

FP033 Accelerating the Transformational Shift to a Low-Carbon Economy in the Republic of Mauritius (UNDP), Mauritius

CSO comments on the project given as intervention during the 15th GCF Board Meeting, December 2016

- We welcome the fact that this proposal appears both transformational and well-tailored to the country needs. It is line with Mauritius's NDC and National Climate Plan.
- Mauritius's energy system is currently heavily reliant on fossil fuels. By improving Mauritius's grid absorption capacity and introducing smart grid management, and the creation of MARENA this project will help transform the country's energy system.
- While the environmental and social impacts seem minor because it focuses on capacity building and improving existing grid capacity, the project proposal needs further elaboration on the indirect impacts.
 - We understand that the development of the 100 MW of new utility scale renewables, as well as impacts of construction, are not directly part of this GCF project; however consideration of indirect and cumulative impacts is critical when developing projects.
- We welcome that the project gender action plan explicitly calls for the hiring of a critical mass of women to work in MARENA and the training of women to install, operate, and maintain solar PV systems. It could be strengthened by introducing clear goal posts with increasing participation at several points during the 20 year lifespan of the project.
- Finally, we appreciate the proposal's efforts to be more pro-poor by learning from the results of previous implementation of a feed-in-tariff which ended up benefiting the upper-middle and upper-class population. However, it appears that even with the 27% subsidy poor households will be left covering 73% of the cost – a price that might remain too high for many, for example women-headed households. To that end how the 27% subsidy and 50% low-income cap were determined should be made publicly available. A better possibility might be to introduce differentiated levels of subsidy with some higher level of subsidy for the poorest households.