechanism, the government also seeks to actively collaborate with the private sector to transition market dynamics from linear to circular. In this regard, the private sector CE initiatives have shown to be dynamic¹³, such as the Circular Economy Club organised by Business Mauritius (last event held in April 2024), and specific company and NGO initiatives to innovate products inspired by circular thinking, including in the recycling of glass, plastics, construction materials as well as poultry waste and e-waste.

One of the priorities of the government is to apply the circular economy principles to construction and demolition waste (CDW), and beyond, to the built environment value chain, through prevention, valorisation, and better management, with private sector involvement. The focus on the built environment is critical given the construction and real estate boom of the country¹⁴ and its impact on the environment¹⁵. Applying the CE principles in the built environment sector aims also to be exemplary for mainstreaming sustainability principles and for developing model approaches that can be adapted for other key sectors/ value chains of the Mauritian economy, like tourism, business process outsourcing, agrifood and sea product transformation. By applying the principles of the circular economy to the design of buildings, infrastructure and other elements of the built environment, Mauritius can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while creating urban areas that are more liveable, productive and convenient. Circular economy principles will reduce CO2 emissions from building materials by reducing demand for steel, aluminium, cement, and plastic. It could also make the sector more resilient to supply chain disruptions and price volatility of raw materials¹⁶.

Under the recently updated National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan, priority actions of the SWM Division included the preparation of a new Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act (issued in 2023) bringing hazardous waste management and EPR principles on the agenda. The proposed Environmental Bill (discussed in Parliament as Bill No. 1 of 2024) aims to modernize the legislative framework with a view to ensuring better environmental protection, management and conservation (through e.g., environmental monitoring/evaluation, environmentally sensitive areas inventory and maps, mainstreaming environmental considerations into planning and budgeting, plastic-free Mauritius).

¹¹ First Circular Platform meetings have been held, TORs have been agreed in April 2024.

¹² Business Mauritius is an independent association that represents over 1200 local businesses. It stems from the merger, in October 2015, of two business associations (Mauritius Employers Federation and the Joint Economic Council).

¹³ Business Mauritius/UNDP (2021): Optimising private sector investment in-Mauritius <https://www.undp.org/mauritius-seychelles/publications/circular-economy-optimising-private-sector-investment-mauritius>

¹⁴ Trading Economics <https://tradingeconomics.com/mauritius/gdp-from-construction>

¹⁵ Romain, B. (2023): Promoting sustainable construction for a resilient Mauritius. Eco-Mauritius Website on [Sustainable Buildings](#)

¹⁶ Ellen MacArthur Foundation <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/topics/built-environment/overview>

Concurrently, several initiatives have been launched by the private sector (e.g., Cementis, Gamma Materials, PIM, Ecosia, La Dechetèque) and the civil society (e.g., Mission Verte, WeRecycle, University of Mauritius) in the field of awareness raising (though value chain players, academia, cities and the public), digital management of waste and the development and implementation of CE projects. The private sector is also actively engaged in the dialogue with the government, notably through business membership associations (e.g., Business Mauritius/ Club des Entrepreneurs de l'Économie Circulaire). Next to the positive experiences of pioneers, mainstream businesses see the circular economy transition as a burden, assuming the products imply a higher price and therefore not being attractive to the market.

The establishment of a Circular Economy (CE) as a less wasteful production and consumption model in Mauritius is a promising avenue for sustainable and inclusive development. It will contribute to closing the material loops by promoting eco-design, lengthening the life cycle of products, promoting their reuse, recovery and recycling, using renewable energy. It will also enhance climate resilience, reduce human activity impact on biodiversity and provide decent job opportunities for women and vulnerable groups.

The circular economy must be gender-responsive to actively bridge gaps and overcome barriers to ensure a just transition for all. Existing research shows that women are disproportionately represented in low-value added, informal activities of the circular economy, including recycling, reuse and waste management. By contrast, when delving into higher value-added circular activities women's participation is less prominent. A just and inclusive transition towards circularity calls for a stronger participation of women across the *entire* circular economy spectrum¹⁷. The systematic inclusion of a gender lens in the circular economy could empower women and ensure a just transition¹⁸, in this regard inclusion of persons with disabilities and their needs within the greening of jobs is indispensable too¹⁹.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis: The Republic of Mauritius considers the adoption of the Circular Economy model a priority to effectively tackle the challenges of environmental degradation, climate change, biodiversity loss, women empowerment and inequalities. This is translated in the Vision 2050 included in the Mauritian CE Roadmap, by which a circular economy embedded in the culture generates sustainable production and consumption, drives the regeneration of nature, positively impacts the lives of people and the environment, and promotes the creation of green jobs and sustainable business opportunities. The Circular Economy (CE) is not just a concept for specific sectors or industries; it serves as a driver for general material efficiency. By encouraging the reuse, recycling, and regeneration of materials, CE inherently reduces environmental impacts. This approach can have a wide-ranging effect on climate action, helping to lower carbon emissions and conserve natural resources. It also plays a crucial role in addressing various environmental issues, from reducing waste to lowering energy consumption, ultimately creating a more sustainable and resilient economy. When delving into specific areas like climate change, biodiversity, gender equality, and social inequalities, it is important to recognise that a robust CE strategy contributes to these broader environmental goals by promoting a holistic approach to sustainability and climate action.

Climate aspects: The built environment in Mauritius plays a critical role in climate change adaptation. The country is situated in an active tropical cyclone basin, exposing it to extreme weather events and climate risks. Despite the country's relatively high readiness scores, adaptation challenges remain, as extreme weather events, including tropical cyclones, directly impact vital industries like tourism and fisheries²⁰. Rising temperatures and sea levels have led to accelerated coastal erosion and coral bleaching. According to the World Risk Report 2021, Mauritius was classified as the 51st most exposed country to natural hazard and is expected to become a water-stressed country by 2025²¹ (UNEP) and water scarce by 2030.²² Circular economy practices in the built environment can improve resilience by encouraging adaptable design, better land use, and regenerative material flows, including efficient management of resources during operation (energy, water, solid waste/ secondary materials, chemicals). The construction sector widely uses cement due to its qualities withstanding the exposure to cyclones. However,

¹⁷ Why adopting a gender-inclusive approach towards Circular Economy matters, UNIDO 2022

¹⁸ More than Just SDG 12: How Circular Economy can Bring Holistic Wellbeing, IISD 2022.

¹⁹ Persons with disabilities in a just transition to a low-carbon economy, ILO, 2019.

²⁰ Mauritius response to the "Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the MSI, BPOA for the Sustainable Development of SIDS" (2023). The Republic of Mauritius NDC (2021) illustrates that a projection for 100-year timeframe provides an estimate of 1.9 billion USD loss to Mauritius due to tropical cyclones. The same study also shows that Rodrigues Island tends to be more affected by the strongest winds and deepest storm surge.

²¹ UNEP (2023): Mauritius sets goals to curb the triple planetary crisis

²² Boojhawon, A./Surroop, D. (2021): Impact of climate change on vulnerability of freshwater resources: a case study of Mauritius.

this material faces degradation in warm, moist, and windy environments and heavy rain during construction, leading to the consideration of alternative design choices.²³ Stakeholders have expressed a renewed interest in integrating modern needs with indigenous building techniques that rely on natural wind and water flow and locally sourced renewable materials, like mud and clay. These sustainable solutions have the potential to lower carbon emissions, reduce waste, and improve resilience. Combining indigenous building techniques, and disaster-risk adapted techniques which naturally harness wind and water flow while using renewable and use locally sourced materials (e.g., clay), provides a more adaptive approach to the unique climate risks faced by Mauritius. By embracing circular principles, the country can build resilient infrastructure that reduces vulnerability to extreme weather while sustaining economic growth.

As regards climate mitigation: While the overall carbon footprint of the Republic of Mauritius is small in global comparison (overall 5,642.2 Gg CO₂-eq in 2022²⁴, representing less than 0.01% of global GHG emissions²⁵), the Statistics Mauritius Environment Statistics (2022) reveals that in Mauritius, an estimated 78.3% of Mauritius' total GHG emissions are attributed to energy, 10% to waste, 7.9% to industrial processes and product use, and 3.0% of total GHG are attributed to agriculture, forestry and land use, which includes land conversion to built-up areas. The built environment value chain contributes largely to these emissions across the board, especially cement, steel and aluminum production, which are the most favored materials in Mauritius due to their qualities withstanding the exposure to cyclones, and largely imported, which is why they do not appear in the country's energy-related emissions.²⁶ Every year, approximately 100 billion tonnes of raw materials are extracted for use across the buildings and construction sector²⁷, the operation of buildings on average generate about 39% of energy-related global carbon emissions, of which one-quarter from embodied carbon or the emissions associated with the entire lifecycle of building materials and construction.²⁸ Implementing a circular economy in the built environment can significantly reduce GHG emissions by optimising material use and reducing waste. Circular principles, such as designing for reuse, reusing and recycling construction and demolition/deconstruction²⁹ (C&D) waste, and substituting environmentally harmful materials, can significantly reduce the carbon footprint of construction.

Ecosystems: As regards biodiversity, the island is at risk of permanent and irreversible loss of terrestrial, marine, and coastal biodiversity owing to climate change, but also to anthropogenic stressors – above all the encroaching of the built environment and the dumping of waste, some of which is hazardous.³⁰ The country, characterized by a high level of endemism of both land and marine species³¹, is at risk due to the country's rapid economic development over the past years in many key sectors. These include intensive agriculture, transport, manufacturing, and construction, that place additional pressure and environmental challenges, including on marine resources (marine litter, plastics litter), which is threatening the blue economy (fisheries, tourism). At present, only 2% of the island of Mauritius is under native forest with remaining native vegetation confined to marginal lands without agriculture. In coastal areas, mangrove cover decreased by 38% from 1987 to 2008, and wetlands have either disappeared or are under great pressure due to the expansion of insufficiently responsible tourism. Mauritius has one of the most threatened island floras in the world³². Overall, 89% of endemic Mauritian flora is now considered threatened and 61 of the country's indigenous species are already classified as extinct. When it comes to Rodrigues, the exotic planted forest cover is estimated around 23-30% of Rodrigues land area.³³ The main threats to biodiversity under the various thematic areas is the degradation/loss of habitat driven by land clearing for development, invasive alien species, habitat modification, pollution from land-based sources, and adverse impacts

²³ [Sephaku Cement \(2022\): How does Climate affect Construction?](#) and “concrete destroys natural infrastructure without replacing the ecological functions that humanity depends on for fertilisation, pollination, flood control, oxygen production and water purification.”, see: [Watts, J. \(2019\): Concrete: The most destructive material on Earth.](#)

²⁴ Excluding Forestry and Other Land Use, according to the Republic of Mauritius [NDC \(2021\)](#)

²⁵ Republic of Mauritius [NDC \(2021\)](#), and UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2021.

²⁶ manufacturing industries and construction make up 7.8% (347 Gg CO₂-eq) of the energy-related emissions, and increased by 6.8% compared to 2021 (325 Gg CO₂-eq.) [Statistics Mauritius \(2023\): Economic and Social Indicators, Year 2022.](#)

²⁷ [Miller, N. \(2021\): The Buildings made from Rubbish](#)

²⁸ [Carpentier, H. \(2022\): Circular Economy in the built environment waste hierarchy: Why recycling is the last resort; World Green Building Council](#)

²⁹ Demolition is simply the act of taking down a building or structure, most often it involved large pieces of construction equipment, to remove a structure as soon as possible. Deconstruction is a slower, more aware, process, where the material is stripped a piece at a time to try and reclaim it for the purpose of reutilisation (if in tact) or (if broken) recycling it, before taking down the structure. See: [Green Circle Demolition \(2021\): The difference between deconstruction and demolition.](#) “The cost of deconstruction ranges between slightly higher than demolition to lower than demolition. Deconstruction can cost the same as demolition when all economical factors are considered i.e. including salvaged material resale value, avoided transport and disposal costs and the associated life cycle costing of landfill sites.” [IRB Fraunhofer \(2001\): Deconstruction versus demolition.](#)

³⁰ CBD Sixth National report – Mauritius (<https://www.cbd.int>)

³¹ [Mauritius, biodiversity facts, CBD.](#)

³² [Convention of Biological Diversity.](#)

³³ Forestry Services, Rodrigues, quoted in [Republic of Mauritius Clearing House Mechanism for Biodiversity on “Terrestrial biodiversity”](#) and Arer (2009): [Global Plan of Forestry for Rodrigues Island 2009-2025.](#)

of climate change. In response, the Government has adopted the National Biodiversity Strategy (2017-2025) aiming at ensuring a healthy environment and an enhanced quality of life, through the effective conservation, sustainable use and restoration of biodiversity in line with national and international commitments, while respecting local values. The adoption of CE and nature-positive principles will contribute, particularly in the built environment sector, to Target 3 (incentives to reward pro-biodiversity practices by all stakeholders, including the private sector) and Target 4 (biodiversity mainstreaming plans in key economic sectors) of the national strategy.

In response, the government is making strong commitments and supporting important projects to protect the environment and bolster climate resilience paving the way to “an inclusive, high income and green Mauritius, forging ahead together”. The Government designed strategic measures that will enable the country to leapfrog to a cleaner, greener, environmentally sustainable, climate-change resilient, low-emission and circular economy, including the Solid Waste Management and Climate Change 10-year policy and strategy approved by the Government in May 2022, and the Circular Economy Roadmap and Action plan that was adopted in 2023. The need for climate adapted urban planning has been acknowledged by the government, especially when it comes to land drainage aspects in the context of road construction³⁴.

As regards inequalities, Mauritius has eradicated extreme poverty and, at 2.2 percent in 2017, the incidence of poverty is also low. Only about 1 in 10 Mauritians ranks below the upper middle-income class poverty line. Owing to the pandemic, poverty is estimated to have increased from 10.5 percent to 15.9 percent in 2020 and to remain above 11 percent through 2023. The rise in total income inequality was mitigated by an extensive system of public transfers, which led to a moderate downgrading of the Gini index over the 2012-2017 period from 38.5 to 36.8.³⁵ Inequalities remain driven by the transformation of the economy towards value added services (e.g., finance, tourism, high end construction) that resulted in a widened inequality gap (between 2001 and 2015, the incomes of the poorest and the richest increased by 37%³⁶), the rise of unemployment of highly educated youth and persisting significant gender-based wage disparities (women earned 22% less than men in 2020³⁷) and a skill mismatch in particular in rural areas³⁸. By supporting the integration of circular economy principles, the Action will foster inclusive economic development meeting the needs of vulnerable populations and improve living conditions in marginalized areas by reducing pollution, health hazards and reliance of fossil fuel energy. Circular economy initiatives such as waste prevention through redesign, reuse, refill, remanufacturing, product-as-a-service, valorisation of secondary material, sharing platforms, can also create new and formalised job opportunities, including for marginalized communities and in social enterprises, and better employment quality, thus empowering marginalized populations, youth and women with new skills, and/or safer conditions, allowing them to harness employment opportunities stemming from intersectoral synergies (e.g., agricultural waste and construction material). Promoting the reuse, repair, resource sharing and repurposing of goods will also make essential quality products, components and materials more affordable and accessible to marginalized communities, notably in the essential housing sector, and at the same time contribute to mitigate GHG emissions of virgin materials. The National Social Inclusion Foundation (NSIF) provides support to CSO/NGO-led initiatives for which the promotion of inclusiveness is a cross-cutting aspect in all intervention areas. The Foundation manages 75% of the obligatory 2% CSR funding that Mauritian companies pay on their chargeable income³⁹. Such initiatives however often remain very small and scattered and could benefit from better connection to the country’s and businesses’ reform initiatives.

As regards gender equality, the Global Gender Gap Index (GGI) of the WEF, Mauritius was ranked 110 out of 155 countries worldwide in 2021. Despite the adoption of 83.3% of legal frameworks promoting, enforcing and monitoring gender equality under the SDG indicator⁴⁰, work still needs to be done to achieve gender equality. In 2021, only 20% of seats in parliament were held by women, women and girls aged 10+ spend 19% of their time on unpaid care and domestic work, compared to 4.8% spent by men. As of December 2020, only 39.4% of indicators needed to monitor the SDGs from a gender perspective were available hindering the elaboration of evidence-based gender-response policies, with gaps in key areas, like women’s access to assets (including land), women exposition to environmentally downgraded sites⁴¹, partly due to hazardous substances being dumped in

³⁴ For example, the capital city Port Louis and surrounding roads have been suffering from heavy rains several times in early 2024, leading to suspending access to the capital city and lower productivity due to inaccessibility and logistical complications.

³⁵ [Poverty and Equity Brief, World Bank, 2021.](#)

³⁶ [“Mauritius: Addressing Inequality through More Equitable Labor Markets”](#) – World Bank, 2018.

³⁷ ILO (2023): [UN Women Mauritius gap report.](#)

³⁸ [Education Mismatch and Wages in Mauritius: Premium or Penalty, 2021.](#)

³⁹ [Mauritius Corporate Income Tax, PWC, 2024.](#)

⁴⁰ [UNWOMEN Mauritius.](#)

⁴¹ [UNWOMEN WOMEN COUNT](#)

open sites unknowingly of the health consequences⁴². The support to the adoption of comprehensive CE principles will foster the emergence of innovative business models that can contribute to gender-balanced development. The proposed Action prioritises support for women entrepreneurs in the circular economy in line with commitment taken in the High Level Policy Dialogue between the EU and the Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare.

Disabilities: Mauritius ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) and, enacted several pieces of legislation ensuring the inclusion and representativeness of persons with disabilities in different spheres of society. The Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Act 1996 imposes a duty to employ persons with disabilities (Section 13) and a duty to provide suitable employment (Section 14). The 2011 census revealed that women with disabilities were more disadvantaged than men with disabilities with regard to educational attainment and are less active in the labour force.

The Circular Economy (CE) can help address the five problems mentioned above. However, for CE to drive a systemic transition from a linear to a circular economy, value chain players agree that several key issues must be resolved to unlock its potential, particularly in the built environment. These include a legal framework for waste prevention and better waste management that remains inconsistent and is rarely enforced, the absence of standards and traceability, and an unequal playing field, with larger conglomerates having better advocacy opportunities and expertise than smaller businesses, startups and CE entrepreneurs, and NGOs. There is also a lack of specific public procurement rules, a newly established multi-stakeholder governance scheme for implementing the CE Roadmap and Action Plan that suffers from insufficient capacity (in terms of staffing, budget, and technical aspects), and a general lack of transparent research and knowledge-sharing among agencies, within government institutions which work in silos and also between government and non-government stakeholders. Addressing these challenges is essential for a successful transition to a circular economy and the achievement of broader sustainability goals.

In this overall context, the *built environment sector faces transformation challenges* to contribute to the transition from a linear to a circular economy but can be a driver of transition owing to its size and interlinkages with other sectors. Contributing 9.7% of GDP in 2019, it employs directly and indirectly some 120,000 workers (22% of the total workforce). Over the last decades, the sector evolved from small housing units to major and resource-intensive projects and is among the key sectors to implement CE strategies (e.g., in business parks, social housing, hotel and resorts, road decongestion and smart cities). The Mauritian built environment, with the current linear practices, relies a lot on imported materials and contributes to the depletion of the locally extracted non-metallic natural resources and to GHG emissions along the value chains (see above section on “climate mitigation”), from the choice of resources/materials used during construction, operation, and demolition. It is estimated that about 70,000⁴³ to 100,000 tonnes of CDW is generated yearly with about 80% dumped illegally, 3% recycled and 8-15% landfilled.⁴⁴ Smaller construction sites (<140 m²) contribute by 22%, medium-sized sites (140-500 m²) by 58% and larger construction sites (>500 m²) by 20%.⁴⁵ It includes different waste types, including concrete, gypsum, metal, plastics, glass, wood. At the same time, current material and design preferences have been reinforced by the high vulnerability to disasters that are aggravated by climate change consequences, such as more frequent cyclones, heavier rainfalls. Owing to its size, supporting the better management and particularly the prevention of CDW through circular practices, including through cross-sectoral fertilisation (e.g., usage of agricultural waste fibres for new construction materials, or plastic-valorisation as building blocks) can play the role for achieving higher environmental sustainability, resilience of the supply chain and local job creation.

Access to finance for small and medium sized projects or start-ups remains a key constraint that is only partially addressed by existing green credit lines, notably those funded by partners acting under a Team Europe approach, like the AFD, EIB, or Proparco/DEG. The lines are disbursed through commercial partner banks in Mauritius (e.g., MCB/SBM/AfrAsia Bank for AFD and EIB, and BCP/MCB for Proparco/DEG) whose capacities were built, while some private project promoters received technical assistance managed by Business Mauritius. Being initiated by disruptive, often smaller, economic actors without access to collaterals and utilising innovative and often untested technology, circular economy solutions require longer cradling, longer maturities and higher budgets than already tested commercial approaches. Banking and non-banking services for such innovations are rare, and potentially interested financiers are not necessarily based in Mauritius (e.g., the Africa Enterprises Challenge Fund (AECF)),

⁴² Broad stakeholder consultations in March/April 2024 found that hazardous waste from buildings (e.g., asbestos from old buildings and their pipes) could end up being dumped because people do not know about the consequences/ health hazard.

⁴³ According to research undertaken by Gamma Materials, 6237 BLUP licenses generated 70,000 tonnes of construction and demolition waste, as per their presentation of findings on 24.04.2024 in Port Louis.

⁴⁴ According to research undertaken by Gamma Materials, 6,000 tonnes of 70,000 tonnes generated go to landfill, while the majority can be found in 275 illegal dumpsites across the country, as per their presentation of findings on 24.04.2024 in Port Louis.

⁴⁵ According to research undertaken by Gamma Materials, as per their presentation of findings on 24.04.2024 in Port Louis.

which increases competition for funding/ support and the cost for local intelligence for the available funders. This engagement could be usefully complemented by facilitating access to non-banking services aimed at improving the bankability of start-up and SME projects (e.g., impact finance, venture capital, early-stage finance, guarantees).

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:

In this context, and in order to contribute to the social, environmental and economic objectives of the Circular Economy Roadmap, the Action will – under its Component 1 (macro level) – support its implementation by strengthening the institutional and regulatory framework foundations, bolstering the technical and coordination/communication capacities of steering and implementing institutions, assisting in the relevant legislative and fiscal reform process, engaging private sector into informed dialogue, to guide involved stakeholders to together create the environment to implement the CE principles in Mauritius and Rodrigues.

Under its Component 2 (micro and meso level), the Action will assist with generating opportunities for public and private sector to demonstrate that the circular economy can deliver the positive impact that is intended by the concept, and to inspire cross-sectoral fertilisation through the development of model approaches in the proposed anchor value chain of the built environment. In this context, the Action will support the adoption of CE practices in the built environment sector and the better management of CDW by mainstreaming circular economy principles into the daily operations of intermediaries (e.g., business membership organisations, accelerators/incubators/venture capital, NSIF) and generates opportunities for public and private sector to demonstrate that the circular economy can deliver the positive impact that is intended by the concept, and can inspire cross-sectoral fertilisation through the development of model approaches in the proposed anchor value chain of the built environment. The mobilisation of a broad array of stakeholders (urban planners (including coastal zone management), architects, constructors, infrastructure builders, financiers, local communities, manufacturers, etc.) will direct investment towards likely multi-sectoral projects (e.g., construction/tourism, agriculture/building materials) and multi-stakeholder projects (businesses, local communities, CSOs, public sector) generating co-benefits. This initiative will embrace a Team Europe approach⁴⁶ to enable the finance ecosystem and facilitate access to finance.

The key stakeholders will be the following:

Component 1 – Building the key institutional and regulatory foundations for the CE Roadmap and Action Plan implementation

Key institutions

- Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change MoESWMCC, notably
 - o DepEnv to apply the CE concept, to link it with the intended socio-economical and environmental impact, to advise the Minister on how to manage/steer the inter-ministerial committee (to chair the 12 ministries) and the capacity to (co-)chair and articulate with other needed institutions, including with Business Mauritius;
 - o DivSWM to steer the application of better waste management practices;
 - o Department of Sustainable Development and Policy Planning
- Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Development MoFEPD (in charge for e.g., economic planning, investment promotion, public procurement) to steer the application of the circular economy in the financial ecosystem, and to include the economic reform perspective
- Ministry of Infrastructure, notably:
 - o Construction Industry Agency CIA (former Construction Industry Development Board CIBD) to steer the application of the CE concept and waste prevention, to adapt and develop regulations;
 - o Ministry of Infrastructure to implement respective regulations;
- Ministry of Local Governments (incl. their National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Center) to assist municipalities to steer the application of the circular economy at decentralised levels;
- Rodrigues Regional Assembly (RRA) to steer the application of the circular economy in the island of Rodrigues, and particularly the Rodrigues Environment Commission

Additional institutions

⁴⁶ Actions in the field of CE and more broadly environmental sustainability and climate are closely coordinated with AFD, ADEME (both in France and particularly the Department La Reunion, a French Overseas region in the Indian Ocean). Proparco, part of the AFD Group, partners with DEG (German Development Bank, part of KfW Group) in two green credit lines addressing commercial banks for private sector investment. The EIB is currently negotiating a green credit line in Mauritius. As France is currently the only EU Member State with physical presence in Mauritius, there is no particular value added to superimpose on this close coordination the formal documents required to label it “Team Europe Initiative”.

- Mauritius Standards Bureau MSB
- Mauritius Research and Innovation Council MRIC, Economic Development Board (EDB), National Productivity and Competitiveness Council NPCC to mainstream CE into the innovation support schemes that they offer (grants, training, awards, etc.)
- Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change MoESWMCC's Department of Climate Change to feedback and -forward the links to climate mitigation and climate adaptation policies, objectives, indicators, targets, and budgets
- Ministry for Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity for inclusiveness aspects, to feedback and -forward the links to inclusiveness policies, objectives, indicators, targets, and budgets
- Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security (notably the National Park and Conservation Service; Forestry Services) to feedback and -forward the links to biodiversity policies, objectives, indicators, targets, and budgets
- Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare to feedback and -forward the links to gender aspects and gender equality policies, objectives, indicators, targets, and budgets
- Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity (incl. the Division on Social Integration)

Component 2 – Improving solid waste prevention and better management through intermediary capacity strengthening and demonstration projects to enable financial ecosystem and to showcase circular business innovation along the built environment value chain

- Business Mauritius
- Maurice Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) and other chambers of commerce and industry and those not traditionally related to the built environment (e.g., agriculture, tourism)
- Sector associations such as Association of Mauritian Manufacturers (AMM), Building and Civil Engineering Contractors Association (BASECA), Mauritius Association of Architects (MAA) but also others not traditionally related to the built environment
- Federation of Real Estate and Construction
- Club des Entrepreneurs de l'Économie Circulaire
- Non-governmental organizations and civil society (Proze Ver, Mission Verte, Zero Waste Mauritius, WeCycle, Green Building Council Mauritius, Business Women Association, the Federation of Women Association, Association of Women in Investment and Finance)
- Academe and public and private research institutes (University of Mauritius, University of Mascareignes, African Leadership University)
- Inn pact Mauritius
- Financial institutions (public banks such as Development Bank of Mauritius, commercial banks such as State Bank of Mauritius, AfrAsia Bank, BCP Bank, Mauritius Commercial Bank MCB, others) and European DFIs (ADB, DEG, others)
- Non-financial institutions (public and private guarantee providers; crowdlending such as Fundkiss; impact funds (such as facilitated by Inn pact Mauritius); venture capitalists such as Beantree Capital; angel investors)
- Intermediaries such as Incubators/Accelerators (e.g., Trampoline, La Turbine), and the National Social Inclusion Foundation NSIF (receiving 75% of the CSR funding paid by businesses)
- urban planners (including coastal zone management), architects, constructors, infrastructure builders, financiers, local communities, manufacturers, etc.) will direct investment towards likely multi-sectoral projects (e.g., construction/tourism, agriculture/building materials) and multi-stakeholder projects (businesses, local communities, CSOs, including organizations for the rights of women, human rights and rights of people with disabilities, public sector)
- Municipal councils

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective of this action is to strengthen socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable development in the Republic of Mauritius.

The Specific Objectives of this action are:

1. To improve the institutional and regulatory frameworks for the implementation of the national Circular Economy Roadmap and Action Plan.
2. To increase effectiveness of circular economy initiatives within the built environment value chain, prioritising women entrepreneurs in the circular economy.

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives are:

Contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1)

- 1.1 Increased capacity of steering institutions in prevention and better management of construction and demolition waste and the circular built environment in alignment with the Mauritian climate and biodiversity commitments.
- 1.2 Strengthened institutional capacity for development and implementation of legislation, regulations, strategies, action plans, tools and incentives focused on the built environment and on tackling construction and demolition waste
- 1.3 Increase availability of evidence-based monitoring information on CE transition.

These outputs contribute to the implementation of the CE Roadmap's P16, P20, KP22, P49, P56, P58, P 59, P62, KP67-KP69, P73, P76-P79 actions, and correspondingly R1/R2 actions for Rodrigues.

Contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2)

- 2.1 Enhanced capacity of intermediary institutions for facilitation of in-sector and intersectoral knowledge transfer and communication including with government agencies, businesses, financiers, NGOs, and academia.
- 2.2 Improved mechanisms for financing circular economy initiatives led by start-ups and NGOs, with an emphasis on women-led initiatives. .
- 2.3 Enhanced innovative platforms in support to public-private circular solutions in the built environment.

These outputs contribute to the implementation of the CE Roadmap's P15, P18, P19, KP26, P42, P50, KP70, KP72, P80 actions, and correspondingly R3/R4/R8/R9 actions for Rodrigues.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities relating to Output 1.1 Provide technical assistance to the MoESWMCC (DepEnv, DivSWM) and other key institutions as mentioned in Section 2.2 to strengthen their technical knowledge and managerial capacities in view of fostering inclusive gender sensitive circular economy practices, waste prevention and better waste management (exemplarily applied to tackle CDW).

- Prepare and execute peer-to-peer exchanges to share international (notably EU) inclusive, gender sensitive approaches and practices to deliver a CE transition (workshops, case examples, study tours)
- Support MoESWMCC and Business Mauritius to jointly develop a 5-year plan to mobilize the required resources with a sub-section dedicated to Rodrigues.
- Technical advice to establish clear lines of communication / articulation with other departments and agencies to ensure collaboration and integration of CE principles, including with the legislative bodies (Cabinet,

Parliament/Assembly), institutions in charge of safeguarding the impact (biodiversity/ nature positiveness, gender equality, inclusiveness, climate)⁴⁷, and with Rodrigues Environment Commission.

Activities relating to Output 1.2 Assist elaborating a regulatory reform plan for 5 years (notably, undertake policy and legislative review (ensuring the review is gender sensitive and includes a human rights based approach), develop normative acts and executive regulations based on international best practices), which includes Mauritius and Rodrigues;

- Support the development and adaptation of standards, actionable tools, and guidelines (e.g., standard to allow for secondary materials content (glass, concrete) in cement; tools/guidance for municipalities, development of nature based solutions, guidelines to characterize and valorize CDW, technical standards to facilitate the use of recycled construction material) that are gender sensitive and integrate a human rights based approach;
- Assist with designing technical strategies and action plans that are gender sensitive and integrate a human rights based approach: (1) on stimulating circular innovation/ financial and fiscal incentives, (2) on public procurement and investment; (3) on preventing and better managing CDW;
- Support the implementation of normative acts foreseen in the CE Roadmap and Action plan, the SWM Action Plan, the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act (2023), the Environment Bill (a specific list of normative acts that will be supported will be determined during the implementation of the Action based on the priorities)
- Technical assistance to mainstream circularity into innovation support mechanisms in Mauritius and Rodrigues (grants, awards, training and other incentives schemes), and to promote the creation of lines for R&D and innovation with potential to accelerate the transition to the CE, while fostering the incorporation of gender equality and the inclusion of the bottom 40% of the population into the CE value chains.

Activities relating to Output 1.3

- Develop and support the implementation of an awareness and outreach strategy and action plan (A&OSAP) including measures such as, (1) dissemination of good practices in Mauritius and Rodrigues; (2) training measures (e.g., on the CE principles and their application, eco-innovation, new technology and circular practices in and for the built environment/ construction sector, as well as CDW recovery and prevention, in public and private sector); (3) effective/evidence-based communication on the circular economy and its benefits (notably the intended and achieved impact - nature-positiveness, climate change resilience and mitigation, inclusiveness, women empowerment); (4) awareness raising campaigns on the environmental and social impacts resulting from the CE transition, targeted to e.g., ministries, public agencies, municipal councils, private companies, NGOs, academe, educational institutions, and the general public (including addressed to women and underserved groups such as people with disabilities).
- Assist with establishing a transparent gender-sensitive and evidence-based M&E framework for the CE Roadmap and Action Plan (baseline setting, impact simulation, performance measurement, impact assessment - incl. the economic valuation of ecosystems/natural resources).
- Support the A&OSAP implementation with targeted, specifically requested support to: (1) identifying good practices (via desk study, study tours to EU countries/regions (e.g., La Reunion) and their dissemination in Mauritius and Rodrigues; (2) assisting relevant institutions with effective, evidence-based communication (based on the respective M&E framework); (3) assisting partners to organise and execute selected campaigns.
- Assist with the preparation (informative studies/analyses, benchmarks, good practices, technical expertise) and execution of public-private dialogue sessions to address implementation-oriented challenges and solutions both within the built environment value chain and cross-sectoral.
- For all Activities of the Programme, assist with developing model approaches to facilitate application/ transfer to other value chains.

Activities relating to Output 2.1

⁴⁷ Such institutions can include the Mauritian Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security (National Park and Conservation Services, or Forestry Services) on biodiversity; Department of Climate Change on climate change; Ministry of gender Equality and Family Welfare on gender equality, and Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity and Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives on inclusiveness.

- Assist business support institutions to establish a Circular Economy Hub for the Built environment (e.g., hosted by Business Mauritius jointly with others, such as NPCC, AMM, MAA, BACECA, CIBD (now CIA), BCAC) focused on inspiring private-sector action in research, innovation, and proof of concept, piloting, upscaling, while fostering streamlined advocacy through information exchange on circular materials, product design, business models, and value chain innovation. Assist these intermediaries to help their members identify and develop projects showcasing innovative CDW prevention technologies and practices, and assist with networking and matchmaking of (public and private) business partners. Assist with developing articulation mechanism to available (incl. free) mechanisms and resources.
- Assist with case studies and matchmaking for peer-to-peer learning between business membership organisations and inspiring European counterparts (e.g. Holland Circular Hotspot, Nordic Circular Hotspot, living labs or clusters, Team Europe Initiatives on the CE, EU business membership organisations).
- Assist key intermediaries (NPCC, Business Mauritius, others) to develop training measures for value chain actors (e.g. construction companies and contractors; demolition contractors, architects and designers; recycling facilities; waste haulers and transporters; material suppliers; research institutions and academia; NGOs and community groups). Assist with training their trainers to educate and raise awareness on circular built environment and facilitate businesses to translate CE principles into operational action (possibility based on a “CE” certification scheme for such trainers). Assist with the leveraging of HRDC training funds for the financing of such training measures. Such training measures would also emphasise the need for gender equality and inclusion of the most vulnerable groups including those enlisted in the Social Register which is a national dynamic database used to determine eligibility towards social assistance in the target value chains, which can lead to more decent jobs, better quality and formalisation, for example of the repair sector, the collection and segregation of waste, and more considerate outcomes, e.g., the protection of territories and biodiversity in those areas to which the most vulnerable part of the population is exposed.
- Develop and distribute model approaches, guidelines, and tools that can be applied or transferred to other value chains, ensuring broad applicability and adaptability across various industries.

Activities relating to Output 2.2

- Assist an intermediary organisation (e.g. Business Mauritius) to establish and maintain an observatory of funding opportunities (CE Financing Hub), that will serve as a centralized platform for collecting, analysing, and disseminating information on various financing mechanisms (both banking and non-banking finance⁴⁸), successful case studies, and emerging trends in CE project finance, identifying their financing needs (volume, equity/debt) and capacities, matching available project opportunities (small-scale, medium-sized and larger investment projects in the circular economy transition⁴⁹) with suitable funding, as well as the complementary training or technical advice to involved project owners (pitches, compilation of impact-related information) with a focus on women-led projects and projects that employ or benefit women .
- Technical assistance to the Ministry of Infrastructure in piloting the incorporation of sustainability criteria (circularity, inclusiveness, accessibility, climate-proof, establishing a clear definition for what constitutes a biodiversity-supportive investment) into a public procurement process (e.g. a tender) in the built environment, and in reviewing lessons learnt to inform tools/guidelines and recommendations for broader application.
- Assist and train accelerators/incubators/venture capital funds, and the National Social Inclusion Foundation (NSIF) with the mainstreaming of circular economy and nature-based solutions to increase the number of gender sensitive, inclusive, accessible circular economy projects, jobs, and investment opportunities led by start-ups and NGOs, including the provision of financial literacy support services, and with an emphasis on women-led initiatives. Actions for people from particularly vulnerable groups (e.g. disabled, ethnic minorities, bottom 40% of the population) as producers or consumers could be prioritised under the NSIF.

Activities relating to Output 2.3

- Assist the CE Hub on the Built Environment with the exemplary facilitation of two demonstration initiatives, support with measuring baselines and achieved impacts.

⁴⁸ globally, on the African continent, in the Indian Ocean region, for SIDS, in Mauritius

⁴⁹ These may include environmental and social impact-oriented financing options (climate finance, conservation finance) and instruments for blended finance mechanisms (in kind land/expertise; ecosystem services pay; carbon credit mechanisms, etc.).

- Secondary construction material value chain support: Technical assistance to help specific value chain actors organise, digitalise, ensure traceability and compliance, and facilitate access to secondary materials of the built environment. Assistance will be in particular directed towards communities, cooperatives, rural and vulnerable areas, and particularly women, that can take advantage of the emergence of platforms trading in secondary construction materials.
- Private or public-private alliance to prevent and decrease the negative impacts from waste on the ecosystem/biodiversity, while offsetting high emissions from carbon intensive industries: Technical assistance to help the CIA (or CIBD in the event that the CIA is not yet operational or alternatively another suitable public or private entity to be defined) with the establishment of a registry of buildings and demolition projects detailing resources and waste type estimates, to support a private or public-private mechanism to facilitate collection of CDW including from uncontrolled dumpsites, to organise logistics of CDW, the segregation of different waste types to serve as feedstock for innovative secondary material valorisation projects by specific companies (e.g., in cement production, in road construction), to support with advocacy and standards development where applicable.

3.3 Mainstreaming

The Action will support the transformation from a traditional linear to a more circular model and constitute a steppingstone towards attaining a climate-neutral, resource-efficient and competitive economy, which is inclusive and gender equal.

The Action contributes principally to SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) – exemplarily applied to the built environment value chain, which contributes to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure). It aims to achieve the benefits that are implied in the CE concept when implemented at upstream value chains level, regarding its positive environmental impact in terms of climate mitigation and climate adaptation/ resilience – SDG 13 (Climate Action) – and biodiversity/ ecosystem protection or restoration both on land and in water resources – SDG 15 (Life on Land), SDG 14 (Life below Water), and its positive social impact in terms of inclusiveness, gender equality, jobs creation – SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic growth), SDG 1 (No poverty). The Action will coordinate with the EU MS in a Team Europe Approach and create complementarities to other development partners: SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals).

This Action is aligned with the international dimension of the EU Green Deal, and the EU commitment to “build back better” and will contribute to the Global Europe targets on climate change and to Global Gateway priorities on climate, energy, education, and innovation. The action will contribute to environmental sustainability, lower carbon emission and greater resilience by translating Mauritius commitments taken at the UNFCCC and UNCBD into concrete actions that incorporate the circular economy principles. The Action will demonstrate how the EU supports partners to engage in the EU Circular Economy Action Plan and other EU Green Deal policies and fosters opportunities for several Member States and EU private sector in terms of investment, transfer of technology, academic cooperation, etc.

At policy level, the Action will support gender-responsive policies that promote gender equality and women's empowerment and will support the participation of women associations in the dialogue mechanisms (e.g., Business Women Association, the Federation of Women Association). This will facilitate advocacy for gender-inclusive policies addressing gender-specific challenges, notably in the agriculture, waste prevention and management, handicraft and renewable energy sectors where women play significant roles. At meso level, the Action will contribute addressing systemic barriers hindering women's participation in the circular economy (access to finance, land rights, and training measures). At micro-level, the Action will contribute harnessing the circular economy potential to create diverse employment opportunities that are accessible to women. It will focus on encouraging women entrepreneurship and fostering opportunities to start and grow their businesses, thus empowering women economically and socially and inspiring girls and women to pursue careers and opportunities in related fields. By promoting gender-inclusive hiring practices, circular economy initiatives can contribute to gender equity in the workforce and to highlight the role of women as of agents of change driving the emergence of CE models. It will also enable the sustainable inclusion of women-led informal activities (e.g., waste segregation, collection, local logistics) into supply chains of medium to large corporates, ensuring a more equitable access to natural resources

notably for women relying on those for their livelihoods. By promoting gender-sensitive awareness-raising campaigns about the benefits of the circular economy, the Action will challenge traditional gender roles and stereotypes and will have a positive effect on gender empowerment and equality.

By supporting the integration of circular economy principles, the Action will foster inclusive economic development meeting the needs of vulnerable populations and improve living conditions in marginalized areas by reducing pollution, health hazards and reliance of fossil fuel energy. Circular economy initiatives such as waste prevention through redesign, reuse, refill, remanufacturing, product-as-a-service, valorisation of secondary material, sharing platforms, renewable energy, waste/ secondary material collection, sorting, and – as a last resort – processing for recycling, and renewable energy projects, can also create job opportunities, including for marginalized communities and in social enterprises, and better employment quality, thus empowering marginalized populations with new skills, and/or safer conditions, allowing them to harness employment opportunities stemming from intersectoral synergies (e.g., agricultural waste and construction material). Promoting the reuse, repair, resource sharing and repurposing of goods will also make essential quality products, components, and materials more affordable and accessible to marginalized communities, notably in the essential built environment and particularly the housing sector. At micro-level, the Action will contribute harnessing the circular economy potential to create diverse employment opportunities that are accessible to people from the bottom 40%.

No conflict analysis was required.

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

The Action will support the transformation from a traditional linear to a more circular model and constitute a steppingstone towards attaining a climate-neutral, resource-efficient and competitive economy, which is inclusive and gender equal.

The Action contributes principally to SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) – exemplarily applied to the built environment value chain, which contributes to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure). It aims to achieve the benefits that are implied in the CE concept when implemented at upstream value chains level, regarding its positive environmental impact in terms of climate mitigation and climate adaptation/ resilience – SDG 13 (Climate Action) – and biodiversity/ ecosystem protection or restoration both on land and in water resources – SDG 15 (Life on Land), SDG 14 (Life below Water), and its positive social impact in terms of inclusiveness, gender equality, jobs creation – SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic growth), SDG 1 (No poverty). The Action will coordinate with the EU MS in a Team Europe Approach and create complementarities to other development partners: SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals). This Action is aligned with the international dimension of the EU Green Deal, and the EU commitment to “build back better” and will contribute to the Global Europe targets on climate change and to Global Gateway priorities on climate, energy, education, and innovation. The action will contribute to environmental sustainability, lower carbon emission and greater resilience by translating Mauritius commitments taken at the UNFCCC and UNCBD into concrete actions that incorporate the circular economy principles. The Action will demonstrate how the EU supports partners to engage in the EU Circular Economy Action Plan and other EU Green Deal policies and fosters opportunities for several Member States and EU private sector in terms of investment, transfer of technology, academic cooperation, etc.

No conflict analysis was required.

Outcomes of the SEA screening

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that key environment and climate-related aspects will be addressed during the design of the action.

Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action Category B (not requiring an EIA , but for which environmental aspects will be addressed during the design of the action.

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening

The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is no or low risk (no need for further assessment)

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1 (“significant”). This implies that gender equality will be mainstreamed in the project/programme, as it is considered an important and deliberate objective, but not the principal reason for undertaking the programme.

It also implies:

1. Using information from existing gender analyses and if need be conducting a specific analysis of the project and using it for designing the action.
2. Presence of at least one explicit gender equality objective backed by at least one gender-specific indicator.
3. Indicators and data disaggregation
4. Commitment to monitor and report on the gender equality results

Human Rights

The Action can contribute to fairer human rights by promoting sustainable development, reducing inequalities, and fostering social inclusion. The Action will foster collaboration, dialogue, and collective action, circular economy models strengthen social cohesion and promote the realization of civil and political rights, including the right to participation and freedom of expression. It will foster the shift in value creation towards local communities undertaking initiatives providing decent work and fair wages, strengthening economic rights and promoting social inclusion. It will also help alleviate poverty by increasing access to affordable goods and services and improving access to essential services such as water, energy, and sanitation, which are fundamental to realizing basic human rights, the right to health, and the right to an adequate standard of living. By reducing pollution, strengthening the country’s climate adaptation capacity, at the same time mitigating climate change, and protecting natural ecosystems, circular economy initiatives supported by the Action will also contribute to environmental justice and ensure that all individuals have the right to live in a healthy and safe environment. Last, the support to providing training on circular economy principles, will foster a culture of sustainability and contribute to the realization of the right to education and the right to information.

The Action will ensure the implementation of the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) principles and the activities will be tailored to *‘leave no one behind’*. Groups with specific needs (women, persons with disabilities, youth, etc.) will take an active part and participate in decision-making processes. To this end, a consultation processes to right-holders about their needs and aspirations will be carried out along the different stages of the project’s cycle. An accountability mechanism will be in place for people and communities who believe that they have been, or are likely to be, harmed by the Action, and access to information will be ensured.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D10. This implies that the Action will include activities related to gathering data on needs of persons with disabilities and help to mainstream inclusiveness and special needs across all activities, appropriate infrastructure and materials and all activities all possible measures will be taken to ensure inclusive policy dialogues. Therefore, attention will be paid to ensure and enable the participation of people with disabilities in the transition to a green and circular economy.

Reduction of inequalities

The Action is labelled as I-1 (“significant”). This implies that the reduction of inequalities will be mainstreamed in the project/programme, as it is considered an important and deliberate objective, but not the principal reason for undertaking the programme.

Democracy

The Action will contribute to democracy by fostering the participation of the private sector and the civil society in the national and sector dialogue mechanisms that will be at the core of the implementation of the CE Roadmap and Action Plan. This is also supported by strengthening the inclusiveness of policy dialogues as well as an accent on the importance of good governance, transparency, anti-corruption and the rule of law. The action will support a culture of social inclusion, institutional dialogue, data sharing and knowledge dissemination as well as participation of civil society and other partners in decision-making processes.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

The Action will contribute to environmental resilience, to the adaptability of communities to climate change impact, to the emergence of economic models less dependent to external, shocks and vulnerabilities. The Action will also contribute to sustainable agriculture, agroecology, and food waste reduction, hence enhancing food security and resilience, and reducing vulnerabilities associated with resource scarcity, price fluctuations, and supply chain disruptions. It will also contribute to reducing the risk of conflicts over natural resources by addressing environmental grievances, while enhancing Mauritius' international reputation as a leader in CE at the regional and global levels, fostering cooperation, dialogue, and partnerships with other countries, contributing to peacebuilding.

Disaster Risk Reduction

The Action can help build a more disaster-resilient society, capable of adapting to and mitigating the impacts of natural hazards and climate change. By implementing waste prevention and effective waste management strategies, Mauritius can reduce the accumulation of solid waste in landfills, dumpsites, and reduce the risk of disasters such as landfill fires and groundwater contamination. The Action will also facilitate the adoption of a risk-informed approach to decision-making, inform the design and construction of infrastructure withstanding natural hazards, and reduce the risk of flooding, erosion, and infrastructure damage by incorporating green infrastructure solutions (e.g., permeable pavements, green roofs, and natural drainage systems), CE initiatives can also contribute to the restoration and conservation of ecosystems that provide buffers against natural disasters such as floods, storms, and landslides. Further, the Action will help exchange on research and innovation of less hazardous, circular substances that have qualities that are suitable for the disaster conditions in Mauritius/Rodrigues. By fostering local and regional value chains, the Action can furthermore contribute to further independence and therefore resilience with regards to disasters or other circumstances that disrupt international value chains.

Other considerations if relevant

None.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

The **main risk** of the Action is the possible lack of efficient management of the Action with regards to coordination, transparency and availability of sufficient resources. Due to the large number of departments needed to implement a circular economy transition, particularly as the Action aims at connecting the CE transition stakeholders to those in charge of safeguarding and fostering the positive impacts it can help achieve, there is a risk that the coordination among relevant Government institutions will be insufficient. The CE Roadmap establishes an Inter-Ministerial Committee, five Circular Platforms and one Committee for Cross-cutting Actions (currently all being established, April 2024), to coordinate the tasks and priority actions to be implemented by public and private stakeholders. Transparent and evidence-based public private dialogue is essential for an effective transformation of the economy. The engagement of many stakeholders in the CE process mitigates the risk of changing priorities after the late 2024 or early 2025 general elections. The availability of skilled labour is always a concern in Mauritius because of brain drain, as well as weak basic education outcomes. This Action in support of the CE Roadmap will also include the strengthening of intermediaries through their tailored capacity building.

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
External environment	Risk of changing priorities after the 2024 or 2025 general elections	Low	High	The August 2023 approval of the CE Roadmap by the Cabinet of the Republic of Mauritius institutionalised the willingness to support this roadmap and action plan. Engagement of the EU and international cooperation partners to support, via technical and financial resources the implementation of the CE Roadmap, and its

				alignment with SDGs and the Paris Agreement, as well as Mauritius commitments in the UNFCCC and UNCBD demonstrate the long-term commitment of the government and strengthen the resilience of the plan to political changes. Component 1 of the action will contribute to embedding the CE principles into policies and regulations, securing long term resources and capacity building and institutional strengthening underpinning a sustained commitment. Co-chairmanship of platforms and committees by the private sector will allow the latter to maintain a droit de regard on circular economy actions and matters.
Planning, processes and systems	<p>Lack of coordination within Government institutions both horizontally and vertically</p> <p>Lack of holistic vision for the economic reform</p> <p>Lack of engagement of the private sector</p>	Medium	High	<p>The governance structure, as approved by the highest level of the Executive, envisions an Inter-Ministerial Committee on CE chaired by the MOESWMCC supported by a Steering Committee that will ensure the coordination of the various government institutions and oversee the work in five Thematic Circular Platforms and one Committee on Cross-Cutting Action.</p> <p>Dialogue with Economic Planning department of Ministry of Finance to ensure coherence in policy planning</p> <p>Central authorities will be encouraged to foresee specific actions for Rodrigues and the new programme will involve the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (RRA) and with the Environmental Commission of Rodrigues. The capacity of the Ministry of Local Government will be strengthened in view of extending the newly gained knowledge and know-how to municipality level. Selected municipalities will be involved in specific demonstration initiative (e.g., to agree on the logistics and finance for cleaning up illegal dumpsites).</p> <p>The development of the CE roadmap steered by the Department of Environment at the MOESWMCC involved a vast array of public stakeholders including the Ministries of Energy and Public Utilities, of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, of Blue Economy and Marine Resources as well as the Economic Development Board and MRCI. The approved governance structure includes public and private players of many disciplines. Component 1 (especially with the indirect management modality) can help identify more</p>

				<p>effective steering structures that can be adopted to the Mauritian/Rodrigues reality.</p> <p>The participatory approach adopted by the government to elaborate the CE plan also fostered collaboration and partnerships with key stakeholders, including businesses, academia, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and international organizations, including Business Mauritius, the MCCI, the Manufacturers Association, the University of Mauritius or Zero Waste Mauritius. Business Mauritius is mandated by the Mauritian Cabinet to co-chair the Steering Committee, based on earlier good examples, such as the publicly-privately co-chaired RE Transition.</p>
People and the organisation	<p>Lack of skilled labour</p> <p>Siloed implementation and therefore scattered initiatives</p>	Medium	Medium	<p>The action will mobilize expertise to build the capacity of civil servants and business representatives to establish the circular economy as a driver for the Republic of Mauritius' sustainable development by conducting peer-to-peer learning opportunities, trainings, workshops, and on-the-job coaching, particularly inspiring learning from EU approaches, including from Overseas Countries and Territories, as well as international approaches beyond the Indian Ocean Region (e.g., SIDS). It will also contribute to the identification, preparation, and implementation of CE projects in the field of built environment and construction in close cooperation with local operators, consultants, financiers, and academia, who will benefit from the transfer of expertise and know-how, thus reinforcing the skill set required to undertake such projects. In addition, cross-sectoral fertilisation is encouraged.</p> <p>The actions of Component 1 and Component 2 should be implemented closely intertwined, so as to keep the programme compact and meaningful despite the relatively small amount available for supporting an economic reform process. During implementation, co-financing opportunities such as with the available HRDC training scheme or other Mauritian or third party support (technical, financial, either with financial contribution or in kind) will free budget for such initiatives for which international (notably EU) support is considered key.</p>
Institutional capacity	Insufficient human resources in the key institutions for implementation of the CE roadmap.	High	High	<p>The Ministry of Environment has indicated its commitment to dedicate more staff to the implementation of the CE roadmap and the solid waste management department, subject to national budget appropriations.</p>

	Limited commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment, Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) and People with Disabilities (PwD) by the targeted institutions and non-state actors.			The project will work with institutions and non-state actors on the importance of mainstreaming Gender Equality, HRBA and rights of PwD.
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Lessons Learnt:

The support to implementing the CE Roadmap and Action plan will raise awareness and understanding of this relatively new concept and increase the visibility of CE projects that will reinforce the engagement of stakeholders, their alignment and contribution to the plan.

The choice of the built environment and construction sector will exert a multiplier effect in sectors that are served by this industry, including tourism, business centres, manufacturing and agriculture.

Actors in a concerted Team Europe approach, e.g., ADEME, builds on the technical assistance provided between France (especially through La Reunion) and the Republic of Mauritius in relevant aspects (solid waste management and prevention). Lessons learnt from the SUNREF programme have been incorporated both in the design of a new credit line by AFD as well as the proposed Component 2 (matchmaking among businesses and with banking and non-banking services).

Utilising and promoting freely available resources and mechanisms by EU MS for awareness raising and connection with good practices, and feeding back, for example the newly established EU Circular Economy Resource Center's knowledge lab (to share know-how), and possibly policy lab (to offer technical assistance on policy issues through peer support, exchange of best practices) and business lab (to support partner country businesses go circular and access circular economy markets globally), or GIZ PREVENT Waste Alliance Network on research exchanges (plastics, e-waste, organics), information resources developed by Finnish SITRA to assess knowledge of CE basic concepts; circularity initiatives developed by Dutch bank ABN Amro in similar SIDS context in the Caribbean; and several Team Europe Initiatives on the CE transition and innovation, including the TEI Circular Economy Promotion and Investment in COMESA region (EU Delegation to Zambia) focusing on the plastics and electronics value chains, climate mitigation, and a collaboration with the Africa Enterprises Challenge Fund (AECF).

In the wider sense, the programme also builds on the lessons learnt from EU Africa RISE supported initiatives, such as the recent Engagement for Women in Finance workshop, which contributed to decreasing the gender gap in investment and financial services sector in Mauritius with the involvement of the Association of Women in Investment and Finance.

Potential contribution to establishing the ecosystem for a circular economy accelerator and incubators through peer-to-peer learning from the International Climate Fund Accelerator (managed by Inn pact, funded by the Government of Luxembourg)

Possible eventual collaboration with the forthcoming EU Circular Economy Resource Center, to be implemented by ENABEL and SITRA, as one of four pioneer countries (example SIDS) with the aim to implement the CE Roadmap by supporting the uptake of sound CE policies and business models based on partnerships between the EU and third countries (peer-to-peer learning).

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that the catalysing potential of the circular economy transition to achieve the intended positive socio-economic and environmental results does not occur automatically. Instead, it requires the capacities of strong leading institutions both from the public and private sectors, and particularly from key steering and implementing institutions and intermediaries (business membership organisation, financiers, incubators, trainers, budget users – such as public procurement, purchasing, endconsumers) that can (a) create a fruitful business, innovation and investment environment, (b) demonstrate that the circular economy concept can lead to tangible impact on climate resilience, sustainability and inclusive economic growth, and (c) help inspire the general

public/ consumers and reach the critical mass required for triggering the cultural change for NGOs and companies to join the circular economy transition.

The planned Activities and Outputs will contribute to the Specific Objectives/Outcomes and ultimately to the Overall Objective in the following way:

Output 1.1: IF key institutions (Department of Environment, Ministry of Infrastructure/ Construction Industry Authority, Division of Solid Waste Management, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Local Governments, Rodrigues Regional Assembly) can learn about the technical concept of the CE and its links to the intended socio-economic and environmental impact, IF they can exchange peer-to-peer with international (EU) approaches and good practices; IF they can be supported in the development of a 5 year plan to mobilise the required resources; IF they have sufficiently skilled staff and IF they are assisted with establishing clear lines of communication/ articulation with the legislative bodies, the institutions in charge of safeguarding the impact (biodiversity, nature positiveness, gender equality, inclusiveness, climate) and with Rodrigues by coordination with the Environment Commission, THEN Mauritian and Rodrigues steering institutions will be empowered to drive efficiently the implementation of the CE Roadmap and Action Plan within the impact frameworks of nature-positiveness, climate change resilience/mitigation and inclusiveness.

Output 1.2: IF key stakeholders work jointly to elaborate a suitable regulatory and policy framework, IF they get assistance in enforcing and implementing key normative acts and policies; IF circularity is mainstreamed in functioning innovation support mechanisms (e.g., grants, awards, incentive schemes), THEN the Republic of Mauritius' legislations, regulations, strategies, action plans, tools and incentives will enable the adoption of circular economic practices.

Output 1.3: IF key stakeholders work jointly to develop an awareness/outreach strategy and action plan including the learning of good practices and study tours, communication of the CE benefits, training on CE principles and their application, IF they get assistance with implementing specific measures of this awareness and outreach strategy and action plan (e.g., study tours to EU countries, awareness raising campaigns), IF these stakeholders get support in how to establish a transparent and evidence based M&E framework for the CE Roadmap and Action Plan which undertakes a baseline setting, considers the necessary links to the intended positive impacts, undertakes impact assessment and performance measurements and regular reporting to the general public, and IF public private dialogue sessions will engage on CE implementation challenges and the identification of respective solutions, THEN, based on this more transparent and evidence-based monitoring and communication routine, stakeholders count with increased awareness and knowledge to participate in better informed dialogues.

Output 2.1: IF business membership organisations get the opportunity to learn from international (EU) peers on how to provide business support services for the CE transition, IF intermediaries and their trainers receive training on how to support businesses in transferring knowledge into concrete action, IF a central hub is established with information and supporting intermediaries (e.g., Business Mauritius, NPCC, AMM, MAA, BACECA and others) that can inspire specific value chain action (for this programme the tackling of CDW and the built environment value chain) to research/ innovate, proof a concept, to pilot or to upscale, as well as that can streamline advocacy work to lobby towards the government institutions, and IF model approaches, guidelines and tools are developed to facilitate the application and transfer to other value chains, THEN these technically empowered intermediary institutions facilitate effective in-sector and intersectoral knowledge transfer and communication to reach the crucial mass.

Output 2.2: IF public and private financing actors engage in requesting circular economy thinking of their clients and business partners that includes the intended positive impacts (climate adaptation/mitigation, ecosystem protection, inclusiveness, and gender equality), for example, (a) in the form of a centralised observatory and advisory hub on CE Finance, (b) piloting circularity criteria in a tender process, (c) mainstreaming circular economy and nature-based solutions into the work of accelerators, incubators, venture capital funds and the National Social Inclusion Foundation, THEN the start-ups, NGOs and businesses (particularly SMEs) benefit from a better enabling ecosystem, exemplarily applied in the built environment value chain, which facilitates the circular economy delivery enabling climate adaptation/mitigation, ecosystem protection, inclusiveness, and gender equality.

Output 2.3: IF pioneering stakeholders (private sector, public sector, NGOs, and/or academe) are supported to connect and collaborate with others to identify opportunities in which they jointly apply CE principles in the built environment value chain, IF they receive analytical support that can support policy making (e.g., cost-benefit analyses that can inspire effective fiscal incentives) and advocacy capacities (e.g., simulation and measurement of secondary materials kept in the economy and their positive impact, how to present evidence-based position papers) and complementary capacities (e.g., guidance for municipal authorities, amenity centers, etc.), THEN these stakeholders will establish and enable projects that incorporate the circular economy principles, that mobilize technical and financial resources, and that showcase solutions to reduce construction and demolition waste.

In the longer term,

- Outcome 1: IF the Republic of Mauritius can rely on empowered steering institutions that drive efficiently the implementation of the CE Roadmap and Action Plan, a set of legislations, regulations, strategies, action plans, tools and incentives that is adopted to enable the transition to circular economic practices, and a transparent and evidence-based monitoring and communication routine that allows for informed dialogue and awareness raising, THEN the institutional and regulatory foundations are strengthened for the implementation of the CE Roadmap and Action Plan.
- Outcome 2: IF technically empowered intermediary institutions facilitate in-sector and intersectoral knowledge transfer and communication effectively, IF public and private stakeholders pilot an enabling ecosystem that facilitates the circular economy delivery while enabling climate adaptation/mitigation, ecosystem protection, inclusiveness, and gender equality, and IF projects showcase the reduction of construction and demolition waste, THEN demonstration initiatives are showcasing the tangible impact of CE on climate resilience, sustainability and inclusive economic growth in the built environment value chain.

IF the institutional and regulatory foundations for the implementation of the CE Roadmap and Action Plan are strengthened, and IF demonstration initiatives showcase tangible impact of CE on climate resilience, sustainability and inclusive economic growth in the built environment value chain, and IF the efforts of development partners are complementary and synergetic (thanks to a Team Europe approach and periodic coordination with other development partners), THEN the right framework conditions are in place that lead to establishing the CE as a driver for the Republic of Mauritius' socio-economically inclusive and environmentally sustainable development.

IF a minimum quota for addressing women-led institutions and/or individuals from other vulnerable groups (e.g., 50%) is required by the selected indicators, THEN a priority is set on women and individuals from other vulnerable groups entrepreneurs and a culture to foster gender equality and social inclusion will be strengthened. IF a minimum quota of addressing SMEs (e.g., minimum 50% SMEs) is required by the selected indicators, THEN a priority is set on small and medium sized businesses, therefore supporting them in making the shift.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.

The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

PROJECT MODALITY (3 levels of results / indicators / Source of Data / Assumptions - no activities)

Results	Results chain (a): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (a): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To strengthen socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable development in the Republic of Mauritius	1: Domestic material consumption per capita (SDG 12, Indicator 12.2.2) 2: Percentage increase in resource productivity by 2033 (Rep. of Mauritius' CE Roadmap and Action Plan) 3: Total GHG emissions per year 4: GEF 1.32**> World Bank Gini Index	1: 9.2ton/capita (2019), WB Data 1: 2.34 US\$/kg in 2019, CE Roadmap and Action Plan 3: GHG emissions: 5,642 kT (2022), Statistics Mauritius 4: 36.8 (2017), WB Data	1: 9.2 ton/capita (2029) ⁵⁰ 2: +12% by 2027 (+25% by 2033), CE Roadmap and Action Plan 3: -40% (2030) ⁵¹ , Note: As per NDC, compared to the Business as Usual (BAU) scenario of around 6,900 ktCO ₂ eq (including LULUCF) in 2030	1: OECD, WB 2: National accounts 3: National Reporting to UNFCCC 4: WB Database	<i>Not applicable</i>

⁵⁰ Should not significantly increase while growing the economy; Alternatively: Ministry of Environment will check if there are national targets for Gini Index for 2029 or 2030

⁵¹ Alternatively: Ministry of Environment will check with the Department of Climate Change regarding a national target level for 2029 for the same indicator.

				4: 33 (2029) ⁵²		
Outcome 1	1: The institutional and regulatory frameworks for the implementation of the national Circular Economy Roadmap and Action Plan are improved.	1.1: Number of established and operational coordination mechanisms between stakeholders of specific value chains (notably: sufficiently budgeted, staffed, SOPs applied, etc.) 1.2: Number of beneficiaries applying CE practices with EU support (GERF 2.6) (disaggregated by stakeholder group, gender, age, income level, ethnicity, disability, area of residence)	1.2: 0 (2024) 1.3: 0 (2024)	1.1: 1 (2029) <u>Note:</u> Coordination mechanism on CE and better waste management in the built environment value chain 1.2: 100 ⁵³ (2029) with a minimum of 20% women-led MSMEs, NGOs, academe and municipalities) <u>Note:</u> Due to mainstreaming of CE principles in innovation support mechanisms	1.1: idem 1.2: Grant awards; incentives granted (e.g., training schemes, tax incentives, etc.)	An inclusive circular economy concept is applied that gives preference for changes upstream of the value chain, over recycling or waste treatment. Businesses, and particularly MSMEs apply for CE innovation support mechanisms Synergies and complementarities with EU MS (AFD, DEG, ADEME) and other development partners
Outcome 2	2: The effectiveness of circular economy initiatives within the built environment value chain, prioritising women entrepreneurs in the circular economy is increased	2.1: Number of beneficiaries applying CE practices with EU support (GERF 2.6)** (disaggregated by stakeholder group, gender, by sex, age, income level, ethnicity, disability, area of residence; with a minimum of 30% ⁵⁴ women-led MSMEs, NGOs, academe, municipalities)	2.1: 0 (2024) 2.2: 0% (2024) 2.3: 0 (2024) 2.4: TBD during inception phase (2024) 2.5: 0 (2024)	2.1: 300 (2029) <u>Note:</u> Due to demonstration initiatives and outreach to beneficiaries by intermediaries (NSIF, incubators, business membership organisations, etc.) 2.2: 5 (2029) <u>Note:</u> (1) CE Financing Hub; (2) circular public	2.1: Progress reports for the EU funded intervention 2.2: (Draft) Policies 2.3: Progress reports for the EU funded intervention 2.5 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention	Continued willingness of public and private actors to communicate and collaborate

⁵² The Gini index measures the extent to which the distribution of income or consumption among individuals or households within an economy deviates from a perfectly equal distribution. A Gini index of 0 represents perfect equality, while an index of 100 implies perfect inequality. 33 is comparable to both Greece and Luxembourg in 2021.

⁵³ Estimating an average outreach of 33-34 companies per year, and no such activity in the first year.

⁵⁴ Reflecting a pro-women policy of selecting demonstrative projects and the possibility for cross-sectoral fertilisation.

		<p>2.2: Percentage of degraded coral reef areas are sustainably managed and/or rehabilitated* (as per Environmental Strategy 2020-2030) linked to GEF 2.8 **</p> <p>Marine areas under a) protection; b) sustainable management with EU support – km²</p> <p>2.3: Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions avoided (tonnes CO₂e) with EU support (total, total per year, and in particular from waste resulting from construction, operation, maintenance and deconstruction of the built environment)</p> <p>2.4: Volume of C&D waste collected at Mare Chicose</p> <p>2.5: Number of MSMEs applying CE practices with EU support (GEF 2.6))</p> <p>**</p>		<p>procurement; (3) mainstreaming CE in incubators; (4) secondary construction material value chain support; (5) alliance for ecosystem and climate</p> <p>2.3: TBD during inception phase (2029)</p> <p>2.4: TBD during inception phase (2029)</p> <p>2.5: 20⁵⁵ (2029)</p>		
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⁵⁵ On average 10 entities per demonstration project

Output 1 relating to Outcome 1	1.1: Increased capacity of steering institutions in prevention and better management of construction and demolition waste and the circular built environment in alignment with the Mauritian climate and biodiversity commitments.	1.1.1: Number of key institutions with a 5-year CE plan and budget developed with EU support 1.1.2: Number of municipalities and district councils with climate change and/or disaster risk reduction strategies, under implementation with EU support (GERF 2.5) ** 1.1.3 Amount of recycled construction materials used in the construction sector	1.1.1: 1 (2024) <u>Note:</u> MoESWMCC 1.1.2: 0 (2024) <u>Note:</u> linked with the CE principles	1.1.1: 3 (2029) <u>Note:</u> through MoESWMCC advocacy 1.1.2: 3 ⁵⁶ (2029)	1.1.1: Draft policy (notably strategies, standards, guidelines, regulations) 1.1.2: Progress reports; (Draft) strategies	Public and private institutions continue their willingness to collaborate. The CE principles are applied with socio-economically inclusive and environmentally sustainable development as main objective.
Output 2 relating to Outcome 1	1.2 Strengthened institutional capacity for development and implementation of <u>legislation, regulations, strategies, action plans, tools and incentives focused on the built environment and on tackling construction and demolition waste</u> .	1.2.1: Number of elaborated policies (notably strategies, standards, guidelines, regulations) in support of setting and implementing the CE foundations, with EU/EU-MS support 1.2.2: Number of SOPs for lines of communication with other departments and agencies or private sector developed with the support of the EU-funding intervention	1.2.1: 2 (2024) <u>Note:</u> (1) Circular Economy Roadmap and Action Plan (2023, EU), (2) National solid waste management strategy (2021, AFD) 1.2.2: 0 (2024) 1.2.3: 0 (2024) with a minimum of 20% women-led institutions	1.2.1: +5 (2028), <u>Note:</u> (1) Regulatory reform plan inspired by EU practices (e.g. Anti-waste law for a circular economy); (2) Strategy/ action plan on financial and fiscal incentives; (3) Strategy/ action plan on public procurement and investment plan for a circular built environment; (4) Strategy/ action plan on preventing and	1.2.1: Draft policy (notably strategies, standards, guidelines, regulations) 1.2.2: (Draft) SOP 1.2.3: Progress reports for the EU funded intervention	The CE transition, climate adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity, inclusiveness and gender equality continue to be priorities of the government. The built environment continues to be a priority for the government. Policies, plans, briefs, SOPs will be implemented once elaborated

⁵⁶ There are 12 municipalities and district councils, which should be involved in the development of the respective guidelines; their plans will be updated through advocacy from MoESWMCC and the Ministry of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management

		1.2.3 : Number of key institutions mandated with the operationalisation of the CE Roadmap having benefitted from EU support. disaggregated by stakeholder group, gender, age, income level, ethnicity, disability, area of residence,		<p>better managing construction and demolition waste; (5) standard to allow for secondary material use (glass, concrete) in cement and corresponding guidance</p> <p>1.2.2: 2 (2029) <u>Note:</u> Impact related government agencies (Climate action, biodiversity, resilience, inclusiveness, gender equality); Private sector</p> <p>1.2.3: 7 (2029) <u>Note:</u> DepEnv; MinInfra; CIA; DivSWM; MinFin; MinLG; RRA</p>		
Output 3 relating to Outcome 1	1.3: Increase availability of evidence-based monitoring information on CE transition.	<p>1.3.1: Number of elaborated policies (notably strategies/ action plans) in support of communicating the CE foundations, with EU/EU-MS support</p> <p>1.3.2: Number of transparent and evidence-based impact-related M&E Framework for the CE Roadmap and Action</p>	<p>1.3.1: 0 (2024)</p> <p>1.3.2: 0 (2024)</p> <p>1.3.3: 0 (2024)</p> <p>1.3.4: 0 (2024)</p>	<p>1.3.1: 1 (2029) <u>Note:</u> Awareness and outreach strategy and action plan</p> <p>1.3.2: 1 (2029)</p> <p>1.3.3: min 50% (2029) <u>Note:</u> per stakeholder group (central government, municipalities, businesses, NGOs/CSOs, academe, general</p>	<p>1.3.1: (Draft) Policy</p> <p>1.3.2: (Draft) M&E Framework</p> <p>1.3.3: Campaign report, target group analysis</p> <p>1.3.4: Minutes of Meeting, agenda, List of participants, Jointly identified solutions to tackle implementation challenges</p>	<p>The overarching policy is being elaborated while some communication campaigns are already implemented.</p> <p>Communication campaigns maximise the outreach to the targeted stakeholder group.</p> <p>Public-private dialogues jointly</p>

		<p>Plan developed with support of the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>1.3.3: Percentage of target audience reached, having increased their knowledge of CE and its impacts</p> <p>1.3.4: Number of participants involved in the public-private dialogues with EU support (disaggregated by sex and stakeholder group)</p>		<p>public), of which a minimum of 30% women</p> <p>1.3.4: 8 <u>Note:</u> Minimum 1 per 6 months</p>		<p>identify implementable solutions to tackle implementation challenges.</p>
<p>Output 1 relating to Outcome 2</p>	<p>2.1: Enhanced capacity of <u>intermediary institutions</u> for facilitation of in-sector and intersectoral knowledge transfer and communication incl. with government agencies, businesses, financiers, NGOs, and academia</p>	<p>2.1.1: Number of people having benefitted from the intervention with EU support (disaggregated by stakeholder group, sex, age, value chain, income level, ethnicity, disability, area of residence)</p>	<p>2.1.1: 0 (2024)</p>	<p>2.1.1: 300 (2029) with a minimum of 30% women-led institutions</p>	<p>2.1.1: Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention</p>	<p>Empowered intermediaries continue their commitment to capacitate their networks</p>
<p>Output 2 relating to Outcome 2</p>	<p>2.2 Improved mechanisms for financing circular economy initiatives led by start-ups and NGOs, with an</p>	<p>2.2.1: Number of beneficiaries with access to financial services and/or government services with EU support (a) firms disaggregated</p>	<p>2.2.1: 0 (2024) 2.2.2: 0 (2024) 2.2.3: 0 (2024) 2.2.4: 0 (2024)</p>	<p>2.2.1: 500 (2029) 2.2.2: TBD during inception phase</p>	<p>2.2.1: Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention 2.2.2: Idem 2.2.3: Idem</p>	<p>Demand by local and foreign businesses and CSOs/NGOs for finance</p>

	emphasis on women-led initiatives	<p>by size, and sex of the firm owner</p> <p>2.2.2 Number of beneficiaries with access to financial services and/or government services eu EU support (b) people (all financial services) (GERF 2.17b) disaggregated by sex **</p> <p>2.2.3: Value of capital or lines of credit mobilized with EU support (disaggregated by sex, age, income level, disability, ethnicity, area of residence; with a minimum of 50% women-led institutions, and size, SMEs minimum 30%⁵⁷)</p> <p>2.2.4: Number of people directly benefitting from EU-supported interventions that aim to reduce social and economic inequality (GERF 2.39)**</p>		<p>2.2.3 EUR 2 million⁵⁸ (2029)</p> <p>2.2.4: 350⁵⁹ (2029)</p>		
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⁵⁷ Reflecting a pro-women policy of selecting demonstrative projects and the possibility for cross-sectoral fertilisation.

⁵⁸ Based on the fact that 20% of the Action budget will support access to finance and a multiplier effect of X3.

⁵⁹ Based on the assumption that the demonstration projects aimed at social impact and indirectly supported through NGOs are labour intensive.

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 48 months from the date of entry into force of the financing agreement.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Budget support – N/A

4.4 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures⁶⁵.

4.4.1 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

This action may be implemented in indirect management with an EU implementing agency, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

- Track record in providing support to circular economy transitions at political as well as operational level, with public and private institutions. Experience in the value chains of the built environment will be particularly relevant;
- Capacity in institutional strengthening and inter-institutional coordination.
- Experience with strengthening business organisations as facilitators of change, and with consolidating business services and access to finance.
- Capacity of the organisation in terms of project management, including the placement of integrated experts in the host institutions in Mauritius;
- Capacity for providing technical backstopping from the organisation's headquarter in the EU

The implementation by this entity entails the achievements of all the objectives and results as described under section 3.

4.4.2 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

In case that the above selected preferred implementation modality is not available due to exceptional circumstances, the action shall be implemented by direct management through Procurement. This entails the implementation the achievements of all the objectives and results as described under section 3.

4.5. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply, subject to the following provisions.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other

⁶⁵ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.6. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution Year N	EU contribution Year N+1	Total (amount in EUR)
Implementation Modalities – cf. section 4.4			
S.O.1: To improve the institutional and regulatory frameworks for the implementation of the national Circular Economy Roadmap and Action Plan. composed of			1 500 000
Indirect management with an entrusted entity - cf. section 4.4.1	1 000 000	500 000	
S.O.2: To increase effectiveness of circular economy initiatives within the built environment value chain, prioritising women entrepreneurs in the circular economy. composed of			2 000 000
Indirect management with an entrusted entity - cf. section 4.4.1	1 500 000	500 000	
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	0	0	May be covered by another Decision
Totals	2 500 000	1 000 000	3 500 000

4.7 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

A Steering Committee will be established by the MoESWMCC and Business Mauritius for the implementation of the CE Roadmap and Action Plan. The proposed Action would make use of the same and invite relevant additional key stakeholders to account for the stakeholders that are involved in the programme, including Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Local Governments, MSB, MRIC, business associations (AMM, AAM, BACECA, others) and other participating private sector stakeholders (incubators, NSIF, financiers) and demonstration projects (specific businesses, NGOs, think tanks, universities), and the Team Europe response stakeholders (AFD including Proparco/DEG, ADEME, EIB). An articulation mechanism needs to be defined during programme implementation with the legislative level (notably Cabinet, Parliament/Assembly), the ministries in charge of safeguarding the positive socio-economic and environmental impacts (notably Department of Climate Change; Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security (National Park and Conservation Service; Forestry Services); Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare; Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs, and Cooperatives; Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity), and Rodrigues Environmental Commission. This committee will provide strategic direction, oversees the progress of the programme, and resolves high-level issues. The EU's role will be that of an observer and technical advisor. The EU-funded expertise under this action will assume secretarial tasks in support of the Steering Committee and their programme-specific meetings, which will take place minimum every six months.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of

the action and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this Action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. They will be assisted in this Activity with baseline setting, impact simulations and valuation, under Component 1. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

The implementing partner will take primary responsibility and will establish a monitoring system and mechanism for coordinating data collection across various program components. They will work closely with beneficiaries and stakeholders to ensure comprehensive data coverage as well as quality and integrity of data allowing assessing progress against programme objectives, outcomes and outputs. The implementing partner will report on their progress and achievements to the Steering Committee on a semi-annual basis.

Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by income. All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is taking into account inequality reduction.

The entrusted entity will be in charge of reporting progress on indicators based on data collection, analysis and monitoring in coordination with government ministries and agencies. This will be more detailed at the time of contracting. Baseline, targets, sources of data and assumptions of the Logical Framework Matrix will be quantified and provided at the time of signature of the contract at the latest.

Progress on gender responsive measures and HRBA should be monitored and reported, thus, the project's monitoring, reporting and evaluation system shall include sex-disaggregated information within the tools used and specific gender and HRBA questions in the monitoring protocols.

Expertise in gender equality and women's empowerment, human rights and persons with disabilities will be included in the monitoring teams.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a(n) mid-term evaluation(s) may be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants] [through a joint mission] [contracted by the Commission] [via an implementing partner]. It will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to adjusting the activities for the remaining implementing months.

All evaluations shall assess to what extent the action is taking into account inequality reduction as well as how it impacts the most vulnerable (bottom 40% and socio-economically disadvantaged individuals). Expertise on inequality reduction will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination⁶⁶. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

Evaluation services may be contracted under a framework contract.

⁶⁶ See best [practice of evaluation dissemination](#)

All evaluations shall assess to what extent the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach as well as how it contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment and disability inclusion. Expertise on human rights, disability and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

In line with the 2022 “[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)”, it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

A Primary Intervention (project/programme) is a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Identifying the level of the primary intervention will allow for:

Articulating Actions or Contracts according to an expected chain of results and therefore allowing them to ensure efficient monitoring and reporting of performance;

Differentiating these Actions or Contracts from those that do not produce direct reportable development results, defined as support entities (i.e. audits, evaluations);

Having a complete and exhaustive mapping of all results-bearing Actions and Contracts.

Primary Interventions are identified during the design of each action by the responsible service (Delegation or Headquarters operational Unit).

The level of the Primary Intervention chosen can be modified (directly in OPSYS) and the modification does not constitute an amendment of the action document.

The intervention level for the present Action identifies as (tick one of the 4 following options);

Action level (i.e. Budget Support, blending)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
Group of actions level (i.e. top-up cases, different phases of a single programme)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSYS#): <Present action> <Other action(s)>
Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	Indirect management with an entity responding to the criteria under 4.4.1