CONCEPT NOTE

RESISILANDS Project in MAURTIUS

1. Background

The RESIslands Project presents a significant opportunity to strengthen the capacity of Mauritius and other African Island States to understand and manage climate risks, build resilience and access international climate finance.

Funded through the Green Climate Fund Readiness Programme, with a grant of approximately US$4.95 million, the project is implemented by UNECA in partnership with the African Island States Climate Commission (AISCC) and covers nine African Island States.

Mauritius, as a Small Island Developing State, is highly exposed to the impacts of climate change, including sea-level rise, coastal erosion, extreme weather events, changing rainfall patterns, water stress and increasing pressures on marine and coastal ecosystems. These risks have significant implications for the country's infrastructure, tourism, agriculture, fisheries, water security, biodiversity and long-term economic development.

In this context, RESIslands provides an important opportunity for Mauritius to strengthen national systems and capacities for integrated climate-risk management and to support the development of a stronger pipeline of bankable, climate-resilient projects.

2. Rationale for the National Launch

The national launch will provide an opportunity to formally introduce RESIslands to key stakeholders in Mauritius and establish a strong foundation for its effective implementation.

While Mauritius has established policies, institutions and initiatives addressing climate change, disaster risk management and resilience, the increasing complexity of climate risks requires greater integration, coordination and use of evidence for decision-making and investment planning.

RESIslands will support Mauritius in moving towards a more coordinated and investment-oriented approach by strengthening linkages between:

- climate change adaptation and disaster risk management;
- climate and disaster-risk information and decision-making;
- technical capacity and institutional systems; and
- climate priorities and the identification of project pipelines.

The launch will also strengthen Mauritius's engagement with the other African Island States through AISCC, creating opportunities for regional knowledge exchange, peer learning and collaboration.

3. Objective of the National Launch

The overall objective of the National Launch is to secure high-level national ownership and stakeholder engagement for the implementation of the RESIslands Project in Mauritius.

More specifically, the launch will seek to:

1. Present the RESIslands Project, its objectives, components and expected results to national stakeholders.
2. Highlight the relevance of RESIslands to Mauritius's climate resilience and sustainable development priorities.
3. Strengthen coordination among institutions involved in climate change adaptation, disaster risk management, climate information, early warning and development planning.
4. Identify priority areas for technical assistance and capacity development.
5. Strengthen awareness of opportunities to mobilise GCF and other international climate finance.
6. Initiate the identification and development of a pipeline of potential bankable climate-resilient projects.
7. Reinforce Mauritius's participation in regional cooperation and knowledge-sharing through AISCC.

4. Expected Outcomes of the National Launch

The National Launch is expected to result in:

- Enhanced national ownership and visibility of the RESIslands initiative;
- improved understanding among stakeholders of the project's objectives and opportunities for Mauritius;
- stronger coordination between relevant climate, disaster-risk and development institutions;
- identification of priority technical and institutional capacity needs;
- identification of key gaps and opportunities relating to climate-risk information and early-warning systems;
- identification of potential areas for climate-resilient investment and project development;
- strengthened engagement with GCF, UNECA, AISCC and development partners; and
- agreement on immediate next steps for implementation and stakeholder engagement.

5. Proposed Participants

The event will be designed as a high-level national stakeholder event, bringing together approximately 40 participants that would include:

- The Minister and senior officials of the Ministry of Blue Economy, Finance, Environment, Local Government
- representatives of relevant Ministries and Government Departments;
- national institutions responsible for climate change, environment, disaster risk management, meteorology, water, coastal and marine management;
- UNECA, AISCC representatives and partner institutions including the University of Twente, Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC)
- United Nations Resident Coordinator Office;
- private-sector representatives;
- universities and research institutions; and civil society